

The Second Rising

Edition 5
June 2020



Former warden to fly high

With the lockdown easing, former Provincial Senior Grand Warden, WBro. John Surbey will be keen to enjoy his hobby – flying model aircraft.

"I've had an interest in model aeroplanes as long as I can remember," said John. "My mother used to promise extra balsawood when a visit to the dentist was necessary"

Since then it's not just the thought of a filling or extraction that gets John at his work bench to prepare his aircraft for the sky.



"At times of stress I have always returned to model aircraft as a time-consuming passion, and I've certainly had plenty of time recently," he added.

His eldest son and grandson have followed in John's footsteps and have been building models throughout the lockdown period.

"We are now looking forward to flying them together on our own field while maintaining safe social distancing," said John, who was Worshipful Master of The Porta Lodge No. 9511 in 2002 and 2013.

A time for reflection

Bro. Kevin McKevitt, of St Andrew Lodge No. 4087, was the Royal British Legion Standard Bearer in attendance at the 75th anniversary of Victory in Europe ceremony in Whittlesey. At the same time on 8th May, other Freemasons in the Province took up the suggestion of the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur, to pause for reflection and remembrance during the two-minute silence.

In a message to all brethren, he said: "As we celebrate 75 years since the end of the Second World War in Europe, we should remember those freemasons and indeed all those citizens who made the ultimate sacrifice so that we might benefit from living in a free world. In doing so let us not forget the members of the

Cambridgeshire Regiment, including many brethren, who continued to fight on in the Far East until VJ day. We should be grateful and, in these difficult times, consider the small inconveniences we are currently experiencing which are as nothing in comparison with theirs."

Light Blues Club joins social group

The Cambridgeshire Light Blues Club joined the Young Masons Inter-Club Social Group on 31st May, a little later than originally planned, due to the current lockdown.

WBro. Edward Williams was due to give an introductory address about our Province to other members of the national group, which regularly number 100 people.

His address will include a brief story of the Province and an explanation of past and planned activities of Cambridgeshire Light Blues.



A year in the life of a Provincial Grand Secretary



When someone very senior, no names mentioned, first spoke to me about the position of Provincial Secretary, I thought that having been Secretary of two Lodges for a number of years, I had a good idea of what was involved. I was wrong.

The role involves a myriad of subjects, most of which I didn't even know existed. That said, I have enjoyed every minute. The variety of tasks is extensive, but with that comes great satisfaction, especially with events such as the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and particularly the move to West Road at the end of my first year in the role.

There is one area that is the same for a Provincial Grand Secretary and a Lodge Secretary. They both act in their own areas as 'the keeper of the rules'. We are all governed by the Book of Constitutions and specific By Laws and it is incumbent on us all to be aware of and work within those rules.

What is actually involved? Certainly, too much to go into great detail about here, but put simply, anything that is required to administer the day to day operation of the Province. Every day, numerous enquiries arrive by phone, letter and email from Secretaries, members and indeed Grand Lodge; not forgetting the Provincial Grand Master and Deputy. The variety is endless.

Fortunately, I have help. WBro. John Jones, our Provincial Grand Registrar, has various roles including managing both our external and our administrative websites. He will also be heavily involved with the introduction of Project Hermes from Grand Lodge. It should, ultimately, do away with all the form filling undertaken by Lodge Secretaries and hopefully make their job a lot easier.

The Assistant Secretary, WBro. Andrew Badcock, is extremely supportive in so many areas and WBro. Colin Bell continues to be invaluable in keeping the registration information (Form Ps, Annual Returns and Installation Returns) flowing to Grand Lodge.

The Provincial Executive meet at regular times throughout the year with resulting minutes and actions. The agenda generally covers areas such as the Festival 2023, Membership, Mentoring, Education, Communications, Finance, Care & Relief, Royal Arch, Ceremonial Matters, Provincial Grand Lodge, and various priorities for the year

Under the heading of the 'Covid-19 sub group', meetings are now being held almost weekly, albeit currently by video conferencing.

For the annual Appointments and Promotions, a small committee of senior members of the Executive, headed by the ProvGM, meet on numerous occasions over several months to finalise the list.

Everybody involved, from the ProvGM down, is a volunteer and being the size that we are, it is much more personal than being part of a very big Province. Visiting is much easier and we all get to know so many in our Province, especially from the time someone joins the Masters' Circuit. This was highlighted by the fact that 350 attended our Provincial meeting last year, more than many much larger Provinces.

Those who were there will have seen the number of visitors attending from other Provinces. Although we have reciprocal arrangements with other Provinces, some also pay extra for members of their own Province to attend. Being invited to other Provinces is without doubt an honour and one of the highlights of the position of ProvGSec.

As with the Cambridgeshire Masters' Circuit, the ProvGSecs (colloquially known as the Secretaries Mafia) all sit together at the various Festive Boards following a Provincial meeting. They are all excellent company and a tremendous source of help and information.

Province of Cambridgeshire survey

The Provincial Executive are meeting regularly with video conferencing and are making decisions as necessary to support charity and plan for the future of the Province.

