



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3 WELCOME

A message from the Editor

4 PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE

Updates and news from our Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Executive Team

18 PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS

Message from the PGM on Provincial Executive movements, and a bit of background on our newest appointments

20 ROYAL ARCH SPECIAL

In this edition we hear from a Range of Royal Arch Masons, talking about Chapter and why you should join today!

36 TEDDIES APPEAL NEWS

News from the Teddies Loving Care Appeal, supporting Snap and more information on how to support.

39 SPORTS ASSOCIATION: GOLF

Information about recent news from the world of Masonic Golf, and details about how to take part yourself.

41 IN MEMORY - LODGE 6978

On Thursday 8th December 2022, St Vincent Lodge No. 6978 returned its warrant. Read their story of rich history and great memories.

A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Brethren All,

Welcome to our December 2022 issue of West Kent News.

This edition strongly highlights the activities of the Holy Royal Arch (HRA) in our Province, and a fascinating interview with James March, Deputy Grand Superintendent, expressing his aspirations for the Order. Many members of the HRA Executive have made outstanding contributions, to hopefully, encourage members in the Craft who are yet to take this exciting step in their masonic journeys to consider taking this path.

Many other contributions by well-known members of our Province are included, and I hope you enjoy reading this issue.

The Provincial Communications Team wishes you the very best for the Christmas season, and a healthy and happy New Year to you, your families and friends.

I look forward to hearing from you with any news or plans you or your Lodge might have in the coming year. Please contact your Provincial Communications Team at communications@westkentmasons.org.uk.

Kindest and Fraternal regards,
Adrian Grant



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WEST KENT
MASONS





A MESSAGE FROM THE PROVINCIAL GRANDMASTER AND **GRAND** **SUPERINTENDENT:** MARK DOUGLAS ESTAUGH

Brethren and Companions,

As we approach the end of another busy year, it is once again time for our end-of-year edition of West Kent News and as we look back on all that we have achieved, I cannot but conclude this year with a sense of renewed optimism based on all our activities during the last twelve months.

The sad passing of Her Majesty The Queen, after 70 years of dedicated and devoted service, was acutely felt throughout the Craft, and we have also mourned the loss of several prominent members of our Province, whom we have lost awhile.

Despite these sad moments, we can also reflect on a number of "Provincial Highs" during the year, and must express my very grateful thanks to the Executive team in the Craft and Royal Arch, who have supported me loyally and diligently in trying to encourage the successful growth and development of our Lodges and Chapters.

I particularly want to mention the contribution made by Mark Eyles-Thomas, who stood down as Deputy Provincial Grand Master earlier this year and Paul Christopher, who stands down as Secretary – Scribe E at the end of the year, before assuming his new responsibilities. Both have been instrumental in the reform and development of our Province and the modernisation of so many of our functions and processes, and we will always be grateful for their superb service in their respective roles. I wish their successors, Ian Gallehawk and Roy Huntley every success.

I was delighted to see so many of you at our

combined Provincial Craft and Royal Arch meetings in May – where we had over 940 people In the Temple – and at the additional celebratory Honours events in the Craft and Royal Arch, which we undertook whilst supporting Knole Lodge at its sesquicentenary and the Stewards' Chapter at the Passing of the Veils spectacular.

We have almost concluded the review of Provincial Honours in the Craft and the Royal Arch, and the team has been tireless in its "Talent Management" activities during the year. Letters of appointment and promotion will be mailed later this month, which I hope will encourage the recipients to greater commitment to their Lodges and Chapters.

Following the restructure of the Royal Arch, in order to bring the activities in the Craft and Royal Arch more closely into alignment, I am very optimistic that we will see a further growth in the percentage of our Craft members in this special Order – much work is being undertaken at Supreme Grand Chapter in this regard and we look forward to the launch of "Archway", the Royal Arch equivalent of the Members' Pathway.

This month, at the Quarterly Communication, will see the launch of the new UGLE strategy for 2022 and beyond, which will of course be implemented throughout our Province and I am confident that this will encourage us to focus even more actively in the development of the Craft and the Royal Arch in West Kent.

As always, Membership Development remains our singular over-riding Provincial priority, and our close working relationship with our Lodges and Chapters is helping to achieve excellent results in this important area. I remain delighted to see that many summonses report new initiates and Exaltees, more joining and re-joining members, which evidences that our membership attraction measures are working. Coupled with the ever-decreasing number of resignations we are seeing year-on-year, we are now seeing a return to positive membership growth for our Province and trust that this will be a trend which will continue for years to come.

Despite the challenging circumstances which prevail and affect us all, our performance towards the 2026 West Kent Festival is extremely encouraging and Roland Stokes and his team are to be congratulated on all that they have achieved with your support. We have also been hugely active in the Community and have brought Freemasonry into the Public's eye, through the work of Steve Rozier, our Provincial Charity Steward and his team, together with our ever-busy Comms Team, who manage so many of our publications and external events which we attend across our Province.

Concluding another busy but interesting and rewarding year, my thoughts turn to expressing my grateful thanks to each and every one of you for your contribution to date, and hope that you, your loved ones and families, enjoy a well-earned rest during our Christmas festivities.



West Kent Masons
Gift over £5500
That's nearly 800 items
for Children in need.



THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: IAN GALLEHAWK

As we now face the end of the year and wonder where the time has gone, I have actually had the chance to conduct official visits to a number of Lodges. As many of us would agree, visiting is one of the most enjoyable aspects of Masonry and, for me, this has certainly been the case since taking on my new role. I have been consistently impressed by the commitment shown by Lodges and individual members to grow our Lodges into the future.

Our journey out of the pandemic has been slow and is not yet complete. With that in mind, the aim for some time has been to flatline our numbers by the end of 2022 so that we enter 2023 with the potential to return to a sustained period of growth. The effort put in to meeting this challenge has been outstanding. As I write this article, we are on track to show a record low as regards losses to our Province for all reasons for 2022. Many of those losses came from closing Lodges and it is excellent that many members will be returning to our Province once ballots have been taken. Our initiation rate is also slowly building. With a full month to go we have so far in 2022 initiated 105 new members into our Province. With a good number of initiations already scheduled for December, that number is set to increase. We are now almost at that flatline. There is every reason to believe that 2023 will see our Province begin the process of growing into the future but this will not happen unless you, each and every one of you, work together to ensure that we attract the right people into our wonderful, vibrant Order.

As I travel around, there is something that becomes ever more obvious, that is that the most successful Lodges in terms of attraction and retention have embraced the Members' Pathway. I recently attended the initiation of a candidate, who came to us as an unsponsored enquiry. I congratulated a member on the way the Lodge had embraced the Members' Pathway and was working to take itself forward. He replied, "it isn't rocket science". I can think of no better way to sum it up. The latest UGLE National Digital marketing Campaign is now well underway and we are seeing an increase in unsponsored enquiries. If you want your Lodge to be eligible for the placement of unsponsored enquiries, please ensure that you have embraced the Members' Pathway. The Provincial Team is a phone call away and is there to guide and advise. Contact details may be found on [our members section of the website](#).

