



WEST KENT NEWS



October 2020 Edition

FROM THE EDITOR



Brethren and Companions,

I hope the latest edition of West Kent News, finds you and your families in the best of health and continuing to keep as safe and as well as one can hope for, in what continues to be a challenging period of time.

In the last West Kent News, I called for your Lodges and Chapters to give us your stories, so that your news can be shared across the Province. It is important that I continue to make this call, as I attempt to improve this publication and make as relevant, and meaningful to you, the reader, as possible. With every edition, I hope that this magazine becomes more reflective of the activities and thoughts of you.

This is your magazine, so do not hesitate to send in your submissions to communications@westkentmasons.org.uk. If assistance is required in putting something together for publishing, please ask, I'll be more than happy to..

A FOREWORD BY THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER AND GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: MARK ESTAUGH

Brethren and Companions,

Welcome to the second edition of our West Kent News, following its relaunch in its new livery in June. I was pleased to receive many positive comments following the publication of our first edition, and the COVID-19 edition which preceded it, and I very much hope that these regular quarterly publications will enable you to keep full informed of our activities, despite the highly unusual circumstances in which we currently find ourselves.



Despite the lack of physical meetings since the suspension, and the restrictions which have prevailed thereafter, our Provincial team continues to work tirelessly on behalf of our members, to ensure that each and every one of you remains fully informed and updated. Our weekly COBRA Zoom meetings with our Deputies and Provincial Secretary, and monthly virtual Craft and Royal Arch Chains meetings continue to take place, to ensure that we maintain clear communication with each of you - a critical requirement during the time we have been unable to meet in a more classical way.

give any guidance needed.

SOCIAL MEDIA

I also encourage you, to engage with our social media channels, where there is increasing activity as time progresses



<https://twitter.com/westkentmasons>

<https://www.instagram.com/wkfreemasons/>

<https://www.facebook.com/westkentmasons.org.uk> (Open Facebook)

Join our closed Facebook group to share stories and discuss things with fellow West Kent Freemasons: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/911672748925759/>

An incredible amount of good work goes on within the Province that is never commented on, especially in our communities. Our Head of News, Simon Reay, would be keen to hear from you, and you may contact him via the email address given above as well.

Happy reading, and stay safe, and continue to look out for each other.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

ADRIAN GRANT

I've mentioned on many occasions that our members' welfare is my primary concern and am delighted to see the outstanding work of the West Kent Emergency Fund continue apace, but also the innovative and very caring gestures which our members have been undertaking, for the welfare of those less fortunate in our community.

I've attended a number of external Community presentations where the generosity of our members, and that of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, have enabled us to make a lasting impact throughout our Community - some of these in conjunction with our neighbouring Province of East Kent, to maximise their impact across the County.

In spite of the restrictions which have affected us all, I've been pleased to join a number of virtual events during the last three months, where we have been able to celebrate Lodge and Chapter anniversaries, and other events with members who received virtual Long Service citations. In addition, the personal phone calls to the recipients on their anniversaries, were warmly received.

In July, we launched a wide range of virtual Provincial events - either social, educational or training related - which have met with considerable interest, and have been actively supported not only by members of our Province, but those right across the globe, and I encourage you to join us at the remaining scheduled events. We will shortly be announcing the launch of West Kent Freemasons TV, which will provide you with access to a wide source of additional information - more details to be announced shortly.

Our activity on our Social Media channels continues to thrive and we have now been rated the No1 Province for member engagement across the whole of UGLE for 12 months in a row - a wonderful achievement which demonstrates the proficiency of our Communications Team, which has recently been enhanced with new team members.

We will shortly be launching an engaging update to our Provincial Website, which will be tailored to member attraction and engagement, and filled with information on the excellent work which we do - and have done for many years - to assist those less fortunate in the Community. The remaining information will now be found in a separate Members' Section, which our members will be able to access following its launch.

I know you were as disappointed as I that this year's Provincial Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Chapter meetings, had to be postponed, given present circumstances. However, I was pleased to contact all those receiving an appointment or promotion in May, and will do so likewise in November, to convey our congratulations on their achievement. I remain hopeful that current circumstances may change to enable us to hold a combined Annual Investiture ceremony for the Craft and Royal Arch in May 2021, and we will keep you advised in this regard.

In the meantime, I continue to be overwhelmed at our members' unity of purpose and the camaraderie you have shown each other during these challenging times. My heartfelt thanks to our Executive in the Craft and Royal Arch, and to all those who have supported us so diligently, in making membership of our Province as valued, rewarding and enjoyable as possible. To each and every one of you, your loved ones and families, keep well till we meet again.

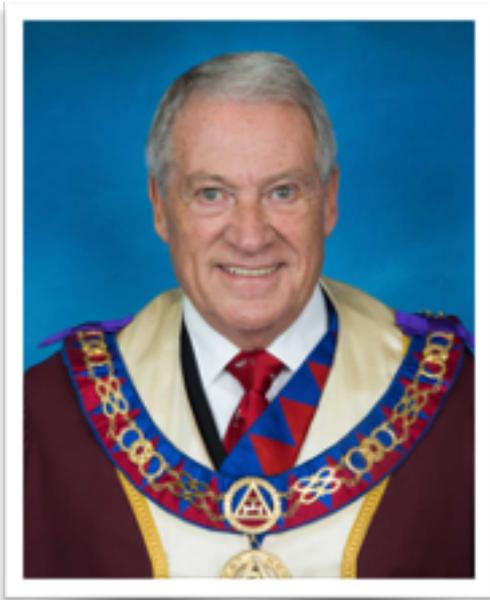
Kindest regards,

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Mark Estaugh
Provincial Grand Master - Grand Superintendent.

**A weekly meeting
between the Provincial
Grand Master, his Deputies
and the Provincial Grand
Secretary**





Second PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: ALAN COPE

Recruitment into the Holy Royal Arch

Brethren,

You will have read in the previous edition of the West Kent News that currently, just under 50% of our Brethren who are eligible to become members of the Royal Arch have actually done so, and that the first critical link in the recruitment chain is the Lodge Royal Arch Representatives (LRAR).

The LRAR is a vital link between Lodges and Chapters and he is there to encourage Brethren to complete their Masonic journey, to enhance their Masonic experience and enjoyment, by joining the

Royal Arch. As you have probably already read or heard, the Royal Arch is considered to be the natural and essential progression after the Craft, and the integral final step into pure, ancient, Freemasonry.

Some Lodges have their own Chapter attached. Brethren may prefer to join that unit in order to be with people they already know. Others may prefer to widen their Masonic circle by joining a Chapter at another Centre, or a Chapter that meets on different days of the week to their Lodge meetings.

As well as Master Masons, there may also be unattached Companions whose circumstances have now changed and who would consider re-joining, not necessarily to their old Chapter. They may just be waiting to be asked!!

Also, in our Lodges we have Past Masters who have not held an Office since coming out of the Chair and are feeling 'redundant', the RA is an excellent way of continuing your Masonic journey and involvement.

The LRAR is there to liaise with these Brethren and to assist all prospective members of the RA to make the right choice. He is not there just to promote his own Chapter. He should be certain that any prospective Exaltees are directed and introduced to a Chapter where they will feel comfortable and happy.

We have leaflets and other literature available to assist the LRAR when he is explaining the RA to Brethren.

Most Lodges already have a LRAR but there are some who don't, and surprisingly, there are actually a couple of Lodges where there are no West Kent Royal Arch members at all! If you have no-one in your Lodge to approach please contact me, details below.

As an Executive we have been looking at Lodges, who have a particularly low percentage of Royal Arch members, with a view to possibly matching them up with one or two Chapters so that once we return to our normal Masonic activities, they can make contact with the Lodges and forge links to the benefit of the Lodge, the Chapter and most of all to the Brother.

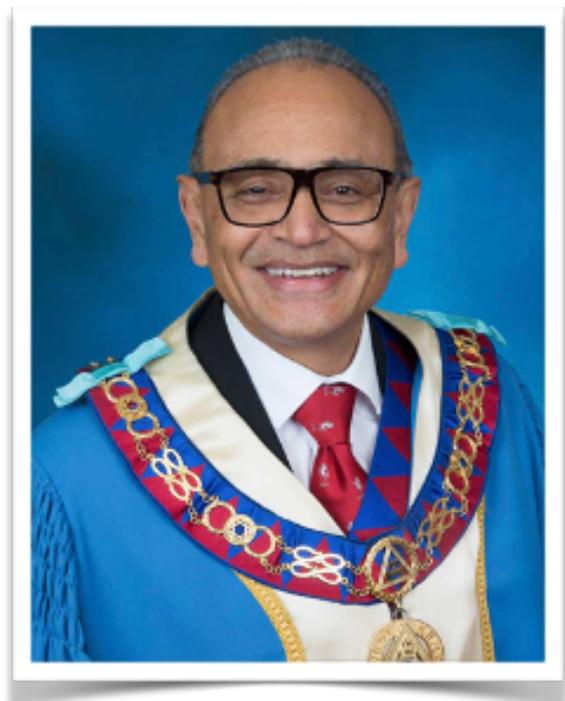
There is an indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch, and no Brother's Masonic journey can be considered truly complete unless he has been Exalted into the Holy Royal Arch.

Third PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: BIPIN PATEL

Retention in the Holy Royal Arch

Brethren,

One of my roles as Third Provincial Grand Principal, is the Retention of Members in the Holy Royal Arch. A lot I have to say is applicable to the Craft as well. Recruitment and Retention is critical to the long-term success of any organisation and the HRA is no different. As a general rule, Recruitment is going to require more effort and resources than Retention, but it is the lifeblood of our Order. New members not only give us the opportunity of performing ceremonies, but also the pleasure of the companionship and the opportunity to widen our circle of friends. All this is only possible if we are working from a solid foundation and for us to be successful, we must be able to retain members who have been recruited into HRA.



