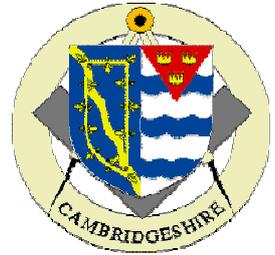


The CAMBRIDGESHIRE MASON



PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER

Autumn 2010

Issue 1



ments such as “if only I’d known about...”. I hope this newsletter will enable us to be aware of current and future events and allow us to know and understand each other better.

The launch of any new venture is a very exciting time for those involved—a little apprehension perhaps that the end might disappoint, but more realistically and optimistically a sense of hope and anticipation that it will live up to all expectations.

Such is the case with The Cambridgeshire Mason, Issue 1.

It has every chance of success! An efficient and motivated board has accepted the challenge, but it needs the support of all of us. Feed back is essential, contributions and ideas to make it not only readable and informative, but also so enjoyable that we can hardly wait for Issues 2,3,4 and many more!

I’m sure you will join me in congratulating those responsible for this production, and in wishing our “The Cambridgeshire Mason” a long and successful life.

R.W Bro. Rodney Wolverson,

A very warm welcome to every Mason to the first edition of our Newsletter.

We live in an age of unprecedented progress, yet it has been felt that communications within the Province have left a little to be desired. For a small province of only 28 lodges and 13 chapters, it is strange we are not always aware what our brethren in other centres are doing and what are their views on all sorts of Masonic or non-Masonic topics and problems. Despite our excellent web-site, I frequently hear com-

Inside this Newsletter:

- * **Round-up of our charities**
- * **What’s happening around the Province**
- * **Keep up with the Festival 2012 News**
- * **The Great Fen Walk delivers gavel**
- * **New Fenland Meridian Lodge in Wisbech**
- * **Masonic Widows’ day out to Sandringham**
- * **Did you know?**

HISTORICAL RECORDS PROJECT

On 18th May 2010, W.Bro. John Watkins (1492) and W.Bro. Graham Summerfield (88) represented our Province at a reception in Grand Lodge in recognition of the completion of the Historical Records Survey. The success was due to the outstanding co-operation of Lodge Secretaries and Scribes E.

Congratulations all round!

Pictured left to right, W.Bro. John Watkins, M.W Bro. Peter Geoffrey Lowndes, Pro Grand Master and W.Bro. Graham Summerfield.



THE CAMBRIDGE FOUNDATION



Photo L to R: Professor Alistair Compston, Dr Alasdair Coles, Terry Ndee (The Cambridge Foundation), W.Bro. Peter Sutton, W.Bro. John Sherriff and the Provincial Grand Master

Photo Courtesy Cambridge News

Prof. Alistair Compston and Dr Alasdair Coles of the Dept. of Clinical Neurosciences, Cambridge University received a cheque of £50,000 on 25 August. The grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity was the first instalment of £100,000 award to finance research into the side effects of Alemtuzumab. This drug, researched since 1991, has been shown to be more effective treatment of multiple sclerosis. The next year should see the final trials and the results published in medical journals worldwide. .

It is expected that this new drug may repair damaged brain tissue enabling the recovery of neurological functions

Did you know that...

In February 1950, a visitor from Lodge Airlie Kirriemuir (286) (Scotland) where he was initiated in 1946, came to Cantabrigia Lodge and signed himself—Bro Frank Scott. He, then, joined that lodge in 1958 to be its WM in 1969.

In 2001, the Master Elect resigned and Frank as the senior member, aged 79 and 32 years after having been WM, did not hesitate to step into the breach. In 2003, during the Installation Ceremony, W.Bro. Perks fell ill and again Frank acted as WM for that year. In gratitude the lodge elected him as an honorary member.

He is also a founder Member of the Three Virtues RC and Nourse Lodge. After 70 years in Cambridge he doubts if he will ever acquire the local accent.

PUTTING PRINCIPLES INTO PRACTICE

Last year **The Freemasons' Grand Charity** made grants of almost £3m to non-Masonic charities, dispelling the commonly held belief "Masons look after themselves"

The Grand Charity is one of four Masonic charities helping people from all walks of life.

