

# WEST KENT NEWS

## BOOK REVIEW

7 Habits of Highly Successful  
Lodges - Find out more about  
Tony Harvey's new book

## 500 CLUB

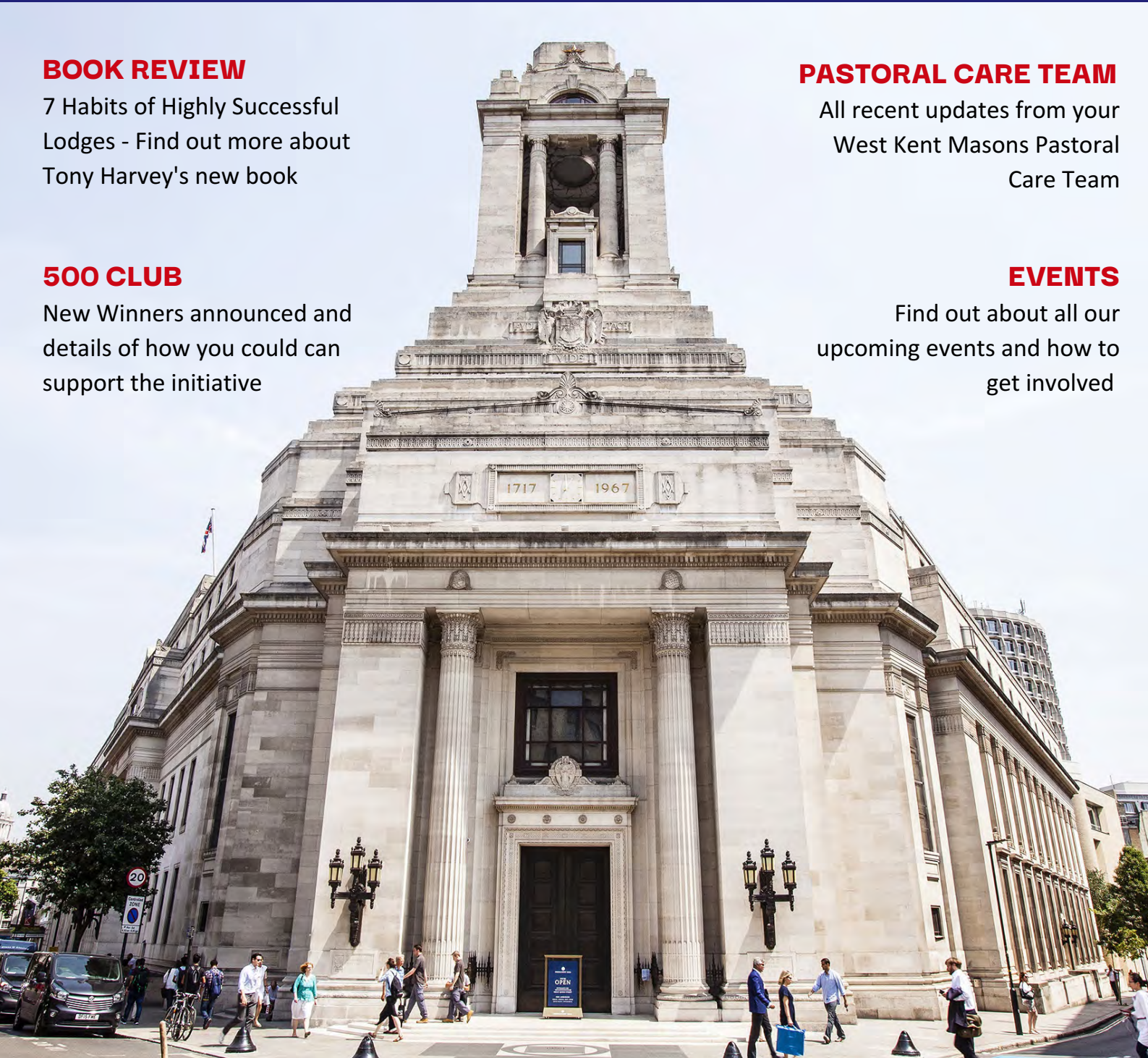
New Winners announced and  
details of how you could can  
support the initiative

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

All recent updates from your  
West Kent Masons Pastoral  
Care Team

## EVENTS

Find out about all our  
upcoming events and how to  
get involved



SPRING  
EDITION  
2023





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#### A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Brethren All,

I hope your Easter has been a restful and enjoyable one, as we now look forward to our run up to summer.

This edition of West Kent News continues to highlight the benefits of the Holy Royal Arch and how it is an integral part of 'Pure and Ancient Freemasonry'.

There are some exciting articles by contributors, which you will find interesting, however, we are always keen to hear from you about your activities, so that all our members may share in your success or support your future plans.

Please contact your Provincial Communications Team at [communications@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:communications@westkentmasons.org.uk) with your news or message, we will be delighted to include in West Kent News, our Provincial website or one of our media platforms. Your Provincial Communications Team is hear to work for you.

Kindest and Fraternal regards,  
Adrian Grant



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<https://www.facebook.com/westkentmasons.org.uk>



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PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE  
OF WEST KENT



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

Brethren and Companions,

As I announced at the last Annual Investiture ceremony in 27 May last year, it was my intention to fully integrate the Craft and Royal Arch into one singular Provincial organisation. The purpose of this strategic change was to ensure that our members, and our prospective candidates, clearly understood from their initial interview, that a full participation in a Masonic journey included both of these wonderful Orders.

Our West Kent crystal ball must have been working well, as the subsequent strategic roadmap from United Grand Lodge – "2022 and beyond" – which was launched earlier this year clearly lays out the need for that integrated approach, and which will enable us to increase even further the number of members in the Craft who are exalted into the Royal Arch.

This is therefore the first edition of West Kent News that I am addressing you in my capacity as Grand Superintendent and since May last year, a substantial amount of work has been undertaken to assist us in this regard.

We are all familiar with the phrase – "Pure and Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, namely those of the Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch".

The Pro First Grand Principal has recently reinforced this by saying "... when someone is made a Mason, he needs to be fully aware at the outset that his journey as a Freemason

consist of these four elements – with the Royal Arch as the fourth and ultimate stage and one which enriches and completes that journey".

The reality is that we are one fraternity – so when someone is made a Mason, he is embarking on a journey that is incomplete until that final element is taken.

Please therefore urge all of your Masonic friends who have yet to take this step that it is never too late to do so and they will be assured a very warm West Kent welcome when the time is right for them.

The Companions who I'm looking forward to investing during the Royal Arch element of our Annual Investiture in June have already shown commitment to this ideal, by encouraging and supporting those considering taking this important fourth element.

In order to assist the aim of increasing our Royal Arch membership, you will all be aware that we have set up a similar Membership Experience team to that which we have in the Craft, under Vince Lethbridge, and I am very optimistic that the team's focus on attracting, retaining and retrieving members will generate huge dividends for us all.

We have reinvigorated the role of the Royal Arch Representative into that of the Royal Arch Liaison Officer, and

those members who the Royal Arch Executive and I wish to see appointed for this important new role have been recommended to our Lodges for immediate appointment.

We have also created the new role of Chapter Membership Officer – a similar role to that undertaken at a Lodge Membership Officer – and who will work closely together with their counterparts in the Craft to ensure a seamless transition of Master Masons who wish to complete their masonic journey.

