



# The Cambridgeshire Mason

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## NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day



The inaugural celebration of NHS, Social Care and Frontline Workers' Day took place on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021 - flags were raised, banners displayed and trumpeters played the Last Post after which a two-minute silence was observed. With banners displayed at all our centres, Lady Masons and local residents joined in at Cambridge while Fenland Youth Radio featured Whittlesey Mayor David Mason. Many brethren joined the national clap for carers and took part in the 9 o'clock toast.

*Jon Cooper*

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FESTIVAL 2023 PROGRESS REPORT

# A message from the Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent

Brethren, welcome to the latest edition of The Cambridgeshire Mason, the first time we have moved to it being quarterly. In my March introduction, I was feeling positive that we could look forward to the rest of 2021 with increasing optimism. However, that may have been slightly premature as normality has not returned as quickly as we should like.



Charity remains a key imperative and, in the Autumn, we shall relaunch the Festival. We shall still have two years to reach our target - plenty of time for us to raise money and have fun!

I should like to congratulate Isaac Newton University Lodge on their extremely generous donation of £35,000 to the MCF Duke of Edinburgh appeal. A magnificent gesture and one

which has again put this Province at the forefront – a big thank you to all their brethren.

Nevertheless, I know certain smaller meetings are scheduled for early July and 19<sup>th</sup> July appears to have been earmarked as the end of current restrictions. After that date, larger meetings and dining should be possible. I would encourage you to embrace the opportunity to meet again and to persuade your masonic friends to join you; we really need an impetus behind the resumption. However, no-one should feel pressured into attending if they remain uncomfortable about doing so.

Membership both in terms of recruitment and retention will be the other key focus as we return. I know our Provincial Membership team is looking forward to engaging with you on the UGLE pathway programme, which will launch in the early Autumn. Watch out for it. Another UGLE initiative, Hermes will start to roll out in late 2021/early 2022.

Our re-arranged Provincial Grand Chapter meeting is on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> September and Provincial Grand Lodge is now scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> October both at Wisbech St Mary. I am looking forward to both meetings and investing the new Provincial officers whilst also being able to recognise those who were appointed or promoted both this year and in 2020.

There are so many good things to look forward to as we resume not least of which is the prospect of three new lodges being consecrated - probably in late 2021 or 2022, delayed centenaries and banner ceremonies

Zoom meetings have proved an extremely useful tool during lockdowns. Whilst nothing will ever beat meeting in person, we must continue to be flexible and, it may be an appropriate medium for some administrative meetings or committees as well as keeping in touch with brethren who may not be able to attend meetings through frailty or other reasons. The advantages should be considered; it might mean less travelling for some, more convenience, reduced expense and allow for a greater attendance and involvement.

The future is bright but the prospect of many initiations and bringing in younger members who have been enthused by our work in the community during the pandemic makes it even more special.

Brethren, I hope that you enjoy the Summer, the end of lockdown and the resumption of your freemasonry and I trust it will not be too long before we are meeting each other again – something the Provincial Executive and I are anticipating with huge excitement and enthusiasm.

**Bill Dastur**

## INUL donation in memory of Duke of Edinburgh

Thousands of young people with disabilities and special educational needs will be able to take part in the Duke of Edinburgh Awards thanks to a grant of £35,000 from Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859. The donation reflects the 35 years that His Royal Highness served as the University's Chancellor. It will add to the £300,000 strategic partnership between the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) with the Duke of Edinburgh Awards.

Overall, an estimated 30,000 young people with disabilities and special educational needs will now be able to take part in the Award scheme as a result of the partnership, which will ensure that young people with diverse difficulties and disabilities will be able to build crucial skills and become more independent. It aims to offer students the same experiences available to their peers in mainstream education.

**Jon Cooper**



# Communication - past, present and future...

The last few months have seen some exciting communications coming from Grand Lodge as well as from the Provincial Communications Team. Every recent edition of Freemasonry Today has included at least one item linked to Cambridgeshire and we have had an ever-increasing number of articles in local media - in print, online and even on-air.

Our new information booklet entitled '**Discover Freemasonry in Cambridgeshire**' is a great way of introducing Freemasonry to friends and family. You can download it from our website while printed versions will soon be available in all Masonic Centres.

The Cambridgeshire Mason is now produced quarterly and we are working to re-introduce monthly editions of 'The Second Rising'.

You can now find Cambridgeshire Freemasons on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and LinkedIn. Look out for our new private Facebook Group for members to share news and events as well as invitations and maybe even lifts to meetings, Please like and share our news on whichever channels you use.

We're always grateful to receive content for web, social media, press and newsletters, so please keep sending it through - guidelines and toolkits can be found at [www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk](http://www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk)

If you have any suggestions for new Communications initiatives throughout the province or would like to join our busy and hard-working team, please email [comms@pglcambs.org.uk](mailto:comms@pglcambs.org.uk)

**Michael Hinton**



## Alma Mater shoots for the Moon

Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492, in Cambridge, has donated £500 to the Cambridge Acorn Project, which carries out therapeutic work with children and families connected to issues around stress, trauma, attachment and social justice.

The donation included match funding from Cambridgeshire's Masonic Charity for Care & Relief and a grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The Moon Project was set up as a response to COVID-19. The pandemic has been traumatising and frightening for many children, young people and their families and the Moon Project helps support them through this trauma.

The donation will enable the charity to support three additional cases.

**Jon Cooper**



**Cambridge Acorn Project**  
supporting young people and families  
facing mental health challenges

## Back to the future

**I am sure that many of you would have seen the Queen's Green Canopy campaign advertised in the press, encouraging us to mark Her Majesty's forthcoming Platinum Jubilee by planting a tree for future generations to enjoy.**

The idea struck a definite chord with me as it mirrors much of what we are trying to do with the Mentorship part of the Members Pathway: working today toward a future that we may not ourselves see but remains vitally important to us.

As you are probably aware UGLE is about to launch a Membership drive to help Freemasonry secure its future. By engaging with new members, we have a chance to share knowledge, to re-visit and re-examine our own understanding of Masonry, and to weigh up our own experience against the one which we hope that our future Brothers will enjoy.

Mentoring within Lodges may be either by the formalised structure of Lodge and Personal Mentors, but also by any Brother reaching out to newer Brethren, recognising them as fellow travellers on their own Masonic journey. For newer Brethren, engagement helps them feel comfortable in unfamiliar circumstances and that they are a valued part of the Lodge, and for experienced Brethren it allows them to pass on a legacy of Masonic knowledge and wisdom which will help ensure the future of their Lodge.

After such a long period apart, and away from our Lodges; I am sure that we are all looking forward to seeing old friends again, feeling the comfort of the traditions and familiarity of our own Lodge.

Returning from a long break is also an ideal opportunity to reach out to those Lodge members with whom we do not always interact with so fully, to forge new friendships as well as strengthen old ones. We can help this by building a 'nurturing' Lodge culture that considers the needs of all members and treats all members equally.