They know of many Lodges that are doing great things during lockdown to keep the spirit of Freemasonry alive, but need help from across the province to know the full picture.

This is so that they can direct funding, coordinate effort and provide the necessary advice and guidance to members, their lodges and chapters.

To gather this essential information, nominated individual Lodge Officers are being asked to complete a survey openly, honestly and in full by 9th June 2020.

Their cooperation will ensure that Cambridgeshire Freemasonry is better able to discharge its duty to the Province, the Lodges, our members, our Local community, and freemasonry in general.

Once collected and collated the results and outcomes of the survey will be shared with members – watch this space!

Masters remembered at Alma Mater

A new honours board for Alma Mater Lodge No. 1492 can now be completed, thanks to research to identify the 146 members who occupied the Master's chair since the lodge was founded in 1874. Four of those brethren were the subject of talks given to 33 members who joined a virtual meeting of the lodge held on 16th May.



WBro. Harold Beck started with a presentation on WBro. Edward Bullough, who was Master in 1920. He read modern languages at Cambridge University and became a lecturer in German and Aesthetics. In the First World War he was recruited as a civilian in the Admiralty's Cryptoanalysis section after which he returned as a Fellow of Gonville and Caius College. He became an authority on Dante and was appointed Professor of Italian.

WBro. Tim Pearce Higgins followed with a brief synopsis of WBro. Alexander Pearce Higgins, his grandfather, who was Master in 1921. He attended Downing College in 1887 after qualifying as a solicitor. After graduating, taking LLB and LLD degrees, he was appointed a lecturer in law at Clare College and Gonville and Caius College, and subsequently Director of Legal Studies at Queens' College.

In 1919 he was appointed Whewell Professor of International Law at Cambridge, having previously served as Deputy during which time he published definitive texts with commentary on The Hague Peace Conferences. He became an honorary Fellow of Downing College and a fellow of Trinity College.

WBro. Edmund Brookes gave a presentation on the life of WBro. Patrick Halnan, Master in 1960. He subsequently occupied the offices of both Secretary and Treasurer. Both he and his father, WBro. E T Halnan, have had a lasting impression on the ritual and traditions of the Lodge, being members of the Lodge for almost 100 years. Qualifying as a solicitor after war service in the Royal Artillery, his legal career progressed as a magistrate, then Recorder and finally a Circuit Judge from 1986 until his retirement in 1997.

The image above shows the 125th anniversary photograph of Alma Mater Lodge taken in 1999 which includes WBro. Halnan (middle row, 5th from the right).

The meeting concluded with WBro. Stewart Kerr speaking about the life of WBro. David Ousey, who was Master in 1979. Serving in the Merchant Navy, he was awarded a degree in Electrical Engineering from University College, London.

He spent much of his working life with trains and latterly provided electrical consultancy for the Mersey and Dartford Tunnels and the Channel Tunnel, concluding with the Tracked Hovercraft project at Earith. He was a resident of Great Shelford for many years where he was associated with the Sawston Light Opera Group and Shelford Singers, his wife Pam being one of the singers.

Take advantage of the Bethel Scheme

Once again Lodges in the Province can get a £250 boost from the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust. Known as the 'Bethel Scheme', it will continue for another year and the sum is available to increase a Lodge's donation to a local good cause, which need not be an official registered charity.

WBro. Jim Whitehead, secretary of the Trust, explains: "I emphasise 'local' because we do not want these relatively modest donations to be swallowed up by other contributions to large national charities, but hope to help deserving local groups that would find a windfall of £500 or so from the Masons really helpful."

All cheques must have been drawn from its account and despatched to Lodges by the week ending 11th December. It will not be possible to accept any applications beyond this deadline.

Contact:
jmw859@btinternet.com

Looking ahead to Masonry after COVID-19



The Covid-19 lockdown offers an opportunity to think about introducing potential members to our lodges, says WBro. Adrian Peters, who joined Thirkill Lodge No. 7333 on 19th March 2012, is its current Worshipful Master and is looking forward to a second year in that office.

"Dodgy handshakes was the only impression I had before I joined," he said. "I was in my early forties and thought I was probably a bit young but went along to have a look when a friend invited me to a white table event."

Adrian, who was surprised to have thoroughly enjoyed the evening, continued: "What is not widely known about freemasons is how welcoming they are and how much charity work they do." He resolved to become part of Freemasonry and has enjoyed it ever since.

Being on Covid-19 lockdown has given him time to reflect on what he gets from being a Mason as much as the identity of Masonry.

"It is so important that we introduce potential members to our lodges. I am proud to be a Mason and I feel that we all are. To not share the comradeship we have with others, to not welcome young blood into our lodges will lead to the steady demise of Masonry," he said.

"I have done some local volunteering work during this time and have met a couple of people and have thought 'You would make a great Mason'.

It is my mission, when we return to normality, to return to my lodge with people that were like me eight years ago and show them with pride why they too should be a Mason,"

"Why not join in the revolution and bring potential new members to your lodges? We have plenty of time to plant the seed and nurture it slowly. Let us turn an unpleasant time into time well spent towards the future of Masonry."