Additionally, in order to ensure that prospective applicants understand this four stage Masonic journey at the outset, we have revised the questions to be asked at an interview stage and which will become the West Kent template – these are to be circulated to every Lodge Secretary very shortly.

We have much to look forward to in the coming year – not least our Provincial Annual Investiture on Friday 9 June, which will as usual be open to members, families, friends and most importantly, those that may have an interest in joining us.

Our Provincial spectacular will consist of the Royal Arch investiture in the morning and, following lunch, the Craft investiture thereafter. Every Craft member – whether in the Royal Arch or otherwise – is encouraged to attend the morning and afternoon sessions, and it is my avowed wish that we fill the Grand Temple to capacity again, just like we did in 2019. Please, do come and join us and support the Province.

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'm absolutely delighted to see so many summonses report new initiates and Exaltees, more joining and re-joining members, which evidences that our membership attraction measures are working. However, to ensure that we meet our objectives, we must focus ever more closely on decreasing the number of resignations we are seeing year-on-year, I am very confident that we will see a return to positive membership growth for our Province in the immediate future.

Our achievements toward the West Kent 2026 Festival total continue to impress and many of our Lodges and Chapters have already made major progress in achieving either the Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum award and in some cases, the Special PGM-G.Supt Award. I am most grateful to each of you who have committed to regular modest contributions via Gift Aid for your continued support, even during these difficult times, and encourage every member who has yet to qualify for a Festival Jewel to do so at the earliest opportunity to support our aims to assist the outstanding work of our Masonic Charitable Foundation.

In closing, as always, my very best wishes to each and every one of you – and your loved ones – for continued success during the rest of the Masonic season and I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at Great Queen Street on 9 June.

Keep well, look after each other and continue to enjoy your Masonry in our magnificent Province.

The Pro First Grand Principal has recently reinforced this by saying "...when someone is made a Mason, he needs to be fully aware at the outset that his journey as a Freemason



THE DEPUTY GRAND  
SUPERINTENDENT: JAMES MARSH

Companions,

Since my last article for West Kent News, when I spoke about the Grand Superintendent's RA vision and the stretching attraction, retention and retrieval targets he has set, you will not be surprised to hear that the RA team have been extremely busy! To support this work, the duties of our Provincial Grand Principals required repositioning; our 2nd Provincial Principal, Bipin Patel, in addition to his other duties, is now working alongside our Assistant Provincial Grand Masters to assist those Craft Lodges that have low numbers of RA members to help them increase their RA presence. Meanwhile, our 3rd Provincial Grand Principal, Tony Burd will be working with the RA Membership Development Team to assist those RA Chapters that struggle to attract new members.

Regarding our Royal Arch Membership Development Team, I want to thank them for all the hard work they have put in; they are now well-established and have started to embed the processes and duties required of them by our Grand Superintendent.

I also want to thank Companion Nando Caicedo for the excellent work he has undertaken in conjunction with

our RA Membership Officer in creating a new West Kent RA advertising leaflet that will be given to all new Master Masons in West Kent; being a member of our Province for only four years, this again proves that one does not need to be a long-standing member of this Province to be able to contribute at the highest level.

It was pleasing to hear the importance of the RA again being underlined by one of our High Rulers when Jonathan Spence, after he was Installed as the Pro 1st Grand Principal in November said, '...when somebody is made a Freemason, he needs to be made fully aware from the outset that his (masonic) journey consists of four elements, with the Royal Arch as the fourth and ultimate stage, and one that enriches and completes that journey...it is an aspect that I hope all will aspire to experience...' The Province of West Kent fully embraces this, indeed our Grand Superintendent's vision is of a Province that has the highest percentage of RA masons.

I am pleased to say that the future of Royal Arch masonry in West Kent is looking bright; we continue to attract good numbers to the Order, and with

the fantastic work of our membership team, we are endeavouring to stem our losses. However, I will again reiterate that we cannot rest on our laurels – we must all continue to speak to our Brethren who are not yet in the Royal Arch and to underline its importance as the fourth and final element of Pure Antient Masonry.





Raising Carl Blinston to the 3rd degree at Bromley Invicta  
Lodge No 8128



## 2nd PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: BIPINCHANDRA PATEL

I hope you are all well and looking forward to the summer and a bit of warm weather. Since the last West Kent News, masonic activity has been gradually picking up since January.

The Royal Arch (RA) Executive have been busy in conjunction with the RA Membership team exploring options to support our Chapters. Support may consist of companions to help perform parts of ceremonies and to boost numbers where chapters are facing a downturn in attendance. This support helps chapters while they identify ways to increase membership either by having joining members and or Exaltees. This issue of membership is faced by all lodges and chapters, no one is immune. Speaking to one of my predecessors at a recent chapter meeting I attended, he said they faced the same issue 25 years ago as we are facing now. This will not go away.

Adoption of the Members' Pathway is one way of facing this challenge. Appointing a Membership Officer and working closely with the Royal Arch Liaison Officer (RALO) who is your contact in lodges where you can attract new members. The Grand Superintendent will be appointing RALO's soon, so every lodge will have one of these, who will be the point of contact for Master Masons and above for information and membership of Royal Arch.

The Membership Team is working in the background and are always available to help with specific issues that a chapter may face. As I mentioned previously, one of the ways to increase membership of your chapter is by asking brethren who are not members. You have opportunity to do this whenever you attend a lodge meeting. Can you remember when you last asked someone to join the RA?

On a personal note, I am looking forward to meeting more of you attending chapter and lodge meetings, or if you are a golfer then at one of our Provincial Golf Days. Equally I am looking forward to a warm summer of golf and try to reduce my handicap.

(Details of golf events on our Provincial Website, [westkentmasons.org.uk](http://westkentmasons.org.uk) - Golf - West Kent Masons ).





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

Companions,

A NOT to be missed event for your diaries is almost upon us.

Hugh Norman, a well-known Companion in our Province, is due to receive his Fifty Year Citation in the Royal Arch this year.

To mark this very special occasion, Justin Chapter No 5338, where Hugh was Exalted a week before West and East Kent Provinces were formed, at their next regular Convocation on 20th May will hold the meeting at Oakley House in the main hall.

Hugh, living in Scotland, makes every effort attend his Chapter's three meetings and all four meetings of his Craft lodge every year. This is no mean feat, requiring Hugh to make an early start on the day of the meeting from his home in Dumfriesshire, travel down by train to attend the meeting, followed by an overnight stay and travelling back the next day. That is dedication, which should be applauded!

To mark the occasion, our Grand Superintendent will present the Citation with all of our Royal Arch Executive there to witness.

To support Hugh on his day, the Grand Superintendent of the Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Dumfriesshire, and the Provincial Grand Master of the

Provincial Grand Lodge of Dumfriesshire will be attending with a number of their Executive members - Hugh is the Provincial Grand Secretary. This will be a great day of visual pleasure, and I understand that there may be a Provincial Piper!

As if that is not enough, to whet your appetite, there will also an exaltation to enjoy, carried out by a number of the Chapter members.

So, whether you -

- Would like to see a well deserving Companion receive his fifty-year Citation
- Want to experience and enjoy some pomp and ceremony
- Wish to meet and enjoy the company of Scottish Companions
- Be a Companion who enjoys seeing a well performed Exaltation
- Are a relatively new Companion who has not experienced an Exaltation since your own, or seen very few and would like to enjoy more
- Would like to enjoy the after-meeting experience at the Festive Board
- Just like to enjoy a great afternoon

There is pretty much something that will interest every Companion in our Province, and at least one of these options will tick the box for you.