Some Lodges have used the break to re-examine their working practices to see if they still serve their Lodge well. Not the Traditions which make each Lodge unique, but those administrative and procedural processes which may need to change to reflect a changing world: for instance, starting times or who does a particular piece of ritual.

Remember, each of us has different responsibilities outside of Lodge, and different ambitions within Lodge. Be sure that Brethren only accept any role or office, or deliver any ritual when they are ready, or to join the progression to become Master when they wish to do so.

Lodges with satisfied and engaged members will have a more stable future, so be alert to conduct that is contrary to Freemasonry's principles, and which may undermine the interest and confidence of members and the harmony of the Lodge. Engaging with, and helping, our new Members helps us to realise one of the greatest gifts of Freemasonry, the bonds of friendship which bypass the minor differences between us and celebrate our commonality and desire for self-improvement.

*Jon West*

## A prayer from the Provincial Grand Chaplain

**Father God, Great Architect of the Universe, as we prepare to return to our Masonic duties let us give thanks for all those who have guided us to this encouraging situation.**

We thank you especially for the dedication of the NHS staff and all key workers. We thank you for giving the developers and producers of vaccines the knowledge and ability to carry out their work so rapidly.

We thank you for the continuing support and donations from our members to Masonic and other charities. We thank the Masonic Charitable Foundation and all other charities for the skilful and responsible way in which they have responded to the pandemic.

We thank the Executive teams of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge for the way in which they have guided us thus far.

But let us remember with sadness the loss of all those who have died or suffered with the coronavirus especially those within our Masonic families and those we know.

Father God, Great Architect of the Universe, give us the wisdom to prepare the way forward safely and responsibly always aware that the coronavirus hasn't gone away and please give us the courage and confidence to return to our Masonic duties in fraternal harmony once again. Amen.

*Stuart Lingard*

## Full speed ahead for car club

Square Wheels, a Masonic club for owners of classic vehicles, is keen to start a group in East Anglia and will be at events during July and August. The club aims to encourage, engage and unite current and future Freemasons through national and international classic vehicle events at many of the major shows around the UK.

The Club grew out of the tercentenary of English Freemasonry in 2017 when many car runs were arranged to showcase Freemasonry. From the variety of events it supports, there is something for everyone in a friendly all-inclusive environment. Whether you own an Austin 7 or a Ferrari, there is a genuine and warm welcome.

It is hoped that the events in East Anglia will kickstart the process of forming a section in the region. Events are scheduled for Weeting Steam Engine Rally and Country Show on 17<sup>th</sup> July, Helmingham Hall Classic Car Show on 1<sup>st</sup> August and Stonham Barns Classic Cars event on 15<sup>th</sup> August.



Square Wheels will have a stand at each event. If you are interested, contact: [mje.rumsey@talk21.com](mailto:mje.rumsey@talk21.com)

*Mike Rumsey*

## Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge

To have the best possible chance of holding a full Provincial Grand Lodge meeting this year, the planned date of 2<sup>nd</sup> July has been postponed until Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> October.

Another major change for 2021 is that there will be separate meetings for Craft and Chapter, both to be held at Wisbech St Mary Community Centre.

The venue successfully hosted the consecrations of both the Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No. 9927 and Fenland Farmers' Lodge No. 9933 and has ample parking facilities.

The summons and booking details will be circulated individually for each meeting.

*Kevin Mader*

## Porta supports pupils climbing Everest

At a recent Porta Lodge No. 9511 Zoom meeting, members were told of a charity challenge by boys at King's School, Ely, to climb 8,849 metres, the height of Mount Everest.



Senior schoolboys (13 -18 years old) in Wilkinson and Osmond Houses and their tutors were completing the 'Everest Challenge' to support the Papyrus – Preventing Youth Suicide charity, and its telephone hotline service. To take part in the challenge, many boys used their home staircase.

The Lodge, which has a close affiliation with the school, decided to support this cause with a donation of £500 to recognise the huge efforts of the students and tutors.

Paul Lott, housemaster of Osmond House, who thanked the Lodge, said: "I am delighted that the word has got out to the wider community in support of Papyrus."



With your donation and that of the sponsorship of the boys from both Houses, we have now reached £11,000, which is just wonderful and incredible in these tough times of lockdown."

The money will support the [Papyrus Telephone Helpline](#) and also with education about preventing young suicide. Moreover, this represents a monumental achievement of effort, dedication and self-discipline of the teenage boys who undertook the challenge, at a time in which many young people are struggling with their mental health.

*Malvin Rogerson*



## Operative skills for March

Speculative Freemasons at March enlisted the help of an operative mason to create a stone name sign for their meeting place. Following a design by WBro. Brian Sutton, chairman of the Trustees of March Masonic Hall, the oblong piece of York stone was completed by Jordan Mills, of A J Mills, based at Rothwell, Northamptonshire.

York stone is a variety of tight grained and hard-wearing sandstone. A J Mills was founded by Alan Mills, who was a Freemason in Kettering, and the company is now run by his sons.

The stone was installed by Bro. Poul Nielsen-Born with help from WBro. Dave Pullen and Bro. John Roberts. Next time you visit the Masonic centre at City Road, March, the stone will be visible on the outside of the building.

*Cliff Brown*



## Freemasons partner Duke of Edinburgh Award

More than 30,000 young people with disabilities and special educational needs will be able to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, thanks to a grant of £300,000 from the United Grand Lodge of England and the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

The UGLE has become a strategic partner of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, funding a new national programme to upskill its team and volunteers. The programme will also help enrol more schools and clubs, to ensure all young people can benefit from taking part in the scheme.

To make it possible, UGLE and the MCF teamed up to enable the charity to reach at least 30,000 young people with special educational needs and disabilities by 2024. The ambition is to increase the number of centres, such as schools and youth groups, offering DofE to young people train hundreds of Leaders.

*Jon Cooper*



## UGLE Statement on Council Membership

The United Grand Lodge of England encourages its 200,000 Freemasons to acknowledge their membership of Freemasonry. Freemasonry's core values are charity, integrity, respect and friendship, and based on these four pillars, the members are welcome to disclose their membership voluntarily and are obliged to disclose their membership where a specific conflict of interest could arise.

However, it is unlawful for a Council to require its Councillors to declare their membership of Freemasonry on the Register of Interests. Such a blanket requirement would breach the Human Rights Act and the Data Protection Act. Around 80% of Freemasons happily disclose their membership. Those who prefer to keep it private often do so for fear of discrimination.

*Michelle Worvell*

## Auction helps Newmarket Scouts

New equipment for the 1<sup>st</sup> Newmarket Scout Group will be purchased thanks to a £700 donation from the town's St Wendred Lodge No. 8374.



The presentation, during a recent meeting at the Scouts' headquarters, was long overdue after Covid-19 restrictions had previously prevented a visit. The money was raised through raffles and a quiz night, which included an 'Auction of Promises', and was supplemented by funding from City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

Jun Thompson, the Group Scout Leader, said: "Many thanks to St Wendred Lodge for this generous donation. It will be used to buy equipment to support the group's activities, and this includes the purchase of an event shelter, barbeque and new maps and compasses."

