

# WEST KENT NEWS

10th Edition

Photo: Provincial Investitures 2023

## Garden Party

Find details of our Provincial  
Garden Party for 2023

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Updates from your West Kent  
Masons Pastoral Care Team

## Orders beyond the craft

Find out more about the Order  
of the Secret Monitor

## The Light Blues Club

Hear from the Ambassador  
and Chairman of the club

SUMMER  
EDITION  
2023







# 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

## 21 GARDEN PARTY

Find out about our Provincial Garden Party and how to book a place for you and your family or friends

## 26 THE LIGHT BLUES

Updates from the Light Blues Club Ambassador and Chairman

## 28 PASTORAL CARE TEAM

Get all the latest updates from the Pastoral Care Team and some of the work they are doing to support you.

## 29 LOVE & FELLOWSHIP

Find out about the Dartford Masonic Fellowship, the history behind this group and how to get involved

## 46 ORDERS BEYOND THE CRAFT

In this edition we feature our first orders beyond the craft series, starting with the Order of the Secret Monitor

## A MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Brethren All,

I hope you are starting to enjoy the summer recess, recharging your batteries for the new season, with much to look forward to.

This edition of our magazine, brings you up to date with activities in and around our Province, with strong reinforcement of messages from the Royal Arch Executive; the Craft Executive giving valuable guidance to our Lodges; the West Kent Light Blues Club begins to set out its stall for the next year; a new section is included, giving an insight into an 'Order Beyond the Craft'; and much more.

Once again, I urge you to bear in mind that this magazine belongs to you. You are our Province. Our magazine needs to reflect who we are and what we do. Please give us your news so that we can share with other members, perhaps garner support for an upcoming event you have in the pipeline.

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 here to work for you.

Kindest and Fraternal regards,  
Adrian Grant



<https://twitter.com/westkentmasons>



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



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



<https://www.tiktok.com/@wkfreemasons>



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE  
OF WEST KENT



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

Brethren and Companions,

It is once again time for our regular edition of West Kent News, and I write with a sense of optimism that the Masonic season up to June 2023 has been one where we have been able to reinvigorate our Masonic activities in earnest and that most if not all of you have returned to your Lodge or Chapter meetings.

I cannot begin to tell you how delighted I was to see your support for our combined Provincial Craft and Royal Arch meetings on Friday 9 June and am given to understand that over 1,300 people booked in to attend the day's events and over 500 at the luncheon, which is normally restricted to that maximum number.

This is a testament to the magnificent commitment and support on your part with which you have blessed me throughout my term of office and, perhaps, to the benefit of combining our Chapter and Craft Investiture meetings on the same day in such magnificent surroundings at Great Queen Street.

However, I need to reaffirm that this Provincial Investiture meeting is YOUR Provincial spectacular – not just that for the recipients and their supporters – and I therefore hope that many more of you who were not present this year will support this special event next year.

Given the aligned Provincial approach to our Craft and Royal Arch membership development strategy, our Deputies in the Craft and the Royal Arch held a very successful Visiting Officer briefing session at Oakley House on 20 June – almost all our Craft and Royal Arch were in attendance, with the remainder being briefed at a Zoom session later this month.

Each of our VOs now has a clear understanding of our Provincial Membership Challenge for both Orders and how, working in tandem with our Lodges and Chapters, we will be able to share each unit's membership paradigm, and bring further successful growth to each of our units.

We should remember that the warrants entrusted to our Lodges and Chapters empower them to "make masons", which should be their over-riding priority, and I'm encouraged at the number of new members joining our ranks. However, I am still saddened that some Lodges with candidates in the pipeline are not embracing the opportunity to conduct multiple ceremonies, deeming this to detract from the initiate's experience.

I can confirm that I was initiated, passed, and raised in a double ceremony and despite not having met my fellow candidate before our admission into the Craft, the experience we shared made us life-long friends, and I had the great privilege of installing him as Master of our Lodge some years later. Please, do not keep candidates waiting in the wings – ensure that they are received into our fraternity promptly and help me in our quest to enhance our member numbers accordingly.

Despite the stressful economic climate that faces us, we continue to see encouraging trends from those being initiated and exalted, which is augmented by the number of joining and re-joining members. 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, which is one of my key priorities for the rest of my term of office, and I am very confident that we will see a return to positive membership growth for our Province in the immediate future.

At our Provincial Investiture event, Roland Stokes shared with us the extensive and very impressive list of Lodges and Chapters that have already achieved 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, I would like to appeal to those members whose approach to Freemasonry is one which is based on memories of the past, and "how things were done back then", rather than to "looking forward to what Freemasonry in West Kent can become" – if we are prepared to embrace change and innovation, rather than reflect on past glories.

Enjoy your summer break, go well, look after each other and continue to enjoy your Masonry in our magnificent Province.



“

My hopes are for a thriving membership,  
and, of course, the Members' Pathway is  
a tool and a route by which we can  
achieve thriving membership.

CRAFTCAST

The Freemasons Podcast

Ian Copestake

Members' Pathway  
Working Party Chairman



**Craftcast**

Easily listen and subscribe for free in your  
preferred podcast player.