As Christmas approaches, we will all be thinking of more than just our Province. There is no doubt that we are emerging from two years that have been challenging on both a Provincial and Lodge level. I am immensely proud of the way you have collectively risen to the challenges and positioned our Province to move forward.

But for now, please relax with your loved ones, enjoy the Festive Season and come back ready to make 2023 a year for us all to remember. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year.



Sidcup Remembrance Parade



ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: ANDREW WADDINGTON

Well, what a start to the season! It has been extremely heartening to see Initiations coming into Lodges in Group 2 and with more planned. This is absolutely fantastic and I really am proud of you all for doing your bit, to not only grow your Lodges, but to make sure that our Province and the whole of the Fraternity benefits.

The Members' Pathway has a proven track record and those Lodges that have taken on board the elements of it that best suit their needs are starting to show those green shoots of growth. Of course, not all the growth is from attracting new members or making themselves as Lodges attractive to prospective external candidates. We are also seeing a return to Freemasonry by many previously lost.

Indeed I have seen one Lodge, I will not name them for fear of embarrassing them all, go from 14 members to 17 members in one night, with another Initiation planned for this month and a further 4 possible joining members and another initiation in early 2023. This is all because they have taken the initiative, engaged with parts of the Members' Pathway that they chose as being most relevant to them and gone for it. First Initiation in 9 years and what a fantastic ceremony. They know who they are, and they should be rightly very proud of their achievement.

Sadly though, for all of the positives, we are still seeing resignations that with careful management by their Fellows

and Brethren, might have been kept as members.

Retention of our current membership is as important as new members. We still have many Brethren who are nervous about returning.

Absenteeism is as damaging to our organisation as failure to attract new members. I would urge all of you to reach out to a Brother you have not seen for a while, especially at this time of year when people tend to struggle anyway. Not only because of personal circumstances or loss and loneliness but also because of the dark, cold, wet nights. Do not leave it your Lodge Almoner to do it. The care and welfare of each of us is down to us all. We are a society that prides itself on benevolence, charity, respect and caring for others. We really need to step up and do the right thing for each other.

In this way I would sincerely hope that those absent from our meetings may start to feel that sense of belonging and worth that would encourage them to return to our assemblies. The offer of a lift for those less mobile couldn't hurt either. We are all almoners in our own right. Out of sight should not be out of mind.

As the Assistant Provincial Grand Master for Group 2 I have over these past few months met many Masons both experienced and those who are less experienced, but nonetheless committed.

I cannot tell you how humbling it is to meet with you as I visit the Lodges in Group 2, dine with you and to take part in your ceremonies, celebratory events and just be part of something good.

I have been privileged to see some outstanding work in the various Lodges I have visited and that has given me hope that we are getting back on track after a difficult few years. If we could just boost our attendances at our meetings that would be the icing on the proverbial cake. It is a shame that some of you are missing out on some wonderful displays of Freemasonry at its finest. Make contact with your Lodges too, communication should be a two-way process.

I have also been privileged to represent our Province in the Community at the Sevenoaks Remembrance Day Parade with Lodges, Brethren, and Companions from Sevenoaks as well as at the Provinces of Berkshire and Hertfordshire at their Annual Investitures.

Westwood Lodge No 8046



Official Visit 23 November 2022



ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: PETER BROOKER

May I first of all wish you and your families a very happy Christmas and good wishes for a successful and healthy New Year.

2022 has been a year of recovery and getting back to the things we do best. It's been an absolute joy to witness all the Initiations and other workings at the Lodge meetings I have attended. I am certainly looking forward to presenting a great many Grand Lodge Certificates during 2023.

It's simply amazing how Freemasons have risen to the challenges of the past few years and have never faltered in their efforts to support charities and worthy causes located within West Kent. In addition, Lodges and individuals continue to support our 2026 Festival in order to provide aid and assistance at a national, local and global level.

Merry Christmas and I look forward to working with you in 2023.





ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND
MASTER: GRAHAM RAVEN

With the first third of this masonic season drawing to a close, I have got to say what a pleasure it has been to get back to the new "normal" and attending meetings where the temples are filling to their pre- covid numbers and Brethren are enjoying their masonry. It is the enjoyment of our meetings which should be the driver for us to get out there and find new members to join us in that pleasure. Some Brethren are still reluctant to return so let us make sure that we are engaging with them, and encourage them to return and join us in our activities.

I am lucky enough to be the Group 1 APGM with excellent Lodges, and have been made most welcome when attending meetings. All of them showing their talent, and displaying outstanding work. On just about every occasion, I have managed to add to my daily advancement of masonic knowledge.

The take up of engagement in the Members' Pathway has been increasing and is having the desired effect of getting new members, with some lodges excelling themselves. Eglantine, Lullingstone, and Eynsford Castle Lodges to mention a few, and I am sure they would be happy to share their successes with other Lodges who are struggling to recruit. A big thanks to the Membership Team for their continued support and hard work.

Brethren, continue to enjoy your masonry and I wish you and yours all the greetings of the season and wishing you all a healthy and prosperous New Year.





ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: DAVID HUNTLEY

Well here I am, the newest Assistant Provincial Grand Master (APGM), to join the Provincial Craft Executive (representing Group 4), to assist our hard working Provincial Grand Master (PGM) running his Province. It really is a tremendous honour to do so, and one I do not underestimate the significance of at all.

Before continuing, I would like to remember Daniel Spencer, my predecessor as APGM - my wife Gillian, Daniel's partner Gareth and I, were socialising on the night he sadly passed away so unexpectedly, a tremendous loss to us all.

Daniel was a hero having saved a number of lives, and dedicating himself to helping others - he is very much missed by us all. I am truly honoured to continue the excellent work he began with our Lodges in Group 4 and I hope, that perhaps Daniel might be pleased I now wear the chain he proudly wore before me.

The PGM is demanding of his team and leaves you in no doubt of what the responsibilities and expectations are of an APGM. An APGM carries out many visits in his group during his tenure. This is the tip of an iceberg regarding the demands of the work involved, this sometimes means I do not leave my Office before 9pm on those evenings when I have no meetings to attend.

There is a terrific responsibility attached to the role and one I am enjoying more and more when I see the results that hard work and teamwork can produce for us all when we row in the same direction.

In due course, I am looking forward to connecting with every Lodge in Group 4, and I hope you will find me approachable and willing to assist you all in achieving the success under the leadership and direction from our PGM - it would give me such satisfaction to see our Province continue to grow and reverse the decline we have seen in our membership numbers over the last couple of decades.

By far, the most enjoyable part of the role for me to date has been meeting so many wonderful people. I never cease to be amazed at the hard working and decent members we have in our ranks and, believe me, none of you goes unnoticed and are greatly appreciated by the whole of our Provincial Executive.