*Jon Cooper*

## Long service for Wisbech Mason

A joining member of Wisbech's Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 has achieved the milestone of 50 years in Freemasonry. WBro. Reginald Hynes received his anniversary certificate from the Worshipful Master, WBro. Alan Rust and Almoner, WBro. Steve Napier, who were representing the Provincial Grand Master.

Reginald was initiated into Cannon Lodge No. 1539 on 13<sup>th</sup> January 1971 and later awarded London Grand Rank. He joined Gild of Holy Trinity in 2005 when he and his wife moved to Wisbech. Unfortunately, his wife passed away some years ago and increasing poor health has meant that he has been unable to attend a meeting for many years.

Reginald was delighted to receive his certificate and it was obvious how much it meant to him - a great example to us all.

*Steve Napier*



## Wisbech help for Sea Cadets



An appeal by Wisbech Sea Cadets to help raise funds to replace their heating system received a boost when freemasons at Wisbech donated £1,500.

The presentation of three cheques for £500 from the Wisbech Masonic Benevolent Fund, Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 and the Wisbech Bruvvers Breakfast Club, was made by Bros. Kevin Cage, Andrew McDonald and Martin Eggett to Jade Merson and Chris Black.

*Andy Clifton*



## 50:50 Club draw results

**Winner of the £350 first prize in the December 2020 Province of Cambridgeshire 50:50 Club Draw was Brian Heasman, of Etheldreda Lodge No. 2107.**

Other prize winners were: 2<sup>nd</sup> (£175): Gerard Hobbs; 3<sup>rd</sup> (£100), Bill Turnbull; 4<sup>th</sup> (£50 each): Chris Cridford, Mrs Jan Parrish, Mark Prince, Andrew Brown, Graham Goodwyn, John McCormick, Geoffrey Newton and Adrian Seal.

The 50:50 Club exists for the support of the Province's Masonic Building Fund. All Masonic centres throughout the Province are in constant need of funds to maintain and improve their buildings.

The fund was set up in 2004 to provide financial assistance where required and has since supported projects both large and small. However, many demands for work needing urgent action for the benefit of the membership remain.

For just £15 per quarter, members qualify to win one of the prizes at each quarterly draw. Prizes will be based on 50 per cent of the total members contributions received during the quarter. An application form can be obtained from W Bro John Surbey ([johnsurbey@aol.com](mailto:johnsurbey@aol.com) or 07805 303126).

*John Jones*

## Covid fund supports meals provision in Cambridge

**A scheme to provide meals for people in need in Cambridge received a £500 grant from the Masonic Charitable Foundation's Covid appeal fund.**

The money helped the Salvation Army to provide up to 4,000 meals a day to support families and individuals as part of its 'Be a Star' Christmas appeal. The organisation had to adapt its methods due to coronavirus and was without premises, which were under repair, and the school offering alternative buildings needed them for their own use.

"The continued support of the Cambridge Salvation Army by Cambridgeshire Masons is very much appreciated and helps a great deal with the work and projects undertaken to support those struggling in our communities," said Salvation Army member WBro. Douglas Reed.

*John Sinclair*

## Lodges all square for Pi fund

**Many lodges and chapters in the Province supported the Provincial Grand Master's campaign to assist the Digital Drive Cambridgeshire and Peterborough initiative, which is helping with provision of equipment for the 8,000 children in the region who do not have access to technology.**

Having agreed to donate three Raspberry Pi devices, the Gild of St Mary Lodge No. 7288 has, so far, provided sixteen. Brother Luke Astor donated three and Brother Jack Gomarsall donated 10. Jack, who is the father of former England rugby player Andy Gomarsall, owns a computer refurbishment business and was only too pleased to donate to the cause.

Descensus Aquarum pledged their March raffle towards funding the Raspberry Pi 400 machines. The raffle, on 17<sup>th</sup> March, raised £190, to which the Worshipful Master, WBro. Mike Richardson, added £250 from Lodge funds, making a total of £440, which funded five Pi's for the campaign.

Caldwell Lodge No. 3201, based at March, gave £176 for the Digital Drive for Children, while Stone Cross Lodge No. 6704, Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858 and St Wendreda Royal Arch Chapter No. 3201, all based in the Fenland town, have also contributed.

The Brethren of the Masonic Order of Athelstan's Court of Ælfred No.2 and Court of Unity at Witesie No. 84, which meet at Newmarket and Whittlesey respectively, supported the recent Digital Drive Initiative appeal by donating funds for four devices.

*Clive Webber*





## Provincial Tyler standing down...

It's the end of an era! Having been both Provincial Tyler in the Craft and Provincial Janitor in the Royal Arch since 2009, WBro. Dougie Gates has decided that after 12 years it is now time to retire from office. At the 2017 Provincial meeting, his long and dedicated service was recognised when he was presented with the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Service to Masonry.

Doug's calmness and advice to hundreds of Initiates over the years will be greatly missed and we wish Dougie a very happy retirement and look forward to seeing him inside the lodge, instead of outside.

In succession to Dougie, WBro. Jim Haggarty will be appointed Provincial Grand Janitor and Provincial Grand Tyler at the respective Provincial Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Lodge meetings.

*Kevin Mader*

## ...and a Tribute from Nourse Lodge

Cambridgeshire Masonry celebrates the retirement from active office of one of its greatest characters. He has served many roles for many Lodges and Chapters with great enthusiasm and dignity and his role will be most difficult to fill. He was deserving of the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Service to Masonry.

Doug's characteristic performances as Tyler and Janitor to most of the Cambridge Lodges and Chapters will live long in the memory for his unfailing attention to duty, but with a great sense of 'Dogie humour'. Who could forget the shuddering doors when his name was mentioned and what is known in the Nourse Lodge as the 'Dogie Stomp' around the lodge?



His waving of the Tyler's Sword in a most flamboyant manner, mightily scaring those nearest to him, and his adlibbed quips at times of appointment created a relaxed atmosphere in Lodges and Chapters when most needed.

He is the keeper of the Provincial Grand Lodge Regalia and a great enthusiast of its economic management. His piping skills were very well received and his Tyler's Toast and Fire at a Festive Board is placed on record as the slowest in history - deliberately to add to the discomfort of attendees.

Dogie is a true gentleman, a credit to Masonry and will be welcome throughout the Province as a true legend.

*John Butler*

## Lodge reaches golden jubilee

Although Covid-19 restrictions prevented members of St Wendred Lodge No. 8374 from celebrating its golden jubilee in the style they had hoped for, there was a special meeting of Brethren instead.

Some members of the Lodge, which meets in Newmarket, held a secure open-air gathering on The Severals to celebrate the 50-year anniversary on 12<sup>th</sup> May. The Lodge gained its warrant in 1971. As restrictions ease, they hope to return to business as normal in July and continue to celebrate the 50<sup>th</sup> year.

