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FROM THE GRAND SECRETARY



I trust you have all had an enjoyable summer and are looking forward to the new Masonic season. September marks the start of my third year in post, and how time flies when you're busy! UGLE thankfully quietsens down in August, giving staff and the Organisation time to take stock of what we have achieved over the last year, and where we want the next 12-18 months to take us.

Undoubtedly one of the major highlights this year was the dedication of a memorial stone to those, our members, awarded the Victoria Cross. The Most Worshipful Grand Master commented that, having served in the armed forces for more than 20 years, he understood the common values shared by Freemasonry and the services – camaraderie, respect, integrity – and the ideals of service and tradition. It is an extraordinary fact that 14 per cent of all Victoria Cross recipients have been Freemasons and we were proud to be able to recognise and celebrate this at Freemasons' Hall in London. Perhaps we should be mindful of that part of our ritual, delivered on the presentation of a Hall Stone Jewel to a new Worshipful Master, which tells us that it should 'ever provide an inspiration to every Brother to put service before self'.

Freemasons' Hall was, of course, built as a peace memorial to those brethren who lost their lives in the Great War and we have been thinking hard about how we can use our fabulous Grade II-listed building to help inform and educate people about Freemasonry. By the time you read this, having worked closely with the Museum of Freemasonry, the first members of the public will have undertaken a redesigned tour of Freemasons' Hall. It sets out to explain not only our history, but also our

contemporary relevance, and includes a newly commissioned 10-minute film, which will be seen by our 40,000-plus visitors a year. It helps us launch a new approach as to how we define and regard ourselves. We are less apologetic for the misguided views of others, and instead talk about the positives of membership, both in terms of the benefits for the individual member and for society at large. What other organisation can boast charitable donations of more than £45 million a year? What other boasts an annual delivery of over five million hours of unpaid community and voluntary service? What other seeks to make people better individuals through philosophical and philanthropic engagement?

Freemasonry offers a simple philosophical message to its members and one that we should all be proud of: that within each of us is a thoughtful, kind, tolerant and respectful individual. Our purpose is not only to promote virtue, but also to promote a thoughtful approach to being virtuous. It is centred around an analogy of building, or creating, and thus by chipping away our rough edges, Freemasonry teaches us to chip away at our inadequacies, revealing the better person we can be, one more fit to serve those less fortunate than ourselves, those who have fared less well in life than us, and those communities from which we are drawn. Of course, all Freemasons will know and appreciate these points, but it is now our aim and intention to share these messages with the public, starting with the new public tour and closely followed by other supportive material.

We have an amazing history, often at the forefront of monumental social and economic change, as anyone who has

watched the DVD of our Tercentenary celebrations cannot fail to appreciate. We have such a story to tell and intend to be confident and committed when speaking about our many strengths and the reasons why we are just as relevant today as we have been in decades and centuries past. Watch this space, and let us know how you think we are doing!

In other developments, we intend to produce, for the first time in our history, an annual report explaining to you, our membership, how your fees and dues are spent, while explaining to both you and the public what it is that UGLE does and how well we do it. Many of you will be involved in helping us collate the information we need, so look out for this over the coming months as we work towards a publication date of March 2020.

'Project Hermes' is in full swing, looking at how we can update our processes to modernise the management of our membership, ensuring that some of the more laborious and outdated demands placed upon Lodge and Provincial Secretaries concerning collecting data, paying dues and keeping up-to-date records are simplified and made more accessible to those who need to see, use and work with them. We hope to be able to have a much fuller article explaining this in our next edition.

In short, as ever, there is plenty going on to keep us all busy, but if you find yourself in London with an hour or so to spare, please do book into our new tour via the Museum of Freemasonry website – we can guarantee an enjoyable way to make that all-important daily advancement in Masonic knowledge!

Dr David Staples
Grand Secretary

'Our redesigned tour of Freemasons' Hall sets out to explain not only our history, but also our contemporary relevance, and includes a newly commissioned 10-minute film, which will be seen by our 40,000-plus visitors a year'

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Editor-in-Chief
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Editor
Donna Hardie

Editorial Panel
Michelle Worvell, Dr Ric
Berman, Dr James Campbell,
Harriet Conner, Dean Simmons,
Julian Perry (Culture editor)

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Editorial Manager
Dean Simmons
editor@freemasonrytoday.com
Freemasonry Today,
Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen
Street, London WC2B 5AZ

Advertising contact
Mark Toland
mark@square7media.co.uk
020 3283 4056
Square7 Media Ltd, 3 More
London Riverside, London
SE1 2RE

Circulation
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020 7395 9392

Masonic enquiries
editor@freemasonrytoday.com
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www.ugle.org.uk

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editor@freemasonrytoday.com



@freemasonry2day
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"Thank you for everything. It was a brilliant night."

Richard, President, Hampshire & IOW

"The meals on both evenings was of a first class standard."

Laurie, Festival Secretary, London

"Thank you for your help, the feedback has been incredible."

Alistair, Festival Secretary, West Sussex

"All our guests had a wonderful time and were full of praise for the standard of catering, the band was excellent, and the toast master was very good."

Jenny, Presiding Lady, London

"Thank you for making our weekend and Gala Dinner such a success."

Maxine, Grand Secretary, HFAF

"We shall definitely be back!"

Jayne, Presiding Lady, Hampshire

OUT & ABOUT



A roundup of what's happening in the world of Freemasonry

INTERNATIONAL

WASHINGTON, DC, USA

Women's rites

The United States' first regular Freemasons lodge for women was consecrated in Washington, DC in May by the Honorable Fraternity of Ancient Freemasons (HFAF)

Immediately following the consecration, the officers of the newly created America Lodge, No. 57, were installed with Lourdes ('Lou') P Elias as the first Master.

The inauguration of the lodge and the installation of its officers were conducted in a closed ceremony. However, the HFAF gave exclusive access to Audiovisual Media, Inc. to film rehearsed parts of it for use in a documentary. Produced to mark this historic occasion, the film is supported by the John E Fetzer Memorial Trust. The late John E Fetzer, former owner of the Detroit Tigers baseball team and a radio pioneer, was a 33rd Degree Freemason in Michigan.

At the gala celebration which followed, lodge Master Lou Elias described the significance of the event: 'In a few days, America will celebrate the centenary anniversary of the passage of the legislation by the US Congress that became, a year later, the 19th Amendment to the US Constitution granting women in our country the right to vote.

'To mark this important anniversary, our British brethren brought once again to our

shores the light of Freemasonry, except that this time around they brought us the light of regular Freemasonry for women, working in the same tradition and practice as the United Grand Lodge of England.'

Dr David Staples, Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of England, said: 'Many congratulations to the HFAF and their Grand Master Christine Chapman for the historic consecration of the first ever regular Freemasons lodge for women in America.

'Having met their new Master Lou Elias a number of times, I know the lodge will be in very safe hands.'



Lou Elias (in white) is the first Master of America Lodge, No. 57, which was consecrated on 25 May 2019



Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes congratulates Jamaica & the Cayman Islands' new District Grand Master Dwight Reece (right) alongside his predecessor Walter Scott (left)

JAMAICA & THE CAYMAN ISLANDS

Caribbean inauguration

Dwight St George Reece was installed as the new District Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for the District Grand Lodge of Jamaica & the Cayman Islands on 20 July, with UGLE Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes conducting the ceremony.

Alongside the other Caribbean District Grand Masters, those from Bahamas & Turks, Bermuda, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and The Gambia, as well as Suffolk Provincial Grand Master Ian Yeldham, joined UGLE Grand Secretary Dr David Staples, and Grand Director of Ceremonies Charles Hopkinson-Woolley in the commemoration held at the AC Hotel Kingston in St Andrew, Jamaica.

Following his installation, Dwight thanked his predecessor Walter Scott, who served 10 years as District Grand Master. The event was accompanied by a celebratory banquet at Jamaica Pegasus Hotel in New Kingston.

1 CHESHIRE

Along for the ride

Last year Cheshire Provincial Grand Master Stephen Blank challenged members to organise an event building support for the Cheshire Freemasons' Charity.

John Miller came up with the idea of a sponsored canal bike ride from Chester to London. The 230-mile towpath route wound its way from the Masonic Hall in Queen Street, Chester, to Freemasons' Hall at Great Queen Street, London, following the Shropshire Union Canal to Wolverhampton, then through Birmingham, before picking up the Grand Union Canal near Solihull into the capital.

Q2Q, the team of 16 riders with a support team of two, cycled 40-50 miles



a day, completing the challenge in five or six days. Several Cheshire businesses sponsored the team shirts and helped with logistical costs. A Provincial black tie benefit event was also held to raise funds.

On 6 June, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master David Dyson saw the team off safely from the Chester start point, expecting to meet them in London on 11 June. What could possibly go wrong? Storm Miguel! For three days the weather tested the riders' tenacity. The Provinces along the way offered

a warm welcome, words of encouragement, and contributions, reflecting the communication, commitment and teamwork of Freemasons.

Organiser John Miller ensured the event was well promoted on social media, with an online donation link and nightly member 'interviews' keeping the fundraising aims in the spotlight throughout.

The ride raised more than £22,000, and at Quarterly Communications the next day, Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes donated an additional £1,000 to the charity.



Left to right: Jo-Ann Dyson, Jan Allen, Karen Cross and Julia Coates, with John Hoult, PGM of North Wales

2 NORTH WALES

Hospital lifeline

The British Red Cross has launched a pilot scheme in North Wales to help vulnerable people build independence and better links with their communities, to reduce unnecessary hospital admissions. The move comes thanks to an £84,460 grant from North Wales Freemasons.

The Pathways to Better Health service aims to help over-50s in Conwy and Denbighshire, who have been identified as needing extra social support following a pattern of frequent hospital attendance or calls to the emergency services.

The project will help those who call 999 or go to emergency departments (ED) more than 12 times a year. Many of those affected are among the most at-risk members of their communities. Figures for 2017 show that frequent attenders accounted for 86,000 Welsh ED hospital visits costing the NHS £36.4 million.

The year-long scheme will enable trained Red Cross staff to work in partnership with emergency services and ED teams. The project team will also work with beneficiaries to identify the root causes of their frequent attendance, and provide emotional and practical support, thus boosting their health and wellbeing, independence and resilience.

Stanislava Sofrenic, Independent Living Operations Manager for Red Cross Wales, said: 'We're thrilled to have launched this scheme in North Wales. I'd like to thank the Freemasons for their generous donation, which has enabled us to set up this invaluable project.'

PHOTOGRAPH: NEIL O'CONNOR (UNP)

3

BERKSHIRE & BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Stronger together

Supported by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), Freemasons in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire united to raise £60,000 towards the construction of a new Thames Hospice in Bray, near Maidenhead.

The Provincial Grand Masters of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire, Anthony Howlett-Bolton and John Clark, together with representatives of their Provincial charities, formally presented Debbie Raven, CEO of Thames Hospice, with the combined

donation from the Berkshire Masonic Charity (BMC), the Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund and the MCF, at the site of the new hospice.

Serving the two counties, Thames Hospice opened in 1987, but is unable to keep up with the increasingly complex medical needs of greater numbers of people who require their services. In 2017, planning permission was given to construct a new state-of-the-art facility on donated land near Bray Lake.

When the new Thames Hospice opens in 2020, inpatient rooms will have increased from 17 to 28. The funds will help towards the building

of two dedicated spaces – one for quiet reflection and the other an advice area.

'I can't thank the Freemasons enough for their generous support,' said Debbie. 'It will make a significant difference to our patients and their families.'



Debbie Raven, CEO of Thames Hospice, with John Clark, PGM Bucks (far left) and Anthony-Howlett-Bolton, PGM Berks (inside right) with representatives of the BMC

4

UGLE

Top marks

UGLE HQ, Freemasons' Hall, has received a TripAdvisor certificate of excellence for the fifth year running.

The award celebrates businesses which are routinely excellent, having earned great traveller reviews on the TripAdvisor website in the past year. As a consecutive five-time winner, Freemasons' Hall has also qualified for the Certificate of Excellence Hall of Fame.

Dr David Staples, Chief Executive of UGLE, said: 'This is a wonderful accolade. The architecture and history of the building have made us an iconic landmark and we're delighted with the many positive comments we've received.'

Visit Freemasons' Hall, including the Museum of Freemasonry and Grand Temple, at the Open House London festival this September (www.openhouseworldwide.org).



Children at Akaal Primary School in Derby celebrate their grant from Derbyshire Freemasons



5

DERBYSHIRE

Skills for life

Hundreds of schoolchildren are set to take part in the Prince William Award, thanks to a £150,000 grant to the education charity SkillForce from Derbyshire Freemasons.

The charity will receive funding for the next three years, with a large part of the donation supporting programmes for pupils in Derby.

Helping six to 14-year-olds to boost their confidence, resilience and self-esteem, The Prince William Award is predominantly being delivered by former service personnel to 686 pupils in 10 schools across Derbyshire. More than 300 schools nationwide are hosting the 12-18 week-long SkillForce Prince's Award.

The year-long Prince William Award is the only award in HRH The Duke of Cambridge's name. Launched in 2017, it is now on track to be delivered to 13,000 children across the UK. SkillForce CEO Ben Slade said: 'We believe every child deserves the chance to be the best that they can be, and the money given to us by the Freemasons is helping us to make that happen.'

6

LINCOLNSHIRE

After the floods

A donation of £75,000 from Lincolnshire Freemasons has given a boost to a relief fund set up for the rebuilding of homes in Wainfleet after the June floods.

And, in a surprise presentation to Steve Hallberg, Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire's Mark Master Masons, the Mark Masters of Cumberland and Westmorland added a further £2,000 to the pot, taking the donation to £77,000.

Around 300 homes were initially evacuated, and the grant is earmarked for the lengthy recovery phase. Lincolnshire's Provincial Grand Master David Wheeler said: 'To see anyone driven from their home by flooding is heartbreaking, especially when it's in your own community.'

James Murphy, Joint CEO of the Lincolnshire Community Foundation, said: 'When something like this happens you find out how good a community is, and Wainfleet's is particularly strong.'



Steve Hallberg (left), PGM of Lincolnshire's Mark Master Masons and David Wheeler (inside right), PGM of Lincolnshire meet Cllr Wendy Bowkett and Paul Scott



Left to right: Ian Kingsbury, PGM of Devonshire, Lady Clare Mompurgo and her husband Sir Michael (author of *Warhorse*) share stories with children from the farming charity

7

DEVONSHIRE

A tale of life on the farm

More than 200 children will experience life on a real working farm, thanks to a grant of £63,000 from Devonshire Freemasons to Farms For City Children.

The charity's founders, acclaimed *Warhorse* author Sir Michael Mompurgo and his wife Clare, warmly welcomed the Freemasons to Nethercott House and took time to read a story from one of his latest books to visiting children from Plymouth.

Every year the charity opens its doors to over 3,000 schoolchildren and their teachers from disadvantaged urban areas to one of its

three country estates in Devonshire, Gloucestershire and Pembrokeshire.

During their seven-day stay, the pupils live and work on the farm, explore the countryside around them and find out where food really comes from. They also discover self-confidence as they overcome various challenges and work as a team to get tasks done.

The cost of the stay is beyond the reach of many of the young students, so the charity subsidises each visit by at least £300.

Tim Rose, Farm School Manager, said: 'We're really grateful to Devonshire Freemasons. Each week we see children from inner cities blossom on the farm and revel in the great outdoors.'

8

SURREY

Lifelong care

Surrey Freemasons completed their 2019 Festival Appeal in May, with more than 650 guests attending a grand banquet at Guildford Cathedral. It was announced that they had raised in excess of £3.3 million for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI) – the result of five years' hard work.

Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, was in attendance, alongside Ian Chandler, Provincial Grand Master for Surrey Freemasons, with his executive organisers and members of the Province as well as their partners. The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) and RMBI executives and trustees were also present, including managing director Mark Lloyd and chair Sir Paul Williams.

The RMBI was established in Surrey back in 1850 with the opening of the very first home, otherwise known as the 'Asylum for Worthy, Aged and Decayed Freemasons', in Croydon. Nowadays, the RMBI is a charity providing affordable care facilities for



Jonathan Spence, Deputy Grand Master of UGLE, makes a toast to Festival President Ian Chandler

the elderly across the UK. They're lucky to have two RMBI homes in Surrey – James Terry Court in Croydon and Shannon Court in Hindhead.

Paul Crockett, Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Surrey and chair of the Festival, said: 'All of the people who work and volunteer in every home will make sure that our donations make a positive difference to people's lives, helping to keep our loved ones feeling safe, preventing isolation and loneliness, and wrapping that warm blanket of security around them.'

The banquet ended in magnificent style with a firework display over the cathedral lawn brilliantly choreographed to the finale of Tchaikovsky's *1812 Overture*.

9

YORKSHIRE, WEST RIDING

Emergency landing

A £20,000 donation from generous local Freemasons is helping Yorkshire Air Ambulance save even more lives.

With up to one in 10 missions taking place after dark, the grant will enable the pilots based at Nostell Priory Air Support Unit to fly to emergencies across the region – night and day. The money, which has come from Yorkshire West Riding Masonic Charities Ltd, has been used to purchase an additional pair of night-vision goggles.

To keep both of Yorkshire's air ambulances mobile, the charity needs to raise £12,000 per

day – the equivalent of £4.4 million per year – and Yorkshire's two Provinces contribute to the flying costs annually. In recognition of this much-needed, ongoing financial support, the helicopters carry the Freemasonry square and compasses emblem on their fuselages.

David Pratt, the Provincial Grand Master of Yorkshire, West Riding, said: 'We're incredibly lucky to be in a position where we can fund vital equipment for charities such as the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.'

'It was superb to revisit the air support unit and hear from pilots and staff the difference this purchase will make – in particular that further lives will no doubt be saved as a result.'



Left to right: Stuart Cadman, West Riding Masonic Charities Ltd; Steve Waudby, Yorkshire Air Ambulance; and David Pratt, PGM of Yorkshire, West Riding



Nottinghamshire Freemasons donate £8,000 to health campaigners

10

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Prostate awareness

Nottinghamshire Freemasons hosted a special evening at their headquarters in April, where they donated £8,000 in recognition and support of the life-saving work on prostate cancer carried out by two committed health campaigners.

Jyoti Shah (pictured centre), Macmillan Consultant Urological Surgeon with University Hospitals of Derby & Burton NHS Foundation Trust, and Sarah Minns (pictured left), specialist Macmillan Nurse, operate an innovative health drive designed to raise awareness of prostate cancer and alleviate the 'fear factor' of being screened.

The 'Inspire Health: Fighting Prostate Cancer' crusade has been running since 2016. It enables men to seek advice and get screened at pop-up clinics in venues across the region. There's no charge to attend a screening event, as costs are covered by donations and fundraising.