**Easily listen to Craftcast: The Freemasons Podcast in your  
podcast app of choice**

Quickly and easily listen and subscribe to Craftcast: The Freemasons Podcast for  
free in your podcast app of choice.

 [captivate.fm](https://www.captivate.fm)



## THE DEPUTY GRAND SUPERINTENDENT: JAMES MARSH

Companions,

I do hope that you are enjoying the summer recess and that you will be refreshed and ready when the new season begins in September. The Provincial team are preparing for the new season, and planning is already underway for Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter in June 2024...

However, by far the most important issue on my desk at the moment is the Royal Arch Membership Challenge. As you will all be aware, the Pro 1st Grand Principal, Jonathan Spence has stated that all Provinces are to make membership a priority - we are to halt the downward trend in members numbers and within three years, he wants the Craft membership to increase by 1% per year, he has also stated that he wants a significantly improved membership within the Royal Arch. Further, the Grand Superintendent has charged me with implementing his strategic plan of increasing the current 42% of our Craft members being Royal Arch Companions to 50%.

It is obvious that to increase our RA membership, we have to Exalt more candidates; however, to sustain good growth, it is vital that we also stem the number of Companions leaving our Order.

I have no doubt that with a little more application, both the Grand Superintendent's and the Pro 1st Grand Principal's challenges can be achieved. For example, to have realised the first part of the RA Membership Challenge in West Kent

for last season (i.e. to stop the downward trend in our RA numbers), we needed only to have Exalted 10 more Companions, or had 10 fewer resignations or cessations! Last season's RA membership challenge is shown below.

With each Lodge now having appointed a Royal Arch Liaison Officer (RALO) who will encourage their Lodge members to join the Royal Arch, and each Chapter having a Chapter Membership Officer (CMO) who will encourage all their Companions to source Exaltees, I am confident we can achieve, and indeed exceed the West Kent RA Membership Challenge.

As you will know, we already have in place a committed Royal Arch Membership Development Team headed up by Vince Lethbridge; he and his team stand ready to assist CMOs and RALOs to forge links -

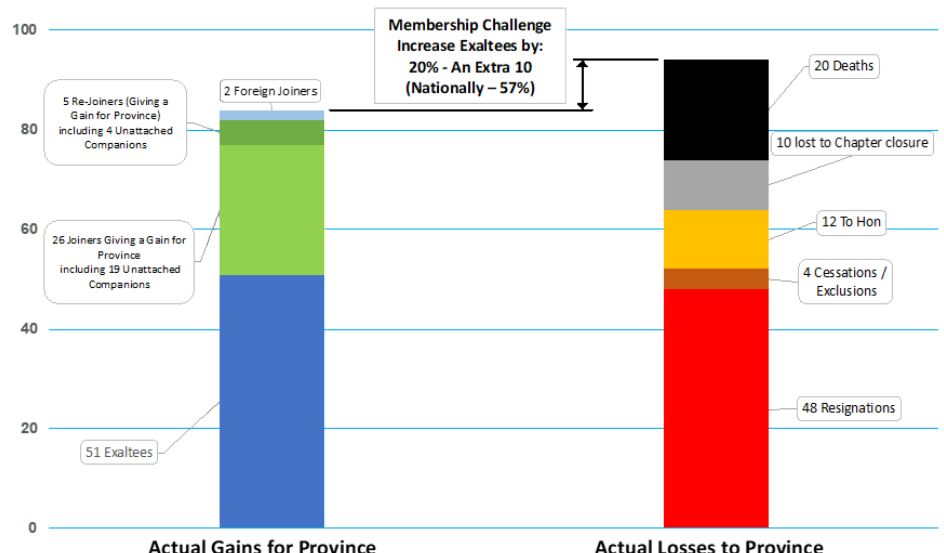
furthermore, the Grand Superintendent has authorised that the names of our RALOs and CMOs to be placed on the private side of our website. With these new measures now in place, there is no excuse for our Chapters not to be able to source new members, to assist in fulfilling the RA Membership Challenge and, most importantly, for many more of our members to enjoy the fourth, and most impressive element of the masonic journey.

My challenge to the Royal Arch in West Kent for this upcoming season is twofold:

1. for every Chapter in the Province to Exalt at least one Brother: and,
2. to reduce our resignation / cessation / exclusion percentage rates to the lowest they have ever been.

Companions - I am confident you will be able to fulfil these challenges!

PGC W. Kent - Membership Challenge (2022)  
% Increase in Exaltees to stabilise numbers





# WEST KENT 50th ANNIVERSARY GARDEN PARTY

West Kent Provincial Stewards Board Presents:

- Live music from Liam Joseph and Rachael River
- Bouncy Castle
- Giant Darts
- Pay BBQ, Hog Roast and Ice Creams
- Pay Bars



**NOTE:**  
CASH ONLY EVENT  
USE OF BANQUETING SUITE (WEATHER DEPENDENT)



Entrance: £5 Adults, £1 Children



Sunday, 10th  
September 2023  
12:30 to 5pm



Oakley House, Bromley  
Common, Bromley, Kent  
BR2 8HA



## PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF WEST KENT

**50th Anniversary Garden Party**

 Eventbrite / Sep 10



## 2nd PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: BIPINCHANDRA PATEL

As the summer is here and we are enjoying long summer evening and our summer holiday destinations, the Royal Arch team in conjunction with the Membership Team is busy behind the scene preparing for the new Masonic season in September 2023.