*Paul Pearson*



# The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas

## Origins

On the first day of September 1769, a meeting of the Royal Arch Chapter of Friendship No. 3 (now No. 257), was held at the George Tavern, Portsmouth. Here Thomas Dunckerley conferred the degrees of Mark Man and Mark Master on several brethren and companions. The link between the Craft, Royal Arch and Mark degree was established.

Fast forward to 1856, the Grand Lodge of Mark Mason Masons of England and Wales, the Colonies and Possessions of the British Crown, as it was then known, was formally constituted. Since then the order has flourished, comprising 42 Provinces, 26 districts, two Inspectorates and a host of unattached lodges.

The original two degrees, Mark Man and Mark Master, have been melded together so that the former now serves more as an introduction to the latter, together forming the ceremony of advancement, the degree of Mark Master Mason.

## Set in stone

Chronologically, the degree falls between the Second and Third Degrees of the Craft, taking place during the building of King Solomon's Temple. It has its origin in the fact that an operative stonemason would be required to put a distinguishing mark on each stone he produced, so the craftsmanship could be easily identified.

To this day, every candidate who is advanced in the Mark Degree is required to select his mark, which is then recorded by the lodge's Registrar of Marks and subsequently entered on a brother's record at Mark Masons' Hall in London. This mark can then be used when signing the attendance register at a Mark meeting and is correspondence with other Mark Masons. In the ritual of advancement, the presentation of a candidate's mark to another officer of the lodge in order to receive his wages forms an important part of the ceremony.

## Ritual with flair

The officers of a Mark Master Masons lodge mirror those of a Craft lodge, with the addition of the Register of Marks and three other important additions: a Master Overseer, Senior Overseer and Junior Overseer. These offices create an opportunity for theatrical flair when delivering the ritual: the candidate proffers the stone he has cut in the quarries for inspection, attesting for its fitness and suitability for the building of King Solomon's Temple.

The stone (the keystone) is rejected and heaved among the rubbish; the Overseers and Worshipful Master fail to realise its significance. The ceremony culminates in the retrieval of the keystone as an essential requirement for the completion of the sacred arch of the Temple. The keystone is, therefore, the emblem of the Order.

The Mark Token, with which a candidate is presented during the ceremony, is also a means of identification among brethren of the Order, and many special-edition tokens have been produced as collectable souvenirs.

With its own terminology, structures and practices, each Order is different from the next. Here we detail the origins, requirements and organisation of Mark Masonry.

## Who can join?

Any Craft Master Mason from a Craft Constitution recognised by UGLE can apply to become a member of a Mark lodge in the English Constitution.

## Grand Masters

The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas is governed by The Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother HRH Prince Michael of Kent, GCVO. He has held this office since 1982 and is the fourth royal Grand Master of the Order, a list that includes HRH The Prince of Wales, who was Grand Master from 1886 until being crowned King Edward VII in 1901. As is customary when a royal is at the helm of a masonic Order, Prince Michael has a Pro Grand Master to oversee the day-to-day administration of the Order and to represent him at many ceremonial engagements. This responsibility lies with Most Worshipful Brother Raymond John Smith.





# Meeting the Mark

## The fourth regular step

The Book of Constitutions still contains the 1813 declaration that '...pure Antient masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz. those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'.

But it is during the Mark Degree that a candidate takes his fourth regular step in Freemasonry.

This solemn part of the ceremony reminds candidates that by being advanced into the Mark they are taking an important step into the Progressive Orders of Freemasonry.

The Mark Benevolent Fund was created in 1868 on the suggestion of the Rev George Raymond Portal, then Grand Master. He felt that, for charity to be effective, it had to be disbursed swiftly and without the bureaucracy of other masonic charities. His motto, 'Bis dat qui cito dat' – 'he gives twice who gives promptly' – became, and still is, the guiding principle of The Mark Benevolent Fund.

The coat of arms features a shield bearing a section of an arch, with a keystone engraved with an equilateral triangle. It is supported by a craftsman holding a keystone and a warden holding an axe. The Order's motto, 'Lapis reprobatus caput anguli', translates as 'the stone which was rejected has become the headstone of the corner'.



## Local structure

Cambridgeshire is part of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of East Anglia. Lodges meeting locally are Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 112 and York No 334 at Cambridge, Stradbroke No. 603 at March, Gild of Good Fellowship No. 1410 at Wisbech, Admiral Rouse No. 1427 at Newmarket and Abbot Simeon No. 1847 at Ely. More details are in the Cambridgeshire Provincial Yearbook.

Before conferring the Mark Degree more than 250 years ago, Thomas Dunckerley must have received the degrees. It is said that a form of Mark Degree was in existence in Scotland as early as 1599.

Little has been written about the history of the Mark, though the inception of Grand Lodge is regarded as being a result of the political and social unrest brought about by the Crimean War and, had it not been for an eleventh-hour change of heart by the Rulers of the Craft, the Mark Degree may well have been included in that 1813 declaration regarding Pure Antient Masonry.

'Marking Well', a collection of essays on the Mark Degree, edited by Andrew Prescott, was published to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

Visit [www.markmasonshall.org](http://www.markmasonshall.org) for more information about the order.

# Sesqui-centenary for University Mark Lodge

Isaac Newton University Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 112 reached its 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary in June 2020, and had it not been for the lockdown restrictions a memorable celebration would have occurred last summer.

Originally founded "for the benefit of members of Cambridge University", the Lodge was consecrated on 10<sup>th</sup> June 1870 at 29½ Green Street, Cambridge, an address sadly no longer in existence. Some years later the original warrant appears to have been lost, likely during relocation, but happily the replacement obtained at the time confirms the consecration date and original founders.

The Lodge is now aiming for a delayed celebration event in December 2021, featuring the rededication of its new banner currently being manufactured, the receipt of a sesqui-centennial warrant, and lunch afterwards in Queens' College.

The event will be even more memorable as the Lodge celebrates the first appointment to Mark Grand Rank of WBro. David Blair, WM 2011 and 2012, who has been appointed Past Grand Standard Bearer, and the promotion to Past Grand Junior Overseer of WBro. Chris Ansell, WM 1988 and 1989, once again serving as secretary, and this year celebrating 40 years since his Advancement.

The associated Isaac Newton University Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner, No. 112, consecrated in 1874, will celebrate its sesqui-centenary in 2024.

*Chris Ansell*

# The role of the Second Provincial Grand Principal

**I will never forget that cold and dismal October evening in 1988 when I was exalted into the Royal Arch. The beauty of the ceremony leading to the revelation of the greater and lesser lights is indelibly printed on my memory, as I am sure is the case for every person who has joined this magnificent Order.**

On leaving the Chapter room my euphoria was somewhat tempered by the news that it was a tradition of this particular chapter when responding to the toast to the exaltees that new members should speak using words of three syllables grouped in threes and presented over three minutes. That led to an evening of intense thought in putting together the most complex response of my Masonic career, but did underscore the fundamental fact that the number three lies at the heart of our Order.