My grateful thanks go to each and every one of you, I look forward to meeting more of you as I continue my visits in our Group.





PROVINCIAL GRAND TREASURER:
PETER SAWYER

For some considerable time, the banking industry has made significant efforts to encourage a more automated system for financial transactions, particularly in the case of businesses.

All companies and those unincorporated organisations like our own with a sizeable turnover, are subjected to increasing levels of bank charges, particularly where payment is made to the organisation by cheque. Receiving payment by cheque can also incur additional costs, due to the time taken to visit the bank, which can be located quite a long distance away following the closure of many branches. Parking can also be an issue together with increasing parking charges. Therefore, electronic banking for all organisations provides for the timely receipt of monies, reduced costs and administrative convenience.

Since encouraging Lodge and Chapter Treasurers to adopt electronic banking the response has been reasonable. However, if all units took advantage of this method the workload and costs savings to our Province would be significant. Furthermore, with the forthcoming introduction of the Hermes system it would benefit UGLE, as well as our Province.

Under Rule 153(a) Book of Constitutions, electronic banking is permitted, subject to the Treasurer being the operative and a relevant resolution being passed in open Lodge, or Chapter.

I would like to thank all those Treasurers who use electronic banking, as their means of payment and it be would greatly appreciate if all other Lodge and Chapter Treasurers took the appropriate steps to adopt the same procedure. I would be pleased to offer advice, or guidance for units to achieve this aim.

In these times of increasing costs, I speak for many, if not all Masonic Centres, that the timeliness of invoice payments is critical, particularly when the invoice includes dining costs. I am aware that some Treasurers seem to believe that delaying payment for an invoice, which includes dining costs is acceptable. This is certainly not the case and cannot be tolerated by Masonic Centres, as they incur food costs prior to the event and almost immediately afterwards are required to pay catering staff. Our Masonic Centres have and will continue to face significant financial challenges and therefore on their behalf and to ensure the survival of our Centres, I would respectfully request that all invoices are settled immediately they are received.

Finally, I am always very happy to hear from any Treasurer who may require guidance or advice, so please do not hesitate to contact me on provgtreas@westkentmasons.org.uk.





THE PROVINCIAL SECRETARIAT CHANGES
PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST KENT
PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF WEST KENT



From the Provincial Grand Master / Grand Superintendent

Expansion of West Kent's Secretariat Team
 Effective 1st January 2023

Dear Brother / Companion

You will be well aware of the number of additional initiatives and special projects which our Provincial Office has had to undertake on our behalf, together with the automation of a number of existing activities, as we modernise and upgrade our existing processes and procedures.

As a consequence, in the interest of succession planning and order to increase the effectiveness of our provincial administration still further, I have decided to make changes to our Secretariat, as follows:

Existing team changes

Paul Stephen Christopher - PAGDC, ProvGSec-ProvGScribe E, Holder of the Invicta Award

After nearly five hugely successful years as our Provincial Grand Secretary - Scribe E, Paul will now undertake the role of Provincial Head of Special Projects. Reporting to me, and working closely with the Provincial Secretariat, he will assist with optimising a number of our existing activities and act as the lead on new provincial initiatives and projects.

Roy Huntley - ProvAGSec-AsstGScribeE

Having been our Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary since 1 January 2019, I am delighted that Roy has accepted my invitation to become our new Provincial Grand Secretary - Provincial Grand Scribe E.

He will oversee and manage all of our existing activities to ensure that our administration and support offered to Lodges and Chapters continues to operate as efficiently as it ever has under Paul's tenure.

Nicholas Graham Jenkins - SLGR, PPSGD

Having worked in our Provincial Office since 2019 in support roles, Nick will become our Assistant Provincial Grand Secretary - Assistant Grand Scribe E and Hermes Champion. He will support Roy in the management of the Provincial Office and all its activities.

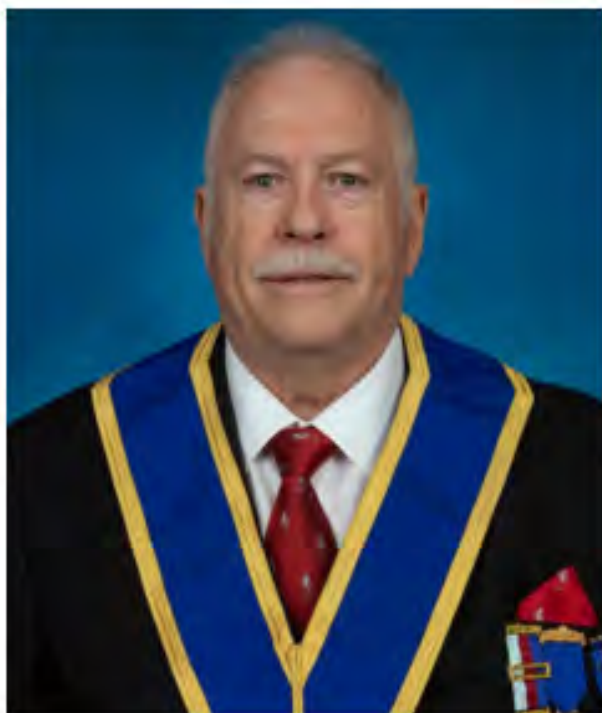
New opportunities

In order to increase the resilience of the existing team based on these additional activities, further new opportunities will be announced in due course, and expressions of interest will be invited from members with the relevant skills as they are announced.

I trust that you will join me in thanking Paul for his outstanding contribution to date as our Provincial Grand Secretary and to wish him, Roy and Nick every success in their new roles.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Mark Estaugh
Provincial Grand Master
Grand Superintendent



Roy Huntley, Provincial Grand
Secretary Designate

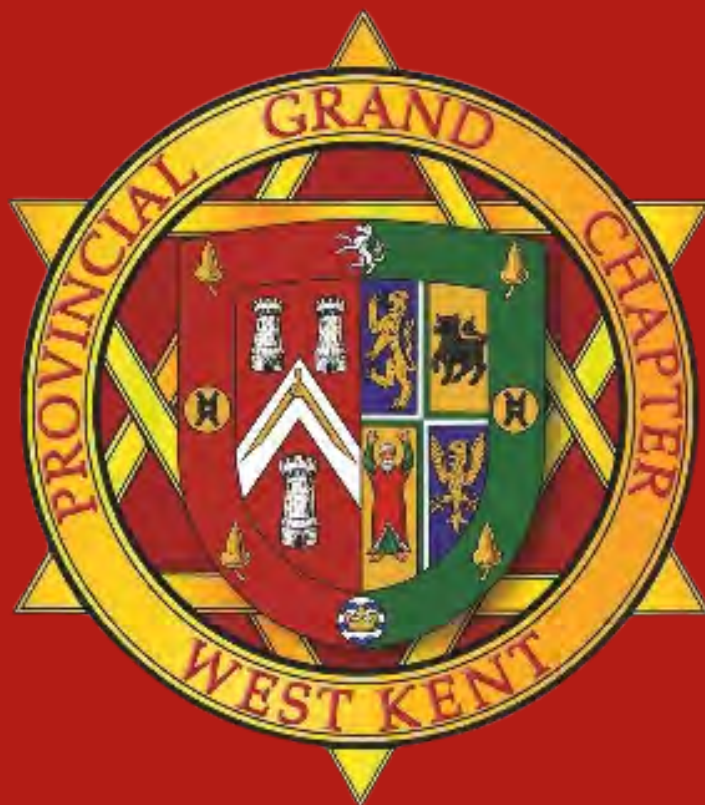


Nick Jenkins, Provincial Assistant Grand
Secretary Designate



ROYAL ARCH

SPECIAL EDITION





THE EDITOR'S INTERVIEW WITH JAMES MARSH, DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT

Recently, I met up with James Marsh, our Deputy Grand Superintendent at Oakley House, and I had a fantastic time with him discussing the Holy Royal Arch (HRA) in our Province. James has now been in his role for just over a year, and I thought it was time I put a few questions to him, and get his take on the direction of travel for our HRA.

After your first year in Office, what are your thoughts on the health of the Holy Royal Arch in West Kent?

This Province is extremely fortunate, and we should be grateful for the work carried out by my predecessor the Late Brian Saunders. He worked tirelessly in promoting the Royal Arch

– he was a fantastic ambassador, who was respected both in West Kent and further afield. Because of his and previous Provincial Principals' hard work, the Royal Arch in West Kent is in good shape. Currently, we have 42% of our Brethren as Royal Arch Companions, the numbers of Brethren that we are exalting into the Royal Arch is encouraging, and we are now getting a grip of the controllable losses.

However, I recognise that we will have to work hard to build on the foundations set by Brian if we are to realise the membership aspirations of our Grand Superintendent – but we have a good team in place to do so, and a very supportive Province of dedicated Companions.

What are your aspirations for your tenure?

The Royal Arch is a beautiful degree with arguably the most impressive and colourful ceremony for its new members, I want as many members of our Province as possible to witness this magnificent spectacle. But this is not just about the number of new Companions; I want our Province to lead the way in nurturing all our Companions so that they continue to enjoy their Royal Arch masonry for many years to come.

How does West Kent compare with other HRA Provinces across the UK in terms of membership and engagement?

Regarding membership, we compare favourably – especially when placed

against those Provinces of similar size to us. However, as I mentioned earlier, we must not rest on our laurels. Our Grand Superintendent has set stretching membership targets because he wants West Kent to be the best in all areas of Freemasonry – I am proud to say that we are leading the way in many areas and certainly a good way along the road of matching the best in others.

As for RA engagement, this is another area in which we are working very hard; the Pro First Grand Principal, Jonathan Spence spoke about this recently, and he gave clear direction that engaging our Brethren is to be a priority. Again, we in West Kent have already been working on this; the Grand Superintendent has authorised several innovations to engage our Brethren early in their masonic career, and to embed Royal Arch engagement across the Province – these will be promulgated in the New Year.

In my opinion, you have a strong HRA Executive, what changes have been made to bolster the membership?

We have been blessed in the Royal Arch in West Kent for many years with talented and experienced Companions in the senior roles, and the current team of Principals and their Assistants is no different; they are all keen, able, and well qualified to carry out their roles. The difference we have now is that the senior team have been given detailed and specific roles in support of the Grand Superintendent's membership strategy. They have also forged much closer working relationships with the senior members of the Craft Executive to ensure that the Craft and Royal Arch in West Kent will work together seamlessly.

A big innovation in this Province is the introduction of a dedicated RA membership development team who will focus on membership attraction, retention, and re-engagement. Vince Lethbridge has been appointed by the Grand Superintendent to manage this team; he has also brought in three very experienced and motivated Companions to lead on the three strands of work of the membership team. I am unaware of another Province that has taken such a bold and innovative measure.

In addition to the instigation of the RA membership team, the Grand Superintendent has tasked me to produce detailed Terms of Reference for the new roles of Lodge RA Liaison Officer, and Chapter Membership Officer (more on this early in the New Year). I must here thank Tony Harvey for his assistance in the production of the Liaison Officer TORs.

Looking at the support teams within our Province, how do you envisage that the West Kent Light Blues Club might be able to play a part in the future success in our HRA?

The Light Blues Club is a rich vein of potential talent and prospective Royal Arch Companions that we must carefully nurture; this is why we have asked the Provincial RA Mentor to engage with the members of the Club.

When you arrive at the end of your term in Office, how will you measure your success?

I suppose one would always measure this by numbers – for instance is the RA membership higher than at the start of a tenure. But I hope that by the end of my tenure, West Kent will be a Province where the Royal Arch is

introduced to a new member at the very start of his Masonic career – even at the first interview with his prospective Lodge members. Further, I hope that the Craft and Royal Arch will be so closely aligned that a Master Mason's journey from the Craft into the Royal Arch will be a completely seamless process, and that becoming a Royal Arch Companion will be 'the norm' within our Province.

To achieve this ambition, we must not be frightened to innovate, we must be brave enough to support and develop the things that work, and to stop doing those things that do not work, we must make room to do things differently, and to make these improvements without losing our wonderful heritage.

To do this we are absolutely reliant on our members' enthusiasm and support – I am proud to say that in West Kent, enthusiasm and support has never been in question.



THE GREATNESS OF A
COMMUNITY IS MOST
ACCURATELY MEASURED BY
THE COMPASSIONATE
ACTIONS OF ITS MEMBERS.



2nd PROVINCIAL GRAND
PRINCIPAL: BIPINCHANDRA PATEL

"Where has the last year gone?" These were the first words in an email from a dear friend inviting me to his lodge meeting recently. I ask myself the same question, where indeed has the year gone?

Since the resumption of our masonic activities, the Royal Arch (RA) team under the guidance of the Deputy Grand Superintendent has been busy implementing our Grand Superintendent's strategy, creating and putting in place a membership team and processes to carry forward the strategy, which is to get the membership of the RA to be at least 50% of the Craft membership. The most important link in achieving this target is you, Brethren - nothing is more effective than the personal contact you have with your fellow members and your invitation to join the RA. The membership team and I are always available to assist in developing links between Lodges and Chapters to attract new members.

The membership team is also working with Lodges, with the support of the Visiting Officers and the APGMs, to promote the RA to their members. "Archway" - a resource portal, under construction by UGLE, will be available sometime in late 2023 to early 2024 to help drive this strategy.

We have all come through the Pandemic, thinking it was the end of our troubles. Unfortunately, we now have to deal with economic uncertainty, financial difficulty, cost of living and energy crisis. We are all facing some of the most challenging times of our lives. The PGM/GSupt has set aside funds to assist Brethren and Companions, so please approach your Almoners in the first instance for help and guidance, if you so require.