The main Retention resource in every Chapter is the Chapter Almoner whose primary responsibility is to maintain contact with those Companions who do not regularly attend meetings. He will need the support of all Companions to be successful and this is vital to the success of any Chapter.

There are several contributing factors which will ensure effective retention of members. One of the most important things to ensure is that once we have recruited someone, we need to make sure he feels welcomed by everyone and not just his Proposer and Secunder. We need to involve him in the Chapter, give him a virtual tour of the Chapter, its' members, and also provide him with some history and background of the Chapter. Think about when you joined the Chapter and how did you feel? Was there anything that was done then that made you feel uncomfortable? If there was, make sure it is not repeated. Repeat things that enhanced your

experience. A new member needs to be considered a sapling tree and just as the young tree needs nourishment until the roots are firmly fixed in the ground, we need to provide support and guidance to new members until they are fully integrated.

Once someone has joined the Chapter, get to know him, his personal interest and expectations. The easiest way to achieve this would be to pick up the phone and have a conversation with him. A formal survey after each event to get some feedback could be useful to find out what was enjoyed and what was not well received. This information should be used to shape the format of future events and meetings. This can also be used as a tool to engage with the membership and be the basis of a two-way communication between the Chapter and the members.

These are some of the things to consider on a personal basis. There are others which the Chapter needs to address so that everyone present enjoys the meeting. We need to make sure that the business of the meeting is conducted efficiently. The chapter needs to take pride in its ritual so that participating companions enjoy presenting the ritual by sharing and involving as many of the companions as possible. Hosting social events which include partners and other family members is a means of increasing the member's involvement and extending his network within the chapter leading to a long and happy membership of the order.

An effective Retention policy for every Lodge would be to introduce every brother to the Royal Arch, this being facilitated by the Lodge Royal Arch Representative.

There will, no doubt, be an occasion when a member has to cease his membership, every effort must be made to find out why and if his wishes can be accommodated. Above all keep in contact with the companion so that if his circumstances change then he feels comfortable to re-join.

Finally, I don't have all the answers and would welcome any suggestions that you have found useful in retaining members so that I can share them with other Chapters.

West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team

Prior to lockdown, the West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team gave performances of the 'Exaltation with Added Theatre' demonstration at several Chapters within the Province and can proudly claim they were well received on each occasion.

The demonstration shows how a little "added theatre" can dramatically enhance the ceremony of Exaltation providing a greater understanding and lasting impression of the ceremony both for the Candidate and for those watching. Most, if not all, the added theatre elements can be easily adopted by you for use in your Chapter providing you with a ceremony your Candidate will never forget.

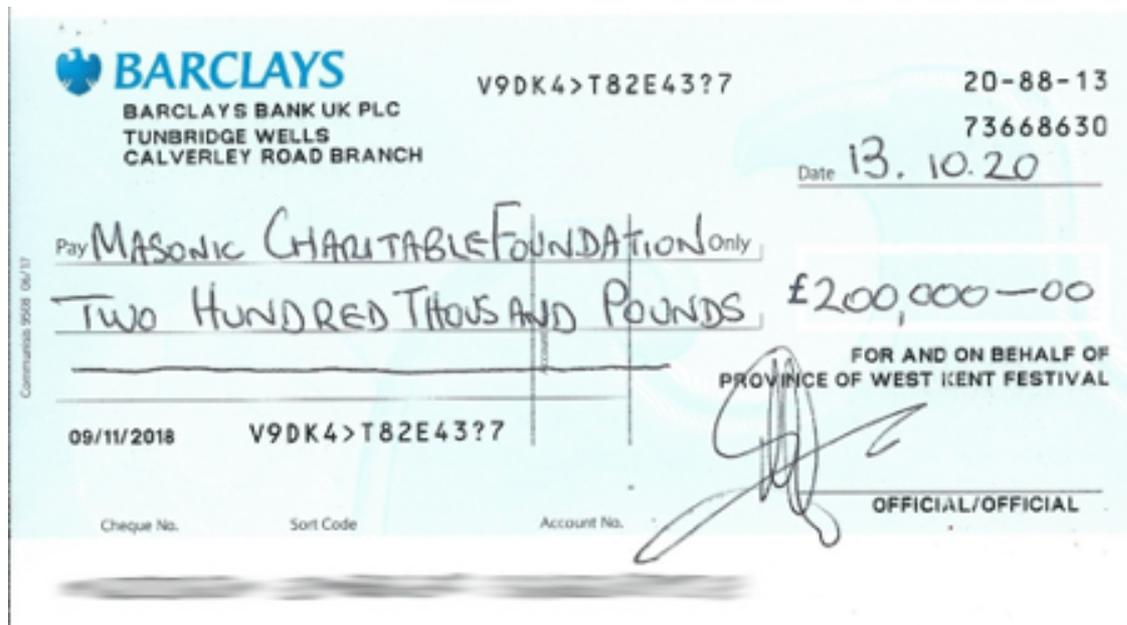
Circumstances permitting, we will recommence demonstrations in 2021. If you would like to host a demonstration at your Chapter please contact Alan Wondzinski at wondzinski@tscali.co.uk

THE CHAIRMAN OF THE 2026 FESTIVAL: ROLAND STOKES

What an enjoyable presentation by our Charity team via Zoom last night!!

With a back drop of such a difficult six months for Brethren and our communities, I'm in no doubt we were all lifted by the initiatives that have been launched.

Our Provincial Grand Master had the pleasure of presenting a cheque on behalf of the Province to Les Hutchinson, Chief Executive Officer of the Masonic Charitable Foundation, for £200,000! This is our second tranche presented, following the £300,000 presented at our Festival launch at Brands Hatch, bringing our total very early in the Festival to £500,000. Thank you to all who continue to support in these challenging times.



The West Kent Face masks are about to be launched, and it is planned that they will be on sale from next week at £7.50 each.



All Charity Stewards will be emailed as soon as they are available, and a notice will appear on Facebook and other forms of social media.

Further to the announcement on Tuesday evening's zoom meeting, on 13th October, here is the "West Kent Virtual Balloon race" website address <https://wk2026.rentaballoonrace.com> and the following resume will be found there.

Welcome to the world's only 100% eco-friendly "West Kent" virtual balloon race, where everything is real except the balloon.

This is a new innovative, fundraising solution to the Coronavirus self-isolation and events cancellations that does not involve gambling or just simply donating. It is a fun 7-day computer game where you can change your balloon parameters to help winning and follow your own decorated balloon on Google Maps and satellites 24/7. The funds from this 'virtual balloon race' will support the West Kent 2026 Festival with 50% being awarded between 2 local children's charities, 'We are Beams' and 'Itsmylifetrust'.

We aim to involve children as much as possible so the balloons will be released on Thursday 17th, December at 5pm from Father Christmas' Grotto in Lapland and distances will be measured at race end on Thursday 24th, December at 5pm. £3 will buy you a balloon and as mentioned they can be personalised and named online.

This is such a fun project, so please get involved and buy as many balloons as possible for children, grandchildren and neighbours. The whole event can be watched online in the lead up to Christmas, which should ensure children are kept busy checking on their balloon's progress.

With climate change and Coronavirus social distancing on everyone's mind, this COVID-busting, climate change and wildlife friendly, e-fundraising system is a perfect way to see out 2020.

We feel this has exceptional fund-raising potential for both the 2 children's Charities mentioned and also for our own 2026 West Kent Festival. We have lined up some excellent prizes, 1st Prize - One night at the "Double Tree Hotel" Hilton Bristol North to include a 3-course dinner and full breakfast; 2nd Prize- £100.00 COTE Brasserie vouchers; 3rd Prize- Family ticket to Howlett's Zoo; and 4th, 5th, 6th, prizes of game vouchers. Many thanks to Mountsfield and Cornwallis Lodges for their generosity.

Here are some ideas that you may use to encourage your members to purchase balloons, but please be inventive and bring some much-needed Christmas cheer to end 2020 and help our Charities. Buy a balloon or voucher for your children or

grandchildren. Buy one for a lost loved one or Lodge/Chapter member who has passed to the Grand Lodge above. Name a balloon after one of your heroes or favourite football team or film star, maybe your most loved executive officer or MP! You get the idea. Please feel free to pass on this opportunity to friends, neighbours and workmates via email.

AMAZON

Do you shop with Amazon? I'm sure most of you do at some time or another.

There is a new really simple way of using Amazon and generating funds for **the 2026 Festival**. Our West Kent charity is now registered with Amazon Smile. The process for making the most of this is easy; log into your Amazon Account by going to smile.amazon.co.uk as opposed to the standard Amazon log in. Everything will be the same.

After the log in you will be directed to a page listing "spotlight" charity and a search box, giving you the option to search for your charity. Go to the search box. Make sure that your search uses the exact words **The Provincial Grand Lodge of West Kent** this will take you to "The Provincial Grand Lodge of West Kent Benevolent Fund". All you need do is select it. On the next page, acknowledge that you understand that you must log in through Amazon Smile for the charity to benefit. Thereafter, make sure that you always log into Amazon using smile.amazon.co.uk. At the top of the page under the search bar, you will see: Supporting: **The Provincial Grand Lodge of West Kent**.



Please encourage your wife/partner and other family members and friends to use "Smile" and nominate our charity. Traditionally, as we approach the Festive Season, there is a significant increase in the use of Amazon. This is likely to be more so this year as the ongoing situation encourages shopping from home.

Once you have done this, just shop as usual. **Amazon Smile will donate 0.5% of the sale price to 2026 Festival. This costs you and the vendor nothing!** Please also note that Amazon has updated its mobile app to incorporate Smile so don't miss out, please log into Smile on your mobile app as well. If anything is unclear or you have any difficulty, please feel free to get in touch.

THE RAFT RACE



September 5th should have been our annual Raft Race, but as I am sure you are all aware it could not take place due to Covid19 restrictions. However, we carried on with the prize draw, and I am very pleased to announce that after expenses, the sum of £1700.00 has been raised! This will be going to the 2026 West Kent Festival from the West Kent Lodge of Charity 9610.