Prostate cancer claims a new victim every 45 minutes in the UK. It is the number one cancer in men, with one in eight men over the age of 50 being diagnosed.

At the event and presenting the cheque, Philip Marshall, the Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire, said: 'Nottinghamshire Freemasons are proud to be associated with this campaign which, though based in Derbyshire, benefits the male population of Nottinghamshire where several screening sessions have taken place.'

Jyoti and Sarah were also presented with two additional cheques, each for £1,000, from other leading Freemasons.

Also in attendance were Mark Vallis, co-ordinator of free transportation service Derbyshire Blood Bikes, and Jim McRury, a volunteer from Nottinghamshire Blood Bikes. The former was handed a cheque for £1,000 and the latter £500.



The recipients of contributions from Warwickshire Freemasons in 2019

11

WARWICKSHIRE

Reaching out

For more than 30 years, Warwickshire Freemasons have been making annual donations in support of charities providing health services and support to some of the most vulnerable adults and children in Warwickshire.

In 2019, Provincial Grand Master David Macey approved donations to 138 charities, totalling £148,500. David met with 29 of these recipients at the Tally Ho Conference and Banqueting Centre in Birmingham to present them with their

cheques. The donations were split across a number of categories to ensure that they make a difference to the widest range of organisations possible.

The largest group is hospitals, hospices and rescue services – among them, Acorns Children's Hospice, Birmingham Children's Hospital, Myton Hospice and two air ambulances received £5,000 each. Community and education projects, ranging from specialist learning to domestic violence crisis centres were given £25,500.

The High Sheriff of Warwickshire Clare Sawdon thanked the Freemasons for their tremendous generosity.



Lifelines chief executive Simone Enefer-Doy receives a cheque from Sussex Freemason Ian Holt

UK WIDE

Travelling in style

Provinces across the country have helped raise in excess of £55,000 for children's charity Lifelines by taking part in 'Lift for Lifelines Returns' – a 3,000-mile road trip aimed at raising the charity's profile as well as the vital funds it needs to carry out its work.

This is the second time the charity has staged this unusual fundraiser, which sees its tireless chief executive Simone Enefer-Doy travel to a landmark in every Province in England, Wales and some of the crown dependencies in just 15 days.

To reach the 48 scheduled photoshoots along the way, Simone asked local Freemasons to give her a lift in a variety of transport and they didn't disappoint. The 80 vehicles included a Thai Tuk Tuk, classic Rolls-Royce, paddle steamer, wartime motorcycle sidecar, Lamborghini, no less than three steam trains and an electric tram. Famous sites reached included Bleinheim Palace, the Heights of Abraham, Lake Windermere and the National Space Centre.

The cash raised goes towards donating and maintaining assistive technology for life-limited and disabled children in hospices across the British Isles.

Simone said: 'The technology can be life-changing for these children. It helps them escape the confines of their conditions and do things they never thought possible, like playing a game with their brothers and sisters or telling their parents they love them.'



The Victoria Cross Remembrance Stone is a tribute to more than 200 Freemasons who have received the highest and most prestigious of British military awards. It has now found a permanent home at Freemasons' Hall...

THE HIGHEST HONOUR



Freemasons, military personnel and one very proud stonemason gathered at Freemasons' Hall on 27 June for the unveiling of a long-awaited Victoria Cross Remembrance Stone. Commissioned in 2016 by Granville Angel, whose charity VC Grave Concern maintains the graves of VC holders, the newly dedicated stone commemorates all United Grand Lodge of England Freemasons awarded the Victoria Cross Medal of Gallantry.

Since its introduction in 1856, more than 200 Freemasons have been awarded the Victoria Cross. They constitute a huge chunk of British military history, making up an astonishing 14 per cent of all recipients. The award was created during the Crimean War by Queen Victoria.

In memoriam

The Victoria Cross Remembrance Stone was carved by Emily Draper, Worcester Cathedral's first female apprentice stonemason, who was jointly sponsored by the Worcestershire Freemasons and the Masonic Charitable Foundation. It took her a year to complete.

'It's a once-in-a-lifetime experience for me,' she said. 'A real honour, and I just hope it's a fitting tribute to those really brave people. Seeing it today, in this room, in the presence of someone who has received the Victoria Cross, is humbling.'

More than 130 guests were in attendance, including serving military personnel, a group of



Opposite page, bottom:
Chelsea Pensioners look on

Left: Stonemason Emily
Draper talks to GM HRH
The Duke of Kent

Below: Sgt Johnson
Beharry reflects: 'This day
is all about recognition'



'I learned from my mother that my great uncle, Philip Neame, was one of the men included in the list of Freemason VC recipients'

Chelsea Pensioners and Sea Cadets, and Sergeant Johnson Beharry, a Freemason and one of only five living recipients of the Victoria Cross. He said: 'It's amazing that we are in this moment remembering and honouring the achievements of men and women in the military.'

The ceremony was opened by Dr David Staples, UGLE's Chief Executive and Grand Secretary, who noted that Freemasonry, like stonemasonry, chips away at our rough edges. 'It's fitting that the stone will now sit in Freemasons' Hall, itself a memorial to those who lost their lives in the Great War,' he said.

His opening remarks were followed by two readings. Provincial Grand Master of Worcestershire Robert Vaughan read *My Boy Jack*, named by Rudyard Kipling after the youngest recipient of the Victoria Cross, 16-year-old Jack Cornwell. Brigadier Peter Sharpe, President of the Circuit of Service Lodges, followed with a stirring rendition of *The Soldier* by Rupert Brooke, before trumpeter Jonathan Yates, from the Royal Marines Association Concert Band, performed the Last Post, with a minute's silence and the Reveille.

Finally came the grand unveiling and dedication of the Remembrance Stone by

Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent, who also presented Emily with a stonecarving toolset.

Echoing through the years

Emily shared how she happened upon a very personal connection to the project. 'Just before my chisel was set to the stone, I learned from my mother that my great uncle, Philip Neame, was one of the men on the list of Freemason VC recipients,' she said. 'It added that extra feeling that maybe I was meant to carve this and it really hit home that the aftermath of war and those great tribulations have touched so many families.'

At the closing of the ceremony, Johnson reflected on the significance of the event not just for the VC Freemasons, but the millions of people who have served in the armed forces.

'Being here as the only Victoria Cross holder, I should be talking about the most prestigious of military awards. But I don't look at it that way. We are a group, not individuals,' he said. 'Yes, it's right that the Victoria Cross has been recognised in this way, but we are a collective. Without my comrades, I would not be standing here today.'

The Victoria Cross Remembrance stone now stands as a reminder of all the Freemasons who showed gallantry in the presence of the enemy.

HONOURING OUR HEROES



Philip Neame, Sun, Square and Compasses Lodge No. 119. 'Leaving his sappers, 15th Field Company, Corps of Royal Engineers, he went to the aid of a West Yorkshire bombing squad in the midst of battle. He held off his enemy, his conspicuous bravery allowing many wounded to be rescued.'



Sergeant Johnson Beharry, Queensman Lodge No. 2694. He was awarded the Victoria Cross for saving the lives of his unit, Princess of Wales's Royal Regiment, in Iraq in 2004. He 'displayed repeated extreme gallantry and unquestioned valour, despite intense direct attacks, personal injury and damage to his vehicle in the face of relentless enemy action.'

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STORIES

People, places, history and more

Peterborough's homeless queue for food and assistance dished out by charitable local Freemasons

PHOTOGRAPHY: CHRIS TERRY



BADGE OF HONOUR

Heralding 100 years since UGLE's coat of arms was created, Peter Watts speaks to John Petrie from the College of Arms about the historical significance and symbolism of the crest

In the wood-panelled library of the College of Arms in London, I'm looking at a document that shows it is 100 years to the day since the creation of the United Grand Lodge of England's coat of arms. 'The grant was signed and sealed today, 19 July 1919,' says John Petrie, who is guiding me through the fascinating world of British heraldry. 'It says that George V has authorised the kings of arms to proceed with a design that's based on the arms of the two predecessor Grand Lodges, within a border of golden lions taken from the Royal Arms.'

Petrie bears the title of Windsor Herald, one of the offices of the College of Arms, the body that regulates and grants heraldic emblems. Heraldry has been around since medieval times and were originally messengers and diplomats attached to the great houses of the country. Part of their job involved recognising the emblems on banners and shields worn by knights and great nobles – a system regarding the use and design of coats of arms slowly developed. This was formalised when the College of Arms was established by King Richard III in 1484 to manage the heralds' records and maintain family

trees. Today, heralds are responsible for great ceremonies of state, including coronations and state funerals, as well as establishing rights to existing coats of arms and applications for new ones. They can also help research family history.

Although heralds are part of the Royal Household – Petrie receives a peppercorn salary of £17.80 per year – the College of Arms is not maintained by public funds. The College has a small but impressive library and a courtroom – the High Court of Chivalry – which can be used to decide contentious claims about who has the right to bear a coat of arms. Not that it's called upon very often. 'The last time it sat was 1954, and before that it was in 1737,' says Petrie. 'However, in theory, someone could still bring a case here.'

Drawing on the past

When UGLE decided to create an official coat of arms in 1919, to the College of Arms it went. A version of UGLE's arms had been in use since at least 1813, following the union of the Moderns and Antients, and the coat of arms represents this union in the clearest possible fashion with the arms of both predecessor Grand Lodges included on its shield. The main element added in 1919 – aside from the authority granted through the College of Arms – was a border of eight golden lions. A royal reference, the lions were likely granted in recognition of the then Prince of Wales's connections to Freemasonry. 'Normally we'd go for a more simple design, but this was for a union, so we needed to incorporate two existing coats of arms,' says Petrie. 'This is not unusual for corporate arms.'

UGLE's coat of arms is certainly very busy, but every component has something to say and suggests the complexities of heraldic symbolism. The left side of the shield represents the Moderns, and features three castles and a chevron on which rests a pair of extended compasses. These symbols were taken almost wholesale from the arms of the Worshipful Company of Masons, and Petrie finds the Tudor version in a book from 1568 he plucks from the shelves.

The right side of the badge is more complicated. Coming from the Antients, it's divided into quarters of azure and gold and features a lion, ox, eagle >

Left: Rich in symbolism, the United Grand Lodge of England's coat of arms was officially granted on 19 July 1919

'George V authorised the king of arms to proceed with a design that's based on the arms of the two predecessor Grand Lodges'



Left to right: The Moderns' crest on an 18th-century snuffbox; the *Ahiman Rezon* (1764) frontispiece depicts the arms of both the Antients and Moderns; a ceramic jewel decorated with the Antient Grand Lodge coat of arms

and a man with hands extended. 'It's a biblical reference to the prophet Ezekiel,' says Petrie. The passage reads that the prophet 'looked, and, behold, a whirlwind came out of the north, a great cloud, and ... out of the midst thereof came the likeness of four living creatures ... They four had the face of a man, and the face of a lion, on the right side; and they four had the face of an ox on the left side; they four also had the face of an eagle'. These figures are usually taken to represent the four authors of the New Testament, as well as the four facets of Christ. According to the theologian Jerome (345-420AD), the creatures symbolise the nature of each author's Gospel narrative. For Freemasons, it's a call for wisdom, strength and patience.

On top of the badge sits the Ark of the Covenant, supported by two cherubs with wings for arms and legs like fawns. The cherubs are significant. 'Only prominent organisations are allowed to have the supporters,' explains Petrie. The words 'holiness to the Lord' are written in Hebrew above the Ark, and beneath the crest is the Latin motto 'Audi, Vide, Tace', which translates as 'hear, see, be silent'.

Full of meaning

Not all coats of arms are quite so detailed. The College of Arms grants around 130 each year, usually to newly entitled families or corporate

bodies, and endeavours to create something timeless but striking and meaningful every time. 'A discussion takes place between the clients and the College,' says Petrie. 'We need a design to be heraldically correct. It's nothing too complicated but there are rules, such as you can't put metal on metal or blue on red, and it has to be unique from anything granted in the past, even if it's a coat of arms that hasn't been used since the Middle Ages. In the case of UGLE, there was no danger of that because it incorporates so many elements.'

In the world of Freemasonry, it's not just UGLE that has its own coat of arms. 'Grand Lodges and Provincial Grand Lodges are entitled to petition for arms and many of them have done so,' says Petrie. 'These will usually feature UGLE's arms, but with a border that's unique to themselves. We just did one for Cornwall with a black border and 15 golden roundels, as seen on the arms of Cornwall, while Devonshire features Exeter Castle.'

Other lodges are permitted to have badges. Petrie recently helped create one for Apollo University Lodge No. 357 to mark its bicentenary. 'Other lodges could petition for their own heraldic badge to mark a special anniversary,' he says. Since lodge anniversaries come round all the time, Freemasonry and the College of Arms could still be working together in another 100 years' time. ↴

'We need a design to be heraldically correct. You can't put metal on metal or blue on red, and it has to be unique from anything granted in the past'

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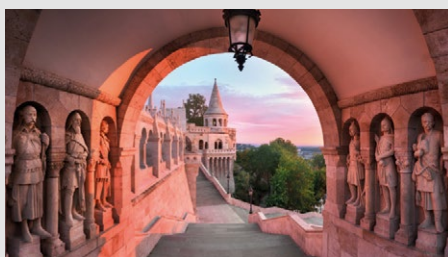
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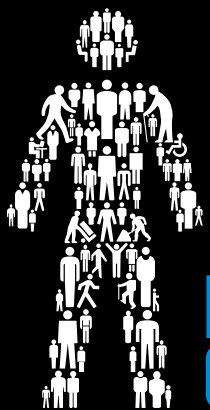
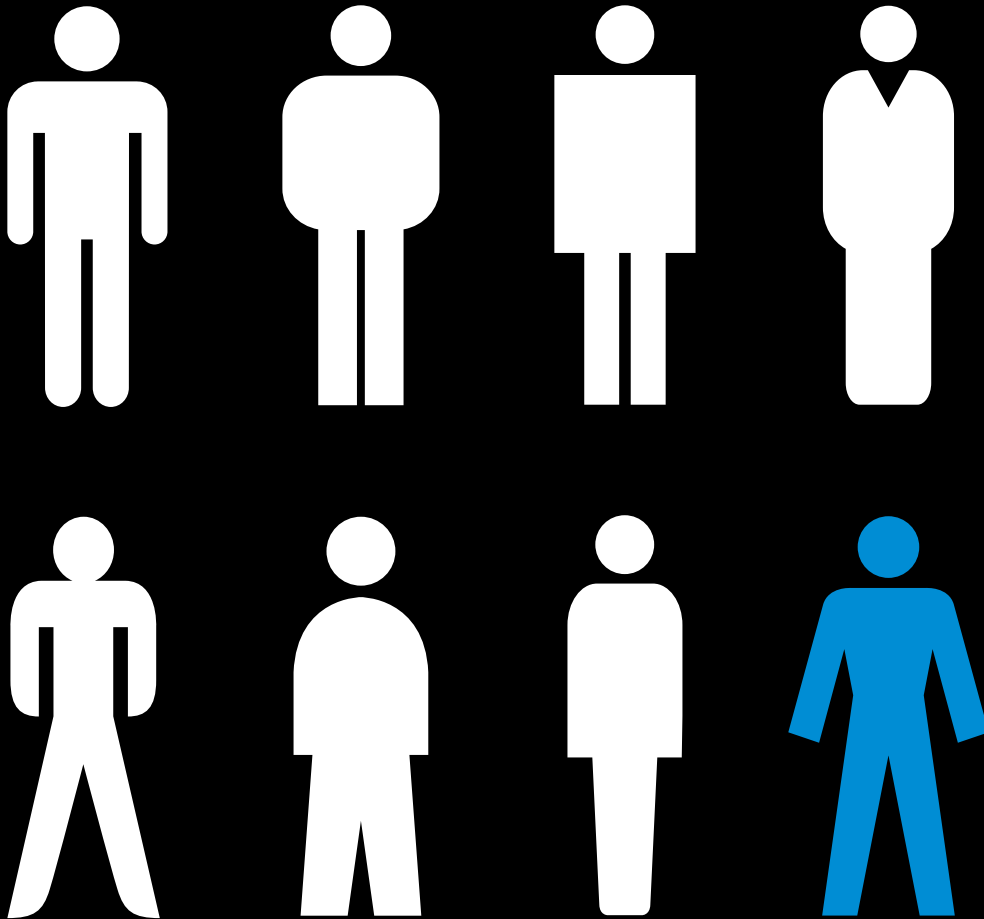
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1 in 8 men will get prostate cancer



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**Thanks to the generosity
of Norfolk Freemasons and the
genius of Professor Colin Cooper,
a groundbreaking prostate cancer
research scanner will help
future sufferers avoid painful
and invasive treatment**

Words: **Peter Watts**

Photography: **Cristian Barnett**

THE APPLIANCE OF SCIENCE



Every now and then, Professor Colin Cooper will pause, take a breath, and then search for a metaphor or comparison that might help the average person comprehend the complex scientific world in which he operates. His conversation is peppered with insights such as the fact that prostate cancer is like a stripey Liquorice Allsort, or that the amount of genetic information encoded in a single human cell would fill two DVDs. Now Professor of Cancer Genetics at the University of East Anglia, his groundbreaking work in prostate cancer is supported by masonic charities, including a recent £290,000 donation that will pay for a state-of-the-art genome scanner.

Professor Cooper, the former Grand Charity of Freemasons' Chair of Molecular Biology at the Institute of Cancer Research – a position funded by the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) – explains how the collaboration began. 'The Freemasons were seeking partners and we got on really well,' he says. 'I was very pleased to take the title and gave two or three talks a year to various lodges.'

It was Stephen Allen, Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk, who was alerted to Prof Cooper's work by fellow Freemason, Geoffrey Walker. The Norfolk Masons agreed to raise funds for the scanner, and Allen expected they would meet half the £144,000 cost. Instead, they ended up raising the full amount in just eight months. It helped that the research was taking place locally in Norwich, but other counties also lent their support – Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire donated £36,000. The final sum – £192,000 – was topped up by a further £100,000 from the MCF in London. 'When we realised how much we'd raised, it was quite emotional,' says Stephen. 'It was enough to pay for the scanner and start the process of taking the research from the lab to clinical trials.'

Prof Cooper's research stems from a pledge he made to UGLE more than a decade ago. 'I promised to deliver a clinical test that would distinguish between aggressive and non-aggressive cancers,' he says. 'We call them tigers and pussycats. More than half of men over 60 will develop prostate cancer, but most will never have any clinical



*'Your DNA has three billion bits of data,
and there are two copies in each cell
– so you'd need two DVDs to contain all
the genetic information found in a single cell'*

Strength in numbers:
Norfolk Freemasons
raised £290,000 to pay
for a state-of-the-art
genome scanner

symptoms. It's only in the case of about 10 per cent that the cancer will progress. So that's the dilemma. It's very easy to detect prostate cancer through the PSA [blood] test, but for most men, the disease is completely harmless.'