The Team is fully focused and devoted to the Membership Challenge outlined by the Pro Grand first Principal and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent. It is our intention to communicate this to all our Brethren, so that with your support we can achieve the short term aims and put in place processes that will help us achieve our long term goals. This will involve working with lodges via their Royal Arch Liaison Officers (RALO) as well as with Chapters via their Chapter Membership Officers (CMO). These are key offices and we will be actively working and supporting them in their roles.

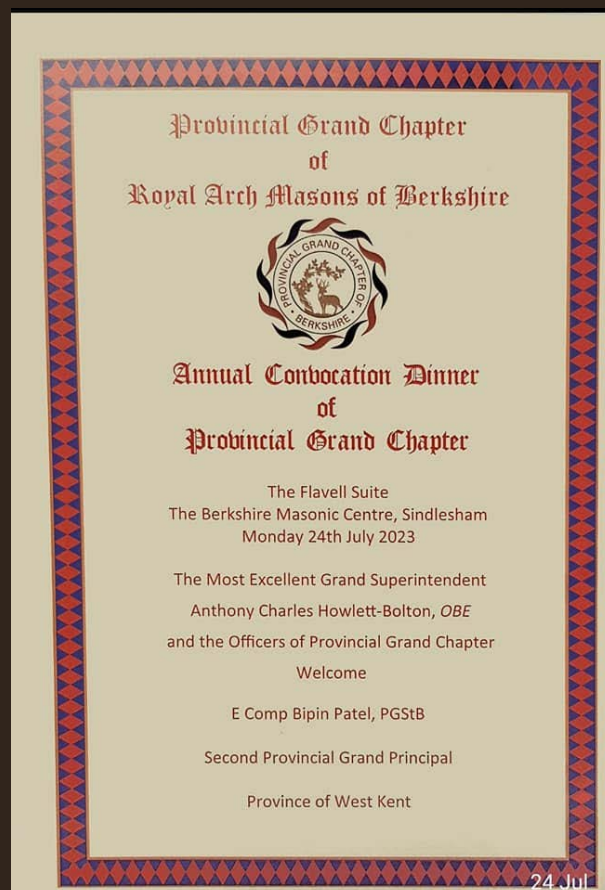
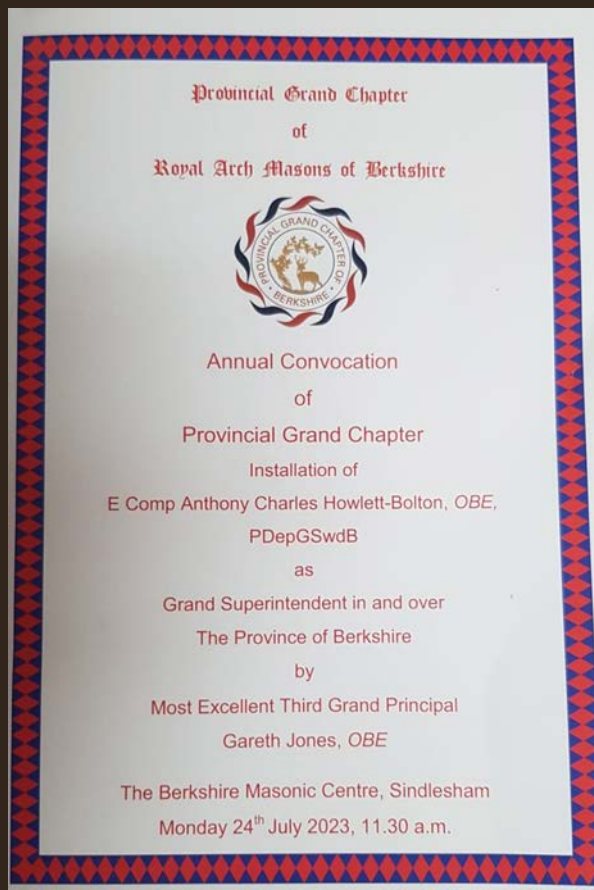
The RA Membership Team will be contacting Brethren who are eligible to join the RA as well as unattached Companions to consider membership of the RA and complete the 4th and final element of their masonic journey. Contrary to other opinions, Master Masons of four weeks and upwards are eligible to join the RA. The best time to join is as soon as you are eligible so that you can take time to understand the RA while you are progressing through the offices in the Craft Lodge without taking up an office in the Chapter.

I am responsible for Lodges and their RALOs and with the assistance of the Craft Visiting Officers looking to increase the percentage of members belonging to the RA and the 3rd Provincial Grand Principal and Chapter Visiting Officers will be working with the Chapters and their CMOs to maintain their membership.

I was delighted to meet so many of you at the Annual Provincial meeting on 9th June at Great Queen Street and once again congratulations to all who received promotions and first appointments. So good to see so many friends and family present at the Annual Event as well as the visitors from neighbouring provinces.