Details of the meeting are still being finalised, but the likely start time is going to be 16.00 - 16.30, on Saturday 20th May.

When all is in place, a notice will be sent out, giving the Scribe E's contact details to enable you to book in to attend or attend and dine.

I look forward to seeing you on 20th May at what promises to be a fantastic day.





West Kent Masons donated £5,000 to Bexley Scouts for a defibrillator and mobility mule.





## THE ASSISTANT TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS: CHRISTOPHER ASHBY

How did I get here?

When I joined Freemasonry, like everyone, I was overwhelmed with new friends who made it welcoming and soon made more. After attending a number of meetings and beginning to understand how the lodge worked, I realised that it was the members who took an active part that enabled it to be stable and grow. For me looking at the work the Director of Ceremonies (DC) undertook I realised that this was the office for me. Just one problem! As a young mason how would I get what I saw as my dream office?

The DC in my lodge was the father of the sons who brought me into freemasonry, but as you can imagine there was the old school of past masters with whom to contend. In reality, they were strong in their beliefs in the quality of work and offered advice and support. Once I passed through the WM chair I asked to be Assistant DC (ADC) several times. As is always the case one is asked "What experience have you". Of course, I had none but eventually was given a chance.

To attain any office within a lodge or chapter is a proud, if not worrying, moment. I was proud but also nervous as I was out of my comfort zone. I believed that everyone should step out of their comfort zone as this is the only way to progress.

After several years as ADC, I achieved DC in the lodge. I was personally committed that we would continue to deliver the best ritual lodge in our Province. (Before I get bombarded with emails – Yes, I know all lodges are the best in our Province!)

I must have made a mark with the visiting Provincial Officers as my first Provincial appointment in the Craft was Assistant Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, thereafter Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, Provincial Senior Grand Warden and then a Grand Officer.

In the Royal Arch I was also the DC of my Chapter and as with the Craft progressed with a first appointment of Provincial Grand Steward. Of course I joined the Stewards Chapter and set off to be the DC, (what did you expect!). Stewards are considered by some to be a low Provincial promotion yet they could not be more wrong. Every Steward is an active Provincial Officer for life and usually receives a further promotion within 3 years instead of 6 or 7 years.

The next promotion received was to Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (ProvAGDC), Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies (ProvDGDC), and then Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies (ProvGDC). In my view I had achieved the best office in the world.

I have always seen the DC's office as one where you work with people encouraging them to be the best they can. This can only be achieved as a team and not an individual. I have had the privilege to work with wonderful Freemasons.

The phrase 'it is better to win the hearts and minds of Brethren and Companions than rule over their lives and fortune', is something by which I try to work.



## **West Kent Masonic Sports' Association GOLF SECTION**



# Heritage Cup

**Wednesday 17th May 2023**  
**Shirley Park GC, Addiscombe Road, Croydon**

Registration 09:30 | 1st Tee 11:00 | Cost £70  
Coffee/bacon roll - 18 holes golf - two course meal

To register please email the secretary at  
[bipinbp@gmail.com](mailto:bipinbp@gmail.com)



PROVINCIAL GRAND MENTOR:  
ALAN WONDZINSKI

Brethren and Companions,

This message is addressed to ALL Freemasons in our Province, whether Royal Arch Masons or not. I'm pleased to announce that the Royal Arch Membership Development Team has completely revamped the Talking Heads presentation and will soon be ready to present it in your Lodge. The presentation is quite different to the original Metropolitan presentation; it has been updated and adapted to make it more relevant to our Province, and to you. To reflect those changes, it is now being presented as 'A glimpse through the Archway - Looking into the Royal Arch'.

If you haven't yet joined the Royal Arch and want to know more, or if you have members of your Lodge who have yet to embrace that final element of their Masonic journey, this is a MUST SEE. So please contact me at the address below and we will be very pleased to give you a 'A glimpse through the Archway' in your Lodge.

Turning now to those who are in the Royal Arch, the West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team has given 19 presentations of the Added Theatre Demonstration at Chapters across our Province, one of which was a full Exaltation from beginning to end with a true Exalte. These have proved to be very popular and very well received, and many Chapters are now adopting some of our recommendations to enrich and enliven their own ceremonies.

The Demonstration Team is also working closely with the Royal Arch Membership Team to produce a series of talks and presentations aimed at demystifying and clarifying the Royal Arch ritual and ceremonies, with further talks on specific Royal Arch topics. Our aim is to assist you so that you never have a convocation with nothing going on.

If you find your Chapter has no work to do at one of your convocations, please contact me at the email address below and we shall endeavour to provide you with an informative and entertaining presentation.

To achieve all of this, we need a bank of accomplished speakers who are prepared to give talks on Royal Arch topics so that we can act as a one stop point of contact for Chapters looking for speakers. If you feel you are up to the challenge, please contact me with a list of titles of talks you would be prepared to present.

[RAMentor@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:RAMentor@westkentmasons.org.uk)





## WEST KENT MASONIC SPORTS' ASSOCIATION GOLF SECTION

# Executive v Province

**Redlibbets Golf Club, Ash, Kent**  
**Thursday 25th May 2023**



## HEAD OF ROYAL ARCH MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: VINCE LETHBRIDGE

"The next step in Freemasonry"

"The Fourth Element"

"The culmination of Antient Freemasonry"

Brethren and Companions,

The above comments are all relating to the Holy Royal Arch which represents the completion of your journey in Antient Freemasonry.

There is something for everyone to enjoy in the Royal Arch, for those Master Masons who feel there are still some questions outstanding after completing their 3 degrees, the Royal Arch will answer them. For those Past Masters who may be seeking new challenges and opportunities to learn more about our Masonic teachings and history, then the Royal Arch will be the order to assist you in your journey.

A typical Royal Arch Chapter will normally consist of 3 meetings or Convocations a year and in most instances the workings will be of 2 Exaltations (the Royal Arch equivalent of an initiation) and a Installation meeting where the Principals and the Officers of the year are appointed and invested. The Royal Arch ritual workings have been streamlined over the years and so are less onerous for individuals to learn.

The Royal Arch is a colourful and friendly Order and you will get the opportunity to create a new network of friends. In our Province of West Kent we have nearly 70 Chapters which meet at different days and times and at a number of venues throughout the Province so we're sure there is a Royal Arch Chapter in West Kent which would accommodate your personal requirements.

If you have any further queries or you would like any further information please feel free to contact me:

[RAmembership@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:RAmembership@westkentmasons.org.uk)





Members of West Kent Freemasons Woolwich Polytechnic Lodge sponsored the match day at Blackheath RFC, continuing the long tradition with between the two organisations





## ROYAL ARCH MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: JAMES ASHMORE

### THE ROYAL ARCH-SOME POPULAR MYTHS

It never ceases to amaze me that even today there are many myths and misunderstandings about this wonderful Order, so rightly described as the root, heart and marrow of Freemasonry.

So here is a list of them, not exhaustive by any means and if you hear these repeated anywhere, you can correct the speaker!

#### MYTH NO 1

**You have to have gone through the Chair of your lodge to join the Royal Arch**

Wrong! The only qualification today is that you have been a Master Mason for four weeks and upwards.

#### MYTH NO 2

**It's best to wait until you have been through the Chair of your lodge**

Wrong! You can join as soon as you are qualified and there is no compunction to take any office until you feel comfortable in doing so. Just join, sit back and enjoy!