The **Masonic Samaritan Fund** assists with the provision of certain health care, principally when the NHS cannot provide it, usually, within 16-week criteria. The **Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution** looks after older Brethren and their dependants; including care homes. In this Province we have access to Cornwallis Court at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk. Finally, the **Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys** takes care of the children of Freema-

sons particularly their education. Gifted individuals as well as those whose family has suffered some calamities are helped. It is the job of the Almoner in each lodge to be aware of the needs of Brethren and their dependants. Locally, the **Charity for Care and Relief**, chaired by Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W Bro Tim Pearce Higgins provides grants to smaller based charities. Typical amounts range between £500 and £2,000. Any Brother connected with a local Charity can request assistance, Lodge Almoners or W. Bro. Tony Mason holds forms.

Tel: 01353 665185 or
tonymason345@hotmail.com

MASONIC WIDOWS' FRIENDSHIP CLUB



Pictured above, the Widows' Club arriving at Sandringham and below right, despite the rain, the day was a huge success. Brolly good show!

Details of how to join the Masonic Widows' Friendship Club and all future events can be obtained from Lodge Almoners or the Hon Secretary, W.Bro. Tony Mason, Provincial Grand Almoner, 154 Main St, Witchford. CB6 2HP Tel:01353 665185
Social Secretary: Mrs Val Smith.

Of the 402 known widows in the Province, 143 have attended one or more of the meetings and events. The Club is open to all masonic Widows residing within the Province, and membership is free.

Successful events have included Birds of Prey, Dogs for the Disabled, Mike Petty talking on "Forgotten Cambridgeshire", trips to Ely Cathedral, Elgood's Brewery and this year Sandringham House and gardens.



LETS KEEP IT IN THE FAMILY....

This is exactly what the Beesley family has done. Frank was initiated in June 1987 in the Lodge Magiovinium Lodge in Bletchley; the lodge was named after a Roman settlement in the area. His father-in-law, Gerald Garner, followed him and was initiated in the Lodge Magiovinium in 1989.

The Beesley family eventually moved to Cambridgeshire, then Frank and his lady run the Fox, a pub in Burwell. In 2003, both Frank and Gerald joined the Porta Lodge N0 9511 in Ely on the same evening.

As could be expected, Frank's son, Paul then joined Porta Lodge and was initiated by his father (sorry - Brother Frank) who was in the Chair in 2006.

Now, as from October 2010 Paul is going to be Inner Guard of Porta Lodge.

Therefore, this makes three generations in one lodge
Are you confused? Read it again or better still, who can beat that?

VISITS TO SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER AND GRAND LODGE

A Provincial visit to Supreme Grand Chapter followed by luncheon has been arranged for Wednesday 10 November 2010. The Deputy Grand Superintendent Ex. Comp. Roger Impey will be in attendance. For those companions who have made a booking, a coach will leave Bate-man Street Cambridge at 08.30 returning at approximately 17.30. This visit has been well supported in previous years and accordingly has become an annual event.

Advance notice is given of our annual Provincial visit to Grand Lodge which is expected to be on Wednesday 9 March 2011. Precise details will be announced nearer the date. A group of masons from the Province exceeding 100 in number attended Grand Lodge on 10 March 2010 followed by luncheon in the New Connaught Rooms. It was estimated that this was the largest group attending Grand Lodge from any Province in the Country and it is hoped that we can continue to support this visit with even greater numbers attending next year.

OUR THIRD PROVINCIAL CHARITY EVENING



Representatives of thirty-two local non-Masonic charities came to Freemasons' Hall on Monday 24 May. W.Bro. Jim Whitehead gave a conducted tour of the Hall to some of our guests. During a buffet supper the representatives discussed the services they provide and the problems they are facing in the present economic situation.

In his address the Provincial Grand Master explained how all Freemasons contribute to the Grand Charity whereby it is able to offer financial support, at short notice, to national and international charities, often to natural disasters.

Cheques were presented to twenty-two charities that had been awarded grants by the City & University of Cambridge Masonic Charitable Trust and Charity for Care and Relief. Most of these charities provide a range of medical and respite care services. Emmaus UK received £27,500 and the East Anglian Air Ambulance Cambridgeshire Branch £4,000, both cheques coming from The Grand Charity.

The evening ended with a photograph being taken outside the Hall

Photo: Courtesy Cambridge News.

