

# **West Kent Communications Team**

## **“Communications Update”**

### **24th DECEMBER 2018**

UP/11/18

This is Issue No.11 of the periodic “Communications Updates” - issued by the West Kent Communications Team.

The purpose of these “Communications Updates” is to keep you all informed about key events in the Province – with information from a variety of different sources.

Whilst some messages will still be issued as “stand-alone” e-mails to you all - the aim here is to cover a number of topics in one issue – and therefore cut down on the amount of electronic traffic you receive.

This issue includes:

1. A Christmas Message from the Provincial Grand Master
2. Message from the Provincial Grand Master – The Kent Museum of freemasonry
3. Talking Heads Presentation – Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> January – Dartford Masonic Centre
4. A Letter from The Provincial Grand Charity Steward
5. The Fishing Lodge
6. Dates for your Diary

**Fred Halligan**  
**Communications Team – Head of News**  
**Province of West Kent**

*Dear Brethren and Companions,*

As we approach the end of another successful year, the Festive season is once again upon us, where we will have the opportunity to spend time with our families and loved ones.

2018 has been another highly successful and hugely busy year for the Craft and the Royal Arch, given the hard work undertaken by you all and our Administrative and Executive Team, and I am most grateful for your continued support for your Lodges, Chapters and the Province of Kent – undoubtedly, 2019 will be equally busy and hopefully even more exciting than before.

We have witnessed strong growth in new membership applications this year and our focus on enjoying our membership is assisting with the retention of members and strengthening our Lodges and Chapters, which will continue going forward.

The quality of our meetings and the standards of ritual continue apace and I can personally recollect some truly memorable ceremonies, which have been a delight.

This year, we have introduced the Members' Pathway, which is an excellent tool for our Lodges and Chapters to develop member attraction, retention and retrieval, under the guidance of our Provincial Membership Officer, Mentor and Almoner. The recent introduction of Solomon, a portal to a whole host of Masonic information, will enable us to enrich our members' Masonic engagement, which will be overseen by Tony Harvey, who will head Education, Learning and Member Development.

In the Royal Arch, membership continues to thrive – we have consecrated a new Chapter with a further one being launched in 2019 and held successful Banner Dedications in both Orders.

We have continued to develop our successful community engagement plans, aided by the CALM Appeal, working closely with the Civic Heads in all our Boroughs. The Widows Sons Toy Run was again hugely successful, which helped us assist less fortunate members of our Community at Christmas, and our presence at every major Remembrance Sunday in substantial numbers was acknowledged by the local media.

This year, we will continue to promote ourselves even more openly to ensure that our community can appreciate how relevant we are in today's society. I encourage you all to talk openly and enthusiastically to family, friends, acquaintances and others about becoming a member of our magnificent organization

Our communications activities continue apace and we now have a new Open Facebook page with almost 700 members, alongside more than 1,300 on our members' site – these, together with our successful website and other social media channels, keep our membership and the community at large fully engaged with our activities.

Our Provincial Festival will launch on 1 January 2020 and Roland Stokes and his team are working tirelessly to make an impact on our objective from day one. I am hugely supportive of his initiative that, during 2019, we should all direct our charitable fundraising into our Relief Chests so that we are well placed to make an impact at launch, and to ensure that every member has taken our a Gift Aid for modest regular giving to assist that aim.

I am ever proud to lead such a vibrant and thriving Province, remain hugely optimistic for our future and want to take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued commitment.

May I wish each and every one of you – and your families – a very merry Christmas and a healthy, happy and prosperous New Year.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

*Mark*

Mark Estaugh

PGM / G Supt.

## **The Kent Museum of Freemasonry**

### **Brethren**

You will recall that at Provincial Officers Mess, W.Bro Roger Waltham, PSGD PAPAGM East Kent and Chairman of the Kent Museum of Freemasonry at Canterbury, spoke passionately about some of the fantastic work taking place at the Museum and Library and also the importance of the Association of Patrons (AoP).

As a Trustee of the Kent Museum of Freemasonry, I thought I would share with you some recent changes, successes and planned initiatives at The Kent Museum of Freemasonry. The Museum and Library is a registered charity and managed on behalf of the Provinces of East and West Kent by a Board of Trustees, which ensures that both provinces contribute at the highest level possible in assuring and developing its future.

Following extensive refurbishment, the Museum now attracts over 1,000 visitors each month and, based on the positive reviews received, is now listed on TripAdvisor as one of the top 5 Things to Do in Canterbury. It is open seven days per week, entry is free and provides a fabulous insight into Freemasonry and the activities we undertake in our local community.

The Association of Patrons (AoP) was set up to support the invaluable work of the Museum and encourage masons and non-masons to become Patrons. The AoP is chaired by W.Bro Charles Pottle and I'm pleased to say that W.Bro Phil Moore, from West Kent, has accepted the role of Deputy Chairman. I wish them every success in the various initiatives planned for the future.

A number of Lodges and Chapters in West Kent already support the Museum as Patrons and some of you have individual patronage. More have done so in the last two years, perhaps after hearing one of the lectures by W.Bros Graham Stanford and Phil Moore. They are still pleased to deliver the informative illustrated talk on the museum and library, entitled "The Kent Museum of Freemasonry – "Past, Present & Future", which contains interesting information that members will find useful in their mentoring programmes.

W.Bro Phil is keen to form a group of Patrons from West Kent for those who may wish to receive further information or support the work of the Kent Museum of Freemasonry, either as individuals or as Museum & Library representatives within their Lodges and Chapters. I encourage those Lodges who have yet to do so to appoint a Library & Museum representative and he will also be contacting Patrons in due course and hope those that hold patronage will support the initiative and assist where possible.