#### MYTH NO 3

**It's really an Order for elderly men**

Wrong! There are many younger Masons in Royal Arch who have discovered what a fascinating, colourful and rewarding experience it is.

#### MYTH NO 4

**You don't need to join Royal Arch to have a full Masonic career**

Wrong! Royal Arch is the natural fourth element and the completion of your journey in Pure, Antient Freemasonry. Indeed, without it you will not be eligible to be awarded Active Rank in the Craft in our Province. Think about that. Further, many of the Companion Orders beyond the Craft require it as an essential qualification for membership.

#### MYTH NO 5

**It's ritually very complicated and hard to understand**

Wrong! The ritual and symbolism is very beautiful and quite different to Craft in many ways, leading in particular to a profound sense of one's relationship with the Supreme Being. As a path to further knowledge, it is unrivalled.

#### MYTH NO 6

**It's too serious.**

Wrong! Royal Arch meetings are well known for the lack of over-formality and the intimacy participation brings to their Companions-literally those who eat bread together and have a lot of fun in the process!

#### MYTH NO 7

**It will take up so much more of your time.**

Wrong! Most Royal Arch chapters meet just three times a year. In West Kent we have over 60 of them and there is bound to be one that is just right for you, ready and welcoming.

So, what are you waiting for?



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE  
OF WEST KENT



**WEST KENT**  
**NEWS**

## West Kent Freemasons Supporting Bexley Snap Charity

West Kent Freemasons donated to Bexley Snap, which used the funds to create a Sensory Suite for children.





## ROYAL ARCH RETRIEVAL OFFICER: MARTIN EGGLETON

What is the role of the Provincial Royal Arch Retrieval Officer?

This role sits within the West Kent Royal Arch Membership Development Team and is the support to the Grand Superintendent's Membership Retention Strategy.

On a practical side, my role is to work with Members, Chapters, and the Provincial team to retain members in the wonderful order that is the Holy Royal Arch.

I am here to support individual members who have left the Royal Arch and to assist their return to a RA Chapter that will suit them; I also ensure that all members of Chapters that hand back their Charters, are placed into suitable Chapters.

One of the Grand Superintendent's aims is to re-engage all those who have left the Royal Arch - I am available, along with the Provincial Mentor to assist any Companion not only to re-join this fantastic Order, but to make sure they join a Chapter that best suits their needs.

Please contact me, via  
[ProvRAMO@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:ProvRAMO@westkentmasons.org.uk)





PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE  
OF WEST KENT



## West and East Kent Freemasons join forces to help 'We Are Beams'

West and East Kent Freemasons combined to provide a £10,000 contribution to We Are Beams to assist with the development of the new sensory garden - full story here





## THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: IAN GALLEHAWK

As ever, my article has been submitted at the last moment but this time for a very good reason as I wanted to be able to report on our first quarter activity as accurately as possible. As I hope you will be aware, the strategy produced by UGLE is looking to a 1% increase in membership over the first 3 years of implementation. Needless to say, this requires that we arrest the decline in our member numbers and significantly increase the numbers we attract into the Craft.

As I type, we show signs of managing the decline in members with our numbers being slightly up on 2022-year end. This puts us in step with the UGLE strategy that envisages action to arrest the decline, "flatline" and then enter an ongoing and permanent period of growth. This improvement in our fortunes has not happened by accident. As I travel around our Province, I never cease to be impressed at the effort and determination of so many of our members to ensure that our Lodges flourish and that our Province grows into the future.

This has been a difficult quarter for everyone and yet we see member numbers improving and attendances at meetings increasing. At the same time, the pandemic did not bring about the increase in members leaving as many had anticipated. By the time this article is published, we will be into the second quarter of 2023 and will be seeing the many initiations proposed in this first quarter taking place.

Last year, we initiated a total of 145 new members into our wonderful Province. Our "membership challenge", i.e. losses minus gains expressed as a percentage of gains, stands at 76%. Put differently, our initiations need to increase by just over 100 per year on current figures. 250 initiations per year is a significant ask of our members and Lodges. If we do not take into account Past Masters' and other such Lodges, this works out at around 2 initiates per Lodge per year with a continuing emphasis on retention.

As the summer break now looms ever closer, I would ask that we all redouble our efforts, get the Members' Pathway firmly embedded in our Lodges and all pledge ourselves to be part of a Lodge that sees us build on our current upturn and ensure that West Kent leads the revival in fortunes of UGLE.

Lastly, a "personal thank" you for the tremendous support and encouragement that I have received in my first year as your Deputy Provincial Grand Master. I have been met across our Province with warmth, friendship and a real feeling of working together. I look forward to the rest of 2023 with considerable hope and optimism.





WEST KENT  
FREEMASONS



**Masonic**  
Charitable Foundation


# FUNDRAISING THE LONGEST DAY


Raising money for the wonderful  
Masonic Charitable Foundation  
Completing a total of 72 holes in a single  
day, at the East Sussex National

## THE DATE

21ST JUNE 2023  
04:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Support my fundraising efforts  
by visiting my just giving page

 [mcf.org.uk](https://mcf.org.uk) (to find out more)

 [2PGP@westkentmasons.org](mailto:2PGP@westkentmasons.org)

[bit.ly/BipinJustGiving](https://bit.ly/BipinJustGiving)







## ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: ANDREW WADDINGTON

Initiations have been thriving in Group 2 and many more are planned, including a double. Those Lodges that are looking to the future and engaging with the Members' Pathway are really starting to grow. As a result of this growth, our Province and Freemasonry as a whole benefits.

Unfortunately there are some Lodges within the Group that have not had an Initiate for over 3 years and taking the Pandemic into account, this is a recipe for disaster.

I urge all of you within Lodges that have not had an Initiate for some to grasp the nettle. Engage with the Membership Team and start to be productive in helping to grow your Lodge. It is not the remit of one or two members of a Lodge to introduce new members, it is for us all to take on board.

Regardless of rank or position within a Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge or the United Grand Lodge of England, or how long you have been in Freemasonry, all have an equal voice.

Please book into the Members' Pathway workshop to be held at Welling on 12th April at 7.30pm. I will be there and look forward to seeing as many of you as possible.

If you cannot make that workshop, consider attending one of the others at a different centre. Details are on the Provincial Website. You have nothing to lose and everything to gain.

From the newest Initiate to the Provincial Grand Master and above, we are all equally responsible for keeping our Fraternity going. We can only do that if we all pull together and look at how we can attract new members, retrieve past members and most definitely retain existing members by careful mentoring, almoner interaction and by joining in our meetings and visiting other Lodges too.

At Wrotham Masonic Hall, Martin Lakin, Secretary of Hundred of Axstane Lodge, has introduced a scheme whereby Lodges within that Centre are encouraged to visit the others. With three relatively new Lodges at Wrotham and of course the more established Lodges meeting there it is a fantastic initiative for visiting. Not only does it help integrate the newer and long standing Brethren meeting at Wrotham to get to know each other, it also promotes diversity of ritual, practices, and boosts numbers at meetings. This in turn makes meetings and festive boards more enjoyable, inclusive and attractive. I applaud Martin and all involved at Wrotham for undertaking this initiative.

At Welling Masonic Centre the 'Gang' Lodges have a similar scheme of visitation and this too has similar advantages. I would recommend that those Lodges meeting at Welling and not part of the 'Gang' make contact with those Lodges and look at a similar program of visitation. You may even

wish to adopt a similar model to the one adopted at Wrotham. I am sure Martin Lakin would be only too pleased to advise you.