A big thank you to all those involved, and the Charity Stewards who sold the

tickets. Just for the record, the winners are as follows

- 1st prize Hermes Chapter.**
- 2nd prize Lodge of St Giles and St Luke.**
- 3rd prize Raj Bhatia.**
- 4th prize Lodge of St Barnabus**

Looking forward to next year's race, details soon.

Congratulations to all the winners!!
Take care all regards Roland and the Festival team.



THE PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: Warren Muckell

Whilst the current situation has abated our normal Masonic way of life, the Communications Team has been extremely busy over the whole period, sending out information to you, supporting all areas of the Province and publicising all the great work that has been undertaken by many West Kent Masons during the pandemic, to help the community and a variety of charities in our area and around the world. We have had enormous success with our social media campaigns, promoting West Kent to the public and have found ourselves in the grand status of No 1 in the UGLE chart for all the 48 Provinces around England and Wales.

Let me tell you about the Team and what we do.

Warren Muckell - PCO & Webmaster. I became a Mason in East Kent in May 2011 after joining the MTSFC first and eventually becoming their Events Manager for the past 7 years. I was the first initiate in UGLE to come through the MTSFC. During my time in East Kent, I became the Provincial Web Master, which eventually got me introduced to West Kent about five years ago when I undertook a project to bring the West Kent website up to date for the Province. My activities at that time were very much in the background for West Kent. I found myself far more at home in West Kent, joining Hervey Lodge in Sidcup in 2019. Since I was given the job of managing the Social Media for the Province and then the position of Provincial Communication Officer. My first task was to build the Communication Team as a whole. This was the easiest part of my job as the quality of our team is outstanding.



Simon Reay - Head of News. Simon takes many of the stories about what we do within the community & charities and gets this news out to news editors, and in turn, the public. This is not an easy job, as the good work Freemasons undertake seem to get ignored by the Press, but his perseverance has got many great stories into local newspapers and recently onto the radio. He also works with UGLE to ensure they have the correct publication, many of which have appeared in the online version of Freemasonry Today.



Graham Raven - 'The rock' of our Internal Communications. Graham manages all emails that are sent out to members, and directs information received by the office to the relevant member of the Communications Team. Graham has a wealth of knowledge, which has been of enormous help to me and all the team members, and also has the role of managing the Provincial Zoom account, which has been of great use in keeping in contact with everyone and now the Virtual Events.



Adrian Grant - Provincial Publications. Adrian joined the group soon after the lockdown and just hit the ground running with first, the COVID-19 Publication and now the regular West Kent News publications. He gathers stories from around the Province, and we ask for you to supply more highlights of your great work, so we can tell the world what good things West Kent Masons do.



Gordon Rollo - Virtual Events Manager and now Social Media Guru. Gordon was going to manage the external events for the Comms Team, but the pandemic put that aside and now he looks after the Virtual Events, working with Daniel Spencer APM. He has also now taken over the role of managing the social media for the Province.



Stewart Markworth - Media and Video. Stewart is currently working on editing and producing videos of the Virtual Events running for the province and these will be made available for anyone who missed the events.



Kieran Smith - Communications Support. Kieran has been a huge help to me personally, giving high end technical advice about IT solutions and has been a moderator on our closed Facebook page.



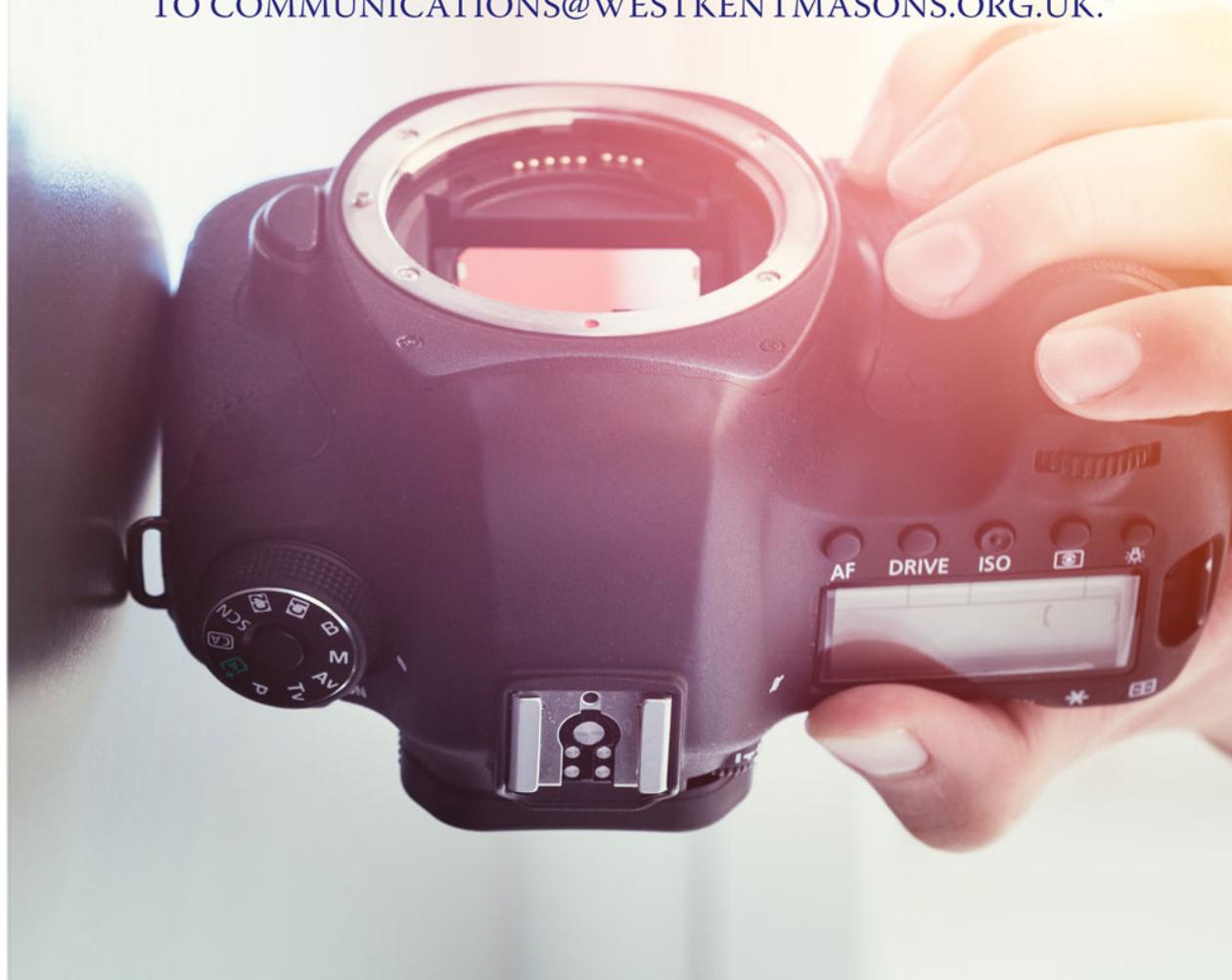
John James - Graphic Design. John works his design magic on many different publications, and you will have seen some of the high-quality work he has produced. Like most of the team, he likes to keep a low profile.

WEST KENT MASONS



PROVINCIAL PHOTO COMPETITION

WE ARE LOOKING FOR PHOTOS OF BRETHREN DOING POSITIVE COMMUNITY WORK, AND SOME IN REGALIA. WE WILL SEEK YOUR PERMISSION, FOR YOUR PHOTOS TO PERHAPS APPEAR ON OUR NEW PUBLIC FACING WEBSITE AND OTHER PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL FOR WEST KENT. PLEASE EMAIL TO COMMUNICATIONS@WESTKENTMASONS.ORG.UK.



PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: MARTIN WHITE PEART



As I write this entry for the West Kent News, I cannot help but to reflect on what has happened since my last submission. Although we have seen the resumption of Freemasonry in England and Wales following the general suspension being brought to end in July, this was not without some restrictions and adaptations which have been met with a mixed reception. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that the Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in a number of changes in our lives with the effects of lockdown, social distancing, shielding and more recently the new "Rule of 6", continue to have a limiting impact on the opportunities to meet and enjoy our Freemasonry. Nonetheless, as before, there is still a job of work to be done and opportunities of

which to take advantage.

With the new Masonic season now on its way and the current restrictions to numbers permitted to assemble for our meetings, it is ever more important than before to get organised, forward plan and make use of digital media to remain in touch with your brethren and the members of your lodge. Advice has already been issued by Grand Lodge with respects to how meetings can proceed, and further support or clarification can be sought via the Provincial Grand Secretary and his team. It is vitally important that you engage your whole lodge membership with the decisions and planning surrounding your lodge particularly in the build up to your regular meetings; ensuring that every lodge member has an opportunity to express their views. Consider how you are to select from your members those who will attend meetings under current restrictions, while aiming to be as equitable as possible. It is easy to plan and manage the affairs of the lodge between the principal officers and senior past masters. Please do not forget your new/ junior members and actively seek opportunities to get them involved.