As there is still no way to tell the pussycat cells from the tigers, a lot of men opt to undergo painful and invasive pre-emptive treatment – which could make them incontinent and leave them impotent. As well as every operation costing the NHS £7,500, they could also be unnecessary.

An accurate diagnosis

Professor Cooper decided to attack the prostate cancer issue from two different angles: one recent study looked at urine samples (the results were announced in June 2019) and the other, tissue specimens. His team has been able to successfully diagnose aggressive prostate cancer and predict whether patients will require treatment up to five years earlier than standard clinical methods. His urine test can also identify men who are up to eight times less likely to require medical treatment within five years of diagnosis.

'We're currently trying to move to the next stage of research, and Freemasons have awarded us an additional £100,000,' says Prof Cooper. 'That's fantastic because what we need are funds, so we can translate a discovery that's clearly beneficial to patients into clinical practice.'

On the other hand, the tissue work is a much more complex matter and this is where the metaphors – as well as the scanner – come into play. Prostate cancer, it turns out, is a bit like a Liquorice Allsort. 'Let me explain,' he says. 'When we take a tissue sample from a patient it's about the size of a pea. We put that in a fancy pestle and mortar and crush it up. In other words, you crush up all the structure and then get an average of everything in that sample. The problem is that the pea-sized sample is made up of several different components and all that information gets mashed together when you prepare it for analysis.'

The professor's team decided to use 'a different form of maths' to reconstruct the original samples,

which takes into account their heterogeneity or innate diversity. They discovered that prostate cancer is like a layered sweet, with two or three different elements, rather than a single component like breast cancer, which Prof Cooper likens to a marshmallow. 'What was shocking is that we found there's one particular component that defines a distinct category of prostate cancer, and when we linked that to the clinical data it always had a poor outcome,' he says. 'This had been completely missed up until then because scientists were using the wrong maths.'

The Affymetrix Microarray Scanner will allow him to look at 20,000 genes from an individual's DNA to see if they're 'switched on or off'. Again, he finds a way to explain the baffling science of the human body. 'You can fit about 2,000 cells across your thumbnail,' he says. 'If you take one of those cells and pull out the DNA, it will stretch for about a yard in length. It's really a miracle of packaging.'

'Your DNA has three billion bits of data, and there are two copies in each cell, so you'd need two DVDs to contain all the information – encoded in the genes and which determines things like eye colour and blood group – found in just one cell. The microarray machine allows me to examine the genes, all 20,000 of them. We can take a tissue sample slightly smaller than a pin head, then get the RNA [ribonucleic acid, which converts the genetic information from DNA into proteins], which shows us the 'expression' – that is, whether each gene is turned on or off. That's the raw material we need to devise the clinical test,' he says.

It will take several years before either the clinical urine or tissue tests are ready for public use, but Prof Cooper's work will eventually allow those affected to make informed decisions about whether to undergo treatment, while also ensuring they receive the care they need.

While the professor confirms his gratitude to the Norfolk Freemasonry for their support, Stephen Allen singles out the Freemason who made it all possible. 'Geoffrey Walker has made a huge difference here,' he says. 'And the whole family of Freemasonry got behind him. I'm very proud of my Norfolk Freemasons.' 🍷

BROUGHT TO BOOK

When it comes to compelling stories about Freemasonry's history, this one is definitely for the record books. Peter Watts discovers the curious tale of a masonic encyclopaedia which was seized by the Nazis and finally returned home – 70 years later





September 1940:
A German soldier
talks to a British
policeman on Jersey
during the occupation
of the Channel Islands

PHOTOGRAPH: GETTY IMAGES

If only books could talk. *Kenning's Masonic Cyclopaedia and Handbook of Masonic Archaeology, History and Biography*, first published in 1878, might seem like a rather specialised taste, but the copy recently acquired by Jersey Masonic Library And Museum would be able to tell quite a story. This book was one of many looted from the Channel Islands during the German occupation of World War II, and it has finally made its way back to Jersey, having been inadvertently on loan to Guernsey's library for the past 70 years. 'We're delighted to have it back,' says librarian and curator Geoff Morris, who took possession of it at a surprise ceremony on a lodge-related visit to Guernsey.

Plundered and destroyed

The story begins even before the Channel Islands were occupied by the Germans, when *Kenning's Cyclopaedia* was borrowed from the Jersey library by a Guernsey Freemason and never returned. Then in October 1940, the Germans arrived on the islands and paid visits to temples in Jersey and Guernsey.

'They came, sealed up the doors and forbade any meetings to take place,' says Geoff. It was verbally agreed that the Germans would leave the Freemasons alone as long as they promised not to hold meetings, but the occupiers failed to keep their word.

'In January 1941, a looting party arrived with direct orders from Hitler to take photos of the temple, take everything inside and recreate it in Potsdam [south-west of Berlin] for an anti-masonic exhibition.

Everything they didn't take was burned.' The pillaging was so thorough, the soldiers even took the caretaker's false teeth. 'He had to go back and get them off the lorry,' Geoff says.

The Germans did the same thing in Guernsey, although the main temple there was not treated quite as badly and some items were secreted in members' homes. Their invading armies had closed temples and seized masonic artefacts across Europe, and anti-masonic exhibitions were also held in Paris, Brussels and Belgrade. Being part of the British Isles, the Channel Islands were particularly powerful as propaganda – showing how close the Nazis were to conquering all of Europe.

Later in the war, Freemasonry objects were recovered by the Russian and American forces, but not all of it was returned. Few of the objects taken from Jersey have ever been seen again, having either been lost, looted or destroyed by Allied bombing. However, a dozen tea chests of books

were returned by the US, and the Jersey library now has around 60 of them.

Pieces taken from Guernsey seemed to fare better. The train transporting them to Berlin was stopped by the French resistance, who were looking for German supplies, but who then decided to look after the masonic pieces they found. These were stored carefully, eventually returned to Guernsey and simply put back on the shelves – among them Jersey's copy of *Kenning's Cyclopaedia*.

Following the German army's defeat, the Freemasons of Guernsey seem to have got on with masonic life without any great drama. 'I was looking at the minute book for Doyle's Lodge,' says Mike Beacham, historian and researcher for Guernsey and Alderney Museum. 'There's a meeting in 1940. The next page is 1946, and starts with "The minutes of the last meeting were read and agreed". There's nothing else!'

It was he who discovered the copy of *Kenning's Cyclopaedia* earlier this year. 'We were doing some work with Grand Lodge, as a result of which we began looking at all the books we had in our library, particularly the ones from the war,' he says. 'We then

discovered we had one that belonged to Jersey. Geoff Morris, from the Jersey museum, was coming over on lodge business, so we thought it would be rather fun to make a presentation to him.'

The long road home

On his arrival, Geoff was lured into a side room, where two reporters were waiting to photograph the handover. 'He was delighted,' says Mike. 'The book is interesting because it's an encyclopedia of Freemasonry written in the 1870s,

at a time when there was a much closer link between English and German Freemasonry – in fact, it discusses the latter at some length.'

Jersey and Guernsey Freemasons are still hopeful that objects lost during the occupation might one day turn up, either on the continent or on the islands, where they may have been stored in attics and basements and then simply forgotten about. In the meantime, *Kenning's Masonic Cyclopaedia and Handbook of Masonic Archaeology, History and Biography* will have its unique history recorded for posterity.

'All our returned items bear a note on the inside cover stating, "This book was looted by the occupying forces in 1941 and returned to Jersey after hostilities had ceased,"' Geoff says. 'I intend to place a similarly worded piece inside the book, but with the rider that it took another 70-plus years for this particular book to return to its true home.' 📖

The pillaging was so thorough, the soldiers even took the caretaker's false teeth. 'He had to go back and get them off the lorry,' Geoff says



How Freemasons got behind two men and a van to help the homeless. We caught up with co-founders of The 3 Pillars charity, Mick Pescod and Ged Dempsey, at their mobile food station

Words: **Steven Short**

Photography: **Chris Terry**



A visit to London was the catalyst behind The 3 Pillars – Feeding the Homeless Trust, which distributes food, clothing, tents, sleeping bags and toiletries to those in need in Peterborough, St Neots and Huntingdon. ‘I was spending a weekend with family in the capital,’ says the charity’s co-founder Mick Pescod. ‘On the Saturday morning, I went off on my own for a walk. It was bitterly cold and I noticed three bedraggled guys in a shop doorway. They weren’t begging, and were possibly alcoholics.’

Initially, like every other shopper, Mick walked past, but then decided to turn back. ‘I asked if I could get them some food. They eyed me suspiciously at first, but when I came back with coffee and a McDonalds, they were so appreciative. It made me think, well, they’re OK for now, but what about tomorrow, or next week?’

Helping hands

One year later, in 2016, Mick and his fellow Freemason Ged Dempsey set up a food station providing food and essentials for the homeless of Peterborough and wider Province. A 2018 study by Shelter found that one in every 173 people in Peterborough is destitute – one of the highest rates of homelessness in the East of England.

After initially borrowing a van, buying some food and accepting food donations, Mick and Ged carried out trial runs in the car park of local pub, The Brewery Tap, keeping the operation low key to see what the demand would be. It was clear from the outset that there was a desperate need for a service like theirs, and that it would provide a platform for the Freemasons to make a real and valuable contribution to the community.

‘Very quickly, we moved from feeding 10-15 people to 70-80 at a time,’ says Ged, recalling the trust’s early challenges. Soon, Mick bought a van. Their Provincial Grand Master Maxwell Bayes >



Bread of life (left): Ged (far left) and Mick quickly went from feeding 10-15 homeless people to 70-80 at a time

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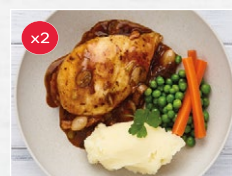
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‘Not only did we feed our street friends, we sat down at the kerb and spoke to them. We engaged with them directly to see exactly what they needed’

gave his approval but also set some key objectives and guidelines: 1) if the charity was to carry the Freemasonry logo, then once started, the pair could not allow it to fail; 2) as the charity would create a dependency, they must gain sufficient support to keep it going; 3) most importantly, they had to find a way to break the cycle of dependency – offering not a handout but a hand up. Mick and Ged named their charitable service after the three pillars on which Freemasonry is founded – brotherly love, relief and truth. A donation of £5,000 from the Provincial Grand Charity allowed them to launch the trust officially in 2017.

The personal touch

Meeting with the homeless and those in need twice a week (the food station operates on Tuesdays and Thursdays) has helped Mick and Ged see for themselves that people from every walk of life can, and do, find themselves homeless and destitute. ‘We sat down at the kerb and spoke to them. We engaged with those individuals directly to see exactly what they needed to best address their problems,’ says Ged.

The 3 Pillars trust was recently able to buy a second white van, thanks to Freemasons in Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, who raised more than £30,000. Mick says: ‘It will carry the same Freemasonry graphics and can be used when we start to support the homeless in Wellingborough and Rushden.’

The charity has around 80 volunteers – dubbed the ‘Magic Fairies’ by their clients – who help with everything from maintaining and loading the van to organising donated clothes and shoes according to size, and making up the ‘goodie bags’ that are then handed out to street friends. The trust also makes the most of the free-of-charge services of two chefs from The Priory Centre in St Neots, who prepare hot food, while Mick’s son has enabled access to his workplace site where they can park the vans, use the canteen facilities, and receive and store both clothes and food deliveries.

But Mick and Ged soon realised that feeding and clothing those in need is only a small part of the help they can offer. They started to think >



Working together: Freemasons in Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire raised £30,000, which paid for a new van

'We remove any possible pressure from the individual so that their integration back into society is stress-free'

about how they could help people break the cycle of homelessness. Today, they work with organisations including YMCA housing, Operation Farmington (Cambridge Police supporting homeless prison leavers) and Amicus Trust (which houses military veterans) to get vulnerable people off the streets and into accommodation. Ged explains, 'We want to provide a pathway that helps and gives hope to the homeless and destitute.'

The future's brighter

So far, The 3 Pillars has helped house 33 individuals via the YMCA, 13 of whom also have new jobs. 'We furnish their studio apartments, shop for them for the first couple of weeks, and provide bedding, kitchen equipment and so on. We also make a £250 donation to the YMCA, which covers their rent top-up for two-and-a-half months. In short, we remove any possible pressure from the person, so that their integration back into society is stress-free, giving them the best opportunity to start a new life,' he says.

Among those the charity has supported is Sean, a graphic designer once responsible for the artwork of two popular breakfast cereals. Following a marital breakdown and problems with alcohol, he lost his way, his house and his dignity. Thankfully, Sean now has a new home, is working again and has quit drinking. Another man, Stephen, also had alcohol abuse issues and had been homeless for 13 years. Too ashamed to tell his family the truth, he simply chose to 'disappear'. It took several months for him to engage with the trust, but he eventually found the courage to ask for help. The 3 Pillars was able to assist him with getting rehomed and encouraged him to reconnect with his family. A few weeks after moving in, Stephen called the charity, reporting happily: 'I contacted my daughters and went to see them both. I met my three grandchildren for the first time!'

Mick and Ged's vision is to expand the charity project geographically and increase the frequency of support it offers. As Mick puts it: 'We've certainly put Freemasonry into the community, and raised its profile as a fraternity that wants to engage with people in a practical and meaningful way.' 📍



Community service: The 3 Pillars wants to expand its services and help even more homeless people off the street

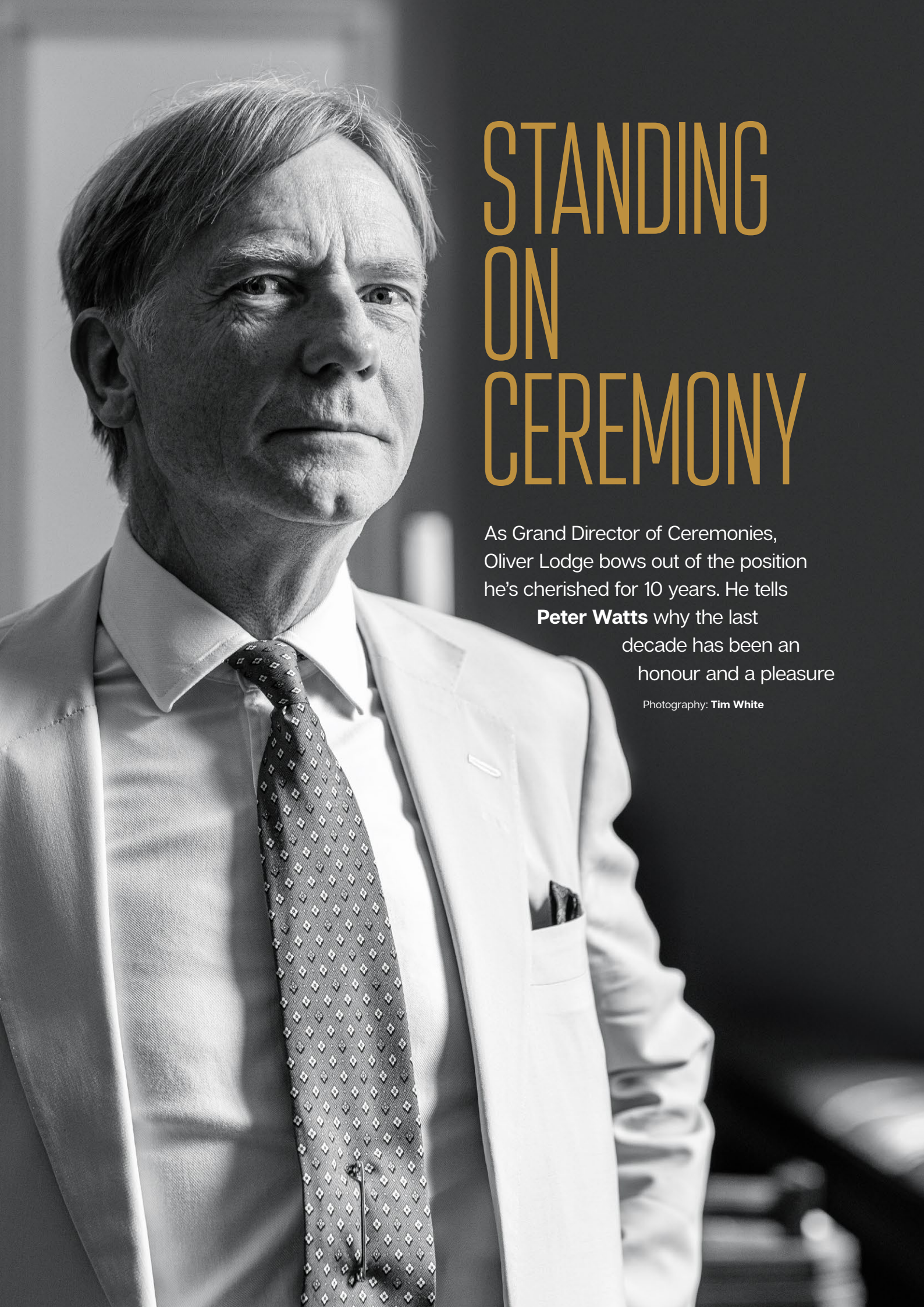
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STANDING ON CEREMONY

As Grand Director of Ceremonies, Oliver Lodge bows out of the position he's cherished for 10 years. He tells

Peter Watts why the last decade has been an honour and a pleasure

Photography: **Tim White**

Given his surname, it was perhaps inevitable that Oliver Lodge would one day go into Freemasonry. However, it's a family connection rather than nominative determinism that first got him into the Craft. Having joined his father in the Lodge of Antiquity in 1988, he embraced Freemasonry to such an extent that he has just completed a decade as Grand Director of Ceremonies (GDC) – a longer period in the job than anybody else alive.

'It's the best job in Freemasonry,' he says of the role he relinquished in April. 'It's a kind of focal point because the job is to make sure the ceremonies work. You are hugely privileged in that you spend time with the longest serving Grand Master (GM) in the world, and also get the pleasure of having a role in which you know you can really make a difference.'

During his 10 years as GDC, Oliver organised more than 50 Provincial and District installations, and attended numerous meetings of Grand Lodge, Supreme Grand Chapter and Rulers' visits to lodges and chapters around the world. He was also responsible for the smooth running of the Tercentenary celebrations at the Royal Albert Hall in October 2017, an event that had no precedent in the history of Freemasonry and required a mixture of logistical acumen and creative originality.