The second element was the great enjoyment of visiting the annual meetings of other Provinces as the guest of their Grand Superintendent. This provided an opportunity not only to see how other Provinces conduct their chapter affairs but also to get to know my fellow Principals.

I was therefore able both to learn from them and to share with them all the good things that go on within the Province of Cambridgeshire.

Many years later, reflecting on my time as Second Provincial Grand Principal of Cambridgeshire, it struck me that three was the number of the key elements of the role that I truly enjoyed during my two-year tenure. Firstly it was a great pleasure and privilege to be part of the Provincial team, working with the Executive and representing the Province not only at our annual meetings but also at exaltations and installations throughout Cambridgeshire, witnessing the twenty or so different rituals practised in our fourteen Chapters.

I particularly enjoyed adding to that variety through my regular presentations of Supreme Grand Chapter certificates. No two presentations were the same, partially through failing memory and partially because I tried to tailor each one to the individual recipient, an approach which frequently brought me a minor dressing-down from the Provincial Scribe Ezra.

However, the final and most enduring memory from my term will be the enjoyment from the warmth of the reception that I unfailingly received from the Companions of every Chapter during my visits around the Province. Every member that I met went out of their way to welcome me whether they had previously met me or not and to make every evening which I spent in their company memorable and enjoyable. The warmth of that welcome was the most outstanding part of my experience and I shall be forever grateful to them.

The Holy Royal Arch completes and compliments our Craft Masonry. We are truly fortunate to have such a strong and vibrant Province and I encourage any mason who has not yet joined the order to get in touch with their Lodge Chapter representative without delay to find out more. They will never regret it.

*David Blair*

# Raising funds for charities supported by Prince Philip

**To honour Prince Philip, Cambridgeshire Freemasons supported the national campaign organised by the United Grand Lodge of England to raise funds for charities to which the Prince dedicated so much time and energy.**



His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh was a Freemason, having been introduced to Freemasonry in 1952 at the age of 31 by his father-in-law, King George VI. Throughout his 99 years, the Duke was associated with some 992 charities, either as president, patron or as an honorary member.

The Prince supported charitable organisations in the fields of scientific and technological research and development, the encouragement of sport, the welfare of young people, conservation, and the environment. The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur said: "The County, City and University had held a special place in His Royal Highness's heart and so we are delighted to be able to lend our support to those charities dear to him."

The Duke of Edinburgh was initiated into Navy Lodge No. 2612 in 1952. The following year, he progressed to the Second Degree before advancing to the Third Degree a few months later. He remained a member up until his recent death.

*Jon Cooper*



## Helping feed those in need



Swapping his Masonic apron for a kitchen version is 88-year-old Brother Bob Mason, of Caldwell Lodge No. 3201. Bob volunteered during the lockdown to work in the kitchen at Paninis Restaurant, situated on the Market Place in March, where, together with other volunteers, he prepared meals for the lonely and homeless.

More than 250 meals were prepared at Christmas and the restaurant was busy again at Easter. Food, which is donated, is delivered by taxi free of charge.

Bob was initiated into Freemasonry in the USA on 20<sup>th</sup> April 1965 and joined Caldwell Lodge in 1993. To become a volunteer he completed an online food hygiene course. In our picture Bob is seen in a fetching six-pack design apron.

*Les Mills*

## Donation opens doors for Almshouse residents

The Cambridge Royal Albert Homes have been given help to improve its disabled access thanks to a cheque for £1,000 from the Province's Charity for Care and Relief.

Originally formed in 1846, the Royal Albert Homes provide subsidised housing for independent people of retirement age. All donations are used to maintain the 27 Victorian houses in Hills Road, Cambridge, giving its elderly and vulnerable residents a happy, active environment. The Society receives no central or local government subsidy and self-funds through public donations and legacies.

"We are very happy to support the Royal Albert Homes and help provide a safer environment for its residents," said WBro. David Cameron, a Trustee of Care and Relief. "I have often driven past the homes and admired their Victorian architecture and am delighted for the opportunity to visit and find out more about them."

Gill Amps, Warden of the Cambridge homes, said: "On behalf of the residents, I wish to thank David and the Freemasons for the extremely generous cheque to be used to improve disabled access to the homes."

*Jon Cooper*



# So, what are the duties of a Charity Steward?

There are certain words used when Investing a Charity Steward at the Installation ceremony. In the Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 we only use them when a new Charity Steward is invested. See page 268 of Emulation Ritual; it is well worth reading.

My duties are to raise money for Charitable purposes; working closely with the Lodge Almoner, who himself needs funds for Brethren and widows in need also to remember them at Christmas on behalf of all the members of the Lodge.

Generally, alms collections in our lodge go to support the Almoner's funds, while raffles and envelope collections go towards charitable causes. At the moment we are mainly raising funds for the Cambridgeshire Festival 2023.

Charity is one of the central virtues of a Freemason, exemplified in the charity charge given to every Initiate at the North East corner; he forms the foundation stone of a temple – the Freemason himself. From that foundation it is our hope that he will raise a superstructure. A big part of forming that superstructure is to give "freely". In essence it is expected that a Freemason will donate to Charity in ways that will not adversely affect his personal finances. Remember, a penny given by one Brother to him may be the equivalent of £100 given by another. We should each give as to our personal circumstances. Giving of our own time to help a friend or Brother in need is a very potent sign of our commitment to charitable principles.

It is thus hoped that every Freemason within our Lodge will give regularly to charity. The best way is to sign a "covenant" or "a regular payment promise" so that money can be donated monthly (can be annually) to Masonic Charity.

At the moment the Lodges of the Province of Cambridgeshire are joining together as one to raise money for the Festival 2023. A Festival lasts for about six years and a Province (usually four a year) will raise funds for the Masonic Charitable Foundation, which needs a regular income.

The funds raised are used to donate to non-masonic charities, disaster funds, and Freemasons in need. Funds of up to £50,000, can be mobilised very quickly on behalf of us all in times of emergency.

Whenever we donate to a registered Charity, that Charity can claim Gift Aid. In effect the Chancellor of the Exchequer will give 25p for every £1 donated if a relevant form is filled out. It can only be claimed if the Brother so donating has paid enough Income tax i.e., he cannot claim for more than the tax he pays.

If he is lucky enough to pay 40% tax or over, he can state the amount of Gift Aid claimed, and he will get 40p minus 25p per pound donated off his tax bill (15p per £1). In effect his £1 donation becomes 85p out of his pocket. Always claim Gift Aid when you are eligible, it makes a big difference to any Charity; 25% extra.

My message is please donate whatever you can to Charity particularly Festival 2023 if at all possible. You can set up regular payments or make single sum donations online. If you donate online ensure it is for Cambridgeshire Festival 2023 and that you fill in your Lodge or Chapter number. There may be a section to donate to the site provider; there is no need to do this, and it should be left at £0.00.

If over the Festival you have donated, or will donate, £400, then you become a Festival Steward. You are then eligible to wear a Festival Jewel in the Province of Cambridgeshire, and at the end of the Festival you will be eligible to join in a Festival Banquet.