“A LITTLE BIT OF HELP FROM OUR FRIENDS”

The Grand Charity's main objective is to help Freemasons and their families in need. Last year, 1,930 Masonic Relief Grants were made amounting to approximately £3.5m. It is the 330,000 members in the country that support the four Central Charities. Each Charity has an Investment Income, but this has declined under current economical climate. It is the Festival System that now generates the main funding. Each Province takes it in turn to sponsor Charities. With 47 Provinces, each one holds a Festival about every 12 years and it is the Provincial Grand Masters that decide the length of the period. Typically, it is for 5 years. To date we have raised close to £500,000 and our target is £700,000. An Events Group under Chairmanship of W.Bro. Justin Curtis (7288) has been set up to ensure we reach our target. The group will advertise and encourage support for all Festival functions such as the “Great Fen Walk”. The four Central Charities can only continue to provide grants with our support. None of us know when we or our families may need “a little bit of help from our Friends”.

WELCOME TO THE NEW LODGE

Fenland Meridian Lodge No 9858 became the 28th Lodge in the Province on Tuesday 14 September 2010. The consecration took place in Wisbech St. Mary Community Centre by the Provincial Grand Master and a team of Provincial Officers. V.W. Bro. Tim Pearce Higgins installed R.W. Bro. Colin Hutchinson as the First Worshipful Master. The meeting was attended by 150 brethren, who afterwards sat down to a traditional Fenland menu of Roast Sirloin of English Beef and Seasonal Fenland Vegetables. As the name implies it will be a daylight Lodge meeting three times a year rotating in March, Whittlesey, Chatteris and Wisbech. Installation will be in February. It is hoped to provide entertainment for the ladies at two of the meetings.



Photo: The Consecrating Team and the Worshipful Master, Wardens and Officers of the New Lodge

A FESTIVAL OF CAROLS AT ELY CATHEDRAL FRIDAY 10 DECEMBER 2010

Ely Cathedral Trust in association with the Cambridgeshire Freemasons present the A Festival of Carols in aid of Macmillan Cancer Support and the Ely Cathedral Trust. If you would like to be part of this event and promote your business in the setting of the Cathedral: Contact Lesley Thompson 01353 660350

THE ASSOCIATION OF SPINA BIFIDA AND HYDROCEPHALUS

A cheque for £40,000 was presented to Rosemary Batchelor, the National Health Adviser and Monica Evans, Trust officer of ASBAH on 11 August 2010. This is to fund research into the use of MRI scans of pregnant women when abnormal brain development is suspected in babies.

Ultrasounds are used but evidence shows that in utero MRI scans provide more detailed information. Photo W.Bro.Peter Sutton, Monica Evans, the Provincial Grand Master, Rosemary Batchelor and W.Bro. John Sherriff



Photo: Courtesy Cambridge News

THE GREAT FEN WALK



Photo L to R.– The Provincial Grand Master, Bill Squire (859), Colin Osborne (4520), Bill Dastur (1492) Carola Wolverson, Tim Pearce Higgins, Angela Kett, Simon Speechley (2107) and Brian Kett (809)

What a Weekend!!!

115 walkers, 84 miles, 2.5 days, 19 stages and multiple blisters.

The idea was to take an item from Cambridge to Wisbech via each Masonic Centre in the Province, while presenting a gift for each centre along the way. The item was a beautiful gavel made and kindly donated by W. Bro. John Smythe, while the pictures were copies of paintings by the late W. Bro. Derek Dazeley reproduced by kind permission of W. Bro. Jim Whitehead.

The walk started on Friday afternoon with a presentation of the painting of the Cambridge Masonic Centre



by the Provincial Grand Master to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who accepted on behalf of the Cambridge Lodges.

The walkers began their journey, starting by going through **Cherry Hinton**, and continued on via **Teversham**, **Gt Wilbraham**, **Dullingham**, **Newmarket**, **Soham**, **Barway**, **Ely**, **Witchford**, **Sutton**, **Chatteris**, **Doddington**, **Wimblington**, **March**, **Turves**, **Whittlesey**, **Guyhirn** and finally reaching the destination of **Wisbech**.