Parades and pageantry

There's an element of the theatre director in this work. The GDC must make sure that everybody knows their lines, where to stand and when to arrive, while the ceremonies themselves have a carefully choreographed theatricality. But Oliver laughs at the idea that the role allowed his latent showmanship to blossom.

'I don't think I'm a frustrated theatre director, but it's a nice contrast to my day job and it's a pleasure to do something that's completely different,' he says. 'Ceremonies are only theatrical in the sense that they endeavour to be impressive. You want to leave an impression, for it to have been a real event for those attending.'

Like most GDCs, Oliver spent three years as a Deputy, allowing him to observe the position up close and occasionally step up and stand in for the GDC. It was another

three years after his stint as Deputy had ended that he was invited to take the main job. Although it required a great deal of commitment, it wasn't something he was inclined to turn down. Over the next decade, Oliver strove to fine-tune rather than change installation ceremonies; instead, tweaking those elements that weren't quite succeeding to ensure the experience was enhanced for all those attending and participating.

The role also meant travelling around the Commonwealth for installations, and Oliver has visited lodges as far afield as the Caribbean, Africa and Far East. 'That's been a fantastic part of the job, seeing the variety across the Districts,' he says. 'The ceremonies themselves are virtually identical, but there are some very striking cultural differences, including attitudes to

'There's a significant responsibility and I've always taken that very seriously. Little things do go wrong, but the aim is to ensure that it doesn't disrupt the flow of the ceremony and spoil the impact'

punctuality! In England, we tend to take that quite seriously, but in other countries it's perfectly acceptable to be an hour late. That's not in any sense a criticism, it's just a fact. But it's one that doesn't sit comfortably with having a very busy day and a tight time-frame!'

One aspect of the role that Oliver was happy to take very seriously was his responsibility in ensuring that each person being installed could enjoy a momentous occasion in their Freemason's life. 'It's a very significant time for them; they want to remember it with pleasure and for their brothers to feel like they've seen a splendid spectacle,' he says. 'Little things do go wrong, but the aim is to ensure that it doesn't disrupt the flow of the ceremony and is skilfully covered up so it doesn't spoil the impact. The only way to do that is in a way that means most people will come away thinking, "I don't know why they did it that way, but it was fantastic anyway."'

The Tercentenary celebration required an even greater attention to detail as the eyes of the entire world of Freemasonry were on the Royal Albert Hall. Oliver remembers

this as a 'wonderful challenge' that went off (almost) without a hitch. Eradication of risk was an important consideration in the planning, as he had to imagine every- and anything that might go wrong. This meant making strategic decisions on such things as the entrance parade, sometimes favouring safety over drama. 'In any procession, the instruction should never be more complicated than "Follow the person in front,"' he says.

The best job ever

More problematic was the Grand Master's Reception which took place the previous evening, at which 135 GMs from around the world were due to meet HRH The Duke of Kent. Second-guessing that many of them would bring gifts for the Grand Master of UGLE, Oliver asked the Grand Lodge

Museum team to curate an exhibition of the gifts that would take place immediately after the ceremony. This was quite an undertaking for the curatorial team who had to obtain the gifts from attendees, research the items' history and then exhibit them with a printed label – all during the short time of the reception. A tough job got even tougher when

the ceremony began some 10 minutes earlier than scheduled.

'Everything was going smoothly when, after the tour of the exhibition, the curator turned to me and said, "Thank you so much for starting early." I'd completely forgotten to warn her! Luckily, she did an absolutely amazing job.'

We have the Tercentenary to thank that Oliver made it to the 10-year mark as GDC – there was no way he could relinquish his position months before it started, and he then had to deal with a backlog of Provincial and District ceremonies in 2018. His time in 'the best job in Freemasonry' may now be over, but Oliver hopes to continue to support the organisation for years to come.

'My only ambition now is to help Freemasonry flourish and I will happily do whatever I can to achieve that,' he says. 'One significant reason for delivering impressive ceremonies is precisely that – it helps members enjoy their Freemasonry. If you attend a ceremony, it should be a real pleasure, and that has always been my motivation.' 

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CAMA CHAMELEONS

From scholars and merchants to social reformers and Freemasons – the Cama family share a rich legacy of entrepreneurship and philanthropy.

Dr Ric Berman tells the East-West story of India's KR and DP Cama



Khurshedji Rustamji, who was known as 'KR' Cama (1831-1909)

Feeling the Islamic Arab push into Persia in the 8th and 9th centuries, the Cama family found refuge in what is now Gujarat, India. The family were Zoroastrians – Parsis or Parsees, as they were called in India, meaning 'from Persia' – and successful international merchants.

In 1855, two of the relatives travelled to London, and forming a partnership with Dadabhai Naoroji, later the first British MP of Indian descent, established Cama & Co, a unique Indian-owned trading house in Britain.

The company opened offices at 3-4 Great Winchester Street in the City of London and in Liverpool, and traded a range of commodities, including cotton and opium. Indeed, Cama & Co was the plaintiff in a leading court case in 1863, when it sued the Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company to recover 45 missing kegs in a large consignment of opium exported to Shanghai.

The first member of the family to become a Freemason was Khurshedji Rustamji, known as 'KR' Cama (1831-1909). Educated at Elphinstone College in Bombay, he travelled extensively in Asia, China and Europe, and was reputedly fluent in 10 languages, among them English, French and German. A committed religious and social reformer, KR used his influence and financial position to promote education, including support for the Alexandra Girls' English Institution, founded in Bombay in 1863.

KR Cama had been initiated into Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342 (SC) in 1854 – the first Freemason lodge to welcome Indian nationals, with members from both European and Indian communities. He was promoted through the offices, becoming Master in 1861 and winning re-election the following year. In 1863,

he was sworn in as a magistrate and appointed Provincial Grand Steward of Western India the same year. KR thereafter served as Provincial Grand Secretary, Provincial Junior Grand Warden, Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and finally as Pro Provincial Grand Master. He presided as such at Provincial Grand Lodge meetings in 1869, the first time that an Indian had done so. Lodge KR Cama, No. 1366 (SC), consecrated in Bombay in 1930, was formed on the petition of Lodge Rising Star and named after him. The first Master, Rustom Cama, was also a member of the Cama clan.

With KR's departure from London back to Bombay in 1860, the ranking member of the family was Dorabjee Pestonjee ('DP') Cama, later Grand Treasurer of both Grand Lodge and Supreme Grand Chapter. DP had arrived in England in the late 1860s to take over the family firm. He had been initiated as a Freemason into Courage and Humanity Lodge, No. 392, in Calcutta, India, in 1869. DP joined Marquis of Dalhousie Lodge in central London (as did two other family members), as well as lodges in Middlesex and Surrey, where he would achieve Provincial Grand Rank. He would eventually become Master of three English lodges, including Cama Lodge, No. 2105, a Middlesex lodge founded in 1885 and named in his honour. He was similarly active in the Royal Arch and numerous other orders – he achieved Grand rank in each.

DP Cama's obituary in *The Times* on 25 November 1910 observed that the family was renowned for its 'business enterprise and munificent liberality' and that 'no Parsi of whatever rank or class, came to London without paying him a pilgrimage, and not a few other Indians followed this custom.'

The Camas made numerous charitable donations that we know of, including £4,000 to University College Hospital London and £2,000 to the 1860-chartered Royal National Lifeboat Institution – the respective equivalent of £4 million and £2 million today – whose funding was strongly supported by Freemasons. They also made numerous donations of 100 guineas each to the Lord Mayor's Charity for Poor Relief. The Cama family was one of the most venerated in the Indian community in England and their philanthropic legacy endures to this day.

KR Cama was initiated into Lodge Rising Star of Western India, No. 342 (SC) in 1854 – the first Masonic lodge to welcome Indian nationals

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See Mucha's treasures, such as this hand-painted apron, in The Museum of Freemasonry

ART & CRAFT

Designer Alphonse Mucha was a leading Freemason in Czechoslovakia. His Art Nouveau jewel and apron for the 4th Degree feature in the Museum of Freemasonry's permanent collection. Curator Mark JR Dennis tells the story

When the independent state of Czechoslovakia was declared in 1918, Art Nouveau pioneer Alphonse Mucha (1860-1939) played a leading role in the forging of the new nation's self-identity. On its 10th anniversary, he presented a series of 20 giant paintings known as 'The Slav Epic'. He also designed the country's bank notes and postage stamps.

Mucha also paved the way for the re-introduction of Freemasonry into Czechoslovakia, where it had been banned since 1794 under the edict of the Austro-Hungarian empire. Having spent his early career in Paris, he was initiated into a French lodge in 1898 – at the time many Czech nationals chose to join lodges in France, Germany and Italy.

It comes as no surprise then that German and Hungarian speakers set up the first lodges in Prague, and in 1918, Mucha helped found Lodge Jan Amos Komenský, named after a 17th-century patriot. He also designed jewels for several of the lodges which followed suit. In 1920, the German lodges established the Grand Lodge Lessing zu den drei Ringen (Lessing at the Three Rings),

and in 1923 the Czechs formed the National Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia. They were officially recognised by UGLE in 1930.

Mucha's role as a Slav nationalist and Freemason made him

a target for the Nazis when they invaded the country in 1939. He was arrested, interrogated and released. But his health was compromised. He contracted pneumonia and died on 14 July 1939.

The Museum of Freemasonry holds several of Mucha's artefacts, including a jewel for the 4th Degree of the Scottish Rite, featuring an Art Nouveau-style key entwined with a letter Z for Zerubbabel, the governor of Judah who laid the foundations of the Second Temple in Jerusalem. The jewel hangs from a pendant with an olive branch motif.

Based on this design is a hand-painted 4th Degree leather and silk apron depicting the All-Seeing Eye. Made just before his death, both items were presented to UGLE shortly after the Czech National Grand Lodge was officially recognised.

Mucha's apron and intricate jewel are on permanent display in the Museum of Freemasonry's South Gallery. Open Monday-Saturday, 10am-5pm, entry is free to all.



Jewel for the 4th Degree of the Scottish Rite, designed by Alphonse Mucha



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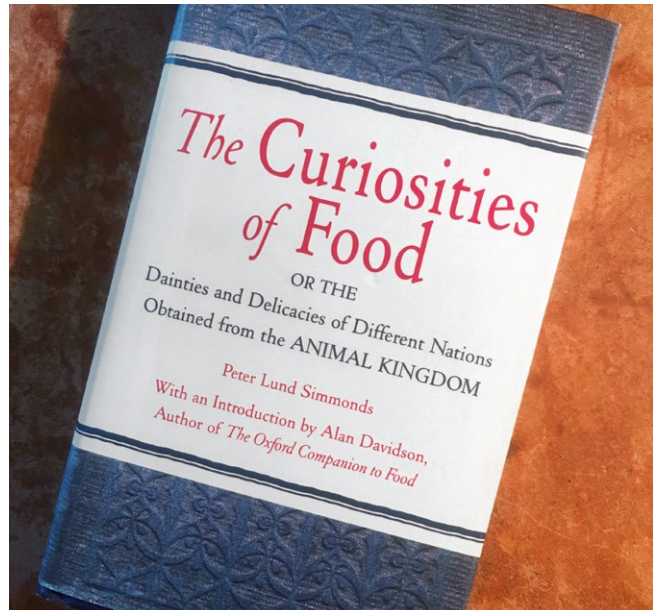
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BLAZING A GLOBAL TRAIL

Victorian environmentalist and Freemason

Peter Lund Simmonds had ideas way ahead of his time – including pioneering strategies for recycling waste products and improving food production

Words: **Dr Ric Berman**



You may be forgiven for thinking that the ideas behind waste recycling and environmental strategies are relatively new, but Peter Lund Simmonds was making those very points some 150 years ago. His book, *Waste Products and Undeveloped Substances; or, Hints for Enterprise in Neglected Fields*, was published in 1862, and extolled the conservational and financial benefits of recycling. From repurposing stale bread to paper-making, Simmonds shows how waste products can generate revenue and unlock wider environmental benefits. Almost unbelievably, the book is still in print.

Simmonds was born in Aarhus, Denmark in 1814, and moved to England as a child. His middle name reflects the surname of his Danish father, but David Greysmith, in an article for the *Oxford Dictionary of National Biography*, notes that the boy was adopted by Lieutenant George Simmonds, a naval officer, although the circumstances surrounding the adoption are unknown. A biography in *Men and Women of the Time: A Dictionary of Contemporaries* by Victor G Plarr (Routledge, 1895), claims that Peter was, in fact, Simmonds' son. Both accounts agree that at the age of 12, the child entered the navy as a midshipman, serving on HMS *Cygnat*.

Injustice and the West Indies

Simmonds' service in the navy ended in around 1831 and he relocated to Jamaica to work on a sugar plantation. Though Parliament had abolished the slave trade throughout the British empire in 1807, slavery remained legal and continued to flourish in the Caribbean until 1834. Simmonds' experience of the horrors of slavery affected him deeply, and when he returned to England in late 1834 he forged a new career in Chichester as a journalist and editor, focusing on the West Indies, trade and agriculture.

He eventually moved to London in 1841 to take up the editorship of the *Mark Lane Express*, an agricultural journal. And he soon added other roles to his CV, becoming city editor of *The Globe* and sub-editor of *The Farmer's Encyclopaedia*. By 1844, he had extended his hand to editing and publishing, producing *Simmonds's Colonial Magazine and Foreign Miscellany*, in which he argued in favour of more enlightened trade policies and greater colonial development.

His editorials raised his profile and Simmonds was asked to co-curate the Royal Society of Arts' exhibit at the 1851 Great Exhibition. He was invited to become a member in 1853 and an honorary life member in 1862, receiving the society's silver medal on three occasions for his journal contributions. As a senior member, he proposed Karl Marx for membership.

Simmonds went on to found and edit *The Technologist* journal, and to curate Britain's exhibit at the Paris Exhibition in 1867, and later at international shows in Amsterdam in 1869 and 1883. And he continued to write prolifically, producing 27 books and numerous articles. The best known of these is *The Curiosities of Food or the Dainties and Delicacies of Different Nations Obtained from the Animal Kingdom*, a compendium of the world's gastronomic predilections, which opens a window onto 19th-century tastes.

Food for thought

In 1848, at the age of 34, Simmonds was initiated into Yarborough Lodge, No. 554, serving as Master from 1851-54. He also joined Lodge of Faith, No. 141, where he was installed in the Chair in 1853, and Marquis of Dalhousie Lodge, No. 1159, where he was successively Secretary, Master and Treasurer. Within the Royal Arch, Simmonds was a Past First Principal of both the Yarborough and Marquis of Dalhousie chapters. And he was an active member of the QC Correspondence Circle and of several masonic side orders.

Notwithstanding his endeavours as a journalist, author, editor and lecturer, Simmonds struggled financially, especially in his later years. In 1892 and near destitute, he was admitted as a pensioner to the Charterhouse in Clerkenwell, the alms house north of the City of London. His application was sponsored by the Prince of Wales and the Archbishop of Canterbury, both prominent Freemasons.

Simmonds died in October 1897, a few days after being involved in a road accident on Gray's Inn Road. The minutes of the Marquis of Dalhousie Lodge note that 'the Treasurer, having heard that a small sum was required to give him a decent burial, had on his own responsibility paid the sum required, viz., £2, from the Lodge funds'. Simmonds is buried in the Charterhouse burial ground in the City of London and Tower Hamlets Cemetery at Bow.

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ALLIED TO THE CRAFT

'Side orders are onion rings!' one Past Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies would bellow. But here, Assistant Grand Secretary of Mark Masons' Hall Dan Heath takes a look at one Order which specialises in the conferral of side degrees – The Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees

By the middle of the 19th century, various degrees of Freemasonry were being practised in England, most of these being conferred in meetings of craft lodges. Many became known as side degrees, since brethren would be taken to one side in the lodge room, have an obligation administered and then be entrusted with the secrets of that particular degree.

Throughout the 1800s, the idea that some of these side orders or degrees should be under the umbrella of individual grand bodies began to gain support and in 1879 the Council of Side Degrees was constituted – later to become the Grand Council of the Allied Masonic Degrees. The Order originally consisted of four degrees: Grand High Priest, St Laurence (now St Lawrence), Red Cross of Babylon, and Knight of Constantinople.

By 1902, the Order had blossomed and the Constitutions included government of the degrees of Grand Tilers of Solomon,

Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priest or Order of Holy Wisdom, and the Secret Monitor. By the end of 1931, the Grand Council had relinquished control of two of these degrees, leaving five – St Lawrence the Martyr, Knight of Constantinople, Grand Tilers of Solomon, Red Cross of Babylon, and Grand High Priest – still managed today by The Grand Council of the Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees of England and Wales and Districts and Councils Overseas. Units within the Order are called 'councils' rather than 'lodges'.

The Allied Masonic Degrees offer a variety of ceremonies, featuring legends spanning nearly 2,500 years. Within the ritual of each degree is a lecture giving a précis of the degree and its history. To the Freemason wishing to advance his knowledge, it can serve as an introduction to some of the legends expanded upon in other masonic orders, or as a good companion order to those already familiar with these legends.

Self-sacrifice: the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr

Councils must be opened and closed in the Degree of St Lawrence the Martyr, with all their administrative business transacted within that degree.

(Confusingly, this is known as a Lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr, which is then adjourned to allow the working of any of the other degrees.) This degree tells the story of the martyrdom of St Lawrence in 3rd-century Rome.

The symbol of the St Lawrence the Martyr degree is a gridiron, often seen on the lapel pins of Brethren of the Order. It's worth noting that the weathervane on the spire of the Church of St Lawrence Jewry (dedicated to the saint) in the City of London's Guildhall Yard, is in the form of the gridiron. The symbolism refers to St Lawrence's death as ordered by the Prefect of Rome. The story is elaborated upon during the ceremony.

A lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr is arranged in a similar way to a craft lodge, with officers named in a likewise fashion.

Humility: the Degree of Knight of Constantinople

This degree is set a century later in the Constantinople courtyard of the palace of the Emperor Constantine the Great. It inculcates the useful lessons of humility and universal equality.

In the degree of Knight of Constantinople, the lodge is now referred to as a 'council chamber' but the layout remains relatively unchanged from the craft. The officers' titles also differ greatly.



Above: The five miniature jewels. Right: The badge of Grand Council with the Latin motto *Hominum proposita constituit Deus* ('Man proposes, God disposes')

Careful consideration: the Degree of Grand Tilers of Solomon

Reverting back to the Solomonic legend, the Degree of Grand Tilers of Solomon is familiar to Companions of the Royal Arch and Cryptic masonry. This ceremony warns of the great danger of carelessness and hasty judgement, and teaches the importance of careful tiling. The setting here is a vaulted chamber beneath the site of King Solomon's Temple circa 969BCE.