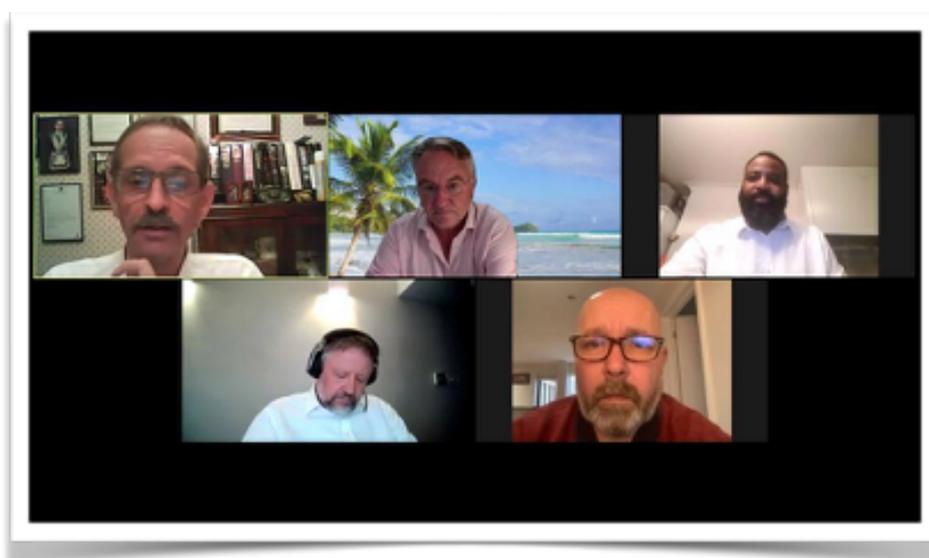
Many of us will have to get creative with how we go about maintaining the continuity of our regular meetings and discharging the business of the lodge with the restrictions posed by the rule of 6. The use of platforms such as Zoom, Microsoft Teams, WhatsApp and the like, come into their own with respects to supporting lodges to organise and plan ahead of meetings, creating the opportunity to ascertain the wishes of your brethren or even hold virtual GP meetings and social gathering while respecting social distancing and the rule of 6. With the use of video conferencing and social media why not consider extends the invite beyond your current membership to wider masonic friends, candidates awaiting initiation and suitable non-masonic friends and family to be brought into the community of your lodge, utilising this

time to forge ever greater bonds which may over time lead to an interest membership of your lodge.

Time for forward planning should not only be given for the management of regular meetings, the longer term succession of officers and good governance of the lodge should also be considered. Back at March's Quarterly Communication recommendations from the Membership Working Party to Board of General purposes were discussed in relation to its work surrounding membership and several notices of motion were given. Among the foremost of these was the formalisation of the office of Metropolitan/Provincial/District Grand Membership Officer and private lodge equivalent officer to clarify the central significance of this role and that of the members' pathway. At Quarterly Communications held on 9th of September, the notice of Motion given in March was adopted and the necessary provisions made through amendments of the book of constitutions. A new jewel of office is under consideration and will be communicated from Grand Lodge in the fullness of time. Such is the importance of this office and its role in the implementation of the members pathway that it is to be ranked before (above) the Provincial and consequently Lodge Mentor in the order of precedence.

Now provides an ideal time to get ready for the formalisation of this office and the changes brought in with it, by embracing the activities surrounding the Members pathway already on offer within the province. Look out for the sessions on Attraction, Retention and retrieval of Members by the Provincial Membership Officer, Mentor and Almoner respectively as part of the Provincial virtual events. Likewise keep an eye out for the new "Members pathways in Focus" series of leaflets which offer a bitesize breakdown on the various steps/aspects of the Pathway in order aid your lodge in the adoption and implementation of the Members pathway which can be found in full at <https://b.ugle.org.uk/membership>. Despite all the turbulence of recent months, these nonetheless remain exciting times, full of potential and opportunity through which my team and I, are at hand, ready to support you and your lodge to embrace this evolution in Freemasonry.

Ian Gallehawk assumes his new role, as Head of Membership Development





West Kent Pastoral Care Team 'CareLine'

The West Kent Pastoral Care team launched the West Kent Careline in July 2020.



We continue to be seriously affected by the Corona pandemic which has influenced the lives of so many of our members and their families. If you are experiencing any problems arising from the pandemic, rather than trying to deal with it alone why not call the West Kent Careline.

If you have a problem of any description, we may be able to assist you or point you in the direction of a specialist organisation that can.

The Pastoral Care Team has established a **24/7 local rate Careline** which members can call to contact one of six volunteers from our Province. This resource will provide a support mechanism for those who require a friendly, strictly confidential, helpful listening ear and a caring arm around them.

The team comprises six well respected and experienced West Kent Freemasons and you can choose which one you speak to by calling this number and selecting their unique number from the options provided:-

Careline Number **0203 404 0423**

Nigel Wooldridge	Press 1	Fred Halligan	Press 2
Colin Wright	Press 3	Phil Grigg	Press 4
George Buckberry	Press 5	David Hedges	Press 6
Voicemail	Press 7	Hear options again	Press 0

In the unlikely event that the person is unavailable, you will be able to leave a voice message and the system will automatically send an email to all six team members, one of whom will then return your call as quickly as possible.

If you need help call the West Kent Careline:- **0203 404 0423**

A problem shared is a problem halved - don't be too proud to admit you may need help, we encourage you to make use of the West Kent Careline service!

To help understand what the Pastoral Care Team and the Care Line is all about a Zoom Video Conference call will be held on Monday 19th October 2020 from 19:30 to 20:30 entitled **'Meet the Pastoral Care Team' with Phil May**. It can be joined via the following link to the event registration tool on the Provincial web site.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-pastoral-care-team-with-phil-may-tickets-115963767751>

Solomon User Guide



We know from surveys carried by the United Grand Lodge of England that most members seek a greater understanding of the ritual, symbolism, history and traditions of Freemasonry. Solomon is UGLE's online, searchable repository of Nuggets, Papers, Presentations, Demonstrations, Q&As and Quizzes. These can be used for personal study or shared in Lodge, Chapter, or a Lodge/Chapter of Instruction. It is free and open to anyone, accessed via your laptop, tablet or smart-phone. Simply register, enrol on relevant modules and then browse, search and download any material you need. If you change your mind you can un-enrol from modules; it's up to you.



You can register by scanning the QR Code above with your mobile phone or copying the hyperlink shown into the address line of your browser. You will NOT be able to find Solomon by searching for it on Google or the search line of your browser. Solomon is not registered on search engines and is only accessible directly from the address <https://solomon.ugle.org.uk>.

If you are using a smart phone you might want to download the free Adobe Acrobat Reader app first, this will ensure that the PDFs used on Solomon retain their format.

On the front page you will see a three-minute video 'Register your account on the system' which will take you through the following steps:

- Select Login at the top right-hand of the screen and then on the next page Create new account.
- You will be taken to a form to complete with; a user name you select, your chosen password, e-mail address, first name and surname.
- The system will then send an e-mail to the account specified. Before you can proceed you must confirm by clicking the hyperlink sent in the e-mail. If you do not receive this e-mail, check in your Junk Folder.
- Press Continue and you are now ready to enrol on the modules by selecting from three categories; Seek and Learn, Share and Encourage, and Support and Promote.

There are a series of features to help you get the best out of Solomon, accessed directly from About Solomon and located at the top and bottom of every page. Either by pressing the button located near the search bar, found at the top of each page, or by selecting About Solomon found below the UGLE logo at the bottom of each page. Then 'tap' into Learn about this site. There you will find a site-map followed by a whole series of helpful videos and FAQs; any problems - use Feedback, located next to Learn about this site, to contact the help-desk.

ENTRY MODULES

SEEK & LEARN:

Nuggets, Papers
Q&As and Quizzes

For personal study, or sharing in your Lodge, Chapter, Lodge of Instruction or Discussion Group.

SHARE & ENCOURAGE:

Presentations
Demonstrations Q&As and Quizzes - for use in Lodges & Chapters

SUPPORT & PROMOTE

Provinces/Districts - to plan, promote, support and deliver Learning and Development.

SUBJECT AREAS

First Degree
Second Degree
Third Degree
Royal Arch
Installed Masters
Lodge Matters
About Freemasonry
Masonic History

You can navigate by simply browsing within a subject area, or using the Home Page You can Search by using the Tags provided, or by entering a word or phrase into the Search Bar.

MTSFC



The Masonic Fishing Charity

MASONIC FISHING CHARITY

“The Masonic Fishing Charity’s aim is to bring an interactive fishing and countryside experience to people with special needs”.

It achieves this by running fishing events, both coarse and fly and inviting participants with special needs to come and join in. This includes anyone over 11 years old with mental or physical disabilities, the disadvantaged or those who have suffered trauma.

We hope to ‘Catch The Smile’ along the way.

The West Kent Branch has hosted many schools and disadvantaged children over the years supported by a great team of volunteers.



Each participant receives a certificate of achievement, and for many that is certainly the case, a delicious lunch and a goody bag to go away with.

Obviously there are costs involved that have to be paid for and include Venue, Catering, Certificates and frames, goody bags etc. There is no cost to the schools or children so we rely on fund raising and donations.

George Buckberry has designed, built and donated two Travelling Rod Butt and Reel fund raising items similar to the TLC travelling mauls - one each for Craft and Royal Arch. These have already attracted donations from Jubilee Lodge of North Kent 6936 and Biggin Hill Chapter 8659.

If your Lodge or Chapter would like to donate to this worthy cause so that we can host more disadvantaged children to have memorable days on the bank then contact George who will be happy to help you get your donation recorded on the scrolls in the reels.



Even if you aren’t able to meet and take this forward just now, we hope you will remember us in the future. When we are able to host events again why not come along to see if you can help.

For more information about us and to see some event reports check out our page on the Provincial web site at <https://westkentmasons.org.uk/the-masonic-trout-and-salmon-fishing-charity/> by George Buckberry

PROVINCIAL ZOOM EVENTS: DANIEL J SPENCER

When we took into account government advice and guidelines in regards to the Pandemic, it soon became apparent (for various reasons) that 'face to face' meetings were going to be difficult, if not impossible to carry out, for quite some time. The Provincial Grand Master was keen that we adapt, think outside the box and develop a program of events that the Brethren could learn from, benefit from, enjoy and engage with until we are able to return to some semblance or normality, that was my brief.

It seemed clear that 'Zoom' online video conferencing technology was by far and away the best medium to help us. With the assistance of our fantastic Provincial Communications Team, I set about contacting our 'department heads' and asked them

to come up with a series of informative presentations that covered their particular area of responsibility. I also contacted some of our more 'learned Brethren' and asked them to put together some educational talks that would enlighten our members (especially our newer members) in aspects of Masonic learning that perhaps they wouldn't have previously been familiar. I then approached some of the best Masonic lecturers on the circuit and asked them to come and entertain and educate our members with a selection of their best talks. There will be a live 'Quiz' night and even a professionally hosted 'Wine Tasting' event later in the year for our members to enjoy. It really is a varied and entertaining program.