As the Assistant Provincial Grand Master for Group 2, I have over these past few months continued to meet many Masons both experienced and those less so, but nonetheless committed. I have been privileged to be able to attend a Centenary Celebration and sadly also seen another Lodge return its Warrant. The latter is a timely lesson in the need for growth.

I am looking forward to the rest of this season where I will see many more of you at Lodges in Group 2. If you see me out and about come and have a chat.

As ever, stay safe and well, make sure you stay in touch with each other and God bless you all.





Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Andrew Waddington visits  
Ordinance Lodge No 2399



## ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: PETER BROOKER

Spring is a truly wonderful time of year and a time to make plans.

I see my local parks and woodlands coming back to life with fresh flowers and green trees. But one of Spring's greatest pleasures is of course our wonderful Annual Provincial Meeting, where we celebrate all things West Kent. Always a superb occasion to witness the presentation of First Appointments and Promotions in Provincial rank and a time to come together as one constant and united group, having fun and endeavouring to make the world a better place.

Brethren, Freemasonry has such a good message to share and we must continue to focus on letting people know exactly what we do and endeavour to get more men to join our Lodges. We all derive enormous pleasure, friendship and enjoyment from Freemasonry and there are a great many other people who could share that experience with us, if only they knew – so let them know!

### West Kent 2026 Festival

Thanks to the generosity of our kind and caring members, the West Kent 2026 Festival is making steady progress in order to support the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF). The MCF is always there for us, our families and dependants and it strives to support the most vulnerable and disadvantaged in our communities.

### Group 3

Group three consists of 46 Lodges meeting at four Centres located at Sidcup, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Edenbridge.

Focus on Tunbridge Wells.

[www.tunbridgewellsmasonichall.co.uk](http://www.tunbridgewellsmasonichall.co.uk)

A hard working team consisting of Roger Mallett, Duncan Annells and Charles Barrett, go to great lengths to ensure the centre is kept in tip-top condition and financially secure. Seven West Kent, Lodges meet at the centre, however, it is also used extensively by the local community for activities including:

- Weddings, Parties and Wakes
- Sunday Lunch Carvery (which are amazing and great value)
- UK Power Network (safety training)
- Monkey Music (Children's' Learning Group)
- BNI Breakfast
- NHS Rehabilitation Unit
- Tunbridge Wells Symphony Orchestra
- Women in Harmony (Choir)
- Tunbridge Wells Jazz Club
- Salsa Dancing Club
- Trinity Youth Theatre
- Polling Station
- Exercise Classes
- Sign Language Group
- Cycle to Survive (Cycling Proficiency)

Your Centre Needs You!

Brethren, irrespective of where your Lodge meets, please support our West Kent Centres as much as possible. They are an extremely valuable resource and we need to take care of them!





Peter Brooker, APM, congratulating our New Brother

Tunbridge Wells  
Masonic Centre





ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND  
MASTER: GRAHAM RAVEN

As we approach the last half of this masonic year, I find myself reflecting on some of the great successes of some of the Lodges in the group, in both community engagement and charity support.

It has been a delight to be so be made so welcome on my visits, officially and as a private guest, and observe some excellent work by the lodge officers, and to be able to present a number of 50 year long service certificates, but most importantly seeing the brethren enjoying themselves. The attendance numbers slowly returning to pre covid numbers, please remember to keep in touch with those who aren't attending and remind them what they are missing.

I need to congratulate those Brethren who have received provincial preferment and look forward to seeing them invested on the 9th June at the annual investiture meeting. Brethren, please try to attend and join in congratulating them.

The real hard work has yet to come in succeeding the targets in the membership challenge, to increase overall membership by 1% per annum for the next 5 years. Although there are some Lodges in the group beating the challenge, there is a high percentage that are not, but I'm sure they will take up the challenge, and from the high percentage of lodges represented at the recent member's pathway seminars at Dartford and the Bromley "Growing your Lodge", they are already looking at the tools available to assist them. A big thanks to the membership team and especially our group membership officer, Jason Russell, for his hard work and assistance.

Brethren, continue to enjoy your masonry and I look forward to meeting you on the circuit in the near future.



Grand Temple Ceiling, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street





## ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: DAVID HUNTLEY

What would you do if Freemasonry were to disappear?

I hate to ask this, but if you consider the decline in our national numbers over the years, this could be a possibility in the foreseeable future, if we do not arrest this trend.

When I was initiated into Sidcup Lodge in 1996, we had around 9,000 members in West Kent, yet we now stand at around 3,800 and despite the number of initiatives and hard work that the PGM, his Executive and our Membership officers have put in to prevent this decline, Freemasonry is still on a downward path.

It is so surprising to me that several Lodges have yet to embrace the Members' Pathway and given the successes being achieved by those that have, it is like burying your head in the sand and hoping for the best instead of actively creating change.

The Members' Pathway is a proven method to increase members in your Lodges – there's nothing to lose by doing so and all it takes is a little time, thought and effort and your Lodge could be reinvigorated.

Despite the national trend, we now have more initiates joining West Kent than for the last few years and our resignation rates are lower every year, but we still lose more members than we gain – and I ask myself why?

Members can sometimes become despondent when they feel left out, members fall out with each other over the most trivial things and of

Course the Grand Lodge above calls a number of our members to higher service which we of course cannot control.

So, how can we address this? Well, please consider the Members Pathway. If your Lodge hasn't embraced the Members' Pathway, why not? Ask your members to support you in this regard and, if someone blocks this proposal, discuss it at the next committee meeting and see how others feel about reinvigorating your Lodge.

Social events are in my view absolutely essential to retaining members – perhaps a simple quiz night, curry night or other events of this kind can bring the members and families together so that wives and partners can get to know each other and become more involved in what we do. Members therefore feel involved and engaged.

After each meeting, look at those who have attended, those who have given apologies, and then contact each of those who haven't been heard from to make sure that they know they were missed and are not forgotten. It is so easy to miss a few regular meetings and then fall out of the habit of attending your Lodge whereas a simple telephone call from the Almoner, Proposer or Seconder could have prevented this happening and re-engage a member.

Encourage your members to take offices and keep them engaged, ensure that those Officers who hold an office for many years longer than the recommended five-year term, do not discourage others from having the opportunity to occupy the role. It may be that no one else wants the job or there are not enough members to take the office and that is a different situation but the busier Lodges with sufficient members should think of those who might get despondent if they have no role within your Lodge?

A last thought – we all know non-masons, perhaps friends, colleagues or relatives who would be perfect for Freemasonry. Perhaps you might want to ask them along to your social evenings or a Ladies night, or simply ask them if they would like to join us. There is nothing to be lost by asking them and everything to lose if we miss out on another dedicated contributor to our Province and with 4,000 of us to do so, just think of the number of new members we could have if only half of those we asked were to say yes.

Let's get on the front foot and make your Lodge and our Province one that we can be proud of, and I wish you every success in with member attraction and retention.



Mark Estaugh, PGM and David Huntley, APGM on visit at  
Westcombe Park Lodge No 4241



## PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES: DANIEL UNTHANK

Celebration of Craft and Royal Arch Provincial Investitures Friday 9 June 2023

Firstly, congratulations to all those who have received notification of a first appointment, promotion or reappointment; each is undoubtedly well deserved. Receiving an honour is a culmination of hard work, dedication and support shown for our Province. The highlight of such an accolade is to have it conferred on you by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master at the Provincial Investitures Ceremony in the Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall.