I have met a lot of you in the past, and many more since being appointed as 2nd Provincial Grand Principal. I have enjoyed visiting our Chapters and look forward to the coming year where I will be able to meet more of you within our Province or at the Provincial Craft and Royal Arch meeting on 9th June 2023 at Great Queen Street.

On a personal note, I have had an enjoyable summer of golf and enjoyed meeting some of you at the West Kent Open which was held at Redlibbets Golf Course, and I am looking forward to the coming year when the West Kent Masonic Golf Association will have a full diary of golfing events. If you play golf and are interested in representing our Province then please contact me on 2PGP@westkentmasons.org.uk.



ONE OF THE MOST
IMPORTANT THINGS YOU
CAN DO ON THIS EARTH IS
TO LET PEOPLE KNOW THEY
ARE NOT ALONE.



3rd PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: TONY BURD

Reflecting back over the last six months since I had the honour of being invested as your 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, it has been a busy, intense, but very satisfying and rewarding period. A lot has been achieved in a relatively short time.

A key and incredibly important element for me has been meeting Companions. I have always been a very social person, I enjoy talking to people as some of you will know, and my Royal Arch role enables me to do this, which I relish! When I was Deputy Director of Ceremonies and escort coordinator for the Royal Arch, meeting with the active Provincial Officers of the year was an immensely enjoyable experience. That enjoyment then continued in my role as Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals and now continues as 3rd Provincial Grand Principal.

Another part of the role which makes me feel very proud, is to be able to represent our Province at other Provincial Royal Arch meetings and find out what they are doing in their Provinces.

Prior to my retirement nearly six years ago, I spent my entire working life of forty-six years in commercial management in the construction industry. I always thought myself lucky to have had a profession that not only did I enjoy, but every day was different, every project was different and I got paid to do it.

That feeling of satisfaction and achievement now continues with me in the Royal Arch, well, apart from the paid bit, but you can't have everything!

During my working life I learned that for any organisation to function and succeed, you must have effective management in place. It is no different for Freemasonry. The CEO for us, the Grand Superintendent (GSupt.), determines and sets the strategy which is implemented and delivered by the Directors, for us, the Royal Arch (RA) Executive. Any organisation not following this basic format will soon find itself in trouble, that also applies to changes and development of new systems; change is always necessary, remaining static will be at your peril!

As part of our forward looking and joined up thinking, forging close links between the Craft and Royal Arch, being two elements of a single item, the RA has adopted some of the Craft's successful changes. For instance, the days of having a Representative turning up at your Chapter meeting, once a year, never to be seen again, is gone. The Grand Superintendent has introduced RA Visiting Officers, each of whom generally have three Chapters allocated to them to attend, get to know and advise.

Again, as part of mirroring those important roles in the Craft, the RA Province now has a Membership Development Officer, Vince Lethbridge, who with his team, will focus on and

assist Chapters with member attraction, retention and retrieval. With the Provincial Membership Team in place, we are now able to also introduce the same system on membership as in the Craft, so each Chapter should appoint a Membership Officer; this is seen as an integral and important role in the Chapter.

These changes together with the new Royal Arch Liaison Officer, which each Lodge will have, will ensure that between the Lodge Membership Officer, Lodge Royal Arch Liaison Officer and the Chapters' Membership Officer, there will be good communications between Lodges and Chapters, there should be no gaps – this way, a Brother's journey into the Royal Arch will be carefully managed.

With all this in place it should therefore make the GSupt.'s aim of having at least 50% of Craft members being in the Royal Arch a little easier to attain.

It has been an exciting six months with much change, which has necessitated the roles of the two Provincial Grand Principals and the two Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals being modified. We have a bright future and I look forward to being part of it and seeing it through.

Please contact me with anything I may be able to assist by emailing to 3PGP@westkentmasons.org.uk.

**I'VE BEEN WATCHING YOU.
YOU'RE ON MY LIST TO JOIN
ROYAL ARCH NEXT YEAR!**





HEAD OF ROYAL ARCH MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: VINCE LETHBRIDGE

‘From Initiation to Exaltation, the complete journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry’

‘Pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch’ - Book of Constitutions.

Brethren I would urge those Master Masons who are not yet Royal Arch (RA) Companions to seriously consider joining a RA Chapter, it is the culmination of a Master Mason’s Masonic journey – and for those Brethren who feel there is something still missing after their Raising, the Royal Arch will complete this learning.

I was both surprised and very pleased to have been asked by the Grand Superintendent to lead his Royal Arch Membership Team; he has set the team some tough targets to meet, but with your support, we hope to achieve them.

One of the first things the membership team looked at was the current role of the Lodge RA Representative. To achieve the GSupt.’s target of bringing more members into the RA, it has been decided that a new office of Royal Arch Liaison Officer or RALO for short, is to be instigated in all Lodges – this new office will replace the RA Representative office and will have a focussed set of terms of reference. The GSupt. sees this office as key in raising awareness of the Royal Arch.

The RA Membership team has been given a wide remit by the GSupt. Amongst our duties, we will assist Lodges and Chapters to promote a wider and better understanding of the Royal Arch and stimulate interest in it and of course increase the membership. My team will also be focussing on understanding why some Companions leave the RA and we will endeavour to reinvigorate lapsed Companions to assist them to join a Chapter which suits them.

As I have already stated, the Lodge RALO will have a pivotal role to play. When appointed, he will be contacting those members of his Lodge who are not currently in the Royal Arch to explain the benefits of this wonderful order, but in the interim if you have any questions, queries or if you require further information about the Royal Arch please feel free to contact either me or any of my fellow Royal Arch Membership colleagues on RAMembership@westkentmasons.org.uk.

I look forward to meeting you at a Royal Arch meeting in the near future.



ROYAL ARCH MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: JAMES ASHMORE

As a member of the Provincial Royal Arch Membership Development Team, I am personally responsible for attraction and growth. We have a target of increasing RA take-up in West Kent from the current 42% to 50% in the short term and 60% within 4 years.

In the past the Royal Arch has often been perceived as an addition to, rather than an integral part of Pure, Antient Freemasonry. This misconception is now being proactively addressed. The Master Mason, particularly those that have been Raised relatively recently, is now rightly told that RA is the natural and essential fourth step in completing his Masonic journey.

There are innumerable benefits for Master Masons that accrue from joining Royal Arch. Here are just a few of them

- Fun! More friends, more involvement, more enjoyment
- A fascinating, beautiful and colourful Masonic experience

- Open to you right now-you don't need to have gone through the Chair of your lodge
- A wonderful path to further knowledge
- Similar to Craft in some ways but hugely different in others-aren't you curious?
- For you to progress with comfortably at your own rate
- Supported in West Kent by a dedicated Membership Team to facilitate your enjoyment and success in the right Chapter for you
- An essential qualification for many other Masonic Orders you may wish to join
- Now the only way you can achieve Active Rank in Craft

Our Team is putting in place a framework to ensure that

- Every new Master Mason is provided with all the information and support they need to join a Chapter that is suitable for them at an early juncture

- Every Lodge appoints a RA Liaison Officer (RALO) who will personally conduct the MM through the above, right up to Exaltation-this is a higher profile and more accountable role than the old LRAR
- Every Chapter appoints a Chapter Membership Officer (CMO) to liaise with their feeder lodge/s RALO and ensure each Exalte is fully supported and integrated successfully into his Chapter.