When not raising money for the Festival, the CMBA raises money to support Cambridgeshire Charities and The Committee for Care and Relief (Cambridgeshire Province's Almoners association).

*Nigel Williams*

The following links will get you to the correct web site to donate to Festival 2023. You may also use your phone to scan in this QR code.



<https://donate.givetap.co.uk/d/ke4igyrg?qr-id=fest2023>

Cambridgeshire Masonic Benevolent Association  
[www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk/charity/cmbsa](http://www.cambridgeshirefreemasons.org.uk/charity/cmbsa)

For all donations to the Masonic Charitable Foundation  
[www.mcf.org.uk](http://www.mcf.org.uk)



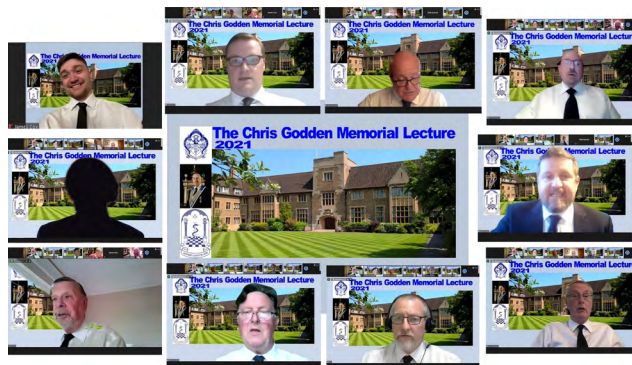
# The 2021 Chris Godden Memorial Lecture

Brethren of Kynaston Lodge No. 5810 and Nourse Lodge No. 8590 presented the annual Chris Godden Memorial Lecture in a slightly different way than has been the tradition since its inception in 2011 and now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Because of the present Covid-19 restrictions, the Memorial Lecture this year was held as a virtual meeting using Zoom conferencing facilities on the evening of 22<sup>nd</sup> April. Among 41 brethren watching were visitors from other Lodges of Cambridgeshire Province including the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. Bill Dastur and one brother visiting the UK from Australia.

The Lecture was a presentation entitled 'A Selection of Short Papers on Masonic History' which was researched and developed by Kynaston Lodge DC and Lol Preceptor, WBro. David Parker, assisted by ADCs WBro. Brian Williams, of Kynaston, and WBro. David Smith, of Nourse Lodge.

The presentation, divided into 10 sections, was given by Brothers Gary Carre-Skinner, Ian Carruthers, Ben Sandle-Brownlie, Jamie Donnelly and WBro. David Smith, of Nourse Lodge, and Brothers Nigel Chapman, James Wilson, Will Wilson, James Cox and WBro. Brian Williams, of Kynaston Lodge.



The whole event was under the Chairmanship of WBro. John Creek, Worshipful Master of this year's host Lodge, Kynaston.

An on-line collection raised funds of £180 for the Cambridge University Cancer Research Project and will be donated, as previously, in memory of VWBro. Chris Godden.

The Chris Godden Memorial Lecture was set up in 2011 in memory of V.W.Bro. Chris Godden, PGSwdB, who was an active member of both Lodges and a source of inspiration for young members. It has been running annually since that date alternatively hosted by each Lodge.

*Brian Elliott*

## Annual award marks college link

**A student who completed 5,691 press-ups in a month to represent the number of suicides in 2019 has received an annual bursary provided by Virtute et Fide Lodge No. 7959.**

The bursary and shield are presented annually by the lodge to a student, nominated by the college, to recognise the most significant charitable contribution during the academic year. The award was established to help maintain the link with the college from which Virtute et Fide was founded.

Will Garner received the shield and £100 bursary to recognise his charitable work during 2020. He completed 5,691 press ups in November, representing the number of suicides in 2019. His efforts raised nearly £1,500 for MIND. He also raised £900 for NHS charities in the first lockdown.

The lodge presented him with two cheques for £100, one for MIND and the other for himself. WBros. John Woolfenden, Graham Carver and Keith Poulson formed the presentation party.

*Keith Poulson*



# Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club

The Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club has been busy and thriving over the past year, despite not being able to meet in person. It has endeavoured to keep members engaged with a series of zoom presentations delivered by several highly respected members of the Province. These presentations were very well attended and allowed the CLB members to engage with each other as well as improve their masonic knowledge.

Speakers and topics so far have included:

- The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. W C M Dastur – A very informative Q and A session.
- WBro Jonathan Lambert AGStB, GStwd, ProvGDC – A talk on the Grand Stewards
- The Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby, PGSwdB – His role as Deputy ProvGM
- Provincial Membership Officer, WBro. Ian Hardman, PPAGDC – A guide on how to engage new and potential members.
- Provincial Grand Mentor, WBro Jon West PAGStB – An explanation of the three degrees.
- Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, EComp. Edmund Brookes PGStB – An Introduction to the Royal Arch.
- Assistant Grand Secretary (Mark Master Masters), WBro. Dan Heath – An Introduction to Mark Masons.

There will be a series of speakers over the coming months, which are set to include Provincial Grand Charity Steward, WBro. Paul Gillingwater PAGDC and Provincial Grand Almoner, WBro. George Brennan.

WBro. Jon West PAGStB, ProvGMentor & WBro. Harry Rooke PAGStB, ProvGORator will also be delivering a 'return to lodge etiquette' session for our members where they will deliver a refresher course on areas such as dress, lodge room set up, dining and many other areas to help our members settle back in when we resume in-person meetings.

The CLB has created a Survey for Light Blues to see how it can work more closely with Province, and to understand our members' experiences in their Masonic journeys. Thanks go to both WBro. Jon West and WBro. Ian Hardman for their assistance and support with creating and delivering this survey.

The CLB's buddies system has also officially been launched via zoom to CLB lodge reps and lodge Mentors. This initiative was the brainchild of Bro. Graham Clapperton as a way for new members to be supported and made to feel at ease when visiting other lodges by giving them a support network.

There has been run several regular full committee meetings throughout the lockdown and a New and Young Masons Whatsapp group has been set up to keep the newest members of the Province involved.

At the most recent Zoom meeting, there was a brilliant nine o'clock toast given by the last three brethren in the Province to be made an EA, FC and MM, which was warmly received. The CLB looks forward to engaging with its members in person again as soon as we are able.

*Ed Williams*





## Membership (really) matters

Anyone who has seen the interviews with Grand Secretary VWBro. David Staples on YouTube, one of the Pathway Presentations or read the first United Grand Lodge of England Annual Report, will know that membership of Freemasonry around the world has been declining for a long time.

It is as much as 30 per cent every 10 years under some jurisdictions. Cambridgeshire does not share that statistic but has seen a modest reduction. Nevertheless, the Pathway Initiative in Cambridgeshire is robust with the full support of the Provincial Grand Master and led by his Deputy.