The ceremony this year will be held on Friday 9th June, with the Royal Arch ceremony taking place in the Grand Temple in the morning, followed by a banquet luncheon in the Grand Connaught Rooms and the Craft Investiture ceremony in the afternoon.

The Craft ceremony will open with processions into Grand Temple by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master and his officers, Honoured Guests and Past Executive. As well as the investiture of those receiving Honours, there will be the presentation of awards to those who have gone above and beyond in their support of Lodges and the Province, and the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master will deliver his annual address.

This year will be especially memorable for recipients as they will be receiving their honours in the 50th anniversary year of West Kent as a Masonic Province. It will also be the first West Kent investiture ceremony held at Freemasons' Hall with a King on the throne. The ceremonies are open to all members of our Province and what better way to celebrate such an occasion than by bringing family, friends and non-masons to witness the spectacle. I'm sure that those receiving honours would be all the more joyous at having their Lodge members, family and friends in attendance to support them and see them invested by the Provincial Grand Master.

Whether you are receiving Provincial honours or not, and irrespective of your rank, everyone is more than welcome to attend the pinnacle event in our Provincial calendar. This is an excellent event to bring your prospective members along to, as well as a social celebration for your Lodge and Chapter members. I very much look forward to seeing as many of you there as possible and applauding all of those who receive their honours.





Grand Temple, Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street



## THE SECOND 25 YEARS OF WEST KENT

### The Researching and Writing of the Provincial History

Chairman of the Working Group:  
Alan Short

50th Anniversary of the founding of the Masonic Province of West Kent following the division of the former Province of Kent into two parts, East and West. A singular event not least because the division of a Province into two parts has not been repeated since.

The history of the first 25 years of the Province was written at the time that anniversary was celebrated so arrangements needed to be made as to the recording of the second 25 years as the 50th Anniversary approached.

Accordingly, in October 2020 the Provincial Grand Master entrusted responsibility for this important task to the West Kent Scriveners' Lodge, the lodge for Secretaries, Scribes E and Treasurers in the Province, who were delighted to accept the challenge that was offered. A working group to undertake the work was established and this has been meeting at three weekly intervals ever since. The working group itself comprises of some eight members of whom all barring one are members of the Lodge.

The first task was to work out how the history could be put together. What are the source materials? And where could they be found? For instance, we heard there was a lot of documentation stored in the basement of Oakley House. A sure place to visit. But, we then discovered that whatever had been stored there had been cleared out many years ago. So that was no good.

We therefore set about identifying what had been produced at the material time as the years rolled by and what was still available. The answer was twofold. West Kent News and the Annual Provincial Festival Programme.

We were able to track down copies of these documents for each year, which provided base information. At the same time we recognised that we needed to interview those whom we thought would have an interesting story to tell. In the end, we identified some forty brethren, most of whom welcomed the opportunity to be interviewed.

We also had to form a view as to how long the history should be, what photographs should be included and how should it be published? The answer to those questions is around 60 pages with photographs and published electronically so that all brethren will be able to enjoy access, with some hard copies also being available.

Having decided the preliminaries the exercise proper could get under way.

The extracting of information from each edition of West Kent News would be a lengthy job and was entrusted to one of our number. As this was undertaken, a data collation file was put together which progressively outlined key events as they were successively revealed. At the same time, the interviews got under way. A form of questionnaire was prepared to ensure that appropriate questions were consistently asked of those interviewed. The interviews themselves were in

most instances undertaken via Zoom although a few were conducted face to face. Generally, there was an interview team of three and the results were recorded with the information obtained being incorporated into the data collation file to provide a source book from which the history could be written.

From commencing our labours in November 2020 it was not until the spring of 2022 that the data collation file was sufficiently complete to allow the writing of the history itself to commence. But first, the mapping of the work to provide an indication of what is to be covered.

And so piece by piece the history has revealed itself. Of course, the data collation file was not always sufficient making further research necessary. And then as the written work emerged an editing team took over to undertake the taxing, but essential tasks of checking grammar, consistency of expression, spelling and all those other things we thought we had left behind many years ago at school! But, it had to be done.

As the history has been written, so the events have come into life once more. Provincial Grand Masters and their Executive have burst onto the stage, made their mark and departed. Initiatives have been pursued and the life of the Province has blossomed into view. Festivals have been held and targets pursued with functions to celebrate. Individual Lodges have celebrated anniversaries as have long serving brethren and colourful characters have made their mark and yes, the irrepressible Gordon William Sinclair Davie is much in evidence.

We also have had sad occasions when popular brethren having made their contribution have been called by the Great Architect to higher service. Sometimes, all too soon. We have tried to capture something of them all, to bring your history to life and to celebrate the times through which we have all lived.

The stage that we are now at is that the initial writing is nearly complete. So photographs are being collected and collated and the editing group will now be progressively engaged in producing the finished product.





ANOTHER LUCKY LODGE WON £1000  
In the 500 Club Christmas Draw

What does being a member of the 500 club mean?

When an individual, Lodge or Chapter joins the Association of Friends of Prince George, Duke of Kent, Court 500 Club they become part of our vision to improve the lives of the residents of your local RMBI Home and turn it from a care home into a real home.

The generosity shown by those who have already joined was evident over the Christmas period by the happy smiling faces at the Christmas party as every resident received their individual Christmas gift and enjoyed the special lunch and entertainment throughout the day.

Looking forward to 2023 and beyond, the Association of Friends hope to continue to provide support to the new Home Manager together with entertainment and facilities which those less fortunate than ourselves find so enjoyable and so let them know that they have not been forgotten.

We cannot do this without your help and we encourage all those Lodges and Chapters who have not yet joined the 500 Club to do so as soon as possible. The cost is often less than the contents of one charity box per year and enables us to plan for the future. It could be you in need one day and who would benefit!

Full details are available on our website:

[www.friendschislehurst.org/500club](http://www.friendschislehurst.org/500club)

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**It's not just about the winning, it's being confident that we are  
doing our best for those who have done their best for us.**