By the time you receive this newsletter, my 72-hole golf challenge will be over. I wish to thank everyone for sending messages of support and have generously supported me in the fund raising.





The 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principals represented the MEGS at the Investiture of the Grand Superintendent of the Province of Berkshire



### 3rd PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: TONY BURD

It is just over a year since I was invested as your Third Provincial Grand Principal, where has that year gone?

Representing our Province at other Provincial Grand Chapter meetings, interacting with my peers, building relationships, has been incredibly rewarding, and I have been fortunate to attend a number in the year.

It was always be going to be a full on and intense masonic year, and without doubt with the greatest number of changes in the Royal Arch in West Kent, in the fifty years since the Province came into existence!

Freemasonry three hundred years ago, is beyond recognition to as it is now, so "we have always done it this way" is a single generation perception! We have to change and adapt to external influences, necessary for us to thrive.

Following the appointment of Visiting Officers last year, the Royal Arch Executive and the Membership Development Team (RAMDT) has been in overdrive. In summary the key element changes this year have been the following:

- The appointment by Chapters of a Chapter Membership Officer (CMO).
- We are now in the process of a similar exercise for the placement of a Royal Arch Liasson Officer (RALO) in every Lodge. The RALO will receive Royal Arch Membership Eligibility Record, RAMER, detailing all in his Lodge, eligible to become members of the RA, for him to use as a tool in his key role.
- Next stage will be to link up the CMOs with Lodge Membership Officers (LMOs), and RALOs, to complete the circuit, to promote RA membership attraction. Under the direction of the Craft APGMs, the Royal Arch will be actively promoted in Lodges.

A Freemason who is a member of the Royal Arch as well as the Craft, is three times less likely to leave Freemasonry than if he is only in the Craft, that's a win for the Craft!

Other innovations, include the recent issue of "Managing Resignations in the RA WK flowchart" for Scribes E, to fully explore why a member may be contemplating resigning.

Chapters might want to give some consideration on how to make their meetings more appealing. When without any work, or developing items of interest, rather than "open your meeting, carry out admin items, and closing the meeting", some may question what is of interest to attend this limited format?

New Master Masons receive a letter from the PGM, congratulating him on taking his third of the four elements in Pure Ancient Freemasonry, delivering a personal invitation to take his fourth step.

The questions a candidate for Initiation is asked at his interview has undergone a complete review, and now includes a section on the fourth element, the RA.

A year of many, but essential, developments and changes!

Please contact me with anything I may be able to assist, by emailing to [3PGP@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:3PGP@westkentmasons.org.uk)





THE ASSISTANT TO THE  
PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPALS:  
DAVID CAMPBELL

We have finally seen summer begin with decent weather and as we see the slowdown of Provincial activity it is perhaps time to be reflective on the success of the past year in our province and to prepare and gain an insight into the challenges for our next masonic year.

With the Craft and Chapter executive teams working closer together we have a combined work ethic to face the membership challenges to the province to improve our membership both into the Craft and for the brethren to complete their masonic journey into Royal Arch Masonry.

To strengthen the working relationship between Craft and Royal Arch we are looking forward to the rolls of Royal Arch Liaison Officers in our lodges and Membership Officers in our Chapters. This will provide a strong communication and cohesive working relationship between the two to ensure both parties are able to obtain and work towards our objectives.

Like Craft, this last year saw the introduction of Visiting Officers to our Chapters. These companions in their first year of their office have seen a greater intensity of communication and support for the Chapters and their companions. This level of support will help the Chapters progress from strength to strength and for the individual Chapters to increase their membership and to receive the enhancement that the Royal Arch has to offer. As we face our membership challenges and as we restructure and adapt our way of working to achieve this we look forward to an exciting new masonic new season. May we all enjoy and focus on our Craft members who have yet to complete that final stage of our pure and ancient freemasonry.



PROVINCIAL GRAND MENTOR:  
ALAN WONDZINSKI

A glimpse through the Archway – Looking into the Royal Arch

Do you want to know more about the Royal Arch? Why it should be your next step in Freemasonry? Why it is the completion of your Masonic journey? Why you owe it to yourself as a Freemason to complete that journey? The answers to these and other questions can be found in A glimpse through the Archway – Looking into the Royal Arch.

The Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team are now preparing to present A glimpse through the Archway in your Lodge. If you, or any members of your Lodge, haven't yet embraced that final element in your Masonic career, this presentation is a MUST SEE.

To book a presentation in your Lodge, please contact me at the address below.

Companions, further to my message in the Spring edition of West Kent News, I'm looking to establish a bank of accomplished speakers to deliver talks on Royal Arch topics in Chapters. The aim is to provide a one stop point of contact for Chapters looking for a guest speaker so that they never have a convocation with nothing to do. If you feel you are up to the challenge, please contact me with a list of titles of talks, Masonic and non-Masonic, you would be prepared to present.