We will act as the facilitator between the RALOs, new MMs, CMOs and other stakeholders to provide rapid and sure progress.

This process will commence early in the New Year, and we look forward to working with you to achieve our objectives.

Meanwhile, if you require further information, please contact me at

ProvRAMO@westkentmasons.org.uk



PROVINCIAL GRAND MENTOR:
ALAN WONDZINSKI

Supreme Grand Chapter has recently sanctioned the appointment of Royal Arch Provincial Grand Mentors and I am privileged to have been honoured with that Office by our Grand Superintendent. The office sits quite comfortably alongside my role within the Royal Arch Membership Development Team where I have specific responsibility for membership retention. The Grand Superintendent, in his capacity as Provincial Grand Master, has designated West Kent a 'Pathway Province'. The implementation of the Members' Pathway by the Craft Membership Team has already achieved considerable success and we now aim to replicate that success in the Holy Royal Arch.

The Royal Arch Committee of General Purposes has appointed a Strategic Working Party to develop a system for the implementation of a similar approach to membership development in the Royal Arch to be known, most appropriately, as 'Through the Archway' and I eagerly await the outcome of their deliberations.

It's generally acknowledged that one of the prime reasons a Companion leaves the Royal Arch, particularly during the early years of his membership, is because of a lack of understanding of the ceremony. I intend to address this in two ways:

First, to continue the Added Theatre Demonstrations. The demonstrations have proved to be immensely popular and show how a greater understanding of the ceremony can be attained by the use of the Sojourners' Readings and the Setting the Scene document. The demonstrations also show how the ritual can be easily and seamlessly shared, reducing the burden of learning on specific individuals and involving more Companions in the ceremonies. And finally, they show how the ceremony can be brought alive by the addition of a little theatre. Several Chapters have already expressed their intention to adopt some of our recommendations in their own ceremonies, and I'm sure they will find they enrich their ceremonies and make them more comprehensible. If you wish to host an Added Theatre Demonstration in your Chapter, please contact me at the email address below.

Inevitably, the demonstrations will eventually run their course and when they do, I intend to introduce other initiatives, such as the recent Passing the Veils ceremony, in an endeavour to enhance the member experience for all West Kent Royal Arch Companions.

My second objective is to encourage Chapters to appoint an experienced Companion to assume the role of Chapter Mentor who will guide the younger Companions through the ceremony explaining the ritual and the message it seeks to convey. Much of this can be found in the Exalte's Guide and the Royal Arch papers and nuggets on Solomon. Incidentally, it is probably only a matter of time until the Chapter Mentor becomes a collared office in the Royal Arch, as it now is in the Craft.

So Companions, the future is bright for the Royal Arch in West Kent and I look forward to accompanying you 'Through the Archway'. Please contact me on RAmentor@westkentmasons.org.uk.



UNION WATERLOO CHAPTER No. 13: NANDO CAICEDO

Freemasonry is complex and it cannot be denied that 'you get out of it, what you put in'. Being a comparatively new Freemason, I am very much learning as I go, and experiencing many things for the first time. Including recently being exalted into the Holy Royal Arch, Union Waterloo Chapter No13.

My mother lodge, Westwood 8046, feeds directly into this, one of the oldest Chapters in the Royal Arch. I was drawn to its history and long held traditions, having been consecrated in 1788, it has been in existence even before the formation of the United Grand Lodge of England.

Exaltation into Royal Arch is possibly my most memorable moment in Freemasonry to date, second only to my Initiation. It is a wonderful ritual, which is indissolubly linked with the stories we learn about in Craft masonry. For me it felt like a natural and enlightening progression.

Having joined the Royal Arch, I would encourage all master Masons who are not in Chapter, and who wish to delve deeper into the secrets and mysteries of Ancient Freemasonry, to do so at their earliest opportunity.

I would list my reasons for joining Chapter as follows:

- 1) The natural progression of the story we learn through craft masonry
- 2) It is a degree that supports your personal journey, adding deeper and more spiritual learning on top of the practical tools craft masonry gives us to be better men
- 3) The ceremony is beautiful, my favourite so far. It is dramatic and engaging, leaving an imprint on any Royal Arch Mason. Plus, the regalia is very swish too!
- 4) Increase your circle of friends through new Companions. If like me you love the social and charitable aspect of Freemasonry, within Royal Arch you find this in abundance, with likeminded men who value honour, virtue and brotherly love in an unparalleled way.

On being exalted into Royal Arch, you are provided with a Chapter Breast Jewel, which you are able to wear during Craft meetings to show that you are a Royal Arch Mason. My experience of this was made particularly special by Companion Mike Denman, who also happened to be my proposer into Craft masonry.

During the festive board of my exaltation, he presented me with a centenary Royal Arch Jewel particular to the Union Waterloo Chapter No13. I must admit, I don't often suffer from emotions, but on this occasion, I was moved so deeply by the wonderful gesture of this extraordinary man that I was brought to tears during the festive board, leading to a very salty starter! This for me is the essence of the Holy Royal Arch, true connection and love of your fellow Companions.

Joining the Royal Arch has been one of the best experiences, it enables me to increase the enjoyment I get from Freemasonry overall and enhances my understanding of masonic teachings. I have been blessed in joining a Chapter bursting with friendly, supportive and fun Companions, who I feel strongly will be there every step of the way to support me, not just in Freemasonry but more generally in life.

If you are thinking of putting your name down for the Royal Arch, my advice to you is, don't think, just do it. You won't ever regret it.



PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES: DANIEL UNTHANK

2022 has been the first full calendar year since 2019 that we've been able to hold our meetings. Masonically, it's been a year filled with every type of meeting that you could think of. We've had a consecration, banner dedication, a multiple initiation with four candidates, installations of new Worshipful Masters and those attaining the Chair again, numerous initiations, passings and raisings, long service citations awarded, a Lodge sesquicentennial celebratory meeting and our return to Freemasons' Hall for our Provincial Honours meeting.

Throughout the year it has been my absolute joy and privilege to attend dozens of meetings, both as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and as a private guest. I can honestly say that each meeting has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience in its own unique way. I have caught up with old friends, made new friends and been delighted to see Brethren recognised with Provincial Honours and awards. I've even witnessed the Provincial Grand Master win a raffle prize!

Each meeting has been an opportunity to escape the pressures and worries of everyday life. For a few hours everyone attending a meeting gets to put their troubles to the back of their mind and enjoy the camaraderie of Freemasonry. Instead of concerns

about family, work, finances or what the future may bring, we all suddenly focus on whether we know our words, floorwork or, more importantly, what's on the menu for the Festive Board.