..... AND MORE

The Provincial Grand Master presented pictures of appropriate Masonic Halls in Newmarket to W.Bro Peter Brown, in Ely to W.Bro Graham Kent, in Chatteris to W.Bro. Ron Lancaster, in March to W.Bro. Frank Allen, in Whittlesey it was the turn of W.Bro. John Sheriff to present the picture to W.Bro. David Mason and finally, in Wisbech the Provincial Grand Master presented a picture and the Great Fen Walk Gavel to W. Bro. Deacon. The W.Brethren received those pictures on behalf of the lodges in their respective areas.

Special thank you must go to W.Bro Graham Turner who was always there to help during the two and half days, W. Bro. John Smythe for making and donating the gavel, W. Bro Doug Gates for framing all the pictures, W. Bros Stan Rust, Nigel Philpott, Ray Page, Edward Boyd-Tuck, Jim Stokes and Mrs Gill Brown for providing refreshments and finally, Festival Events Co-ordinators, Charity Stewards and Lodge Secretaries who persuaded people to take part. Of course, one must not forget those who are not Freemasons and yet took part and are our sponsors.

All sponsorship monies (cheques payable to the CMBA) and Gift Aid forms must be sent to:
Justin Curtis, 4 Shelford Park Ave, Gt Shelford, Cambridge CB22 5LU
For any queries contact Justin on 07818 023261

Photo on right features the Presentation of the picture of the Newmarket Centre to W.Bro. Peter Brown

From L to R: **W.Bro. Steven James (2107), W.Bro. Dan Heath (6179), the Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Peter Brown (9804) and W.Bro. Wayne Snedeker (8374)**



Editor's Column

First of all, I must thank the Provincial Grand Master for asking me to take on the responsibility of editing our new newsletter. It is a task that I am delighted to do, but in order to succeed I will have to rely entirely on the brethren for their constant support. Indeed, your regular contributions, whether Masonic or otherwise will always be received with gratitude. I hope that the Newsletter will be able to cover not only the Craft, but also all other side degrees and much more.



My gratitude also goes to W.Bro John Sherriff and W.Bro Peter Sutton who together with me, form the Editorial Board. Their support, advice and experience will always be welcome.

Finally, I hope members will enjoy this first attempt and be considerate of our first edition. As our Provincial Grand Master said, feedback is the most essential ingredient to progress and to achieving the ultimate point. We rely entirely on our readers to provide us with articles, photographs via email, letters, etc.

W Bro. Michael Allan
Tel: 01638 744050

Festival 2012

2010 has been an eventful year. We've had spooky goings on, visits to Grand Lodge, evenings racing with horses, beautiful music, lots of promises, parties, hippy genies, spivs selling plastic lamps, a murder and to cap it all the Province sent a parcel from Cambridge to Wisbech by the slowest method possible.

Summer has been relatively quiet but the Great Fen Walk in September has provided fun to all who participated.

So what's happening next?

Saturday 27 November by popular demand, another Quiz Night with fish and chips supper at Masonic Hall in Ely. Early booking is advisable as the event was oversubscribed last year.

Contact W. Bro Brian Kett on 01945 466803 or Bro. David Watson on 01353 786984

January 2011 sees the return of Provincial Pantomime with "Cinderella". Children are admitted free on Saturday matinee.

Contact: W. Bro. Mark Long on 07764 344765

February 2011— The first Provincial Ten Pin Bowling at Strikes Bowling Centre in Ely.

Contact: Bro David Watson on 01353 786984

September 2012 – At the festival dinner the raffle for a new Kia car worth over £6,000 will be drawn. Tickets are still on sale at £1 each.

Contact: Your Charity Steward or W. Bro Danny Ellis of St Andrew Lodge on 01945 410878.

Finally, scratch cards are still available at £1 each with potential prizes of £1,000, £500 and £100.

Contact: Your Charity Steward or W. Bro. Peter Langran of Kynaston Lodge on 01223 354698

All these events are available on the Provincial website: www.pglcambs.org.uk and clicking on Festival 2012 button.

If you would like to organize an event for the Festival, please contact your Charity Steward

EDITORIAL BOARD

W. Bro. John Sherriff—Provincial Grand Secretary
W. Bro. Peter Sutton—Provincial Information Officer
W. Bro. Michael Allan—Editor

All information to pgsec@pglcambs.org.uk