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





## HEAD OF ROYAL ARCH MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT: VINCE LETHBRIDGE

Since the announcement at last year's joint Provincial investitures of the Provincial Grand Master / Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's (PGM / MEGS) intention to have the Craft and the Royal Arch more aligned and to be seen as one joint entity rather than what is perceived by many as two independent units there has been a huge amount of work undertaken behind the scenes to realise the PGM/MEGS vision, among these works are new initiatives which have been introduced to not only attract new members but also to enhance the Royal Arch experience of our existing Companions.

To achieve this objective the role of the Royal Arch Almoner is a much more enhanced position now and is more in line with the duties carried out by our Craft Almoners, our Chapters now have a dedicated Royal Arch Mentor in place as well as the creation of a new office of Chapter Membership Officer (CMO) our Chapters also have in place their own dedicated Chapter Visiting Officer whose duties will emulate those of our Craft VOs.

To further underpin and support our Chapters with these new and enhanced positions the PGM/MEGS also announced the formation of the Royal Arch Membership Development Team (RAMDT) of which I am delighted to have been tasked with heading.

As you are all no doubt already aware, as part of our ongoing membership strategy the role of Craft Royal Arch Rep or Chapter representative has been changed to that of a much more membership focused role and this office is now officially called a Royal Arch Liaison Officer (RALO) we would like to thank those Lodges who have already informed us of their RALO but for those Lodges yet to do so, please let us know who your intended RALO will be.

Over the coming weeks and months every RALO in the Province will be personally contacted by a member of the Royal Arch Executive, following this conversation the RALO will then be supplied with a 'Royal Arch Membership Eligibility Review' (RAMER) of his Lodge, this is a personalised review of every member in the RALO's Lodge and it will highlight every member who is not only eligible for Exaltation but also those Companions who are currently unattached. A member of my team (RAMDT) will then contact the RALO six months on from them receiving their RAMERs for an ongoing courtesy membership follow up.

[RAmembership@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:RAmembership@westkentmasons.org.uk)  
07958 592877



## THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: IAN GALLEHAWK

As we now approach what, for many, is the summer break, it is a good time to reflect upon our performance as a Province over the first half of 2023.

As you will doubtless be aware, membership is now the focus of virtually all our activity. So far this year, our Province has significantly turned its fortunes around and this has only come about because of the tremendous collective effort made by everyone to grow our numbers.

As I'm sure you are aware, the UGLE strategy focuses on 1% per annum growth by year 3 (we are approaching year 2) and 2% by year 7. While, at first glance, these seem like small numbers, they must be seen in the context of decades (literally) of declining member numbers.

At the mid-point of 2023, there is a genuine and realistic opportunity for West Kent to end the year with more members than at the start. For the first time in a long while, we have arrived at the midway point having flatlined our numbers. Total losses through resignations remain exactly the same as last year. Total losses for all reasons show a slight reduction. This is all very positive and shows that we are moving in the right direction. Over the summer, let's make sure that we look after our members, get ahead of events and do all that we can to eliminate resignations. It is a reduction in resignations that is critical to ensuring that we see growth in West Kent and across the Order in general.

Initiations have shown a significant reduction on this period last year. One reason for this is that Lodges are managing the backlog caused by the pandemic as we pass and raise our newer members. As I type, we have some 212 members waiting to be passed with a further 58 waiting to be raised. While this is an excellent challenge to face, we must also remain focused on the ongoing need to ensure that we grow our numbers. It is the only way that we will secure the future of our Province. Please be innovative in how you move forward. Work with other Lodges at your centres to see if any assistance can be provided as regards passings and raisings. Consider double ceremonies or emergency meetings but please retain the focus on growth. You have done so well to get us to our current position, let's keep the momentum going and build on it. Every Lodge needs to attract 2 new members per year and reduce resignations. I know you are as passionate about our Province as I am and really look forward to the positive results of all the current activity.

As many now start a well-earned break, we are likely to spend more of our time in the company of those, who have yet to join our wonderful Order. Let us take this opportunity to have those conversations with, and make those approaches to, the right people and only ever the right people. Never compromise on our values or the integrity of our Province and Order. The right people are out there. Quality will always triumph over quantity. I look forward to sharing in the spoils of your activity towards the end of the year I send my best wishes to and with you.





Nick Carey. Tour De France Epic Mountain Fundraising event for the 2026 Festival . great work so far Nick. Brethren if you would like to support Nick on his journey then please visit <https://tinyurl.com/buxp66t2> or scan the QR Code.

So far Nick has raised £480 for the West Kent Festival 2026





## ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: ANDREW WADDINGTON

I am sure that like many, you are looking forward to the summer break. During the summer you will be pleased to know that the Provincial Craft and Royal Arch Executive Teams and the many heads of key departments within West Kent, will be continuing to work hard on your behalf. With membership of Craft and Royal Arch being at the forefront of our activities you may be sure that we are continuing to focus on this issue as a priority.

I would urge you all to spend some of your time over the summer looking towards growing your Lodges, take the time to reconnect with those who have been less engaged throughout the past season, or seasons and to encourage their return to your Lodges.

Perhaps look at organising a social event or two over the coming few months and keep the fun side of your Lodge life alive whilst at the same time showing that side to non-Masons or potential candidates. In this way we can return to our Freemasonry next season with renewed vigour and perhaps new Brethren.