So far, we have hosted the very successful 'Ask the PGM / Grand Superintendent' event where members were able to pose questions to the PGM about all things Masonic in West Kent. Feedback received has been overwhelmingly positive and as a result, this event will be repeated later in the year. We have had 'group specific' events where my Assistant Provincial Grand Master colleagues have spoken to and engaged with their groups of Lodges, keeping them up to date with current matters. Our Provincial Grand Almoner and Mentor have introduced themselves, their roles and their teams to our membership and we have been treated to some superb lectures on a selection of fascinating subjects.



Feedback from members who have attended the events held so far, has been very positive. I would encourage all West Kent members from our newest to our most experienced, to take a look at the list of up-coming events and book themselves tickets for the ones that interest them. They won't regret it and I can guarantee that they'll learn something and be entertained.

To book into an event, please visit 'www.westkentmasons.org.uk'.

Click on '2020 Virtual Events'.

Once you've seen what's 'coming up', click on 'Book an Event'.

You will then be able to sign up for the events that you are interested in (up to 1 month in advance).

After booking your event, you should receive a confirmation e-mail and then the 'Zoom' details will be emailed to you, 3 hours before the event is due to start.

PROGRAMME OF ZOOM EVENTS FROM 19th October 2020.

Date & Time of Event: Mon 19 October - 19:30hrs
Presented by: WBro Phil May
Event Aimed at: All West Kent Masons
Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Meet the Pastoral Care Team' with Phil May
Hear Phil May and his team update you with what the 'Pastoral Care Team' have been doing to look after our Brethren and find out their plans for the future.

Date & Time of Event: Wednesday 21 October - 19:30hrs
Presented by: WBro Neil Moakes - Provincial Grand Almoner
Event Aimed at: Lodge Almoners and all other interested members
Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Retrieving Members'

Listen to our Provincial Grand Almoner as he provides useful information from the 'Members Pathway' regarding how to approach, communicate with and retrieve former members, that previously left the Craft.

Date & Time of Event: Thursday 22 October - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro Bryan Gorin
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: To be confirmed

Another chance for to hear Bryan, a well-known West Kent Mason, real life 'London Black Cabby' and professional Historian (specialising in 'Blue Plaque' London landmarks). Listen in to this talk and you are sure to learn something fascinating that you didn't know before.

Date & Time of Event: Thursday 29 October - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro 'Dr' John Reuther
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Bugs, Plagues & Pestilence'

West Kent is honoured to have yet another talented and respected Masonic speaker, and renowned Microbiologist Dr John Reuther, deliver one of his lectures to us. With COVID19 still very fresh in everyone's mind, this will be a fascinating talk to tune in too.

Date & Time of Event: Monday 9 November - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro Alan Wondzinski - Provincial Education Officer
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent Members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Everything you ever wanted to know about Solomon & its content'

Alan is one of West Kent's wise and learned Brethren. His knowledge and expertise regarding Masonic matters is very impressive. In this presentation he will talk members through 'Solomon', explain how it works, talks about its content and highlight its value as a Masonic resource. If you want to make a 'daily advancement in Masonic knowledge', do not miss this talk.

Date & Time of Event: Thursday 12 November - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro Daniel J Spencer - Assistant Provincial Grand Master
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members, their friends and families
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Provincial Quiz Night'

Get your 'Grey Matter' working as Daniel turns the cogs in your mind and stirs your brains up in one of his 'General Knowledge' quizzes. Good fun for all the family to join in.

Date & Time of Event: Tuesday 17 November - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro Malcolm Brooks - Grand Tyler
 Event Aimed at: All Members of West Kent Event Title / Subject Matter:
 'Was Nelson and Freemason?'

Another chance to hear a fascinating lecture from one of the best in the business. The title is self-explanatory. Don't know the answer? Tune in to this one to find out!

Date & Time of Event: Thursday 19 November - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro Daniel J Spencer - Assistant Provincial Grand Master
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Ask the PGM / G.Supt - the Sequel'

After the success of the first 'Ask the PGM / G.Supt' event held on 13th July 2020, and by popular demand, our Provincial Grand Master / Grand Superintendent has agreed to give up his valuable time once more to answer any questions that you might care to put to him.

Details of how to submit a question will be published closer to the event. In the meantime, don't forget to book your tickets (below) now so as not to miss out.

Date & Time of Event: Monday 30 November - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: Mark Estaugh - Grand Superintendent , Archie Torrance
 Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Kent
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'The Keystone Lecture'

Learn about the close historical development of the two Orders, how they complement each other and how they both contribute to a better understanding of the whole Masonic story and Freemasonry's landscape.

Date & Time of Event: Sunday 6 December - 18:30hrs
 Presented by: VW Bro Graham Higgs - Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members and their families who enjoy drinking Wine
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'West Kent Wine Tasting Evening'

VW Bro Graham is a much loved and well-respected member of our Province and is well known to practically all of us. We bet that some of you don't know that Johnny, Graham's son, just happens to be a well-regarded expert and international Wine Dealer working for 'Chelsea Vintners'. Closer to the event date, Johnny will recommend 3 bottles of Wine for you to purchase, which we will circulate details of in advance. We can all then spend a lovely Sunday evening learning all about them and having a 'little tippie' as Johnny and Graham talk us through the subtle nuances of each wine! Charming! Book your tickets now so you don't miss out!

Date & Time of Event: Tuesday 8 December - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro's Paul Holmes & Peter Brooker
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent Members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'How to Streamline your Lodge.'

This presentation concentrates on 'Streamlining your Lodge' - an action that UGLE and Province believes will (combined with other measures) help your Lodge to attract and retain 'working' men into your membership. Again, if your Lodge struggles to Recruit and Retain new members, this presentation is not to be missed. This will be delivered by Peter Brooker and Paul Holmes (who was instrumental in setting up West Kent's first, and very successful, Streamlined Lodge.

Date & Time of Event: Thursday 10 December - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro 'Dr' John Reuther
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'Lord Kitchener - Soldier, Diplomat, Freemason'

Another chance to hear talented and renowned Masonic Lecturer Dr John Reuther. On this occasion he is going to talk about one of the most famous Military commanders this country has ever produced - Lord Kitchener! Sure to be fascinating and not to be missed.

Date & Time of Event: Thursday 17 December - 19:30hrs
 Presented by: WBro Ian Gallehawk
 Event Aimed at: All West Kent members
 Event Title / Subject Matter: 'West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge - What's it all about?'

Ever wondered why some Brethren wear Red Aprons when most of us wear different shades of Blue? Well, come and listen to WBro Ian Gallehawk as he explains the history of the 'Stewards', what it means to be appointed a 'Provincial Grand Steward' and find out what 'Provincial Grand Stewards' actually do in West Kent and beyond!



Look out for the excellent Zoom seminar, by Phil May and his Provincial Pastoral Care team, on Monday 19th October 2020, at 19:30hrs.

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/meet-the-pastoral-care-team-with-phil-may-tickets-115963767751>

WEST KENT & EAST KENT FREEMASONS SUPPORT PROSTATE CARE AT MAIDSTONE HOSPITAL



The Masters and brethren of the provinces of East and West Kent are delighted to have recently assisted Maidstone Hospital Brachytherapy Dept with a gift of £11,621 to enable the purchase of an IsoLoader and a Urine flow meter. These vital pieces of equipment will improve and speed up the treatment of Prostate Cancer. The flow meter allows accurate measurement to take place within the dept (saving time and relieving pressure on other depts) while the IsoLoader allows the accuracy of the actual treatment to be much improved (and allowing 2 operating lists per week). The delivery of radio-active therapy to a specific site within the prostate essentially means less radiation is used to deliver better results. The effect of this is less invasive and in the right patients delivers more successful outcomes.

The Freemasons were generously given a demonstration of this lifesaving kit. To be clear on how it all works the following information should help...



Prostate LDR (Low Dose Rate) seed Brachytherapy is a curative treatment for localised prostate cancer which involves permanently implanting the prostate gland with radioactive seeds. Their short-range radioactivity treats the cancer in the prostate and spares nearby organs from radiation as much as

possible. Rather than inserting 100 or so seeds individually, needles each containing a row of radioactive seeds within a fine plastic strand are implanted swiftly under ultrasound guidance. During brachytherapy, the IsoLoader is used in the sterile operating theatre to safely assemble bespoke strands of radioactive seeds to optimise the radiation dose throughout the individual prostate gland. Maidstone was the first hospital in Europe to use the IsoLoader.



Mr Mark Estaugh Provincial Grand Master of West Kent said, "how wonderful it is that 2 Masonic provinces can come together and assist in the provision of life-saving care for men in all parts of the county. Truly this is a demonstration of how shared values can benefit all."

COMMENDATION AWARD



I could not have been more proud nor more humbled to receive, on our member's behalf, a special Commendation Award from James Hunt, Mayor of Bexley, to acknowledge the outstanding contributions made by West Kent Freemasons during the COVID-19 pandemic for our Community ..



WEST KENT EMERGENCY FUND

The work of the WKEF has continued at a pace, supporting numerous local good causes, charities, as well as our own members. Here is a snapshot of much of what has happened since the last publication of this magazine and some of the letters from beneficiaries, expressing their gratitude.



West Kent supports Crossroads Care

Although an inconvenience, most of us have been able to get used to wearing facemasks. However, for people with a hearing impairment who rely on lip reading to ensure clear communication, facemasks can be a real obstacle to everyday living.

We are very pleased to have been able to support the charity Crossroads Care, based in Erith, with a donation to purchase facemasks with a clear window, which is a simple but effective way to help many people with a hearing impediment.

West Kent Supports Domestic Abuse Charities

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 there has sadly been a significant increase in domestic violence and abuse.