A lodge of Grand Tilers of Solomon is presided over by three principal officers representing the three Grand Masters.

Integrity: the Degree of Red Cross of Babylon

The scene shifts to the throne room of the Persian Court at Babylon 525BCE and is based on the story of Zerubbabel's passage across the River Jordan. The Degree of Red Cross of Babylon emphasises the importance of fidelity, integrity and truth, and no doubt originates in the religious belief that the soul must cross a river, either by bridge, ferry or by dividing the waters, in order to find peace.

The first part of the ceremony is worked in a council and ends in the third part in a court. The officers' titles also change.

Dedication: the Degree of Grand High Priest

Taking us back to 2000BCE, the Degree of Grand High Priest is worked in a tabernacle and represents Melchizedek's encampment in the valley of Shaveh. It teaches the candidate that he is, without question, set apart for high duties and responsibilities in life, and to carry them out he must dedicate himself to his fellow man.

The regalia for Brethren of the Order is either a bar with five miniature jewels – one for each degree – or a single pentagonal composite jewel, showing the emblems of all five degrees, which can be worn once all degrees have been received.

Grand Officers and District Grand Officers wear collars and collarettes of thistle green, embroidered in some cases with oak leaves and acorns, trimmed with braid and a basket button, in gold for Grand Officers and silver for District Grand Officers. Active Grand Officers may wear a chain rather than a collar.

FACTFILE

ALLIED MASONIC DEGREES

With their own terminology, structures and practices, each masonic Order is different from the next. Here, we break down the origins, requirements and organisation of the Allied Masonic Degrees

How big is the Order?

There are 25 Districts in England, Wales and Overseas, stretching as far as New Zealand, plus the Inspectorate of the Channel Islands. There are also nine 'Unattached Councils' in Europe, the Caribbean and Brazil, and several Sovereign Grand Councils in other parts of the world.

The composite jewel depicting the symbols of the five degrees

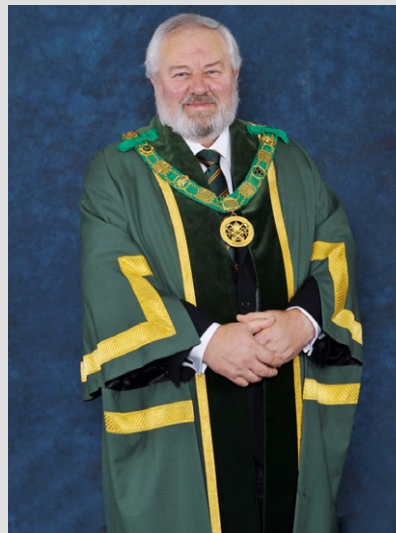


Northern soul

There is one quaint colloquialism still in use in the ritual of the opening ceremony of a lodge of St Lawrence the Martyr – a throwback to the mid-18th century Lancashire and Yorkshire origins of the degree.

Further reading

- *The Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees* by Harold Prestige (second edition by Frederick Smyth)
- *The Order of the Allied Masonic Degrees... A Series of Essays* by Brian W Price

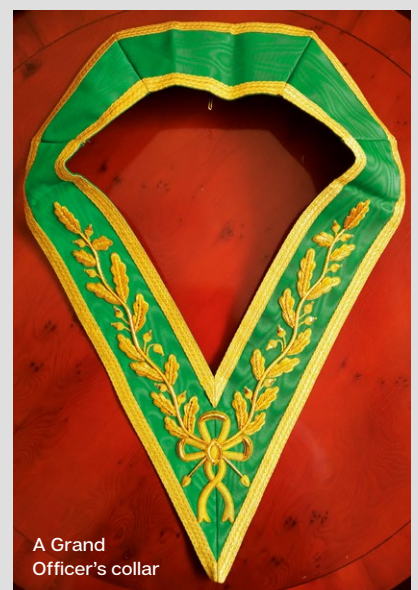


Who's in charge?

The Order is ruled by the Grand Master Thomas Firth Jackson. The Deputy Grand Master is Clive Robert Manuel. The Allied Masonic Degrees is administered from Mark Masons' Hall. Districts (the term Province is not used in this Order) are presided over by a District Grand Prefect, his Deputy and, sometimes, an Assistant.

Who can join?

The Order is open to Master Masons who have been exalted into both the Royal Arch and advanced in the Mark Degree.



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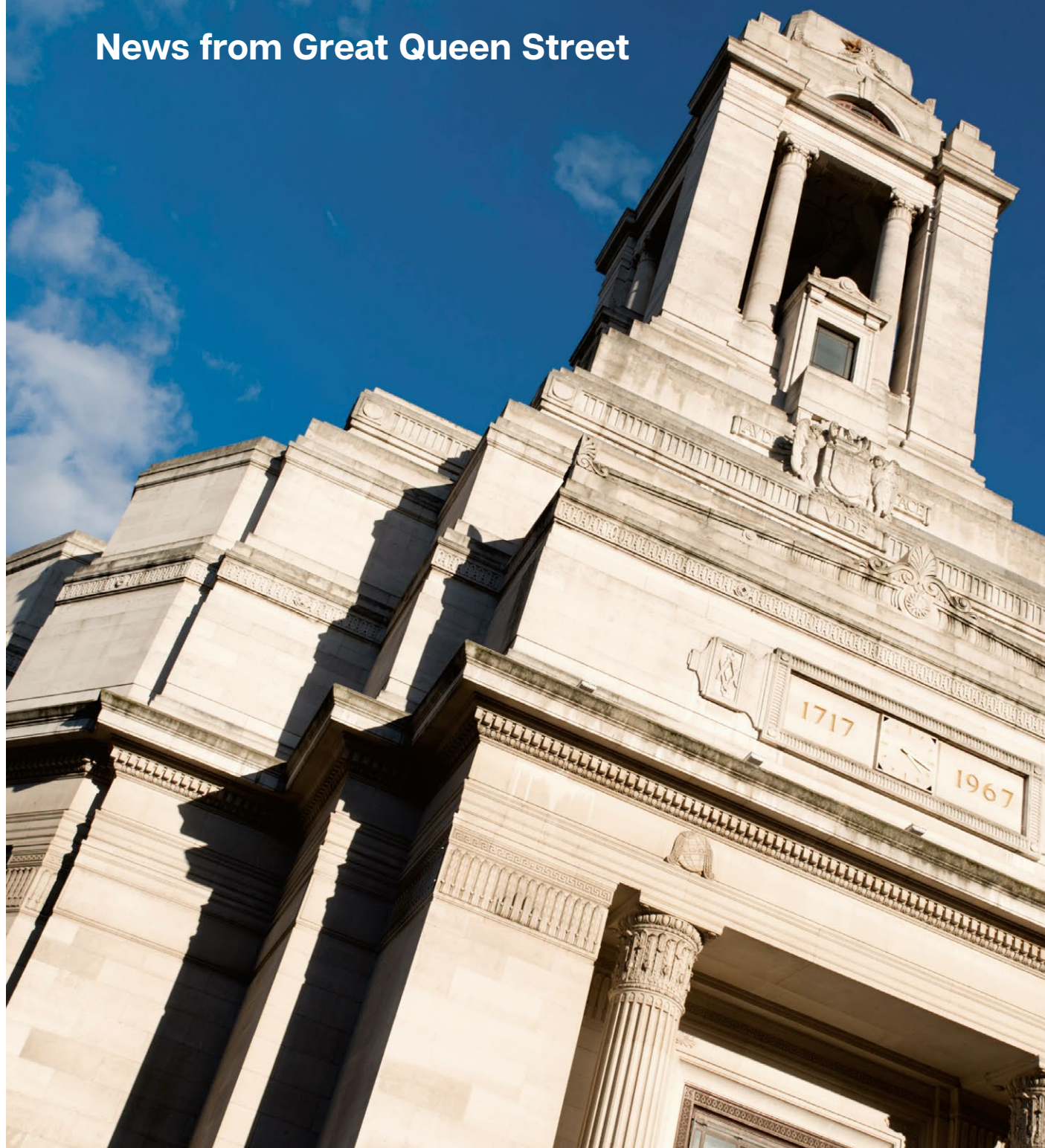
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GRAND LODGE

News from Great Queen Street



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RINGING IN THE CHANGES



'I'm quite certain that Pathway is a game-changer for many of our lodges and I'm really pleased that so many of you have embraced it'

Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes on exciting new innovations and working towards a strong future for Freemasons

Brethren, we've recently witnessed a number of firsts, including the first meeting of Grand Lodge since the investiture of the new team of Acting Grand Officers, which took place in June. Some old hands, some new, including the Grand Director of Ceremonies. We hope they enjoy their term of office.

Another first is the new luncheon arrangements. This is not the place to go into the whys and wherefores of the action that the Grand Secretary has taken. Many of you will already be aware of the reasoning. What I will say is that the Grand Secretary deserves our support and, while I know how reluctant you all are ever to comment on such issues, I'm sure he would welcome constructive comments.

Changing the subject: I was in Stockholm recently at the installation of the new Grand Master of the Swedish Order of Freemasons. In his address, the new Grand Master laid out his vision for the future, which included ensuring that all new candidates who wish to join their Order are properly interviewed and briefed before their initiation, so that they know exactly what's expected of them as Freemasons and what they, as Freemasons, should and shouldn't expect from their membership. This struck a chord

with me, brethren. Are we, perhaps, ahead of the game with Pathway, which is now being so widely used within our Constitution?

I'm quite certain that Pathway is a game-changer for many of our lodges and I'm really pleased that so many of you have embraced it.

Pathway makes attracting new brethren much more effective and we're far more likely to effectively engage our new members if they've been introduced to Freemasonry in this way.

I've also been delighted to have seen the use of Solomon, our online learning resource, in a number of lodges, not least on my visit to Cyprus in April. Many of the excerpts are ideal for filling in idle moments in lodge, when there's a natural gap in proceedings, without extending the overall length of the meeting.

Time is a precious commodity in most people's lives and becomes more so as life goes on. I have said this before, but it bears repeating. The time that we meet and the period spent in lodge are very relevant. Personally, it might suit me very well to meet at 5pm or even earlier, spend two hours in the meeting and then be finished by 9-9.30pm, but that would be a pretty selfish attitude when it comes to the younger brethren and, in the case of most lodges, a sure way of reducing its popularity with new members.

Brethren, let's all be flexible and listen to each others' requirements. If appropriate, meeting times can be varied from meeting to meeting, as many lodges already do. Nor should we be afraid to consecrate new lodges that meet the needs of those we hope to attract, rather than blindly supporting those lodges that don't. Every lodge has a natural lifespan.

But that's enough lecturing for one day, brethren. As our meetings start to gain pace again this autumn, I'm sure we've all emerged from the summer break with renewed vigour.

PROJECT HERMES: THE NEXT PHASE

Stephen Blank, Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire, explains how the web-based system will make life easier for Lodge and Provincial Secretaries – and UGLE



Back row (left to right): David Bell, Stephen Blank, Richard Gardiner, Tony Keating. Front row (left to right): Nigel Codron, Prity Lad, Neil Tomkinson

It's been a busy few months for the Project Hermes team as we ready ourselves for the next exciting phase of development. We've been carefully plotting the existing processes that we, as an organisation, use to capture and validate information about our members, as well as their lodges and chapters, while making sure that the rules in the Book of Constitutions (BoC) are complied with at all times. The entire process involves Lodge Secretaries (and in future, please read this as including chapter Scribes E), Provincial Secretaries and the UGLE registration department.

It's of particular note that, at present, only the latter two groups have access to ADelphi, our membership database, with a further caveat that the whole operation requires the time-consuming management of large quantities of paper and multiple signatures. The biggest catch is that the Lodge Secretary, who has hitherto been unable to access ADelphi, is always being asked countless administrative questions, the answers to most of which resides in – you guessed it – ADelphi!

Simplifying the process

Project Hermes seeks to resolve all these issues. Our attention is focused on designing structures for the 21st century, which enable Lodge Secretaries to access the information they need via a simple web-based system. They'll also be provided with all the training they require as well as data from our national database.

The busy team behind all this is the 2B Working Party (2BWP), with the bulk of the work being carried out by Tony Keating, Hermes project manager, and business analyst Nigel Codron. 2BWP is chaired by myself – a member of the Continuous Development Group (CDG) – as it looks to lay down foundations for the streamlined new system, based on discussions with key stakeholders including UGLE's Member Services and Finance departments.

Input from the Lodge Secretary and Provincial Grand Secretary is set to come from a number of 'pilot Provinces' – Bristol, Cheshire and Hampshire & Isle of Wight – plus, the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London (MetGL). 2BWP aims to learn lessons from

Cambridgeshire and Buckinghamshire, who have developed their own front-end software, while liaising with colleagues at Mark Masons' Hall.

Other members of 2BWP are: Neil Tomkinson (UGLE – ICT), Prity Lad (UGLE – Member Services), David Bell (UGLE – Finance), and Richard Gardiner (CDG – Provincial, Metropolitan ADelphi User Representative).

Mapping the journey

The new online system that Lodge Secretaries will see – the Hermes 'front end' – is to be put out to tender for development; but substantial changes to ADelphi itself are also required, which Neil and his team will undertake. We want Hermes to capture much more information about our members' Freemasonry journey and lodge attendance records, to help Almoners and other lodge officers spot potential problems – and we'd like to know how new members came to hear about us. That's where Prity comes in.

Richard will continue to wear two hats: he's a key driver behind the improvements in ADelphi, but he also represents MetGL. Those in the Provinces outside London perhaps don't realise that MetGL will get the greatest benefit from Hermes. Why? Once upon a time, London's lodges were dealt with by UGLE, including all their registration procedures. When London was devolved into MetGL, some of these actions were left with UGLE – where they remain today. When Hermes is launched, MetGL will govern all of its own processes just like the Provinces – only, with more than 30,000 members, much bigger! As fee payments will be fully integrated into the system, David's expertise will be crucial.

There's a great deal of additional work in the pipeline too, including changes to the BoC, which are being led by Dr David Staples, Grand Secretary. They will also involve the Hermes BoC Committee, chaired by Graham Redman, Deputy Grand Secretary. This really is an exciting stage for Project Hermes and once a consensus is achieved, the proposed new processes will be shared with all Provincial Grand Secretaries for their final comments, before coding commences.

SOLOMON: MASTERING THE CRAFT

UGLE's forward-thinking digital learning resource is celebrating its first birthday. Learning and Development Lead **Stuart Hadler** reports on Solomon's progress

Learning is widely recognised within the Craft and Royal Arch as a key component of the Freemasonry experience and important for member retention and development. Solomon, UGLE's Learning and Development Programme and digital platform, was introduced and warmly welcomed at Quarterly Communications last September before being launched in December. Solomon has achieved global reach within the fraternity – an estimated 10 per cent of all members have registered to use it. While delighted with this positive response and active interest, the Programme Team recognises that there's still huge untapped potential.

A great start

In the spring edition of *FMT*, Master Masons Mike Milner and Ben Mowatt gave Solomon a clear endorsement, describing how it works for them. They highlighted the value of 'nuggets' at meetings and the use of Solomon materials to aid discussion. The Programme Team is now responding to member feedback and planned improvements will aid registration, assist with searches and offer an easier route for newer members to access what they need. And the range of materials available is being broadened to include audio files and quizzes, discussion groups and webinars.

Although 90 per cent of users are based in the UK, Solomon has been accessed in more than 140 countries. While an increasing proportion of younger members are using the platform, more than 50 per cent of visitors are over 50. Solomon receives some 600 visits a day, each averaging seven minutes. A typical user views eight pages and downloads materials. But we've noticed that many of the site's visitors tend to browse rather than have a definite focus. Our aim is to grow the number of active users, stimulate more return visits and further develop Solomon to meet members' needs and interests.

Learning nuggets

All Freemasons are encouraged to follow their own unique masonic journey, which is bound to change in extent and direction over time. While Solomon offers a ready means of serving individuals, there's much to be gained from exploring and sharing materials with others. Regardless

of whether a lodge or chapter has a ceremony to perform, making use of the learning materials will add value to any meeting. This might be a nugget pertinent to a ceremony. In addition, a well-presented paper, demonstration or discussion can offer an occasion to attract infrequent attenders or wider interest and support from other lodges or chapters. Lodge of Instruction, Light Blue, masonic centre, specialist lodges or provincial events are just some of the other opportunities for learning. David Alexander, Assistant Provincial Grand Master (PGM) for East Kent says, 'The introduction of Solomon has provided even more wonderful means for education and development.'

The Provincial Grand Lodge Yorkshire North & East Ridings has taken the promising step of appointing Solomon Ambassadors to work with other lodges and chapters. They encourage the regular use of nuggets and promote the inclusion of a specific learning event in programmes. This not only makes for interesting meetings,

'Solomon is like a "learning tree".

As knowledge grows, new information adds another leaf or branch'

but also serves to improve attendance and enjoyment. Ritual that is well understood is of greater value to candidates and is better delivered.

Michael Hadjiconstantas, District Grand Master for Cyprus, reports: 'Many brethren regard Solomon as a 'learning tree'. As their education, awareness, interest and knowledge grow so does the learning tree – new information or interests form a new leaf or branch, and Solomon offers a structure that supports and encourages involvement and advancement in Freemasonry.'

In many Provinces, the lead roles in learning and development are closely intertwined with Mentoring and Members' Pathway. So, every Province and District is being asked to include the promotion of learning in its plans and programmes. A key step is the appointment of a lead responsible for providing resources, selecting effective presenters and supporting lodges and chapters in their learning activities. Hence, the Provincial Grand

Lodge of Shropshire has formed a development group and a presentation team.

Pulling together

In a move towards inter-provincial collaboration, Provinces in the north of England have established a mutual support group and their first meeting to review Mentoring, Members' Pathway and Solomon was very well attended. John Arthur, Provincial Grand Master for Durham, responded positively, saying: 'This initiative will result in a much-improved way of developing our own mentoring scheme, assisting the successful roll-out of Members' Pathway and introducing Solomon resources to Provincial members. Sharing ideas, methodologies, stories of success and new initiatives is definitely the right way forward.'

As part of Learning and Development, Solomon naturally embraces both Craft and Royal Arch, and many Provinces are developing a joint approach. Deputy PGM Stephen Wyre says, 'Worcestershire regards the launch of Solomon as the perfect opportunity to not only re-emphasise the importance of 'daily advancement', but to further develop cooperation between the Craft and Royal Arch.' They will be holding an 'Everything you always wanted to know about Freemasonry but were afraid to ask' day in November, to showcase Solomon's fantastic resources to junior officers and those approaching the Chair. With both the PGM and Grand Superintendent involved, it promises to be a lively and interesting event.