Look inwardly at your Lodges, particularly over the past five or ten years. Look at the number of Initiates, Joiners and Re-Joiners you have had; now look at those that are left. It may surprise you to see how many of your fellows and Brethren have been lost through resignations, exclusions and cessations. Now look at how you, and I mean every one of you, can take steps to prevent these losses in the future.

From the newest Initiate to the Provincial Grand Master and above, we are all equally responsible for keeping the 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.

The Lodges that meet at Welling and Wrotham, Group 2, are all extremely dear to me and many, over that past few months have enjoyed some outstanding meetings. From double initiations, passings, raisings, milestone anniversaries and personal anniversaries in the form of 50th 40th and 30th Citations and Grand Lodge Certificates.

Many of you have also received preferment in Provincial Grand Lodge and Chapter. Congratulations to you all. With that preferment however comes great responsibility. Take the message of the Membership Challenge back to your Lodges. Increasing our new members in the Craft by 76% and 20% in the Royal Arch, are required in our Province to stabilise the decline in Membership. I cannot stress how important it is for us to do all we can to halt the decline and to grow our membership.

For those of you in 'Light Blue' please seek out the Light Blues Club on our Provincial Website, there are many activities planned and you will be amongst friends and likeminded

individuals where fun, friendship and camaraderie are the watchwords.

For those of you in 'Dark Blue' please encourage your newer brethren to engage with the Light Blues Club, there is no age limit and it is free to join.

Lodges in Group 2 that have not yet appointed a Lodge Royal Arch Liaison Officer (RALO) please do so sooner rather than later. All Lodges would have been sent names of those suggested by the Provincial Grand Master. You do not have to wait until installation.

On a lighter side I have just turned 60. For those who will be celebrating 50 years in Freemasonry this year I salute you.

I hope you all have a fantastic summer with your friends and families and enjoy your time. I look forward to seeing you all when we return to Masonic labour.





Photo: Permission granted for use



Westwood 8046 Lodge were made aware of the needs of a local mum. Mrs. F is a 36 year old mum of three children, a 4 year old and twin baby girls. Her husband works all of the hours that he can to provide for his family. Mrs. F became blind giving birth to the twins.

The Lodge was informed that this blind mum walked the children to take the 4 year old to school every day in a broken buggy tied together with scarves.

The family couldn't afford to pay for a new one. The school helped out where they could with meals, school uniform, books and food bank. Mum required a tandem pushchair in order to use her cane alongside the pushchair when walking.

The picture shows the new pushchair, purchased by the lodge for this family, costing about £250. This small gesture has made the world of difference to this family and to the children.

**CHARITY**





## ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: PETER BROOKER

How nice to be enjoying the good weather and coming out of Masonic meetings in daylight. That said, by the time you read this article the weather may have changed! Although the Masonic Season is approaching its annual short break, we are still seeing candidates being initiated and potential new members interviewed and prepared for the future. As we all know, membership is our primary focus and key objective over the coming years. I am proud to be a Freemason and often speak to people who know little about our organisation. Freemasonry has such a wonderful message to share and why would someone not want to be a part of it! Keep spreading the word about the great work undertaken by our Order and the friendship and camaraderie it has to offer.

Retaining our existing members is vital for the future of Freemasonry and if you have members in your Lodge who you have not spoken to or seen for a while, give them a call just to make sure they are alright. There may well be a simple reason for their temporary absence, however, on the other hand, they may appreciate your concern and perhaps need some support.

I am still amazed at the number of Long Service Citation awards I am privileged to present to members who have completed 50 or 60 years in Freemasonry. It would be nice to think these awards will continue long into the future.

Summer is a time to relax and enjoy, however we must plan for the future. Make sure your Lodge is meeting the needs of its members. Should you consider making a few changes? Is your Lodge fit for purpose and living in the 21st Century? We all love tradition, but question everything – that is how we learn and develop.

Are you a member of a Royal Arch Chapter? Are there members of your Lodge who are not members of the Royal Arch? If you want to know more, speak to your Lodge's 'Royal Arch Liaison Officer'. If you can't get meaningful help or advice from your Lodge members, speak to the APGM responsible for your group of Lodges. If your Lodge meets at any of the centres below, please do not hesitate to contact me: 07767 365640.