Virtual meetings, real support

Members of Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 have found a way to keep in touch and raise money for worthy causes.

The Worshipful Master, WBro. Mike Richardson, firstly set up a private group on Facebook to keep in touch and then organised a virtual zoom 'meeting' where they raised a glass to Absent Brethren. It had already been decided to donate dining fees for cancelled meetings to charitable causes.

One member suggested a donation to assist a group of volunteers making scrubs for the Cambridge and Peterborough NHS Foundation Trust, but primarily for Addenbrookes Hospital. They needed fabric, so the money raised was used to purchase £500 of appropriate material.

Bro. David Goode also organised a donation of £2,000 from Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 to the same group who are producing the scrubs.

Descensus Aquarum now holds virtual gatherings every Wednesday as a means of keeping in touch, which prompted a decision to start a monthly online raffle, which started on 13th May.

"Even small donations can make a big difference," said Lodge Charity Steward, WBro. John Sinclair. "This is why we have set up the online raffle idea, to be held monthly until regular meetings can commence and we can meet in person again."

Supporting the Salvation Army in Cambridge.

With the extra demand to supply food for the homeless staying in three Cambridge hotels, the Province has donated a new industrial size fridge to the Salvation Army.

"We discovered via WBro. Douglas Reed that the Salvation Army at the Citadel Church and Community Centre, Mill Road, Cambridge, were using their kitchen with a team of volunteers to supply food to the homeless," said Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro. Pat Kilby.

The Salvation Army volunteers have been making sandwiches and preparing tea packs, as well as providing breakfast and a main hot meal including a dessert.

"Due to increased numbers they have struggled with fridge space to store food in sufficient quantity to ensure all were given a meal on time.

Cambridgeshire Freemasons have been delighted to provide as a gift a new industrial size fridge so that

they may continue the excellent work they are doing during this unprecedented Covid-19 pandemic," added VWBro. Kilby.

The service is now providing 100 meals a day and provided 1,720 hot meals for the needy in six weeks.



DOING
THE MOST
GOOD

Brother celebrates 70 years in the Craft

It may be known for its young initiates, but Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 also has a member who has been a Freemason for 70 years. On 7th December, at the Lodge's last meeting before Freemasonry was suspended due to coronavirus, a special presentation was made to Bro. Bill Squire by the Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. William Dastur.

In presenting a certificate marking 70 years of membership of the Craft, the ProvGM observed that Bro. Squire was originally a mason from "The Dark Side", being initiated at 21 in Apollo University Lodge No. 357 in Oxford, on the 19th November 1949. Indeed, following tradition in that lodge he was initiated as one of several candidates, six to be exact.

When he moved to Cambridge, Bro. Squire joined Isaac Newton University Lodge on 27th January 1998. From 2009 to 2019 he served as Charity Steward and spearheaded the lodge's contributions during several masonic festivals.

Bro. Squire was born on 7th October 1928 in Great Yarmouth and served as a Second Lieutenant in the Army before going up to Oxford in 1949, graduating with a BA and subsequently obtaining a PhD from the School of African and Oriental Studies in London in 1979.



Between 1953 and 1976, Bro. Squire served in the Diplomatic Service, before being appointed the British Ambassador in West Africa in 1979 and then Israel in 1984. Honoured by the Queen, twice, he was made a Lieutenant of the Royal Victorian Order and then a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George.

On presenting Bro. Squire with a personal letter of congratulation, the ProvGM said what a pleasure it was to be able to recognise Bro. Squire's contribution to Isaac Newton University Lodge and the Province of Cambridgeshire. To further underline Bro. Squire's achievement, a letter of congratulations from the Worshipful Master of Apollo University Lodge was read out and the accompanying Apollo Lodge breast jewel presented by RWBro. Dastur on behalf of the Brethren of Apollo lodge.

Bro. Squire thanked the Worshipful Master, Provincial Grand Master and brethren of Isaac Newton University Lodge for the generous, thoughtful and unexpected presentation. He added that in 70 years he had never regretted that first step he took in Freemasonry and hoped that none of the brethren present would regret their own membership and progress in the Craft.

"It was a wonderful occasion and a fantastic way to celebrate a very long-standing member of Isaac Newton University Lodge and the Province. All the more so as it turned out to be the last normal meeting of our lodge for some time, even if those of us present didn't know it at the time," said WBro. Simon Cooper, Assistant Secretary.

Ely lodge launches monthly newsletter

THE THIRD RISING

DESCENSUS AQUARUM LODGE 8655 NEWSLETTER



Following on from setting up weekly Zoom gatherings to keep in contact with members, Descensus Aquarum Lodge No. 8655 has produced its own monthly newsletter. Called 'The Third Rising', it will include relevant and interesting articles by members and guests.

Green fingers? Send us your pictures



The coronavirus lockdown has allowed many people to spend more time on gardening projects, so why not share the results of your horticultural exploits with the brethren? Send pictures of your garden to: editorcambsmason@yahoo.co.uk

'The Second Rising' is produced by WBro. Cliff Brown and WBro. Michael Hinton. Please email your stories and pictures for the next edition to editorcambsmason@yahoo.co.uk