Solomon in action

UGLE's Programme Team has a key role to play in supporting Provinces and Districts, especially those officers given lead responsibility for learning. Solomon contains a wide range of resources to help Provinces, Districts, lodges and chapters to help develop local activities. For example, in May, the team held a conference for Provincial leads. It was a highly interactive day, which enabled delegates to share their challenges, successes and plans, and the latest proposed developments for Solomon were revealed. Delegate feedback indicates that an annual conference would be well received. More importantly, content from the conference is now available online and may be downloaded and reproduced.

Next steps

Greatly encouraged by the widespread enthusiasm and positive comments that Solomon has evoked, the Programme Team will continue to refine and extend the platform. Its full potential will only be realised as more members, lodges and chapters recognise its capacity to improve member experience and enhance our activities overall. With committed executive leadership and active support, the prospects for widening learning opportunities for members of the Craft and Royal Arch are extremely positive.



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WHAT'S ON

IN THE WORLD OF FREEMASONRY

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and images to
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Freemasons' Hall, Open House London 21-22 September 2019

The United Grand Lodge of England is delighted to be once again taking part in the world's largest architecture festival, Open House London, with lots on offer for families at Freemasons' Hall.

Since 1992, Open House London has given free access to the city's best buildings over one weekend in September, setting

out to inspire the public about the benefits of great design. More than 800 buildings participate, offering walks, talks and tours.

One of the finest Art Deco buildings in London that still serves its original purpose, Freemasons' Hall has taken part in the festival for a number of years, welcoming thousands through its doors. And this year, it will open for two days, from 10am to 5pm.

Highlights at Freemasons' Hall will include Bright Bricks models, with opportunities for children to get creative and design

miniatures of their own, and an exciting kids' trail featuring a make-an-apron station.

Freemasons in regalia will be on hand to answer questions, the Masonic Charitable Foundation will share details of its work supporting communities and causes, and the Museum of Freemasonry will also be open, displaying one of the world's largest Freemasonry collections.

**Find out more about Open House London
at www.openhouselondon.org.uk**



Open House London will allow some 3,000 visitors a day to explore the splendour of Freemasons' Hall

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The Museum of Freemasonry has been given an exciting rebrand. Marketing and Communications Manager **Barry Hughes** explains why it's high time for a new identity

ALL CHANGE!

Ever since it was announced at the Grand Lodge's Quarterly Communication of 1838 that a sum of money would be put aside for the formation of a library and museum in London, the space that has been dedicated to the history of Freemasonry has constantly evolved.

While the early incarnation of the museum was just for Freemasons, in the 1980s the doors of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, as it was then known, were opened to the general public on certain days. Finding its permanent home at Freemasons' Hall following the building's completion in 1933, the Library and Museum of Freemasonry has been an invaluable source of information for Freemasons, researchers and the curious all across the world.



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Making our mark

Now a new chapter in the museum's story has begun. We've been working with external agencies to understand our audiences better. Recently, the museum's name was changed to the more succinct Museum of Freemasonry. And, in line with the name change, the museum has adopted a new brand identity. You may have noticed our posters on London buses or in Tube stations, bearing our new logo which, with its use of angles, lines, points and circles, reflects the importance of geometry in Freemasonry. The eagle-eyed among you may also notice it's a monogram of the M, O and F from the museum name. Even the new brand font is called 'Euclid', which recalls the Masonic Square, even as for most people it will remain a hidden fact. The colour palette includes our own unique blue accented by UGLE's light blue, to align the two visual identities.

Every brand needs a home, but in today's fast-changing world that means a physical as well as online space. In July, the museum unveiled a new website that sits confidently among its peers in the international heritage arena. The bold new design builds upon months of research and staff workshops which tackled all manner of necessity.

One of the early workshops was the most important. It asked: who are our key website users and what do they need? To answer this, we created fictional personas for each identified user. We have history lecturer Claire, 35, from Bristol. She'd like to know if the museum is open to non-masons and what material we have relating to her field of study. Then there's architect Miguel, 47, from Brazil, who's looking for further information after visiting Freemasons' Hall. And, Fred, 45, a Freemason from Essex, who's interested in his lodge history and reads *FMT*. We focused on a total of six user journeys to pull the website together.

Journey of the e-mason

What are the website's new features? Well, it looks more stylish; everything is easier to find; there's an event calendar to make access to events more straightforward; a smarter tours system, including online bookings; and a dedicated research section with helpful resources at your fingertips. We've also introduced a stories section to capture special moments in the history of Freemasonry, as told through the objects in our collection; and we have a blog – an ideal space for our museum team to share articles, news, or anything they find interesting. Given we're a registered charity, the site wouldn't be complete without a support section for donations and volunteers. Hence, we have a new online payment system for memberships and donations.

It's our goal to encourage engagement with the story of Freemasonry, ensuring that our wonderful collection receives the appreciation it deserves.

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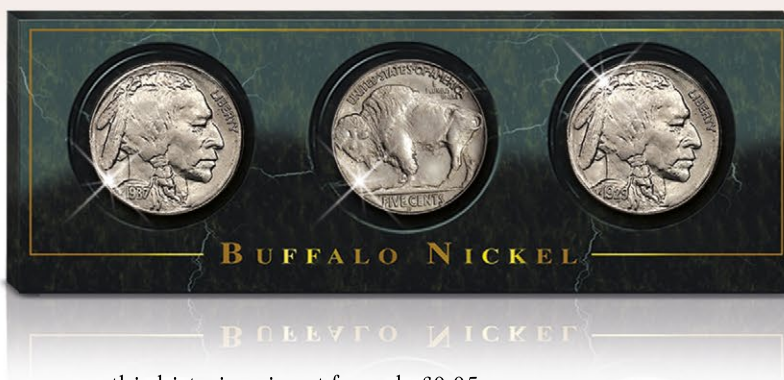


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FORGER, FRAUD & FREEMASON

The spurious and swindling Ebenezer Sibly was the fascinating subject of a recent talk at Freemasons' Hall. Author and historian Susan Mitchell Sommers throws light on the crooked character's shady dealings

Words: **Steven Short**

IMAGES: ALAMY

Ebenezer Sibly was a quack doctor, plagiarist and bigamist. He was ‘a bit of a lounge lizard’, claims Susan Mitchell Sommers, a historian and tutor at Saint Vincent College in Pennsylvania, USA, who has published a biography, entitled *The Siblys of London: A Family on the Esoteric Fringes of Georgian England*. Ebenezer was born in 1751 in London, and was brother to Manoah. Sommers recently shared stories about the siblings at a talk at the Museum of Freemasonry.

Sommers first encountered Ebenezer 30 years ago when working on her thesis on the political history of 18th-century Suffolk. ‘I came across this fellow who set up a fake masonic lodge in 1790 and stole a parliamentary election. Digging a bit deeper, it became obvious that he was clearly a character and the more I looked into his life, the more shady things I discovered he’d been involved in,’ she says. ‘Not just fake masonic lodges, but multiple marriages, forged lottery tickets, buying his medical degree and selling quack medicine.’

Described by its author as ‘a micro history of the Sibly family’, *The Siblys of London* charts the lives of the brothers and is primarily organised around their relationship to books – ‘writing them, publishing them, translating them and plagiarising them,’ Sommers says. Originally a family of shoemakers, the Siblys took to publishing in the 1770s when the copyright laws changed, ending the monopoly of the major publishing cartels. ‘The father, three brothers and one sister all eventually ended up in the business,’ she says.

A study in patience

Some three decades in the making, Sommers began her research for the book in the pre-digital age, travelling to the UK as often as her family and work commitments permitted, and poring over ‘onion-skin books’ in the British Library. Her work charting Ebenezer’s masonic life was made much easier by the London Museum of Freemasonry and other libraries and archives dedicated to Freemasonry around the world.

‘My research coincided with the birth of electronic records and databases, as well as online catalogues,’ she says. ‘By the time all these digital resources became available, I’d done so much groundwork, I already knew exactly what questions to ask.’ Not that she relied solely on the internet. ‘In the book, I thank around 100 people – and they’re just the ones I remembered,’ Sommers says. ‘I’ve spoken to thousands of librarians and archivists who’ve all been unfailingly helpful.’

When the invitation to speak at the Museum of Freemasonry came from archivist Susan Snell, Sommers jumped at it. ‘I would have been remiss not to take the opportunity to give something back

to an institution that helped me so much.’ At the talk, Sommers read a chapter from the book and filled in the gaps as people asked questions, clearly relishing her subject matter. ‘For a historian, there’s nothing as wonderful as finding a rogue character from the past,’ she says.

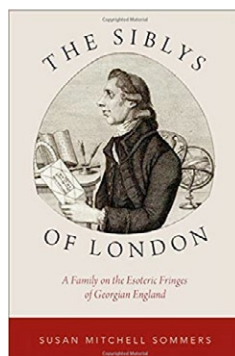
Of dubious character

The Siblys of London paints a colourful picture of Ebenezer, who bought his medical degree before inventing Dr Sibly’s Reanimating Solar Tincture, which he claimed could restore the newly dead to life. ‘He died in a warehouse full of it, before his 50th birthday. Go figure,’ says Susan wryly.

‘As I read about him, it was clear he’d left a mark on many different fields,’ she continues. ‘Do an internet search on him and you’ll find him as a masonic ritualist, early advocate of sex education, celebrated collector of ancient astrology manuscripts and acclaimed publisher of work on Newtonian science. What I’ve tried to do with the book is to bring all of these Ebenezer Siblys



Detail from the larger plate depicting the Declaration of the United States (in symbols) from Sibly’s work, *A New and Complete Illustration of the Celestial Art of Astrology* (1817)



Sommers’ book on the Sibly family is the result of years of painstaking interviews and research

together. And what I discovered was that in every case he was a total fraud! It’s not that he couldn’t have done any one of these things and done it well; he’d just hit upon an idea for getting very rich, stick it out for maybe five or six years and then go on to the next thing.’

Manoah was rather more respectable. An accountant, occultist and one of the first Swedenborgian ministers in London, he ministered to his flock without pay for 50 years. When Ebenezer died, it fell to him to execute his brother’s will. This urged the continued manufacture of the apparently magical tincture, and left legacies for multiple – and concurrent – wives, as well as an illegitimate son whose name Ebenezer couldn’t remember. Manoah found his brother’s financial records and questionable morals so upsetting, he immediately resigned his executorship.

And Manoah wasn’t the only one to find Ebenezer’s antics unseemly. ‘At one point,’ laughs Sommers, ‘he enraged the people of Ipswich so badly that they burnt an effigy of him. Imagine making anyone that angry, let alone a whole town.’



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CULTURE

From book reviews to cryptic crosswords

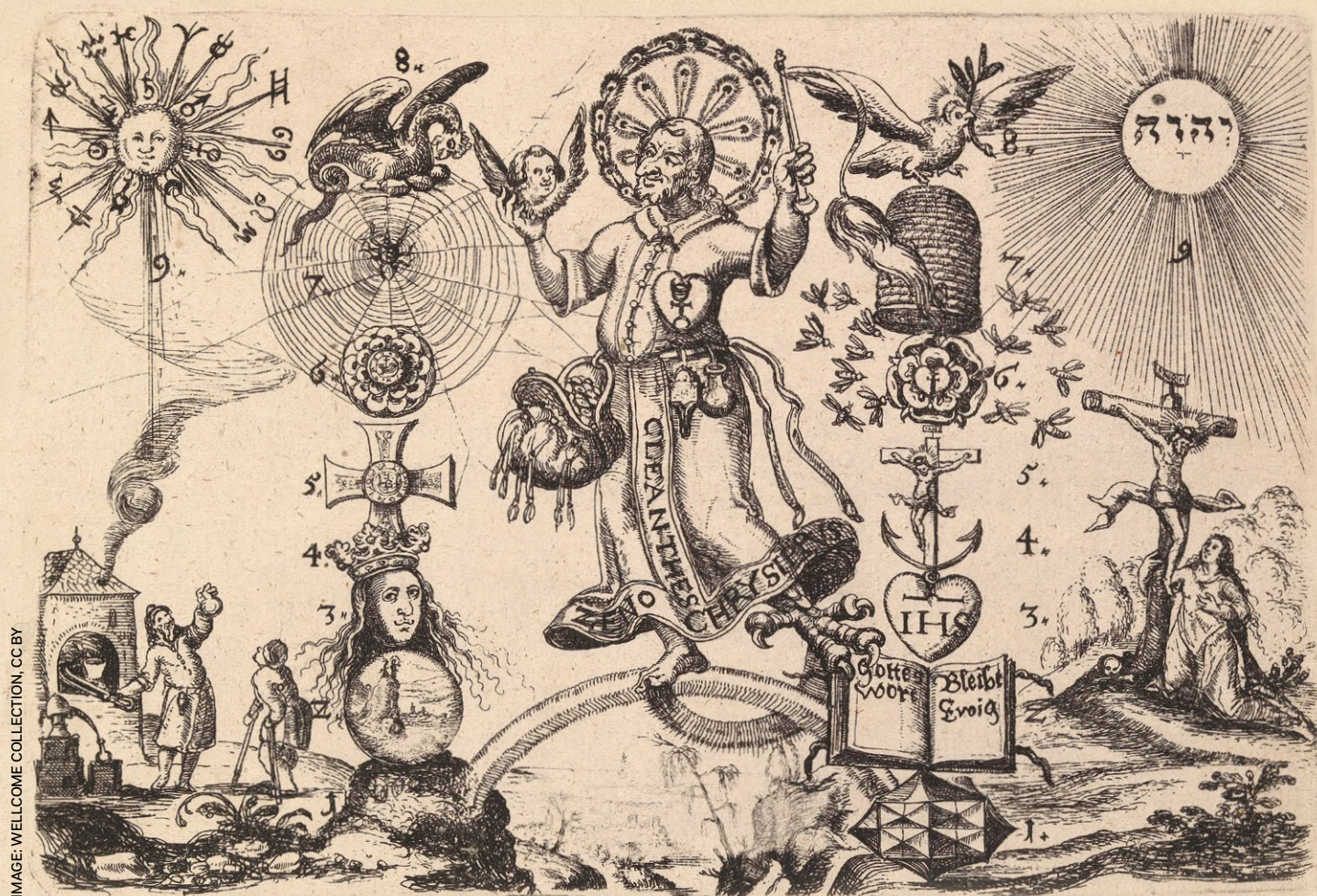


IMAGE: WELLCOME COLLECTION, CC BY

Taken from Markham's *Brotherhood: The Rosicrucian Manifestos in Modern English* by Steven E Markham, the engraving above contains Rosicrucian symbols and illustrative Biblical quotations

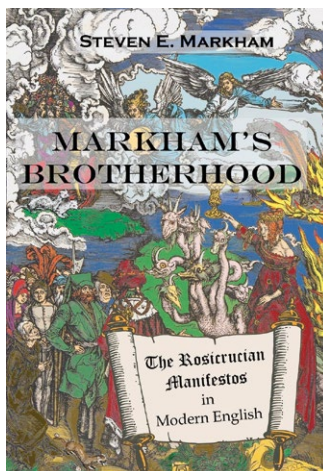
REVIEWS

BOOKS

Markham's Brotherhood: The Rosicrucian Manifestos in Modern English by Steven E Markham

EASIER TO READ AT LAST

New version of key documents behind Rose Croix



Rosicrucianism is a complicated phenomenon. In one form or another, it has endured for some 400 years and, as many readers know, bulks large in the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

Although referring to earlier cabalistic, hermetic and mystical Christian ideas, Rosicrucianism itself properly starts with the publication in Germany of three documents between 1614 and 1616: the *Fama Fraternitatis*, the *Confessio Fraternitatis* and the *Chemical* [originally Chymical] *Wedding of Christian Rosenkreutz*.

The documents (or manifestos) purported to reveal the existence of a hitherto hidden society centred on the teachings of the mystical figure of Christian Rosenkreutz. Whether the society ever existed or was just a hoax by German theologian Johann Valentin Andreae (1586–1654), the probable author, as has been

claimed, Rosicrucianism nonetheless spread like wildfire.

Across a Europe embroiled in turbulent and divisive religious strife (with much more to come later in the century), Rosicrucian ideas caused a huge stir. Tellingly, the documents told of a 'universal reformation of mankind' and influenced early Freemasons, such as Elias Ashmole (1617–1692).

Yet the texts have never been readily available, often buried as appendices in other hard-to-find books. Even then, they have often been based on faulty translations, such as that of Thomas Vaughan (1621–1666). *Markham's Brotherhood: The Rosicrucian Manifestos in Modern English* sets out to correct this by putting the writings into readable, modern English and referring to the original texts. The book is slightly oddly typeset, but that's not in any way a barrier.

For a straightforward account of the original texts behind Rosicrucian movements of all kinds, Markham's book is well worth buying. Indeed, I think the *Chemical Wedding* – the longest of the three documents – would even make a fascinating film.

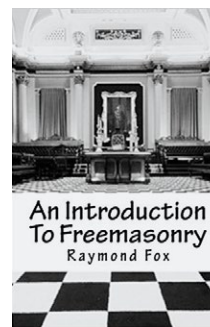
Review by Julian Perry

Markham's Brotherhood: The Rosicrucian Manifestos in Modern English by Steven E Markham, published by Ferret Books, 263 pages, £14.99

An Introduction to Freemasonry by Raymond Fox

AN HONEST INTRODUCTION

Freemasonry – warts and all



Surprisingly different, *An Introduction to Freemasonry* is a very honest book. In simple and unambiguous language, the author breaks down Freemasonry into its common and basic elements. Fox also leaves you in no doubt about the commitment, cost and nature of membership.

But he does it in such an accessible way, you feel you're listening to him sitting opposite you.

One of the book's themes is that Freemasonry's greatest asset is its members. By telling our own story of our journey into Freemasonry, and what it has made us as Freemasons (and citizens), we are the greatest advertisements for the Order. One striking example Fox gives is of a Freemason he met at an open evening – and would never meet again – but who was the catalyst for him joining. It was all about the man and his life story, which, for Fox, was the lure. Simple, yet fascinating.

I was, however, sometimes shocked by the author's early experience of what he had endured as a potential member. It showed how much, in the past, we relied on potential candidates being told next to nothing, and that unpreparedness was almost a condition of membership. Times have certainly changed.

A great strength of the book is that it isn't just written from the perspective of potential candidates, but also their family and friends. The very personal nature and honesty of the writing sets it apart.