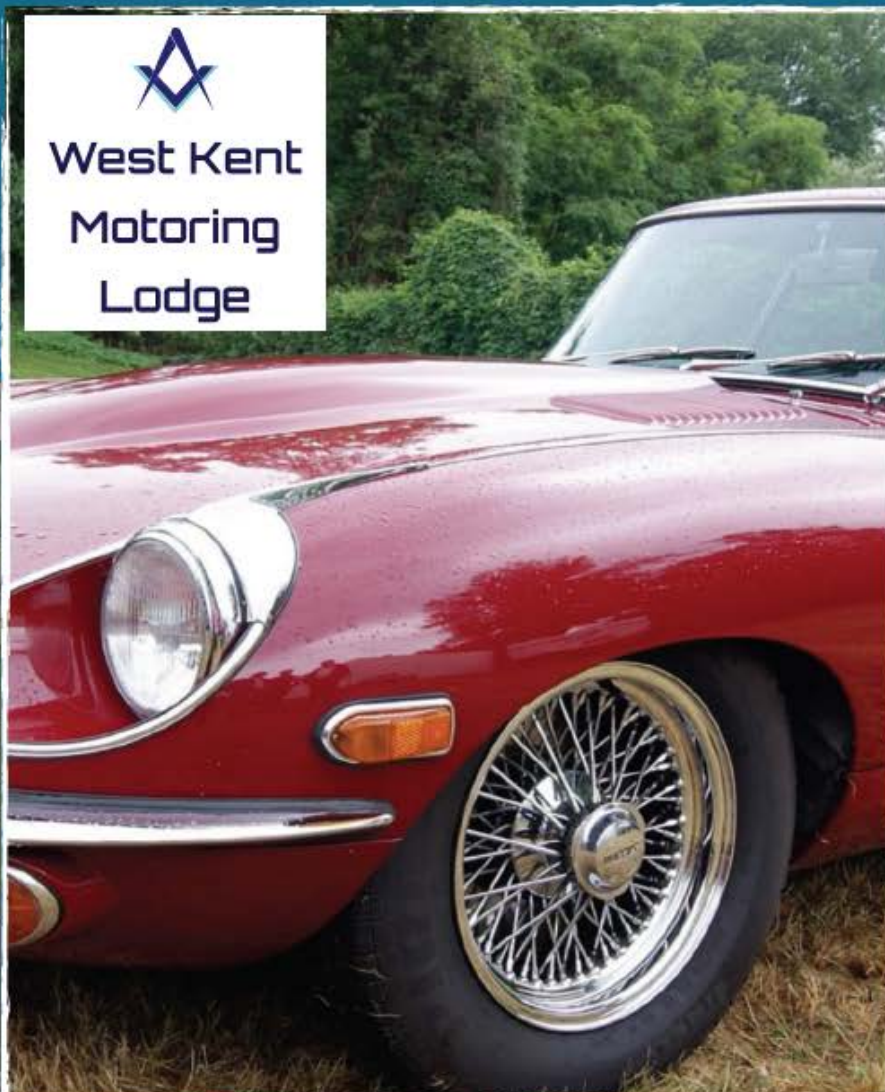
The role of an Assistant Provincial Grand Master is to serve the members of our truly inspiring Province and I am keen to help in any way I can.

Group 3 - Covering the Centres at: Sidcup, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge Wells and Edenbridge.

SEPT  
**24**



West Kent  
Motoring  
Lodge



# WKML TREASURE HUNT

## Let the Hunt Begin!

Date: Sunday 24th September Time: 10:00

Cost: £10 per car

Amble through the heart of Kent, visiting castles and stately homes alike! This inaugural tour will require you to find an artefacts at each venue concluding with Sunday lunch (optional).

Prizes and a raffle will be awarded at lunch. All funds raised will be donated to the 2026 Festival.

RSVP: [WKMLEVENTS@GMAIL.COM](mailto:WKMLEVENTS@GMAIL.COM)



ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND  
MASTER: GRAHAM RAVEN

As we approach the end of this masonic year, I find myself looking forward to the summer break, with perhaps some good weather, and recharging the batteries for the start of the next season.

The real hard work on the Membership Challenge is yet to come, in succeeding the targets set, to increase overall membership by 1% per annum for the next 5 years. Although there are some Lodges in Group 1 beating the Challenge, a high percentage are not, but I am sure they will take up the Challenge. The Visiting Officers attended a briefing, giving them all the information to enable them to assist their Lodges to complete the Challenge. Remember it is your Lodge, our Province has no "silver bullet" but has the tools to help you beat the Challenge.

The final quarter has been busy with official visits to support you, and I again, had the privilege of presenting 50 year citations, which is always a delight, and attending the 50 year anniversary of Eglantine Lodge.

May brought the 50th Anniversary of the formation of our Province and it was marked by a celebration dinner with the West and East Kent Executives and a celebration cake. This momentous event will be marked by a Garden party at Oakley House on the 10th September, and it is hoped that many of you will attend with family and friends. This event is organised by the West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, details of how to book appear on page 7 of this magazine.

June brought the Annual Investiture meeting at Great Queen St and I congratulate, all those who received preferment supported by their Brethren, family and friends. As the Provincial Grand Master said, "it's your meeting", so please try to support this event again next year.

Have an enjoyable break, I look forward to meeting you on the circuit in the new season.





Work continues at the Wrotham Masonic Hall, where summer renovations are taking place.

Keep up the great work!



Congratulation to the Westwood Centre's administration team for their continued excellent work on the refurbishment of the new bar.

The work is well underway in Welling and we look forward to enjoying the venue when activities resume after the summer

Looking great!



## ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: DAVID HUNTLEY

My sincerest congratulations to all those who received Provincial honours in both the Craft and Royal Arch last month. Being presented in front of relatives and friends is another of our Provincial Grand Master's great initiatives, which other Provinces are now also following.

As is often said, these appointments, promotions and ranks are given not only for what the recipient has already done but also for what they are now expected to do for our Province.