If you are considering a day with wives and families or planning a trip to Canterbury as a Lodge, do make sure to visit the Kent Museum of Freemasonry. You will be warmly welcomed by the volunteer Stewards who act as guides to the visitors.

I hope that the above draws your attention to this fantastic facility and how you can support it in the future.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Mark Estaugh

Provincial Grand Master

**Further information is available at [kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk](http://kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk)**

## PROVINCE OF WEST KENT



## Talking Heads

### The Next Step: Into the Royal Arch.

The Talking Heads presentation offers non Royal Arch Masons an opportunity to get to know what the Royal Arch is all about.

Why is the Royal Arch a separate Order and what is the Master Mason of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century missing by not being a member?

The presentation takes the form of a short playlet that seeks to answer these questions.

It depicts an encounter between an experienced Past Master, who is also a Royal Arch Companion, and a relatively new Master Mason eager to learn more. The opening scene begins with them chatting in the anteroom as they don their regalia, after which they start engaging with the brethren present.

The playlet covers the history of the Order and explains a little about the regalia – especially the jewel that is also worn in lodges – as well as discussing some of the links with the Craft.

No commitment is required and there will be no pressure to join.

Light refreshments and the opportunity to chat will follow the presentation.

The presentation will be held at Dartford Masonic Centre on Wednesday,

30<sup>th</sup> January 2019, at 7pm for 7.30 start.

Please contact Harry Maton at [hjmaton@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:hjmaton@blueyonder.co.uk) to book your attendance.

If you require any further information please contact the 3<sup>rd</sup> Provincial Grand Principal, Alan Cope, at [alancope@talktalk.net](mailto:alancope@talktalk.net) or on 07503 150341.



Provincial Grand Charity Steward  
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December 2018

*Brethren and Companions of West Kent,*

As, we look forward to starting our 2026 MCF Festival, I thought it important to ensure how much our Province has benefitted from the MCF in the last year. The MCF recently published a new document entitled:

**CELEBRATING WHAT WE HAVE DONE *TOGETHER* Impact Report 2017/18.**

It can be viewed on line at: [www.impact.mcf.org.uk](http://www.impact.mcf.org.uk)

I have attached an image of the page which clearly show the benefits, we in West Kent have received during the period the report covers and it makes very interesting reading.

The MCF play a very important part in both our daily and Masonic lives and I am convinced that, we as a Province will give our usual generous support when we launch our Festival in January 2020.

Yours Sincerely,

*Roland Stokes*

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

[roland.stokes1@btinternet.com](mailto:roland.stokes1@btinternet.com)

# OVERVIEW OF OUR WORK IN WEST KENT

IN 2017/18

We helped **77** people from the masonic community

That's one person for every **2** lodges



Support for masonic families totalled **£234,021**



This includes: **£108,308** of grants for daily living expenses

**£69,898** of support for health needs

**£55,815** to cover educational opportunities and quality care



**10** people accessed our counselling careline

We carried out **74** home visits to help complete applications



We also supported **9** of your local charities with **£70,000** in grants



"When my daughter became ill four years ago, we took in our two young grandchildren – we didn't realise just how much two extra mouths to feed would increase our outgoings and we started to struggle. Thankfully the MCF agreed to help us out, not only with the everyday stuff, but also with grants to help them take part in karate, swimming and gymnastics. They used to be so shy, but it's really brought them out of their shell. The MCF have been absolutely wonderful."

*Roy, freemason and grandfather*



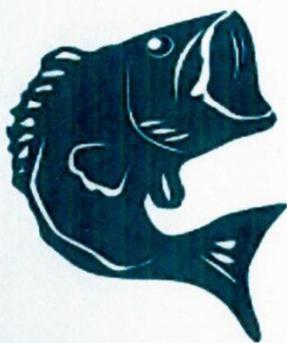
**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation

To find out more about our work, visit

[impact.mcf.org.uk](http://impact.mcf.org.uk)



**WE ARE HOPING TO 'REEL' YOU IN.**



**ARE YOU A MASONIC FISHERMAN?**

We are seeking brethren who would like to become lodge members/  
committee members or just fishing members of the  
West Kent Fishing. (themed), Lodge.

Whether you Boat fish; Fly fish; Beach fish; Coarse fish  
or fish for Crabs with a hand line, we would like to hear from you.

Please register your interest by email to **Eric Gore-ericfg@msn.com**, Title the  
email. **"FISHING LODGE"** and add your Name Lodge/lodge number; Email  
address and telephone number and we will get back to you.

**Open to masons; non-masons; wives; partners; family and friends.**



Brethren, If you are a Fisherman then please register your interest via  
email with W. Bro Eric Gore: [ericfg@msn.com](mailto:ericfg@msn.com)

## DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

### 2019

Provincial Pantomime "Dick Whittington"	Sunday 6 January	Stag Theatre, Sevenoaks
Cornwallis Lecture	Thursday 17 January	Oakley House
Talking Heads Presentation	Wednesday 20 January	Dartford Masonic Centre
Motown Dinner Dance	Friday 8 February	The Warren
Cornwallis Lecture	Saturday 23 February	Oakley House
Provincial Officers Mess	Tuesday 27 March	Oakley House
Provincial Quiz	Friday 29 March	Oakley House
Provincial Grand Lodge	Tuesday 7 May	Freemasons Hall
Provincial Church Service	Sunday 12 May	Rochester Cathedral
Provincial Film Night - "The Dish"	Sunday 21 July	Stage Theatre, Sevenoaks

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