Having that time to set our worldly worries to one side for a short while is one of the huge benefits of Freemasonry. Just to spend time with friends and likeminded men is an excellent way to de-stress and look after our mental wellbeing. I, for one, have noticed that I may be stressed with work or some other problem before a meeting but, by the time the evening has ended, I feel more relaxed and ready to face a new day. I've also noticed how Masons are very good at expressing their concerns about how well they will perform their ritual in a meeting, but rarely discuss any other problems they may have. In the same way that there is a huge support network to provide assistance and reassurance when learning ritual, we need to remember that this same network is there for us if we need it for anything else.

As Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, I am in the privileged position of being able to attend meetings all across the Province. From a personal perspective, I would like to thank all of the Officers, Brethren and Lodges I have worked with this year for their time, support and sense of

humour. You've all made this year incredibly enjoyable and certainly made my role easier. I would also like to thank the team of Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and Provincial Grand Stewards for their work in escorting the Provincial Executive on official duties. The enthusiasm and professionalism shown by the whole team, new and veteran, has been fantastic. I look forward to working with you all, and the new additions to the team, next year with great anticipation. There is already a plethora of meetings booked into the diary with Lodges I know from old and some I've never visited before, so 2023 is looking to be just as enjoyable as this year has been.

Finally, I would like to wish you and your families a very Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.



Grand Temple, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street



PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER: GRAHAM TARRAN

Brethren, let me start by advising you of changes to the Provincial Almoner team. Ken Parry-Husbands has decided to step down as Group 4 Almoner due to personal reasons. I would like to thank Ken for all his help and support to the Group 4 lodges, and I'm delighted to announce that he has been replaced by Robbie McConnachie-Devlin. I hope to announce a new Group Almoner for Group 3 in the coming weeks.

As we look forward to the festive season, even though it is not celebrated by everyone, for many it is a period of celebration and joy where families traditionally get together. However, it can also be a time of loneliness and depression for those living alone. Therefore, at this time of year, please can I urge you all to make contact with those brethren who have either not attended a lodge meeting for a while, or whom you know to be living alone. It is vitally important that they are reminded of their masonic family who are there to support them. If you are aware of anyone in need of help or support, please either contact your Lodge Almoner, or one of the Provincial Almoner team.

I wish you and your families joy, happiness and peace during the festive season, and my best wishes for an enjoyable and successful 2023.

Please remember that the Provincial Almoner team is here to support you, and to offer help, guidance and advice should you require it. All our contact details are on our Provincial website, <https://members.westkentmasons.org.uk/how-do-i-get-help/>.



Freemasons Support a whole range of activities, including funding patient rehabilitation services



West Kent TEDDIES LOVING CARE APPEAL NEWS

Greetings Brethren, from the West Kent Teddies Loving Care (TLC) Committee, most of the members are aware of what we do, here is a short outline to the newer Brethren in our Province.

We raise money through kind donations from members, Lodges, Chapters and through events. The money raised is used to purchase Teddies that are donated to A&E Departments in West Kent Hospitals. The Bears are for nurses to give to poorly or distressed children as a little comfort for them. The child may keep the bear to take home. So far this year, we have donated almost 2500 teddies that have helped to bring happiness and comfort to children.

We are also currently assisting Bexley Snap with the purchase of much needed equipment for their new sensory room. At Bexley Snap they offer disabled Children an exciting and varied program of clubs to provide parents and carers support, guidance, and regular breaks from their caring responsibilities. We have donated almost £500 to assist.

Keep your eyes open for our new donation boxes that will soon be available with Pin Badges at all our masonic centres.

Please contact us by emailing tlcwestkent@yahoo.co.uk





TLC

Teddies for Loving Care



Supported by Freemasons

The work of TLC is funded through the generous donations of Freemasons, their families and supporters of the programme. Many Freemasons also volunteer hundreds of hours each year to manage the scheme, deliver bears to hospitals, campaign to raise funds and increase awareness through events and talks.

There are 47 regional TLC programmes across England and Wales that provide teddies for their local A&E departments. Once a hospital joins the scheme they can replenish teddies on request through their local TLC representative. Some TLC programmes also donate a portion of their funds towards teddies for minor injuries units, children's wards and hospices; there are even teddies flying on air ambulances!



News from the Chairman of the Association of Friends of Prince George, Duke of Kent Court: DAVID BARBER

Staff members at Prince George Duke of Kent Court in Chislehurst, recently took part in an innovative training programme called Experiential Learning where they had the opportunity to experience first-hand what it might feel like to be a resident in a care home.

They were presented with different challenges, such as wearing a wet incontinence pad throughout the training session, doing a crossword while wearing goggles that simulate impaired vision, and wearing gloves to simulate arthritis. The aim is to help give a better understanding of how residents should be cared for and develop a greater sense of empathy in their roles.

The photos show staff member Modupe Jinadu pushing staff member Kim Hurn in a wheelchair wearing goggles to simulate impaired vision and staff member Diane Connor feeding Kim during a training session.

A TRULY CHARITABLE LODGE

A West Kent Lodge has lived up to its name and made a most generous donation to Prince George Duke of Kent Court by funding the residents' Christmas party.

Usually costing the Home over £1000, the West Kent Lodge of Charity No. 9610 are sponsoring the residents' special Christmas buffet.

I am most grateful to the Master and Brethren of the West Kent Lodge of Charity who are demonstrating that they are the premier Lodge of Charity in our Province and an example to us all.

CHRISTMAS AT THE HOME

Christmas at the Home is a wonderful time when we ensure that every resident receives a personalised gift from the Association of Friends presented by Father Christmas and together with sponsoring the special entertainment at the residents' Christmas party, we can show our residents that they are still valued and not forgotten.

This of course costs money and together with the Friends' other contributions to the Home during the year means that our funds are being depleted over time.

Lodges throughout Kent have joined our 500 Club but we need more to join if we are to continue supporting the Home. Caring for our older loved ones is perhaps the greatest responsibility we have. Those who walked before us have given so much and made possible the life we all enjoy. Enquire if your Lodge or Chapter has joined and, if not, please make a point of encouraging them to do so.

If your Lodge or Chapter joins before the end of February 2023 you will be eligible to be part of the Spring draw. Your Lodge or Chapter could win £1000, one Lodge already has and another will win at our Christmas draw. So please visit our website

<https://www.friendschislehurst.org/500club> .

As many of our residents suffer from memory loss the following quote is most appropriate:

"Though those with Alzheimer's might forget us, we as Masons must remember them."



The photo on the left shows the joy on the face of one of our residents. This is just a small example of the difference that your generosity makes to those we support.



WEST KENT MASONIC SPORTS ASSOCIATION GOLF SECTION: ARCHIE TORRANCE

As the newly invested Captain of the West Kent Masonic Sports' Association Golf Section, I have much pleasure in sharing this update on our golfing activities.