This is a good introduction to Freemasonry and, if you have a potential member, feel safe giving them this book. It will complement anything you could hope to say yourself. **Review by Martin Roche**

An Introduction to Freemasonry by Raymond Fox, published by CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform, 82 pages, £8.77

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Freemasonry: An Introduction

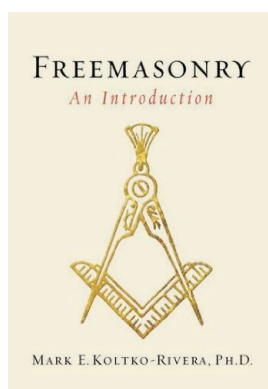
by Mark E Koltko-Rivera

START AT THE VERY BEGINNING

An interesting and authoritative explanation for beginners

Freemasonry: An Introduction opens with the frontispiece of the 1784 edition of James Anderson's *Constitutions*, with certain elements of the illustration being briefly explained. This lays down the foundation for this authoritative book: to provide basic information to readers about the fraternity – much as Anderson's *Constitutions* forms the basis of today's Freemasonry.

Mark E Koltko-Rivera, Past Grand Historian of the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in the State of New York, begins by defining Freemasonry from the various perspectives of those wanting to know more about it. As with many introductory books on Freemasonry,



Freemasonry: An Introduction by Mark E Koltko-Rivera, published by Jeremy P Tarcher, 160 pages, £9.99

it covers masonic symbolism and history, beginning with ancient initiatory rites, through to the development of the fraternity and the formation of the first Grand Lodge. Later chapters debunk the myths, misconceptions and conspiracy theories in some depth.

The author goes on to address the possible reasons why people join Freemasonry, clearly identifying the most common ones. He also explores how a three-centuries-old tradition can help tackle the issues of the 21st century.

The book is chiefly aimed at those taking their very first steps into Freemasonry. It is also well-suited to anyone who is interested in Freemasonry after finding information via the internet and social media. I am not so sure if senior Freemasons will find that much of interest – other than refreshing their knowledge and using the author's perspective and presentation to add to their own.

Despite being published several years ago, the book provides an excellent reference for new Freemasons to consolidate their basic knowledge while learning about more involved aspects.

Review by Michael Duque

LAST ISSUE'S CROSSWORD ANSWERS

Concise crossword answers

ACROSS 7. Son of the widow 8. Soulmate 9. Inst 10. Lactose 12. Tyler 14. Lords 16. Toluene 19. Tsar 20. Take care 22. Winding stairs
DOWN 1. Dodo 2. Goblet 3. Strauss 4. Beget 5. Sicily 6. Holstein 11. Acoustic 13. Bookish 15. Dirndl 17. Uncial 18. Atone 21. Rare

Cryptic crossword answers

ACROSS 1. Subtle 4. Landmark 9. Illsay 10. Splinter 12. Readapts 13. Educues 15. Tahr 16. Coup dessai 19. Minor third 20. Benj 23. Intent 25. Chthonic 27. Inermous 28. Hot tub 29. Minotaur 30. Deacon
DOWN 1. Skirret 2. Baldachin 3. Lianas 5. Apps 6. Dwindles 7. Antic 8. Karoshi 11. Strophe 14. Sparthe 17. Stegnotic 18. Transmit 19. Maidism 21. Jacobin 22. Throne 24. Treen 26. Tutu

The winner of our concise crossword:
Mr George Russell, Warwick.

The winner of our cryptic crossword:
Mr John FG Mills, Canterbury.

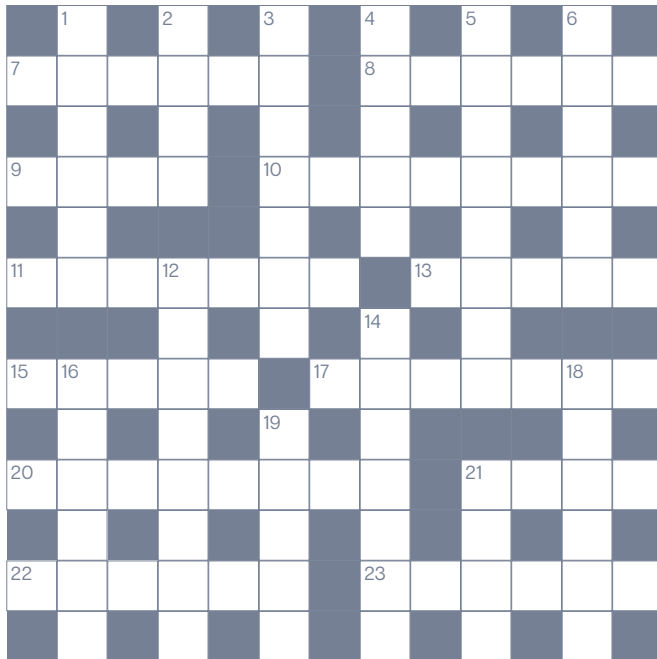
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See page 61 for last issue's crossword answers and winners



Concise crossword by Fulminata

ACROSS

- 7 Isaac _ _ _ _ _ , Cambridge University Lodge (6)
 8 Ancient Greek group of performers commenting on action (6)
 9 _ _ _ _ Stone Jewel (4)
 10 Rigid non-removable magnetic storage for data (4,4)
 11 Order of knights, founded by Hugh of Payns (7)
 13 A person authorised to act on behalf of another (5)
 15 Architect of the Temple (5)
 17 Four-stringed Hawaiian guitar (7)
 20 Skullcap (8)
 21 Small barrels (4)
 22 Prison officer (6)
 23 Limited in size or extent (6)

DOWN

- 1 Goddess of dark places (6)
 2 And others (abbreviation) (2,2)
 3 Bacterial disease of sheep and cattle (7)
 4 Capital of Ghana (5)
 5 Trivial or nonsensical fuss (8)
 6 Duke of _ _ _ _ _ , first Grand Master of the Union (6)
 12 Singing of psalms or sacred canticles (8)
 14 Georgia _ _ _ _ _ , artist known for large flowers (7)
 16 Hebrew prophet of Judah in the 8th century BC (6)
 18 Lungs of sheep, pigs, or bullocks (6)
 19 Roman statesman and scholar (5)
 21 Duke of _ _ _ _ , head of Moderns at the time of the Union (4)

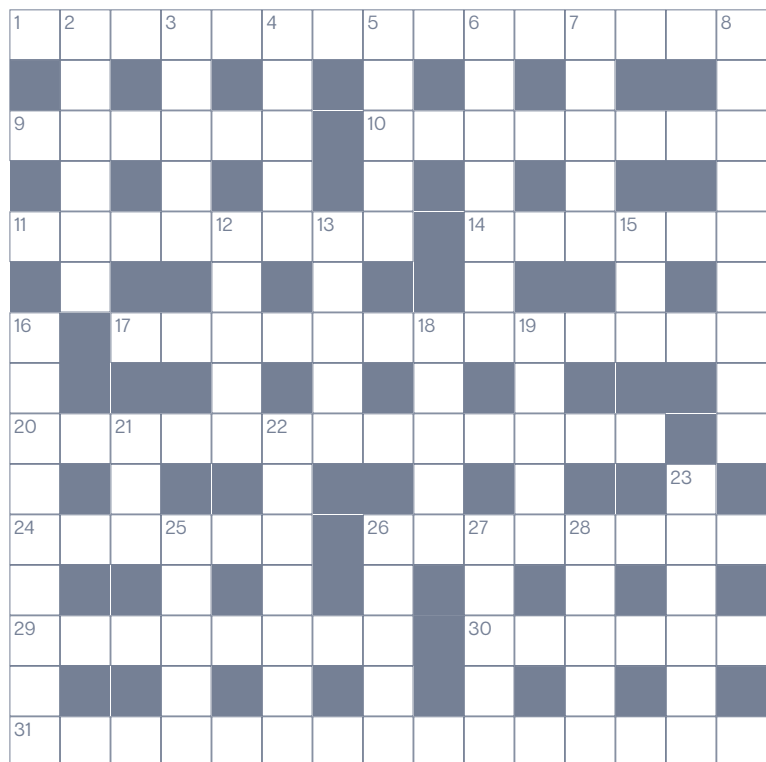
Cryptic crossword by Belvedere

ACROSS

- 1 Stop filming and return for abundant supply (3,3,4,5)
 9 Bivalve mollusc bores into registered office (6)
 10 Asking where SF film had titillating setting (8)
 11 Small, short, plumpest Victorians, perhaps, drinking these (8)
 14 Hydrocarbon with buzz reaching the moon (6)
 17 Phalanger follows prison article to liven things up (4,3,6)
 20 Was it random Oedipus wandering, or was it a working plan? (5,8)
 24 Current admission of parent in Dijon (6)
 26 Subject girl to be surrounded by top brass (8)
 29 Jet black dogs, we hear, in Lahore cycles (8)
 30 Industrialist has immature reactionaries in Scottish urban setting (6)
 31 Sadly, Nanette recoiled from post-Brexit friendship (7,8)

DOWN

- 2 Fertile growth observed when pressure is removed from teenage years (6)
 3 A Slav sounds bitter (5)
 4 Policeman keeps fresh wearing this in Bombay (5)
 5 Takes orders from old governors (5)
 6 Executed old nag for piece of fruit (7)
 7 Good song to listen to for burning ember (5)
 8 Cooler porridge jug? (9)
 12 Replevies British troubles (5)
 13 Sit up over time to hinder (5)
 15 Artist's headland (3)
 16 Pile of money a function of this fabric (9)
 18 Sign up for this sausage from the east, or rather from Scotland (5)
 19 Avifauna or friendly goblin? (5)
 21 Bob gives legume back (3)
 22 Books following Onegin, for one, are effective (7)
 23 Sounds like babies are wrapped in this rock (6)
 25 Cut off newspaper boss on French island on the way back (5)
 26 Reciprocal of sine is awfully secco (5)
 27 Rear of rear on board missing starwort (5)
 28 Soup ingredient of borsch in Russia is not beetroot but cabbage (5)



Think you're smart enough?

Please send your completed Concise and/or Cryptic crossword puzzles to the Crossword Editor, Communications Department, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ, with your contact details, including name and address. Closing date for entries is 18 October 2019. Open only to members of UGLE. Only one entry per person. Correct entries will be placed into a Concise Crossword prize draw and a Cryptic Crossword prize draw. Winners will be announced in the Winter edition of *FMT* and will receive a free publication from Letchworth's, the shop at Freemasons' Hall. For full terms and conditions, go to: www.ugle.org.uk/crossword-competition

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BACK TO SCHOOL

Around the country, millions of children and young people are heading back to school, where they will learn the skills they'll need throughout their life. Sadly, not every child has access to a good education and those who are left behind often struggle in later life...

The MCF is passionate about encouraging opportunity and giving people of all ages the skills they need to live healthy, independent lives. This means supporting children's education as well as offering older people opportunities to stay mentally active and get the most out of their later years.

So far this year, the MCF has awarded grants totalling hundreds of thousands of pounds to help people of all ages develop new skills. Here are two charities that Freemasonry is supporting.

School of Hard Knocks

Focusing on high-impact sports, School of Hard Knocks helps individuals improve their physical and mental wellbeing, whatever their age. But, earlier this year, the MCF awarded a grant of £92,000 to support the charity's work in South Wales and Monmouthshire, where rugby and mentoring are being employed to help young people at risk of exclusion. The sheer physicality of the sport is harnessed to teach the students discipline, confidence and communication.

Many of the adolescents who attend the School of Hard Knocks are from vulnerable or disadvantaged backgrounds, and often lack a role model who can help them set life goals and achieve their potential. By offering coaching and mentoring over a period of three years, the charity provides the consistency



Fighting back: School of Hard Knocks is helping at-risk teens reach their potential through high-impact sports

and motivational support that is vital to students' academic success.

School of Hard Knocks has an excellent track record in intervening at the right time, with 94 per cent of students avoiding permanent exclusion and 100 per cent going on to sit at least five GCSEs.

Musical Connections

Through participation in music, Musical Connections is empowering isolated older people to lead happier, healthier lives. The MCF is funding fun-filled community choirs and weekly music-making sessions in York, led by professional musicians, to the tune of £10,000.

Musical Connections is helping to change the outlook for hundreds of retirees who wish to keep on learning. A recent survey of those who have taken part showed that over 90 per cent felt more active and alert after their music-based session, as well as having more confidence and a greater sense

The sound of music: MCF funds are helping senior citizens find their voice and learn life-enhancing skills

of purpose – confirming the power of learning in improving physical and mental wellbeing. But the charity doesn't just offer older people the chance to learn musical skills, it also brings socially isolated people together and creates an opportunity for them to make new friends.

Many participants have poor physical or mental health, including dementia or mobility issues, which can make it difficult for them to maintain relationships. The Musical Connections workshops offer a safe environment in which people from different backgrounds and with varying abilities are able to join in and form new bonds.

Learn how the MCF's Early Years grants are giving children and young people from vulnerable families the best possible start:

www.mcf.org.uk/impact-early-years

And see how the MCF's Later Life grants are helping older people overcome isolation and enjoy their later years: www.mcf.org.uk/impact-later-life



SUPPORTING FREEMASONS AND THEIR FAMILIES

The MCF is also able to help Freemasons and their families, including their children and grandchildren who are under the age of 25 and in full-time education. Freemasons are committed to helping children and young people overcome the barriers they are facing and get the most out of their education, by providing grants and support services.

Discover more about the MCF's support for children's education: www.mcf.org.uk/support



INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF MEDICAL RESEARCH

After 30 years of funding medical breakthroughs, the MCF is now supporting the next generation of researchers by awarding grants to PhD students

Since the 1980s, Freemasons have donated over £10 million to groundbreaking and life-saving medical research, through the MCF and its predecessor charities. Partnering with some of the UK's most respected universities and research organisations, these grants have helped fund medical developments that are still of benefit today.

Freemasons' grants have helped to advance the medical community's knowledge and understanding of a wide range of diseases, from ovarian cancer to Alzheimer's to multiple sclerosis – creating new and more effective treatments that have improved the quality of life of thousands of people. Over the years, Freemasons have played a part in some truly impressive breakthroughs, including making a £65,000 grant to Moorfield's Eye Charity, which helped restore the sight of a man suffering from macular degeneration, as well as a £1 million grant that has helped scientists discover new tests for prostate cancer.

The MCF is always seeking to maximise its impact and ensure that every penny donated makes as big a difference as possible. To this end, a review was carried out in 2017 and the MCF developed a new strategy that focuses on supporting the future of cutting-edge medical research. As a result, the MCF is now concentrating its medical research funding on new PhD studentships.

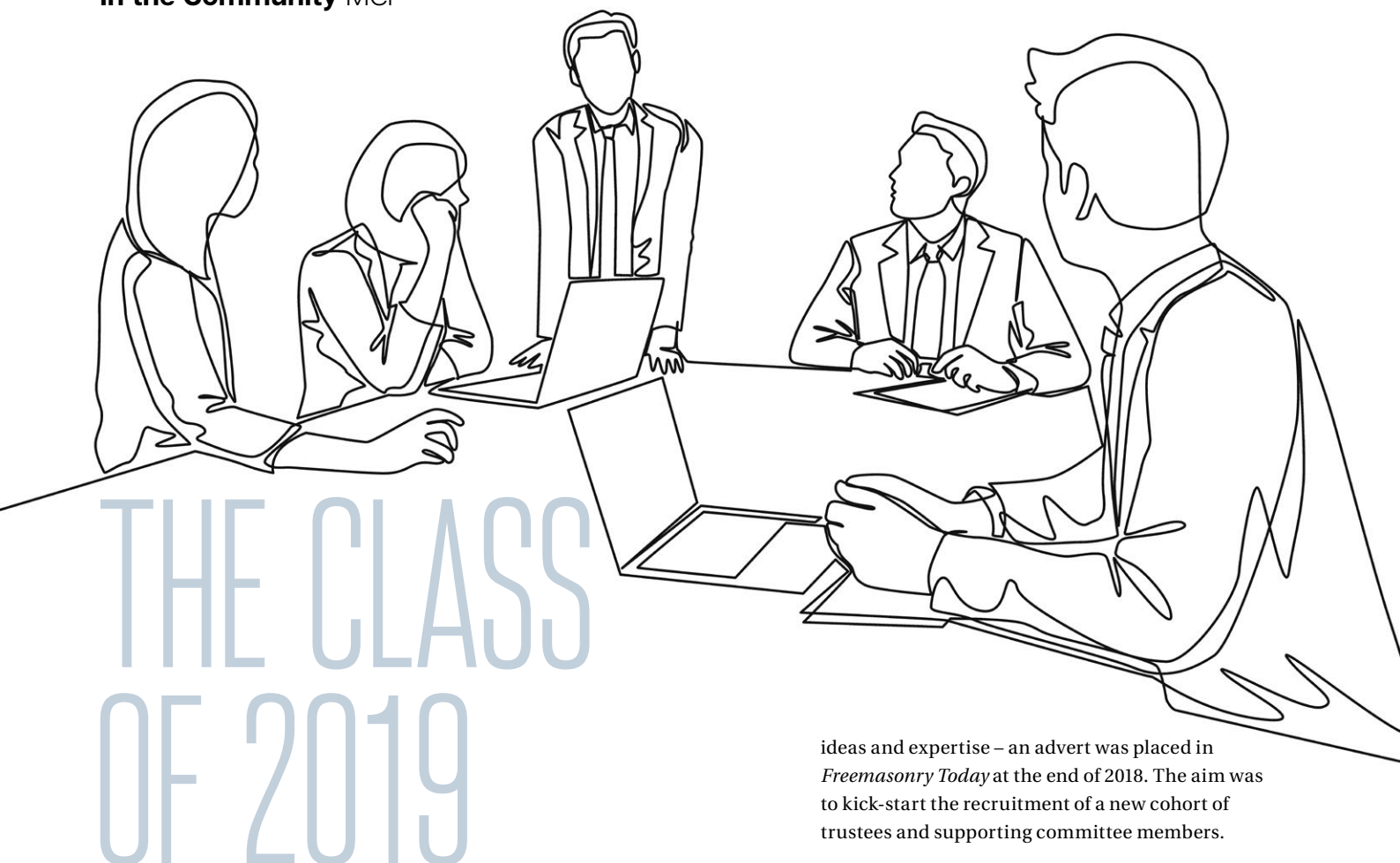
This means the Freemasons will be fully supporting brand new research into a particular area rather than part-funding ongoing or existing research. The MCF is now working with 15 organisations, all experts in particular fields of medical research, and funding a total of 29 PhD studentships, plus one MSc project.

However, the shift towards the funding of individual PhD research by no means indicates a drop in the quality or complexity of research taking place. In fact, the current portfolio of doctorates being funded by the MCF includes research into blocking a virus which can cause the failure of kidney transplantations, and the search for drug targets on a cancer-causing protein. These preliminary studies are vital for the future advancement of detection and treatment across many areas of medical research.