I am pleased to inform you that through the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), we have been able to secure significant funding, enabling us to support domestic abuse charities based in West Kent, with a total of five charities receiving donations from us.

As we felt domestic abuse is such an important area, we have been collaborating closely with the Province of East Kent, who are also making similar donations.



23rd September 2020

Dear West Kent Freemasons,

On behalf of the staff, children and residents of Bexley Women's Aid we would like to thank you for your extremely kind donation which will provide an amazing amount of support for women and their children both in the refuge and in the community, especially during this unprecedented time.

When women and children come to the refuge, they are fleeing domestic abuse. They often have to leave quickly with very few belongings. Your donation given to Bexley Women's Aid will be used to put together starter packs as well as supplement during difficult financial times. What may seem like a simple gift of support or a care package can provide immense comfort to families rebuilding their lives, contributing to their feelings of safety and hope.

Domestic abuse affects one in four women at some point in their lives. Therefore, many children are also living with this situation. We are working hard to provide services and support to as many as we can and we rely greatly on the generosity of others like yourself to assist us in our pledge.

Your donation of £2000.00 plays a significant role in the services that we provide at Bexley Women's Aid, and will enable us to keep providing as much as we can to the families we support. We greatly appreciate your kindness and generosity and hope that you will share our thanks with everyone involved.

Kind regards,

Ainslie
Office Administrator/Volunteer coordinator

Bexley Women's Aid
PO Box 25, Bexleyheath
Kent DA7 4BS
Fax 020 8301 3876

Helpline 020 8301 1536 (Mon-Fri, 9.30am-12.30pm)
Email info@bexleywomensaid.org.uk
Charity registration no. 1063427
Company registration no. 3123424

Donation of £1,000 to Hypo Hounds

Hypo Hounds train dogs to detect and alert dangerous changes in their owner's Type 1 Diabetic blood sugars. By alerting their owners or their families to these changes in blood sugars, Hypo Hounds can help to prevent potentially life-threatening hypoglycaemic attacks. These are known as hypos and result from low blood sugar levels.

Covid-19 has significantly reduced the charities income and fundraising ability. Supporting this fantastic charity not only saves lives in West Kent, but will also help the NHS by reducing the need for emergency admissions to hospital.



Hypo Hounds

Registered Charity in England & Wales 1165858

Wednesday 26th August 2020

Dear Peter and all at the Masonic Province of West Kent,

I am so thankful to have received your wonderfully kind donation this morning to Hypo Hounds registered Assistance Dog Charity 1165858.

As a small charity doing life-saving work in Kent and the South East the Covid19 pandemic has hit us hard with our income being seriously affected for the rest of this year. As you know we receive no government funding nor support and we rely solely on the good will and generosity of the general public to be able to continue to train these amazing dogs to save the lives of children in your community.

Like many, our fundraising events for this year have been cancelled and as this is our main source of income this has then dramatically affected the service which we provide.

We have managed to maintain our training by utilising technology video calls and have also managed to conduct mental well-being clinics to ensure that the families we help are not isolated. We are also extremely proud to have continued to keep these children out of hospital all through the pandemic which is an achievement in itself.

With your kind funding we will now be able to continue to offer more of these services and I thank you from the bottom of my heart on behalf of the charity and its clients.

Please feel free to share on any social media platforms that you feel are appropriate to advertise your amazing donation to us as well as highlighting the work which we do.

The very kindest of regards

Mrs J L Fearman FRSM – Chief Executive and Founder

Unit 4 & 5 Burnt House Farm Business Park
Bedlam Lane, Smarden, Kent. TN278PG

01233756555

Info@HypoHounds.co.uk

WWW.HypoHounds.co.uk



Dartford Food Bank, 46-58 Lowfield Street, Dartford, Kent DA1 1HJ

www.facebook.com/Dartford-Foodbank

dartfordfoodbank@gmail.com

Registered charity number 1160597

To: Peter Brooker, West Kent Freemasons

Thank you so much for your group's generous donation of £2,000 to Dartford Foodbank. In this unprecedented crisis, we are supporting more families and individuals than at any time since we started serving the community of Dartford and the surrounding areas, and your donation will help us to respond to that increasing need. We are fortunate to be able to operate with no regular overheads as we have no premises or staff costs; we also have very little in the way of running costs (currently mainly carrier bags for food parcels to be distributed in). This means that financial donations can go directly into purchasing stock to support households who are experiencing food poverty and insecurity.

At the start of the COVID19 crisis, we changed our opening hours to ensure we could continue to operate safely. Our opening hours are currently 10am -12 noon every Tuesday for collections. We are also providing a delivery service for households who are unable to collect from our site. Referrals and requests for help can be made via the Facebook page or by email.

Once again, many thanks for your support.

Sue Waterman
Manager, Dartford Foodbank

BROMLEY RELIEF IN NEED

BROMLEY PARISH CHURCH
CHURCH ROAD, BROMLEY
BR2 0EG



W Bro Peter Brooker
Mandalay Lodge
Oakley House
Bromley Common
Bromley
BR2 8HA

Sunday, 04 October 2020

Dear Peter,

This letter is to offer our thanks for the generosity of your donation to support Bromley Relief in Need. Our trustees met on Saturday and have already allocated some of your donation to help a number of requests, including victims of domestic abuse, struggling families with children with additional needs and individuals with serious health conditions which require changes to be made in their home. Rest assured your gift is already on its way to making a difference to people locally.

Yours Sincerely

James Harratt
Chair
Bromley Relief in Need

West Kent helps Brighter Beginnings

I am pleased to inform you that in a joint initiative between West Kent and the Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Kent, we have made a combined donation of £6,800 to Bromley Brighter Beginnings.

This charity deals with child poverty, vulnerable families and provides essential baby, child or household items to local families in financial hardship. They also raise awareness of poverty in Bromley and fund essentials for women and children living in domestic violence refuges.



28 Stanhope Grove
Beckenham
Kent BR3 3JA

2nd Oct 2020

Dear West Kent Masons

On behalf of Bromley Brighter Beginnings, thank you so much for the incredible donation of £3,000, from the West Kent Masons (£2,000 received on 30th Sep 2020 and £1,000 received on the 2nd of October), it was incredibly generous of you.

We rely entirely on donations, as you know, so this money will help us to continue our work with the families we support – vulnerable families living in Bromley – thanks to you we will now be able to make a real difference to another family needing our help.

With thanks again and very best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tracy Griffin".

Tracy Griffin (Trustee & Treasurer)



**BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha
Accounts Department**

125-129 Brentford Road | Neasden | London NW10 9LD | United Kingdom
T: +44 (0)20 8965 2651 | F: +44 (0)20 8965 6218 | E: accounts@baps.org | W: london@baps.org

6 July 2020

Mr Peter Brooker
Provincial Grand Lodge of West Kent
Oakley House
Bromley Common
Bromley
Kent BR2 8HA

Dear Mr Brooker

Thank you for your donation

Thank you very much for your generous donation of £2,000 from the West Kent Emergency Fund.

BAPS mobilised a holistic community care programme to support individuals and communities in response to the global coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic.

More than 1,100 volunteers are involved in this multi-faceted initiative which aims to ensure that the elderly and needy are informed, safe and supported.

Some of the key features of BAPS's relief work in the UK and in Europe include:

- More than 20,000 phone calls to over 12,000 families providing support and solace
- Reaching out to over 4,000 elderly and vulnerable people in the community to collect shopping, drop off medication and run essential errands, where required
- More than 900 'biffins' (packed meals) prepared and home-delivered daily to the vulnerable
- More than 29,000 meals prepared and home-delivered to the needy so far
- Supporting 118 hospitals and key work places, such as police stations, fire stations, local food banks, local councils, essential schools, care homes, etc., by providing food and supplies

Your generous donation will contribute to the continued efforts by BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

On behalf of Param Pujya Mahant Swami Maharaj, we thank you immensely for your donation and continued kind support.

Yours sincerely


Piyush Patel
Accountant

BAPS Swaminarayan Sanstha and BAPS are the trading names of Bharatnagar Dev Anand Puranaram Swaminarayan Sanstha, a company limited by guarantee in England and Wales (company number 07701733) and a registered charity in England and Wales (charity number 1143285). Registered Office: 125-129 Brentford Road, Neasden, London NW10 9LD.

Making a difference throughout West Kent.

Peter Brooker

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Widows Sons West Kent – Annual ‘Toy Run’ Appeal 2020



The Widows Sons West (WSWK) announces the launch of its 2020 ‘Toy Run’ Appeal.

No one would argue that 2020 has so far been an unprecedented year with many families experiencing degrees of financial difficulty and poverty on a scale never before seen in this country, in our lifetimes. Families with children have been particularly impacted, and more especially those with special needs, including 24 x 7 care, mental health issues, specialist education, and protection from abuse. It is with these children in mind that WSWK launches its 2020 campaign.

Unlike previous years, as a result of social distancing restrictions there will be no collection bins located at the various Masonic Centres across the Province. Instead, Lodges and Chapters are being asked to donate money to the ‘Toy Run Appeal’ via BACS.

Les Fraser, President of Widows Sons West Kent commented, “I am extremely mindful of the financial pressures on Lodges and Chapters. In particular, the demand on their charity at a time when without Lodge meetings, Festive Boards, social events etc. disposable income is scarce. However, I believe that this is such an important and worthwhile cause that I am appealing to all Lodges and Chapters within the Province to once again demonstrate their generosity, by supporting this year’s Appeal. More importantly, to help us brighten the lives of underprivileged children and their families across the Province, on one of the most joyful days of the year, and let them know that even during these unprecedented times they are not forgotten.”

If you are able to support this year’s ‘Toy Run Appeal’, please make your donation by BACs or cheque, by contacting secretary.wswk@gmail.com.

Whatever you feel disposed to give will be thankfully received and faithfully applied, and on behalf of children’s charities, and specifically those children for whom they provide a lifeline in the form of much needed care and support, I thank you in anticipation of your support.