Now that the Covid-19 pandemic is behind us, the West Kent Masonic Sports' Association (WKMSA) Golf Section committee has returned to business as usual. We are all looking forward to rejuvenating our golf section and to having some fun.

West Kent Open & Ladies Rose Bowl 2022

We were delighted to host the West Kent Open & Ladies Rose Bowl golf championships at Redlibbets Golf Club in Ash, near Sevenoaks, on 12th October 2022. A most enjoyable day was spent in fair weather conditions and at a splendid golf club. We thank all those who took part and congratulate all the winners:

West Kent Pot - Beauchamp Lodge No. 1422 (Steve Hyland & Keith Reynolds)

Peter J.J. Smith Shield - Rectitude Lodge No. 5882 (Ravi Patel & Vic Powell)

Paddlesworth Pairs Cup - Bipin Patel & Fidelis D'Mello (guest)

Archibald I. Torrance Cup - Keith Reynolds, Beauchamp Lodge No. 1422

Ladies Rose Bowl - Mrs. Sandie Higgs (guest)



Appointment of Secretary

We are delighted to announce the appointment of Bipin Patel as our new Secretary, succeeding Vik Rampersad who now resides abroad. Many of you will know Bipin better as the 2nd Provincial Grand Principal in the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of West Kent. His first priority is to engage with all golfers in the Province, rebuild our membership database and refresh our golf section. We are grateful to Bipin for taking on this role and we wish him every success in the years ahead.

2023 Season

Looking ahead, our 2023 season is beginning to take shape. The following events are being lined up for the enjoyment of West Kent golfers...

Thurs 9th March

Captain's Golf Day & AGM, Chislehurst GC

Fri 28th April

West Kent v East Kent match, Redlibbets GC

May

Heritage Cup & Micky Cash Memorial Golf Day, details tbc

June

Executive v Province match, details tbc

Thurs 13th July

SE England Inter-Province Golf Championship (the Charles Beauchamp Golf Day), Betchworth Park GC

August

Chislehurst Golf Club v Camden Place Lodge, Chislehurst GC

September

West Kent Open & Ladies Rose Bowl, details tbc

We are also in liaison with a few other Provinces with a view to arranging more inter-provincial matches for 2023. Watch this space!

Did You Know?

As a point of interest, did you know our Province has a lodge which meets at Chislehurst Golf Club and is named after the historical clubhouse? Camden Place Lodge No. 3042 meets there four times a year in February, March (Installation), October and December and they would welcome enquiries from potential members, especially golfers. Anyone interested should contact the Lodge Secretary, Bob Gaywood, whose details can be found in the Freemasons' Craft Manual for West Kent.



West Kent 2026 Festival

Golfers in our Province are very aware that the Masonic Province of West Kent is hosting a Masonic Charitable Foundation Festival in 2026. As in previous years, we are committed to supporting the festival and its President, Mark Estaugh. We have already donated £2,500 for the Festival and we intend to make further donations in the coming years.

Registering interest

Lastly, may I encourage all golfers in West Kent to support your golf section. We are here for you. Anyone wishing to register their interest to play should contact Bipin Patel, Secretary, by email at bp.bipin@gmail.com. You are most welcome to become part of our blossoming golf section. We look forward to hearing from you and to seeing you around the greens!

Aye,

Archie

Email: archie_torrance@hotmail.com



LODGE OF ST VINCENT No. 6978

On Thursday 8th December, St Vincent Lodge No.6978, with a heavy heart, returned its Warrant to the Grand Master. Keith Wood, Director of Ceremonies, gave a snapshot of the Lodge's history at its final meeting.

It was early in 1949 that it was mooted by Brethren from St Barbara Lodge No. 5937, that a new lodge should be formed. It would appear from records, that the main reason for this was due to the large number of members in the Lodge, it was taking a long time for Brethren to become officers, and of course, Masters.

A small number of Past Masters discussed the situation, and with interest being shown from Brethren of Ordnance Lodge No. 2399, it was decided to approach Grand Lodge. With the backing of St Barbara Lodge, the first steps were taken to create the new lodge.

The lodge now needed a name. It has been suggested that the name St Vincent was chosen because the Secretary lived at Vincent Road, Woolwich, however, St Vincent DePaul born 1576 was a saint well known for charitable works, perhaps this is a more fitting reason for our name.

In the early 1950, application was sought and approved by Grand Lodge that a new lodge could be formed, and the consecration was held at the Masonic Centre in Dartford on Thursday 7th September 1950.

It is interesting to note that the Consecrating Officer was the Provincial Grand Master, the Right Honourable The Lord Cornwallis. There were 172 Brethren in attendance at the ceremony. It has been suggested that many of the Founders were traders and it was agreed that meetings would be held on Thursday afternoons, which was at that time half day closing. Although the records will show that only four members were traders.

As most members were Woolwich based, the Shakespeare Hotel in Powis Street was agreed as the venue for their meetings. After twenty-five meetings were held there, the venue was moved to the Lord Kitchener in Welling on 13th October 1955.

Over the next eleven years the venue for meetings changed twice until February 1966, when the Lodge moved to the Westwood Masonic Centre in Welling. .

It was believed that lodges should hold meetings in their own buildings and not public houses. We subsequently left the Westwood and until now used Shirley Woolmer Hall at Sidcup for regular meetings and Dartford Masonic Centre for Lodges of Instruction

The Founders had varied occupations. Many came from military backgrounds hence the Lodge maintained strong military connections. Other Founder members, were civil servants, marine engineers, an RAF Officer, an Army Officer as well as building contractors, café proprietors, a manager of a gents outfitters and last but not least, a gentleman in Holy Orders.

In one of our early meetings in 1955, Worshipful Brother Phasey as Master carried out three double ceremonies, initiations, second and third degrees. This shows how much hard work was put into the early meetings.

Alfred Driver, a founder member was the Director of Ceremonies for almost forty years without a break. He never became Master of the lodge. On his retirement, Ron Brooks continued for one year in that position, Len Oakley for six years, Lawrence Godley for five years and Keith Wood from 2001 with only a slight break, until 2022.

In more recent times, Don Bray and Frank Byrne were invited to St Vincent Lodge No. 5925 in Portsmouth, to their golden jubilee in 1981/82. Don remarked how very proud they were to represent St Vincent Lodge and witness the dedication of the new banner. The Master of St Vincent Lodge in Portsmouth, Worshipful Brother King and Secretary, Worshipful Brother Pascoe paid a return visit to our lodge and were presented with West Kent ties.

St Vincent bears a distinction that not many other lodges can equal, that in the first fifty years of its history, we have never had to put a past master of the lodge into the Chair of King Solomon. We have also never changed the format that the founders set up to 72 years ago as of 2022.





SPECIAL EDITION



WEST KENT NEWS

WINTER 2022 EDITION