We published our 2021-2022 Membership Strategy for Cambridgeshire at the beginning of the year that sets out what we intend to achieve and how. Shortly we will publish our Membership Service Charter.

This is an UGLE initiative where each Province commits to service levels when processing membership enquiries. Those of you still working will be familiar with this concept and it is reflective of how UGLE and Freemasonry are changing.

The recent Cambridgeshire Light Blues survey carried questions to inform our membership attraction and engagement activities and we are keen to hear your ideas and feedback. Anyone who wishes to get more involved in Pathway need only contact one of the team, you will be very welcome.

The Pathway initiative is receiving much coverage as UGLE is concerned that some lodges still do not understand the importance of it. There is to be a coordinated campaign to attract members later in the year where UGLE, Provinces and individual Lodges work in cooperation. There will be more on this in due course.

This coordinated initiative includes common collateral tailored for each Province, projecting a consistent message using language identified in the Perceptions of Masonry research, and especially appeals to the specific motivations to join of our target membership.

Demonstrating the importance of Pathway and just how important attention to membership is, the new collared offices of Lodge Membership Officer (LMO) and Provincial Membership Officer (PMO) were confirmed by UGLE.

Lodges will have received an official communication from the Provincial Grand Secretary inviting them to invest their Lodge Membership Officer with the collar and Jewel of that Office (LMO sits between Charity Steward and Lodge Mentor). The communication will have also given guidance on how to obtain the jewel of that office.

As we return to meetings, we will be joyful to be with our friends again and with our enthusiasm renewed, what better time to think about who in your family, circle of friends or sphere of work colleagues you would like to see seated beside you at a Lodge meeting? With a new degree of openness, with so much favourable publicity, with so much information available and resources to support you, there has never ever been a better time to say those immortal words "have you ever thought of becoming a Freemason".

*Pathway Team*



## Virtual walk is a grand event



**A truly epic challenge - a virtual walk from Land's End to John O'Groats, was taken on by Bro. John Malone, Junior Deacon of St Wendred Lodge No. 8374, who challenged himself to complete the 874 miles between January and May**

Despite rain, snow and ice, blisters and wearing out two pairs boots, John battled on completing the full distance on 15<sup>th</sup> May, two weeks ahead of schedule. John set up a Just Giving page to raise money for the Cambridgeshire Festival 2023. To date he has raised is £1100, with an additional £237 in Gift Aid.

The Masonic Charitable Foundation commented "Incredible work, John. You've certainly gone the extra mile(s). Thank you for all your support – it makes a huge difference, and we are so grateful".

*Paul Pearson*

## Brethren stage garden rescue

After a stay in hospital involving the amputation of a leg, Bro. Keith 'Chalky' White returned home to find his front garden under a raft of weeds. Soon a plea for help resulted in some Masonic assistance. His neighbour, Bro. Andy McDonald and a group of brethren provided some helping hands.

The brethren, mainly from the Bruv's Breakfast Club, and Wisbech's Lodge of United Good Fellowship No. 809 and Gild of Holy Trinity No. 6125, spent a morning stripping back the weeds and laying a weed barrier underneath the shingle. The work was carried out under the Covid restrictions in place at the time, but left one happy brother overwhelmed by the kindness shown by members from the Wisbech Lodges.

*Andrew Clifton*



## Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter

As Cambridgeshire Mason goes to press, the formal go-ahead for the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter to be held on 23<sup>rd</sup> September at Wisbech St. Mary has had to be postponed to 12<sup>th</sup> July, which is the revised date when the Prime Minister will announce our release from Covid-19 restrictions on 19<sup>th</sup> July.

Planning for the Convocation is well advanced and companions will receive their formal documentation just as soon as the Government confirms that England is being released from meeting restrictions.

This is likely to cut down the planning period by one third, so to assist those arranging the many details of the day, companions will be asked to book their places speedily when they are invited to do so.

Apart from the usual business the Grand Superintendent will also formally greet all the officers he appointed and promoted in June 2020, and could not greet at the Rule of 6 Annual Convocation held on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

*Edmund Brookes*

## Junior Brethren step up to help Isaac Newton

After a 14-month hiatus, Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 held its 952<sup>nd</sup> Regular Meeting at Freemasons' Hall, Cambridge on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> June. By invitation and in compliance with social distancing measures, a limited number of local brethren attended.

Some junior brethren stepped into more senior positions to support the Worshipful Master, WBro. Stephen Rose, and his officers in discharging the pressing business of electing the Master-Elect and declare WBro. Peter Cartwright elected as Treasurer.

WBro. Justin Bishop, Secretary and acting IPM/Chaplain, remarked "While we may have been a little rusty with our ritual after the suspension, it was fantastic to see our junior members stepping up to assist the Lodge and for a few of us to be able to meet in lodge once again".

*Simon Cooper*





## Wisbech Freemasons make a big splash

**A donation of £1,000 from the Wisbech Freemasons is helping towards the cost of re-commissioning the swimming pool at Gorefield Primary Academy.**

Following a plea for help from Head Teacher Ruth Bailey for funding to get the swimming pool re-commissioned, Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge No. 6125 and the Breakfast Bruvs Club in Wisbech answered the call by raising funds. This has been supplemented by further funding from City & University of Cambridgeshire Masonic Trust and a total of £1,000 was presented to the school in May.

Ruth Bailey said: "I would like to thank Wisbech Freemasons for this donation, and our target is to have the children swimming regularly by next term at least four times a week".

The pool deteriorated without regular use and repairs were not possible from the school budget, hence the need to ask for help. It is also envisaged that the pool will be used by the community outside school hours.

WBro. Alan Rust, Master of Gild of Holy Trinity Lodge, said: "We are really happy to support this important project which will help so many young people. It's a great opportunity for us to make a difference in our community despite the restrictions of the pandemic".

During the presentation, the Worshipful Master of 6125, WBro. Alan Rust and secretary Bro. Andrew Clifton were able to view the work being done on the pool by the caretaker and some enthusiastic Year 6 pupils.

**Andrew Clifton**



## Ely donation raises the PULSE for cancer patients

**Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 have raised £180 for the local health charity PULSE. The donation will support the charity's Oncology Unit based at St George's Medical Centre in Littleport.**

The unit at St George's provides cancer treatments for residents of the Isle of Ely and other local towns and villages. The location and service provided by this became a valuable resource during the Covid-19 pandemic. Because it is located away from the Addenbrooke's site in Cambridge, it was considered safe for patients to attend for ongoing treatments. Addenbrooke's asked St George's if they could double treatments, so that fewer vulnerable patients needed to attend the hospital.

John Sinclair, Charity Steward of the Lodge added: "This is a valuable local charity that needs our support to underpin the treatment of local people for the foreseeable future."



Siobhan Carew, secretary of the PULSE charity, said: "We are incredibly grateful for this funding from Descensus Aquarum Lodge. This will help to fund the extra demands for this clinic being experienced now and, in the future, and when the pandemic ends, we are expecting the demands to increase yet again."