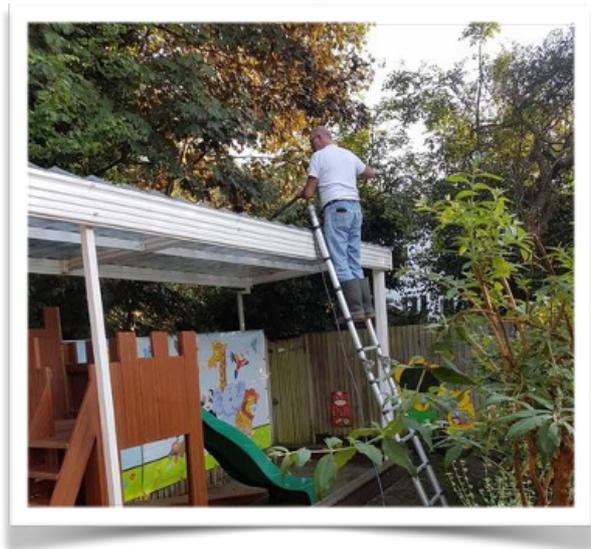
Les Fraser
President Widows Sons West Kent
president.wswk@gmail.com

website at <https://westkentwsmba.co.uk>

BAND OF BROTHERS



Sometimes giving your time can be as appreciated and precious as giving your cash donation. A huge thank you to Peter Pring, Eric Philippides, and Kevin Killick and John for giving their time and making a difference in our Province.



Petts Wood Playgroup
(for Children with Special Needs)

Registered Charity No. 983792
Celebrating over 50 years of fun, love and laughter!
1968-2018

Mr. R. Order, Band of Brothers,
c/o, 25, Highfield Road,
Chislehurst,

Kent, BR7 6QY
2020

11th August

Dear Rob, fellow members of the Province of West Kent and the chaps from Bobs,

I hope this finds you all safe and well at this very difficult time. It was lovely to meet you all last Saturday and your bikes, they really are something special. Thank you so much for the very generous donation of £910.00 in support of our children. As you saw, we are in the process of having a small extension to the back of our rooms to safely accommodate the increasing volume of specialist equipment when not in use and we need shelving and a heater for that so some of the money can be spent immediately.

We currently have 28 very vulnerable and clinically ill little children attending our group. Life can be very difficult for some families and we endeavour to support the whole family at the highest level. This has been particularly challenging during recent months. Many families have felt isolated, afraid and lonely so our methods of support have been quite inventive with virtual coffee mornings, texts, emails etc. We look forward to some form of new "normal" hopefully by September.

We have a website which shows a little about us www.pwpg.org.uk please feel free to look and we have parental consent for the photos from the site to be used.

Please pass on our grateful thanks to everyone for the continued support and thank you once again for raising much needed funds for us at such a difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,

Larry Simpson
Larry Simpson
Manager



Band of Brothers (BoB) presenting a cheque and money raised £910.00, we were then shown around the play school for children with special needs, this is not a job but a vocation for all that either work or help out here. I'm sure BoB can and will help some other chores.

WOOLWICH POLYTECHNIC LODGE

Currently, a team of Freemasons in the Woolwich Polytechnic Lodge are restoring the Well Hall Memorial Gates at the Blackheath Rugby Club. The Memorial Gates were erected in 1948 in memory of those who lost their lives in serving their country.

This work includes scraping, sanding and wire brushing down years of old paint that has been re-painted over without the correct method of removal previously. The gates have been bent in some places over the years and these are currently being corrected by heating the iron and strapping the metal to a support and applying force to straighten it out. Then some welding is needed where some parts have rusted and become detached from the main structure of the gates. Lastly, we are planning to re-paint the gates at a later date once all the preparation work has finished.

This should be completed in time for remembrance Sunday 8th November 2020 where the members of the Woolwich Polytechnic Lodge attend and also lay wreaths in memory of those that lost their lives.

The history of these gates can be found here:

<http://blackheathrugby.co.uk/the-history-of-the-well-hall-memorial-gates/>

Woolwich Polytechnic Lodge: <https://www.woolwichpolytechniclodge.org/>



PRINCE GEORGE DUKE OF KENT COURT

The Association of Friends have funded the purchase of new plants for the front and back gardens which were planted by members of Chelsfield Lodge.

There have been several donations made direct to the Home which has enabled construction of a 'safe' visiting room for relatives and friends to visit during the current crisis. We have provided an intercom system so that communication can take place safely.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, there has been a reduction in admissions and there are currently a number of empty rooms. These are being redecorated with paint provided by generous donations, and the A of F has agreed to fund the purchase of new window blinds to make the rooms more attractive to prospective residents.

We have purchased of two 'Sanitizing Stations' which are situated at the front and back doors for the protection of staff and visitors.

We have already had to cancel our Spring Fair and our Christmas Fair is very much in doubt so we will have missed two of our major fund raising events. We understand that there are many claims on charity at the moment, not least of all the 2026 Festival, but we would really appreciate any small donations which Lodges or Chapters could make towards our continuing support of the residents at Duke of Kent Court. Our Treasurer, Andrew Houston would be pleased to receive any small contribution either by cheque or by BACS made payable to 'Association of Friends Chislehurst' and sent to him at 11 Swan Close, Orpington, BR5 2NA. To make a BACS payment, please contact the Chair at chairdkc@gmail.com.



The new COVID-19 secure visiting room at PGDOKT, which included among its sponsors, the Band of Brothers (BoB), with thanks.

A message from the Chairman of the Association of Friends Prince George, Duke of Kent Court, Chislehurst.

Due to the diligence of the outstanding care staff and the support of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Association in providing all the necessary PPE, the COVID-19 epidemic has thankfully only had a minimal effect at Duke of Kent Court.

However, since the beginning of lockdown and the usual loss of some of the residents, occupancy of the Home has understandably been lower than usual. Given all the scary stories in the news about care homes this has had a big impact on the number of applications the Home is receiving for admission.

The Home Manager and her staff have asked me to confirm that there are vacancies and that Duke of Kent Court is a safe, COVID-19 free Home. More good news is that currently the RMBI are offering respite care to privately funded residents where two weeks are paid for and one week is given free of charge, so if someone is in need of a little bit of TLC then this could be a good time to take advantage of the offer.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS

The current President of the Association of Friends of Prince George, Duke of Kent, Court, Martin Reeve, is the longest serving member of the committee. He was also, in a past life, a Royal Protection Officer in which capacity he attended several functions with the Duchess of Kent.

In view of the outstanding work by the staff of the RMBI Homes nationally and PGDOKC in particular, he felt that recognition should be given to their efforts from the highest level.

He therefore took the initiative and contacted the Duke of Kent's PA who, after making the Duke aware of the situation, issued the attached to the MD of the RMBI for circulation to all 18 RMBI Homes.

The statistic across all 18 Homes in paragraph three show how successful the RMBI and its dedicated staff have been in keeping COVID-19 at bay which quite remarkable.

Martin pursued this initiative entirely off his own bat without any prompting which shows his continuing dedication and support of the RMBI.

By David Barber, Chair of the Association of Friends, Chislehurst

Message from the Grand Master to the RMBI Staff

H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, K.G.



AS FROM - ST. JAMES'S PALACE
LONDON SW1A 1BQ

23rd June 2020

Dear Mr. Lloyd,

As Grand President of the RMBI, I wish to take this opportunity to thank you and your senior team for the excellent leadership you have shown in the management of our care homes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

It is particularly pleasing to hear how well the RMBI has done in protecting both residents and staff as a result of your decisive early actions, which included securing plentiful supplies of personal protective clothing.

It is a great achievement and a testament to the support and dedication of the care teams involved that seventy-four residents with positive Covid-19 tests have made a full recovery. However, our thoughts are with the families of the thirty-five residents who sadly passed away.

I have no doubt that the RMBI will emerge from this period a stronger and more resilient organisation and I would be most grateful if you could pass on my thanks and warmest good wishes to all members of staff for demonstrating such professionalism in the most challenging circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Mr. Mark Lloyd,
Managing Director,
RMBI Care Company

Blues News

Changes at the Top



The West Kent Light Blues has undergone a few changes at the top since the last issue of the 'West Kent News'.

Daniel Spencer APGM, has been appointed President of the West Kent Light Blues Club. Everybody is looking forward to working with Daniel, and the committee are excited to see what he has in-store. His energy and enthusiasm are renowned throughout the Province. With that in mind we must say a heartfelt farewell to Mark Eyles-Thomas DPGM. Mark has been the President of the Light Blues for 3 years and has successfully steered the ship during a time of transformation and development. During this time of renewal, Paul Holmes as Vice President, has also stepped down from his hands-on role. Paul has always been a reassuring presence for the committee and his advice and knowledge shall be missed. We wish both Mark and Paul well in their future masonic endeavours.

'The Man Behind The Apron-Lockdown Edition'

Whilst on the subject of Mark Eyles-Thomas, The Light Blues have produced a series of interviews with the DPGM. 'The Man Behind the Apron-Lockdown edition' is a look at the life and times of Mark E-T From his early life running around the fields of Kent, his love of cricket, Joining the Parachute Regiment as a boy soldier and his deployment to the Falklands at the age of 17. Starting a family and his time (so-far) in Freemasonry. This wonderful series of interviews are available on the [Light Blues Youtube channel](#).

Episode 1- Freemasonry

Episode 2- Growing Up, Cricket and Joining the Parachute Regiment

Episode 3- The Falklands War

Episode 4- Mount Longdon

Episode 5- Civie Street, Business and the ever-important Family

West Kent Light Blues

Supporting the Province of West Kent

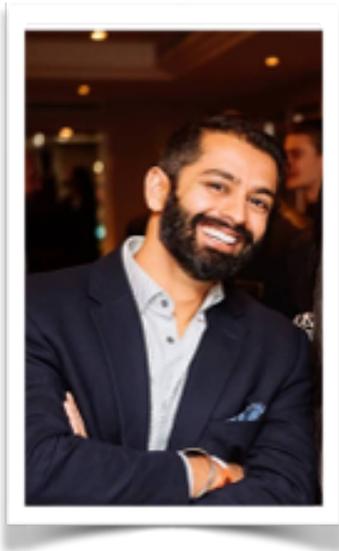
'A Miscellany of Masonic Curiosities'- the 2010 Cornwallis Lecture.