The MCF's new strategy continues to advance the medical community's knowledge and understanding of complex, degenerative diseases and demonstrates its commitment to investing in the next generation of research experts. By funding and nurturing the talent of today's young scientists, Freemasonry is enabling the research breakthroughs of tomorrow.

To find out more about the MCF's medical research funding visit: www.mcf.org.uk/medical-research

The Institute of Cancer Research received a grant of £143,400 to fund the PhD studentship of Iona Black (above). She is designing chemical probes to help identify new drug targets on the cancer-related protein, tankyrase



The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) has strengthened its trustee board and committees, following an advertisement in *Freemasonry Today*

One of the MCF's core values is 'striving for excellence' in all areas of its work, and the people that guide and oversee its activities are fundamental to achieving the high standards the charity sets for itself.

Members of the trustee board and its various committees will continue to shape and secure the future of the MCF for years to come.

As Freemasonry's major national charity with an increasing public profile, it's vital that the MCF has the best people at its disposal to provide advice, support and scrutiny to the staff team which delivers its wide range of charitable activities on behalf of the Craft.

When the MCF was formed in 2016, the initial trustee board was made up of 24 trustees, all Freemasons and all recruited from the boards of the four preceding masonic charities. This approach allowed for a smooth transition and ensured that the MCF could benefit from the years of experience that had already been built up within the Freemasons' national charities. Three years later, in the wake of the retirement of some of the original trustees – and to bring in new

ideas and expertise – an advert was placed in *Freemasonry Today* at the end of 2018. The aim was to kick-start the recruitment of a new cohort of trustees and supporting committee members.

Joining forces

The recruitment campaign was a huge success. More than 80 people applied for a role at the MCF, and three new and highly experienced trustees were appointed: Sinéad Brophy, an award-winning social entrepreneur with extensive experience of digital transformation in the health and social care sector, and the MCF's first female trustee; Clive Emerson, the chief finance officer of Help for Heroes; and Alan Graham MBE, former chairman of the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Another 24 people with backgrounds in finance, healthcare, community support, grant-making and property – and many of whom have current or prior experience of working with charities spanning a wide range of causes – have also been recruited to the MCF's various committees.

Following official confirmation of the new appointments, James Newman, Deputy President and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, who led the recruitment process, said: 'Diversity in leadership is essential for the success of any organisation, as different experiences and perspectives often lead to better debates and more creative problem solving. The people we've appointed to the trustee board and our committees bring a wealth of new skills to the charity and will help us improve the way we deliver support for Freemasons and the wider community in the years ahead.'

FRATERNAL WORLD

The UGLE globe at a glance

Provinces

Metropolitan Grand Lodge
1 London
1,252 lodges

Provincial Grand Lodges

2 Bedfordshire
55 lodges

3 Berkshire
98 lodges

4 Bristol
37 lodges

5 Buckinghamshire
116 lodges

6 Cambridgeshire
30 lodges

7 Cheshire
173 lodges

8 Cornwall
80 lodges

**9 Cumberland
& Westmorland**
77 lodges

10 Derbyshire
75 lodges

11 Devonshire
131 lodges

12 Dorset
49 lodges

13 Durham
178 lodges

14 Essex
307 lodges

15 Gloucestershire
82 lodges

16 Guernsey & Alderney
11 lodges

**17 Hampshire & Isle
Of Wight**
255 lodges

18 Herefordshire
15 lodges

19 Hertfordshire
188 lodges

20 Isle of Man
19 lodges

21 Jersey
11 lodges

22 East Kent
181 lodges

23 West Kent
178 lodges

24 East Lancashire
198 lodges

25 West Lancashire
342 lodges

**26 Leicestershire
& Rutland**
76 lodges

27 Lincolnshire
74 lodges

28 Middlesex
195 lodges

29 Monmouthshire
29 lodges

30 Norfolk
76 lodges

**31 Northamptonshire
& Huntingdonshire**
93 lodges

32 Northumberland
138 lodges

33 Nottinghamshire
86 lodges

34 Oxfordshire
55 lodges

35 Shropshire
34 lodges

36 Somerset
89 lodges

37 Staffordshire
96 lodges

38 Suffolk
68 lodges

39 Surrey
253 lodges

40 Sussex
161 lodges

41 North Wales
106 lodges

42 South Wales
160 lodges

43 West Wales
27 lodges

44 Warwickshire
156 lodges

45 Wiltshire
44 lodges

46 Worcestershire
116 lodges

**47 Yorkshire, North
& East Ridings**
98 lodges

**48 Yorkshire,
West Riding**
198 lodges



Across the globe

1 Canada



Montreal/Halifax
The Group of Lodges
in Montreal & Halifax
3 lodges

2 Caribbean



Kingston/George Town
District Grand Lodge of Jamaica
& the Cayman Islands
24 lodges
Willemstad
Iguadad Lodge, No. 653
Port of Spain
District Grand Lodge
of Trinidad & Tobago
8 lodges
Bridgetown
District Grand Lodge of Barbados
& The Eastern Caribbean
21 lodges
Georgetown
District Grand Lodge of Guyana
15 lodges

3 Atlantic



Nassau
District Grand Lodge of Bahamas
& Turks
12 lodges
Hamilton
District Grand Lodge of Bermuda
5 lodges
Jamestown
St Helena Lodge, No. 488

4 South America



São Paulo/Rio de Janeiro
District Grand Lodge of South America,
Northern Division
17 lodges
Buenos Aires/Santiago/Montevideo
District Grand Lodge of South America,
Southern Division
11 lodges

5 Europe



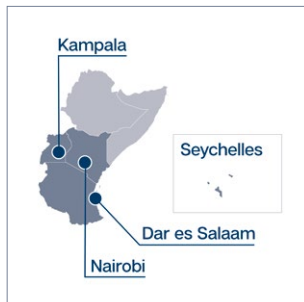
Portugal
The Group of Lodges in Portugal
4 lodges
Gibraltar
District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar
9 lodges
Valleta
The Group of Lodges in Malta
2 lodges
Limassol
District Grand Lodge of Cyprus
17 lodges
Zakynthos
Star of the East Lodge, No. 880

6 West Africa



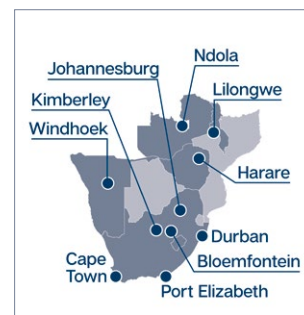
Freetown/Banjul
District Grand Lodge of Sierra Leone
& The Gambia
21 lodges
Accra
District Grand Lodge of Ghana
58 lodges
Lagos
District Grand Lodge of Nigeria
42 lodges

7 East Africa



Nairobi
District Grand Lodge of East Africa
48 lodges

8 Southern Africa



Johannesburg
District Grand Lodge of South
Africa, North
101 lodges
Kimberley
District Grand Lodge of South
Africa, Central Division
8 lodges
Windhoek
District Grand Lodge of Namibia
4 lodges
Cape Town
District Grand Lodge of South
Africa, Western Division
30 lodges
Ndola
District Grand Lodge of Zambia
11 lodges
Harare/Lilongwe
District Grand Lodge of Zimbabwe
& Malawi
12 lodges
Durban
District Grand Lodge of Kwazulu-Natal
26 lodges
Bloemfontein
District Grand Lodge of Orange
Free State
7 lodges
Port Elizabeth
District Grand Lodge of South
Africa, Eastern Division
28 lodges



9 The Subcontinent



Mumbai
District Grand Lodge of Bombay
23 lodges
New Delhi
District Grand Lodge of Northern India
5 lodges
Kolkata
District Grand Lodge of Bengal
23 lodges
Chennai
District Grand Lodge of Madras
18 lodges
Colombo
District Grand Lodge of Sri Lanka
10 lodges

10 Far East



Kuala Lumpur/Singapore
District Grand Lodge of Eastern Archipelago
40 lodges
Hong Kong/Kobe
District Grand Lodge of Hong Kong & the Far East
20 lodges
Vanuatu/Fiji
The Group of Lodges in the South West Pacific
3 lodges
Rabaul
Rabaul Lodge, No. 4468

11 Australia



Albany
Plantagenet Lodge, No. 1454
Melbourne
Combermere Lodge, No. 752
Tully
Geraldton Lodge, No. 3544
Gladstone
Port Curtis Lodge, No. 2235

12 New Zealand



Christchurch
District Grand Lodge of South Island, New Zealand
13 lodges
Auckland
District Grand Lodge of North Island, New Zealand
24 lodges

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to: **The Editor, FMT, Freemasons' Hall,
Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ**
Email: **editor@freemasonrytoday.com**

The opinions expressed here are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Grand Lodge of England. All UGLE members' letters printed are appended with the contributor's name, his mother lodge name and number, the town where that lodge meets, and the Province; please include these details at the foot of your letter. Please enclose an SAE for any items sent by mail that you wish to have returned.

Safeguard the future of Freemasonry

Sir,

Much has been made of the UGLE Members' Pathway scheme. I have keenly read the document and it does make the process of improving and retaining members to Freemasonry more professional and ordered, and I congratulate the executive for the work done in compiling the programme. But the Pathway is essentially looking to recruit members in the same old way that it has always done – there's nothing new or innovative about that.

The elephant in the room is that the programme does not address who and how we attract people into Freemasonry in the 21st century. Over time I have read many, many reports and reasons why candidates are not joining and being retained in the Order. It's like saying, 'water is wet'; we already know water is wet, without endless analysis of the subject. Most things are that obvious.

What is needed is direct, workable, co-ordinated actions for the 21st century to open up the Order in every local community and attract new members, with leadership not just from UGLE, but throughout the Provinces and beyond. Then it can filter down to the lodges how we can attract new members into Freemasonry. This needs to have actions (probably many, many actions) with fighting funds available to support these initiatives.



Looking around the Provinces there are things happening that do work and have worked, but they're done piecemeal and with little help, only being funded and delivered by small groups of committed individuals. What is needed at UGLE is the leadership to look at all the initiatives and co-ordinate them; then to make sure they are rolled out throughout all the Provinces. Time is running out.

The Members' Pathway is a professional, well-written administration tool for improving and retaining members, but essentially it's just a pipeline to guide lodges to ensure new members are retained. But if the pipeline is empty of members, it's nothing more than a well-written academic paper.

David Campbell, Aclet Lodge, No. 5880, Shildon, Durham

Bear necessities

Sir,

I want to thank you for the work you do placing teddy bears in children's hospitals. I live in Carlisle and had to visit the A&E department. My little girl, who is two, fell and banged her head and had to have it glued. She was given one of your bears and was so thrilled; it made her time in hospital more pleasant. She's taking it into nursery here to show her friends. Thanks again. **Rebecca Johnston**

Let the games begin

Sir,

I noted with great interest that our Deputy Grand Master enjoys painting model soldiers. This is a hobby that I believe can attract a similar quizzical response from the general public as does the Craft itself. My local masonic hall, the Kings Hall in Market Harborough, hosts our wargames club and I'm pleased to say that a member of the club was initiated into St Wilfrid's Lodge, No. 8350, earlier this year. I'm aware of at least one other lodge that also accommodates the hobby.

I wondered how many more of our members share this hobby and whether they would be interested in participating in some friendly competitions that I'll be organising over the next few months. All



From wargames to model railways, hobbies are finding their perfect match in Freemasonry

Wheels of change

Sir,
Since I came up with the ambitious, and subsequently successful idea of members cycling around the perimeter of our Province of Yorkshire, West Riding (as reported in the Winter 2014 edition of *FMT*), I have noticed many others engaged in similar endeavours across the country. I have made contact where possible and had the pleasure of meeting some members socially and masonically.

It has been suggested that there may be benefits from establishing wider connections, so members can meet when riding in organised events or races, share information and advice on event organisation, and, who knows, even resurrect the concept of a specialist Cycling Lodge – sadly, those such as Lodge of the Open Road, No. 5983, surrendered its warrant just before the current boom following the success of Team Sky and Yorkshire's own Grand Départ in 2014.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who cycles and is involved in the administration of events, sport or transport, so that we can look at improved future communications.

**Martyn Bolt, Woodsmoke Lodge,
No. 9317, Mirfield, Yorkshire, West Riding**



Martyn Bolt riding in the 2014 Yorkshire, West Riding Provincial Perimeter Pedal

Bonds of brothers

Sir,
It was extremely interesting to read the Grand Secretary's welcome in the Summer edition of *FMT*, particularly when he rightly refers to ensuring that all members of the lodge, young and older, are kept involved in the business, ritual and social side of the lodge.

At Albert Duke of York Lodge, No. 4970, in Middlesex, we hold a Class of Instruction dinner every year where anyone who attends can come along, but also any member of the lodge is welcome. At our Class of Instruction dinner in July 2019, our longest-serving member (initiated in 1971) and our newest member (initiated in 2019) were present. The oldest, in years, was 82, the youngest 34!

The past three secretaries have also ensured that the Festive Board seating plan is changed for each meal, so members don't sit with just friends but different groups each time, to give everyone an opportunity to get to know their brothers.

It is a great sense of pride at Albert Duke of York Lodge that we retain a great social life with those who have been in the fraternity for what seems like forever, as well as those just starting their journey.
Stewart Graham, Albert Duke of York Lodge, No. 4970, Staines, Middlesex

The best medicine

Sir,
While in a local hospital I was in considerable discomfort, waiting to have a stone in my bile duct removed, when I received a text from a brother. He expressed his concern for my problem, offered to help in any way and wished me a speedy recovery.

He did go on to ask if I could ascertain if the stone being removed was a rough or a smooth one, and said he was pleased it was being removed by the more expert workman!

Peter Light, Vivary Lodge, No. 8654, Taunton, Somerset

proceeds from the competitions will go towards the Leicestershire & Rutland 2022 Festival Appeal.

In a similar vein to Bob Barnes' suggestion in the Summer 2019 edition of *FMT*, regarding a Masonic Model Railway Society, I'd be interested in organising a Masonic Wargaming Society whereby members could combine to put on events.

My email is richkeen60@gmail.com and I'd be very happy to hear from any wargaming members.

**Richard Keenan, St Wilfrid's Lodge,
No. 8350, Market Harborough,
Leicestershire & Rutland**

Cut down on the toast

Sir,
I fully agree with Vic Reed in *FMT*, Summer 2019, that it's time for an intelligent discussion regarding the toasting list and unnecessary lengthy speeches. I'm very fond of the Festive Board and the formality of a few toasts and the odd interesting speech, but a prolonged, rambling speech loses the interest of its audience. Is it really necessary for there to be a lengthy toast to the Master at every Festive Board? It's great to do on an installation or initiation evening, and can be a bit of fun too, but not at every meeting.

I'm genuinely interested to hear what other members' feelings are on this subject. We are, after all, striving to modernise, but not lose our identity or traditions. The lodge room is where we hold our traditional formal ceremonies – they're steeped in history and meaning – but I and others who have discussed this believe the Festive Board needs to have less toasting and speeches, and become more of a social event with its own lighter formality.

**John Higgins, Lodge of Hospitality,
No. 8325, Kings Heath, Worcestershire**

E-MASONS

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@ugle_grandlodge
@grandchapter



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UnitedGrandLodgeofEngland
SupremeGrandChapter



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@freemasonrytoday



Follow Dr David Staples,
UGLE's Chief Executive
& Grand Secretary:
@UGLE_DrDStaples

@UGLE_DrDStaples

Many congratulations to @_HFAF_ and @pastmasterchris for the historic consecration of the first ever regular Freemasons lodge for women in America. Having met their new Worshipful Master Lou Elias a number of times, I know the lodge will be in very safe hands.

@pgldevonshire

Looking forward to meeting Shaun and Dean from @UGLE_GrandLodge's Communications Team today for a digital workshop. Should be a great afternoon.

@xeramax

Interesting, informative and enjoyable. Thanks to Dean and Shaun from @UGLE_GrandLodge for making the long journey. Great to meet the @pgldevonshire comms team.



@DistrictLeone

District Grand Lodge of Sierra Leone and The Gambia Annual Communication in Bajul, The Gambia. 1 June 2019.



@BritishArmy

Yesterday, the Grandmaster of UK Freemasons, HRH The Duke of Kent, unveiled a new memorial stone at the @UGLE_GrandLodge. The stone commemorates more than 200 Freemasons who have won the Victoria Cross, including LSgt @johnsonbeharry, since 1856.



@UGLE_GrandLodge

David of the House Staples, the 1st of His Name, CEO of UGLE, Leader of the 9 Departments & Protector of ill patients, Lord of @FreemasonsHall, Khal of Cambridgeshire, the sometimes (sun)burnt, Wearer of Chains and Father of his daughter...

@AJontheSquare

Two weeks on Saturday I will be installed into the chair of King Solomon in my Mother Lodge meeting at @FreemasonsHall in GQS. I feel honoured and privileged but to say I'm getting nervous is an understatement, lol. But with that said, I am much more excited.

@UGLE_GrandLodge

Great news! @DerbysCraftPGL are now on Instagram. Make sure to go and give them a follow. Prov Grand Lodge of Derbyshire.



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Queen Elizabeth Court

A care home with magic

Close to the sandy beaches of Llandudno, RMBI Care Co. Home Queen Elizabeth Court provides residential care, nursing and dementia support for up to 67 residents.

World famous magician and wartime entertainer Mark Raffles, moved to the Home in August 2015, retiring after 80 years in show business. Freemason Mark was a member of Dukinfield Lodge 5959 in the Province of Lancashire.

Born in January 1922 in Manchester, Mark discovered he had a gift for magic from an early age. He became a regular on TV during the 60s, 70s and 80s, appearing on popular variety shows under the stage name of Ray St Clair before his famous pickpocket act as Mark Raffles.

During the Second World War, Mark became part of the Entertainments National Service Association, which was set up to provide entertainment for British armed forces personnel. Mark entertained servicemen and women in army barracks and theatres all over the UK.

Living at Queen Elizabeth Court, Mark enjoys watching the entertainers that visit but is often busy with his own activities such as writing to magazines. Above all Mark enjoys "the Home's location to the beautiful area of Llandudno," which he visits daily.

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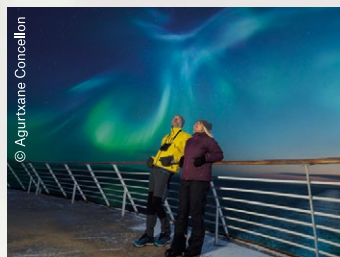
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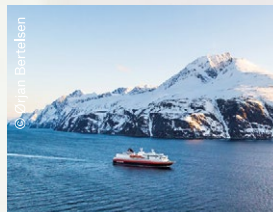
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