**Jon Cooper**

# Progress for Festival 2023 - Chairman's report

At last, we are beginning to see a significant relaxation of the Covid-19 regulations and I'm sure you all have plans which are well advanced to return to a full programme of Masonic meetings.

I have been greatly encouraged that the recent lockdowns have not diminished your support for our Festival 2023 Appeal. A huge thank you to all those brethren who have responded positively to our invitation to take up a new Regular Payment Promise (RPP). Some of you may well have existing RPPs that are about to expire or may have already. Please check and, if this is the case, I reach out to you to consider renewing it with a new RPP. If you are not sure not, speak with your Lodge Charity Steward.

We have made it easier to create Festival RPPs online. SCAN the QR code with your phone's camera or 'CLICK' on the Image.

Regular payments make a huge difference to your Lodge's "Actual and Committed" totals. Lodge totals, in turn, influence the overall final figures for the Festival 2023. Every new RPP brings us even closer to our aim, to raise £ 900,000 by end of 2023.

Personal Honorific will be updated and facilitate you in qualifying as a Festival Steward. If you have not already done so, you can go on to be recognised directly by the MCF as a Vice Patron, Patron or Grand Patron of the Festival 2023 Appeal. If you have not got around to responding to this request it's not too late. The message here is that the demand on our charities never stops so continuous giving is important.

Since the last edition, a number of Lodges and Chapters have entered the roll of honour by achieving and being awarded their Bronze honorific, some Lodges and Chapters have gone further by moving up to their next level, be it Silver, Gold or Platinum.

All are to be congratulated and, in particular, I pay tribute to Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 7429, Descensus Aquarium Lodge No. 8655, and Etheldreda Chapter No. 809 for all achieving the first step, Bronze. St Etheldreda Chapter No. 2107 for being elevated to Silver and Cambridgeshire Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No. 9927 for gaining its Gold.

My eternal thanks go to the officers and members of all these Lodges and Chapters, especially to their respective Charity Stewards for their commitment.

As we pass the halfway mark of the Festival term, we can number all our 14 Royal Arch Chapters together with 17 of our 30 Craft Lodges now having honorific of one colour or another. Five Craft Lodges and four Royal Arch Chapters stand within a whisker of improving on their current positions and I am mindful of the generosity we receive from external supporting Orders, some of whom have likewise achieved Honorific levels through their valued contributions into our Festival Appeal.

Congratulations to Bro. John Malone for raising more than £1,000 online for his Lodge, St Wenderd No. 8374, with his challenging sponsored walk. To those who contributed to the recent Festival Team Online Appeal, to 'digitally sign' the plaster cast of my broken leg, the leg is slowly on the mend, however in the meantime more than £600 with added Gift Aid has been collected in the name of Cambridgeshire Installed Masters Lodge.

This demonstrates there is still plenty of enthusiasm, energy, and ideas on how we can raise money to top up our appeal to provide funds for the MCF, your charity, which has been supporting Freemasons, their dependents and indeed the wider community throughout the pandemic and doing so much more.

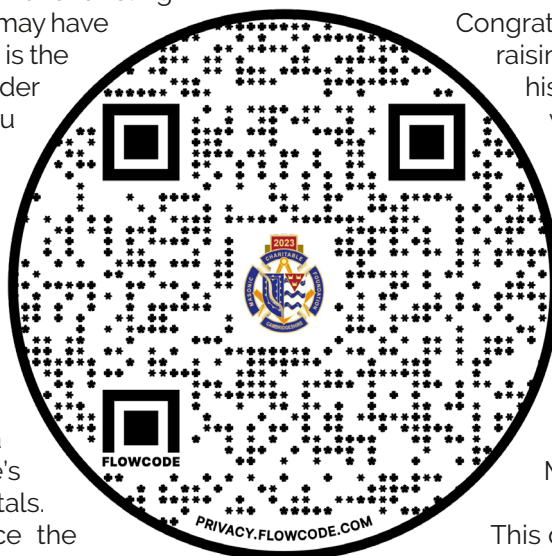
As our regular meetings remain under one form or other of restrictions, your Lodge or Chapter may wish to consider organising online events, such as an online auction or sweepstake for Royal Ascot, or even consider collecting and donating unspent dining fees accumulated during lockdown in support of the Festival 2023 Appeal. Indeed, United Good Fellowship No. 809 in Wisbech has staged a series of online quiz events, raising some useful funds.

I hope that every lodge in the Province will step up in the closing months of these unusual years 2020/21 and do something for the Festival, no matter how small or how large it will be well applied.

I am cautiously optimistic that we will soon again be able to hold Lodge event again and enjoy the 'fun' in fundraising. We are seeing more events being trialed under Covid-safe conditions but, as you'll appreciate, nothing is certain at present.

Stay Safe

*Paul Gillingwater*





## Caring Together receives £35,000

**Caring Together, which supports carers of all ages across Cambridgeshire, Peterborough and Norfolk and can provide support for carers who are preparing for and during bereavement, has received a grant of £35,000 from Cambridgeshire Freemasons.**

Being able to offer both one-to-one and group support for carers through their bereavement means that they can be given practical and emotional support, information, advice and guidance. This local grant is one of many from Freemasons across the country who are leading a project to help adult, young and parent carers, with donations totalling more than £715,000.



Andy McGowan, Caring Together head of carer services, said: "Looking after a family member or friend can be very demanding and the coronavirus pandemic has made it even more challenging. For people who are facing losing the person they care for, or have suffered this type of bereavement, it is an incredibly difficult time. This funding will help us work to reduce the loneliness and sense of isolation they can face, help us to involve them in different social activities, and in providing much-needed emotional and practical support."

According to Carers UK, the number of carers grew exponentially during the pandemic, reaching more than 13 million. Approximately 20,000 unpaid carers are receiving access to support online, funded by the United Grand Lodge of England. The UGLE is also working to protect young carers, who are under increasing pressure as they support family members during lockdown.

In particular, the Freemasons' project is providing 870 young carers with respite, while 760 are being provided with essential items and life skills. Elsewhere, almost 100 schools are receiving assistance to identify hidden young carers and provide support.

*Jon Cooper*

## Help for Highfield

A Lodge in Ely has raised £520 for the Highfield Littleport Academy, an area special school for pupils aged 2-19. Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 raised £140 at a monthly raffle and boosted the total thanks to additional donations from Brethren support from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust.

Highfield's staff and volunteers support youngsters who have an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP) and currently have 120 pupils with learning and physical difficulties who need a range of specialist equipment.

*Jon Cooper*

## Donation to RSPCA

Fenland Meridian Lodge No. 9858, based in March, donated £50 to RSPCA at Block Fen, Mepal, in memory of one of its Past Masters, WBro. David Godfrey, who passed away on 13<sup>th</sup> January.

*Brian Sutton*



**giving  
nature  
a home**

'The Cambridgeshire Mason' is created by Editor WBro. Cliff Brown, with the assistance of: WBro. Brian Elliott, WBro. Michael Hinton, VWBro. John Sherriff and WBro. Peter Sutton.

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