On Monday the 7th September, The Light Blues Hosted the 2010 Cornwallis Lecture, **'A Miscellany of Masonic Curiosities'**. Alan Wondzinski delivered a wonderful talk, in his Exploration of the 1st degree. He took us on a journey through many traditional and esoteric meanings of the 'initiation' ritual. This updated Lecture has had the inclusion of visual content and a few tweaks to the original script. Our Host for this evening was Rod Shepherd of St.Barnabas Lodge 6315 and the current Light Blues Membership Officer. Rod did an excellent job of hosting the lecture and his introduction of Alan was something to behold, he also did a sterling job during the Live Q&A. We were joined by many notable and distinguished freemasons of West Kent, Including The PGM, DPGM, a cohort of APGMs and a large number of the executive. In attendance, we also had a representative from the Grand Lodge of India and two members of HFAF. The Light blues would like to thank all who attended but especially our 'Dark Blues' for supporting the club and our Light Blues for engaging.

Meet the committee:

The Current Light blue committee consists of members with a variety of skills. If you would like to join the committee or have an idea for a future event, please get in touch.

Mark James	Chairman	chairman@wklightblues.uk
Karl Lawton	Communications Officer	communications@wklightblues.uk
Simon Brown	Secretary	secretary@wklightblues.uk
Liam Turner	Treasurer	treasurer@wklightblues.uk
Rod Shepherd	Membership Officer	membership@wklightblues.uk
Nigel Leek	Events Officer	events@wklightblues.uk
Fernando Caicedo	Assistant Comms	Fernando.Caicedo@rcpsych.ac.uk
Mark Gately	Centre Rep- Sidcup	m.gately@ntlworld.com
Kieran Smith	Centre Rep- Wilmington	kieran.smith@res-erp.com
Stephen Hugkulstone	Centre Rep- Bromley	stephenhugkulstone@gmail.com



Masonry means something to me, and I would like to think I mean something to it.

If we listen carefully in our ceremonies - beyond the well-intentioned whispers of support or the gentle chimes of our precisely-placed and valued jewels - there is a humble yet straightforward brilliance that outshines them all. Something far more profound and impactful that also equates to the recipe of brotherly love. It is the meaning beyond the words that pose in-depth questions. Somehow perfectly in-tune with our modern times - notions of higher morality, square conduct, level steps, and upright intentions that interpret much more than symbolism, but an intrinsic pathway in becoming a better person.

But as noble as they sound, one must also ask how we actively perform these ambitions outside of temple life and whether we should be changing the way we interact with our local communities to ensure we truly embody the message.

The role of charity and social support is a crucial component of our Lodge. It's a social obligation that we all have to one another. It goes beyond the mere outsourced donation of finances, but an active, purposeful engagement on issues that align with the greater good, and for us, it has to start locally.

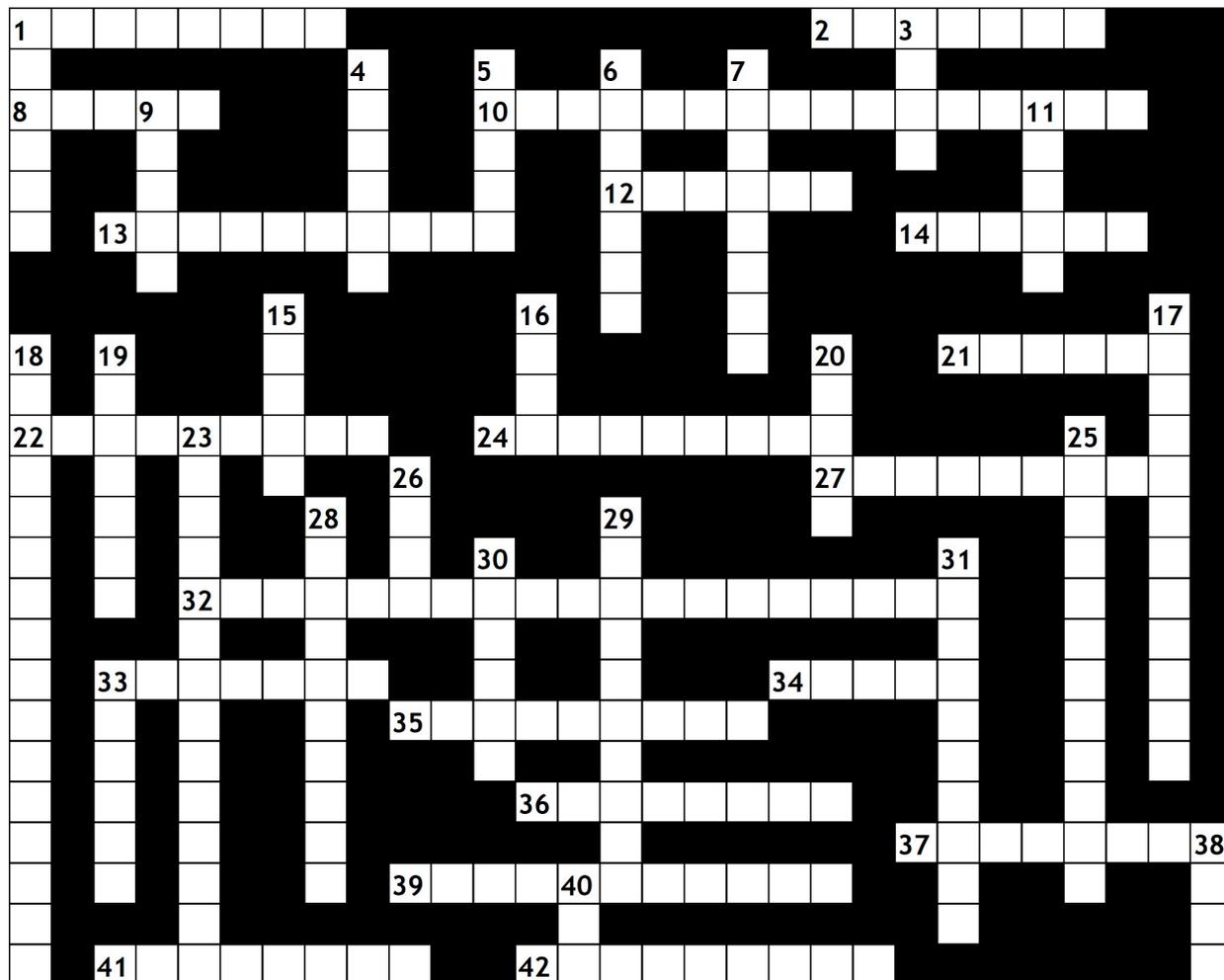
Having just taken over the exciting position of Charity Steward for Manor of Bexley (and rather big shoes to fill, left by my predecessor), it is apparent that we can create a world of good for the people around us. We plan to tackle the critical issues in society, elements that ignite a collective sense of purpose, and, importantly, positive, sustainable change. We are also implementing a difference in the way we work with communities. In addition to selected financial support, we recognise the talent of know-how and the positive experience that makes up our Lodge members - Brothers who live fascinating lives and have immense experience and expertise. As such, we will provide our know-how within the Lodge to support good causes through consultancy as well as donatable field hours of transferable knowledge. By square conduct and upright intentions back by practical measure, we look to support our wider community!

In summary, I leave you with a question. Do you mean something to Freemasonry that goes beyond rank, and more so, have your social contributions of active engagement been what it should?

We live in turbulent times, and I believe our fraternal values will be called upon to make social changes. I am proud to be part of a Lodge that is making monumental movement that will be a force for active good in the communities we serve and, importantly, a Fraternity that galvanizes the best in its members.

By Rajan Nazran - Charity Steward, Manor of Bexley 5977

Masonic Crossword



Across

- 1 He leads our prayers (8)
- 2 Write on metal (7)
- 8 Our columns represent these (5)
- 10 It is the form of a lodge (16)
- 12 A few words (6)
- 13 One of our columns represent this (10)
- 14 I will not write those (6)
- 21 The divine attribute of Solomon (6)
- 22 "Serves to ***** the principles of piety and virtue" (9)
- 24 "The covering of a Freemasons lodge is a *****" (9)
- 27 Beginning of prayer. (9)
- 32 Divides the day (10,4,5)
- 33 Also known as Jedidiah (7)

- 34 To whittle away (5)
- 35 The tracing board, rough and perfect ashlar are considered this. (9)
- 36 Weapon of choice for the inner guard (8)
- 37 Retreat would prove equally fatal (5,3)
- 39 Knock off all superfluities (6,5)
- 41 " ***** by the improper solicitation" (8)
- 42 Describe, set forth. (9)

Down

- 1 Working tool (6)
- 3 Prove a brother by night (4)
- 4 You do this before entering a lodge (6)
- 5 A mason wears one (5)
- 6 They remind us of the four cardinal virtues (7)
- 7 Three of these in a lodge (8)
- 9 In whom do you put your trust (2,3)
- 11 One of our columns represent this (5)
- 15 He was a King (5)
- 16 When we make a lodge secure (4)
- 17 "What we consider the three great though ***** lights" (12)
- 18 "Called upon to make a *****" (5,11)
- 19 Not modern (7)
- 20 Divide (5)
- 23 A place for new masons (5,5,4)
- 25 Some candidates are prepared with these. ***** (7,5)
- 26 Mentioned numerous times during the opening of a lodge (4)
- 28 Hiram's monarchy (4,2,4)
- 29 First step (10)
- 30 Our wardens handle these (6)
- 31 Has an allusion to the number of Freemasons, to make a lodge perfect (5,5)
- 33 A true and proper sign by which to know a freemason (6)
- 38 Doves fly forwards (4)
- 40 Hail eternal (3)