## WEST KENT NEWS



# West Kent Freemasons Fishing Charity Held Event 27th April

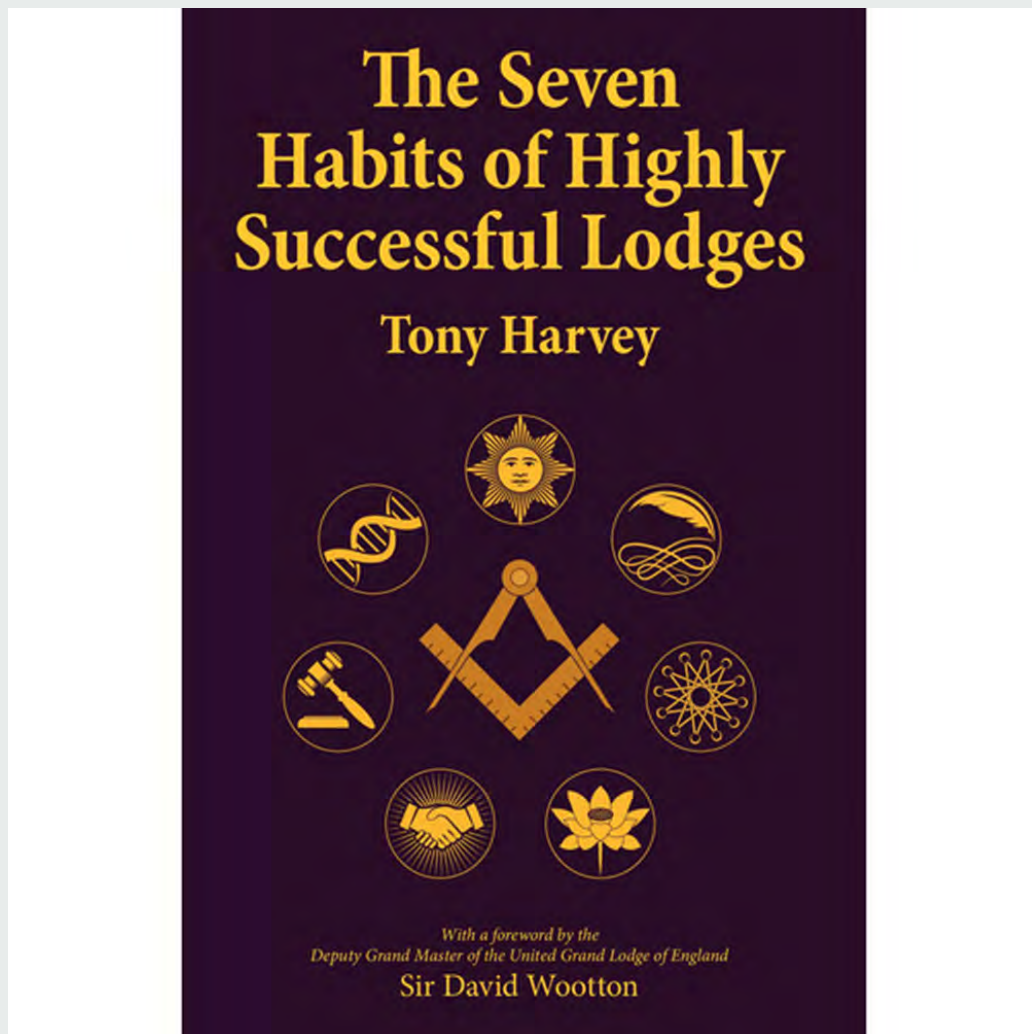
20 West Kent Freemasons volunteers run Charity  
Fishing event for Nexus School based in Tonbridge.



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE  
OF WEST KENT



Revive your Lodge, Grow its membership, Secure its future



## “The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges”

Successful Lodges tend to share several common features. In his new book, “The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges“, W Bro. Tony Harvey draws on his extensive experience in different areas within Freemasonry to identify the key features most often seen in our strongest, happiest, and most attractive Lodges. He then uses his professional expertise in developing organisations and their leaders to outline how brethren can strengthen, even revive, their Lodges. With the subtitle, “A guide to managing Lodges in the twenty-first century“, the focus is on modernising the management of Lodges for today’s world, while preserving Freemasonry’s purpose, values, meaning and ritual.

Rather than duplicating other work, Tony indicates relevant material in the Book of Constitutions and in the Members’ Pathway. This makes the book their essential companion and an invaluable guide to managing Lodges in the 21st century.

This book includes probably the most extensive study and analysis of our membership position in recent years. Building on this evidence base, Tony offers practical approaches to address the principal barriers to success, growth, and sustainability. He writes in everyday language for a general audience. This makes this book suitable for Freemasons of all backgrounds who wish to pass on to the next generation a Lodge that is



stronger and which has a better chance of a successful future.

Outside of Freemasonry Tony is a leadership coach, management consultant, and inspirational speaker. He has contributed to Scouting's development of new and successful approaches to recruiting, training, and managing adult volunteers. His 2012 Prestonian Lecture, "Scouting & Freemasonry: two parallel organisations?", examined the Scout Movement's recent growth and success and suggested these two values-based membership organisations build local and national collaborative relationships, to learn from and support each other. He is the author of, "The Success Cycle" and was the main author of UGLE's Members' Pathway. Tony has held Provincial roles in the secretarial, membership, mentoring, learning & development, charity, and communication areas of Freemasonry. He has been secretary of five Lodges & Chapters, all of which grew while he was in post.

"The Seven Habits of Highly Successful Lodges" is published by Lewis Masonic and has a foreword written by the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro. Sir David Wootton. You can buy a copy from <https://prestonian2012.org.uk/buy-my-books/> or by scanning the QR code below.



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Foreword by Sir David Wootton

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Chapter 1: The seven habits

Chapter 2: Membership myths and facts

Chapter 3: The world of the 21st century  
Freemason

Chapter 4: We have NOT always done it this way

Chapter 5: Leadership and management in the  
Lodge

Chapter 6: Who decides?

Chapter 7: But they don't want to change

Chapter 8: Communication is everything

Chapter 9: Culture and belonging

Chapter 10: Planning to succeed

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Acknowledgements

The author



## PASTORAL CARE TEAM (PCT)

### Some thoughts on Prostate Cancer from David Hedges

Next time you watch a soccer or rugby match remember this.., by the time that you put on the kettle for a half time cuppa or fight through the crowds for a pie and a pint, another man in the UK will have died as a result of Prostate Cancer.

I first used that analogy about 20 years ago when I wrote a surgery leaflet on behalf of the embryonic organisation that has now become the country's leading charity dedicated to Prostate Cancer research and support.

Much has changed, diagnosis has improved, treatment and survivability have exceeded all expectations but negative factors remain, prime among them is IGNORANCE. It's easy to ignore, firstly, it does not show many symptoms and it is too easy to blame those nocturnal visits to the bathroom on the extra pint or cold weather when it could be a subtle early warning. Next comes the infallibility syndrome, 'it'll never happen to me', don't kid yourself, it can. Prostate Cancer is probably the most insidious disease that a man can face.

Another thing that has changed is the perception of the disease; even only 20 years ago it was regarded as something not to be discussed in polite company; a nasty affliction that old men got below the belt. That was an ill-conceived view. Do you regard yourself old at 40? 45? 50? because even at a relatively young age it is still a real danger.

There is no solution, no vaccination, if you get it you get it, a fact of life. However, the single most important factor in a positive outcome is simple - early diagnosis. It is successfully treatable by any one of several procedures. All of them are

daunting and should be discussed with your wife and family before deciding but...and mark my words... do nothing and you have a very real chance of becoming no more than a statistic.

What's your first step? If you have the slightest doubt see your GP without delay, the outcome might be a referral but on the contrary it might put your mind at rest.

No symptoms but over 40? Get out your diary (how quaint) or log on to your phones calendar and reserve the 24th June as potentially the most important day in your year.

If you do happen to get a positive result it isn't the end of the world, your GP will rapidly refer you for further tests, the outcome of which will determine the way forward. Indeed there are even factors that can lead to a false positive from the initial test. Remember that the PCT is available to offer you support if treatment is needed and you would like a chat with a Brother who has experienced what you are facing.

In closing I can do no better than to quote from an email sent by a Brother who had an unexpected positive result at one of our sessions.

"I remain grateful of the opportunity for the test, else I'd still be blissfully ignorant and getting worse daily, without a clue."

THE PLACE - OAKLEY HOUSE, THE TIME - 10am to 1pm on 24th June, THE HOW - <https://members.westkentmasons.org.uk/prostate-cancer-diabetes-screening/>

The Care Team thanks the Provincial Grand Master and the Province for the continued support of the scheme

## 2023 Weight Loss Initiative

At the time of going to press, with three weeks left to go, the remaining 41 out of the initial 50 participants had lost a total of 180kgs, an average of 3.5kgs each.

Once again it's a remarkable effort from all involved and the Team is extremely grateful to George Buckberry for organising the session and producing all of the statistics. A full report will appear in the April issue of the PCT Bulletin.

0203 404 0423 – That's the PCT CARELINE number, if you have a problem that's affecting your well-being, give us a call, the Team is ready to listen and help.

**PREVENT SILENT ASSASSIN**  
PSA and Blood glucose testing

**PROSTATE CANCER SCREENING**

**24TH JUNE 2023, 10AM - 1PM @ OAKLEY HOUSE**  
**All Brethren and family members are welcome**

<https://members.westkentmasons.org.uk/prostate-cancer-diabetes-screening/>





<https://www.mtsfc.org.uk>

#### MTSFC Aims

"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.

#### West Kent Events 2023

- Spring Hill Trout Waters 20th April
  - \* D.D.A.P.S. 22nd June
  - Spring Hill 19th October
- \* Coarse fishing event – others Fly fishing

## Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity West Kent Branch

The West Kent Branch was founded in 2009 with the first event held at Spring Hill Trout Fishery which remains a popular venue. Over the intervening years many youngsters have attended our events often sponsored by a Lodge or Chapter.

These events are provided free to the participants but are funded by charitable donations or sponsorship in addition to the time given by the various volunteers. If you are an angler (Fly and Coarse) and would like to assist at these events please contact the Members & Casters Secretary John Berry at [johnberry1948@googlemail.com](mailto:johnberry1948@googlemail.com)

If your Lodge or Chapter would like to sponsor one of these days out or if you know of a school for children with physical or mental difficulties that might benefit from these events or if you would like to generally assist at these events then contact the Secretary David Purser at [david.purser2@btinternet.com](mailto:david.purser2@btinternet.com)

Two Travelling fundraisers, one each for Craft and Royal Arch, were designed and built by George Buckberry during lockdown as pictured. Like the travelling Mauls and TLC bear scrolls are intrinsic to the design to record donations by individuals and Lodges and Chapters. If your Lodge or Chapter would like to donate and have your patronage recorded on a scroll and receive a Certificate of Donation, please contact George Buckberry at [g.buckberry@btinternet.com](mailto:g.buckberry@btinternet.com)



For Craft



For Royal Arch



## THE PROVINCIAL GRAND COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER: WARREN MUCKELL

Freemasonry is a fraternity of men who share a common set of values and beliefs, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Kent is no exception. However, in recent years, our Province has faced a decline in membership, which has caused concern among its members.

One way to address this issue is through effective communication. Communications play a crucial role in building and maintaining relationships, both within and outside the organisation. Therefore, improving communication channels within West Kent can help in attracting and retaining new members. Here are a few ways in which communications can be used to improve membership to Freemasonry in West Kent:

1. **Social Media Engagement** In today's digital age, social media is a powerful tool for reaching out to a broader audience. We have an active presence on social media platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Regular updates about upcoming events, charity work, and Masonic principles can attract younger members and keep existing members engaged.

2. **Website** We have two websites. One for our members where we share masonic documentation and any stories which are not suitable for external publication. Mostly these contain personal information like telephone numbers and email, which are not to be shared publicly. Our external website is for the world to see, and we publish articles about our Province's charitable work, which can attract people who share the same values.

3. **Open Events** Our Province organises many public events during the year, mostly in the summer months. This puts us in the public eye and allows us to integrate with the public and tell them a little more about Freemasonry. This has already attracted several new members to our Province.

4. **Newsletter** We produce a regular newsletter that is distributed to its members. The newsletter contains articles about upcoming events, charitable activities, and other important updates. It can also feature interviews with members and testimonials from new members.

In conclusion, communication is a powerful tool that can be used to attract and retain members in Freemasonry in West Kent. Our Province should establish effective communication channels to reach out to a broader audience and showcase the positive impact that Freemasonry has on society. By doing so, we can attract new members who share its values and beliefs and ensure that Freemasonry continues to thrive in West Kent for generations to come.

Therefore, we ask you to actively tell us about the wonderful work you all do, especially with Charity and Community events. We are all Freemasons and as such we can all act as ambassadors for Freemasonry in West Kent and the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) as a whole. Please send your stories, along with pictures to [communications@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:communications@westkentmasons.org.uk) and we will spread the news of your good work to the wider audience.





## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST KENT

Let's put our Province on the Social Media Map!

Sent your stories to [Communications@WestKentMasons.org.uk](mailto:Communications@WestKentMasons.org.uk)





## WEST KENT EXTERNAL EVENTS TEAM: GORDON ROLLO

As Spring approaches, our External Events Team are preparing for a fun filled festival season once again.

So far, we have secured our attendance at the following events:

- West Wickham Village Fête on Monday 1st May 2023
- Pratts Bottom Village Fête on Saturday 13th May 2023
- Otford Village Fête on Monday 29th May 2023
- Armed Forces Day Greenhithe on Saturday 17th June 2023
- Armed Forces Day Swanley on Saturday 24th June 2023
- Biggin Hill Carnival on Saturday 1st July 2023
- Chelsfield Village Fête on Saturday 8th July 2023
- Cudham Village Fair on Monday 28th August 2023
- Riverhead Carnival on Sunday 17th September 2023

We attend these events to raise the profile of Freemasonry in general and promote the Province of West Kent. Generally, we are very well received by local communities, some are occasionally surprised to see us in attendance and like to ask questions.

A number of prospective members have been passed to the Membership Team and many have joined Freemasonry through making their initial contact with us at these events. Be a part of someone's masonic pathway from the very start! Please volunteer and help us with these enjoyable events.

What we need are willing and just as important, able Brethren to assist at these events throughout the year. You need to be confident to approach someone and speak about Freemasonry in a simplistic way. Training on an elevator approach and topics to avoid and how to avoid them will be provided, before you are asked to attend an event.

If you think this would be something in which you could get involved, please email Gordon Rollo at [Events@WestKentMasons.org.uk](mailto:Events@WestKentMasons.org.uk) with your name, phone number and area where you live, further details will then be provided.

I am really excited for this year, and hope to see as many of you as possible, whether you are assisting us, or showing support for your local community by attending.



**We have made approaches a number of other potential events within our Provincial boundaries, so watch this space.**



HELPING HANDS:  
CHRIS GLADWELL of  
TOTTENHAM SECUNDUS LODGE

Helping Hands is a collaboration between Tim Bates and WBro Chris Gladwell. Tim is an operative mason who is currently completing a Diploma in Sculpture at the renowned City & Guilds of London Art School. Chris manages masonry, construction and restoration projects in London.

The piece symbolises the act of one brother lifting up another in times of need. The hand doing the lifting is the smaller of the two, showing that even the strongest of us need help from time to time. The stone has been left heavily tooled to give life and texture, and to show the hand of the carver at work.

A limited edition of these are being cast in Bathstone coloured material, a warm honey coloured stone. There will be no more than 50 of this type created. They are life size and are suitable for display indoors or out.

They are available at £300 each plus postage and packing. £30 from each piece sold to a West Kent Lodge or mason will be donated to the West Kent 2026 Festival Fund. Tim and Chris hope this sculpture will be enjoyed by masons for many years to come.

[chris@gladwell.org](mailto:chris@gladwell.org)





# WEST KENT NEWS



SPRING  
EDITION  
2023