If you are desirous of achieving higher office in our Province, my advice would be that firstly you think of what you currently do for our Province yourself and then what you could do.

This may be that you take the lead within your own lodge to promote the Members' Pathway or encourage and develop ways of bringing in new members to your lodge.

You might think of ways of raising funds for the 2026 Festival, by perhaps running social events or other revenue producing functions.

Some members are active in the local community and thereby cast a favourable spotlight on Masonry through their work.

Take the great example of Colin Wright whose initiative of PSA testing has undoubtedly saved many of our members lives and has been a fantastic success.

Colin was in his 80's when he petitioned our Province to start the testing, so age is no boundary for enthusiasm. Believe me when I say that all of the things mentioned above are noticed by the Executive members and are recorded, those who go the extra mile should and are more likely to be considered for higher office which really shouldn't be a surprise to anyone, it is the same in any business where effort is rewarded.

So, to all those recipients, all of the Executive offer our heartiest congratulations, please carry on supporting the Province, its initiatives, the Festival and your local community.

Enjoy your summer holidays, stay safe and I look forward to seeing you all for our next Masonic season.



Mayor of Bexley  
Civic Parade  
June 2023







## PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER: GRAHAM TARRAN

By the time you read this, you will hopefully have received details from your Lodge Secretary or Almoner of two initiatives we are looking to set up.

The first, is a Friendship Line, where Brethren can receive a call for a friendly chat from time to time, at the time and frequency of their choosing. The second, is looking at the possibility of arranging transport for those Brethren who would otherwise be unable to attend lodge meetings. If you or anyone you know would benefit from either of these services, please let me know.

As summer approaches and we move into the quiet period of masonic activity, it is vitally important that we maintain regular contact with our lodge members, especially those who do not attend meetings on a regular basis. The Provincial Almoner's team will be available throughout the summer period to provide advice and support where needed. May I take this opportunity to wish you and your loved ones a very enjoyable and relaxing summer.





## PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES: DANIEL UNTHANK

As announced at the Provincial Grand Honours Ceremony on 9th June, I will be endeavouring to run 1000 miles in the next year to raise funds for the 2026 Festival.

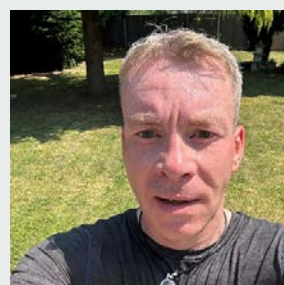
To put this into perspective, it is roughly the same distance as running from Oakley House to Naples in Italy. But you have a whole year I hear you cry! Well, I'll admit I had the same thought, and after a couple of pints it sounded simple. Then the sensible person in my house, namely my wife, pointed out to me that I'm 49, a smoker, don't mind a drink and my knees and back sound like popping candy when I get out of bed in the morning. This was a slightly better reaction than that of my two sons who just laughed. Out came calculators and I was gleefully informed that I'd need to run 2.75 miles EVERY DAY, or 19.25 miles EVERY WEEK, or 83.5 miles EVERY MONTH. This plus family time, walking the dog, a normal working day, Masonic meetings and all the other activities I'm involved in. Then came the dreaded question: 'can we call it the Forrest Gump Challenge and have t-shirts made?'. After rapidly putting an end to that line of questioning and the snickering, there was a brief few seconds of silence and I was then asked 'why are you going to run 1000 miles in a year'? It's a good question and one that I suddenly found myself asking.

Brethren, you all know that we are in Festival and have been challenged to raise £2,502,026 to assist the Masonic Charitable Foundation with their charity work. Charity has always been a core principle of Freemasonry, and the work the MCF does is nothing short of life changing. Funded entirely by Freemasons, they provide support for

Freemasons and their families when life takes an unexpected turn for the worse. The MCF offer a wide range of grants and support services for financial, health, family and care-related needs along with support for local and national charities, funding medical research and disaster relief appeals.

Whether we are aware of it or not, we all know someone who has benefitted from the work the MCF do. West Kent Masons, have received assistance from the MCF before, during and after the pandemic and will undoubtedly long continue to do so. The Festival is our way of giving back and saying thank you. From the start we have seen members of our Province take up challenges to raise monies and support our 2026 Festival. Nethinim Lodge completed a virtual run/walk from Lands End to John O'Groats, Craig Reeves-Tibbs of North Kent Lodge hiked 50km across 10 Tors in Dartmoor, Andrew and James Waddington walked the Pilgrims Way in 6 days and Bipin Patel is playing 72 holes of golf in one day! These are just a few of the events Brethren have taken on so that West Kent can support the MCF.

Brethren, my 1000 mile run is going to be tough (although hopefully not as laughable as my sons thought), but it's for an exceptionally good cause. I will be providing regular updates throughout the year so you can see how things are going. Any donation you can give would be greatly appreciated and will help enormously on the days when I would rather fall asleep on the sofa than go for a run! Donations can be made via [tinyurl.com/1000MilesMCF](https://tinyurl.com/1000MilesMCF) or use the QR code below:



Me after the first 6.5 mile run on Sat 10th Jun.  
Trust me Brethren, it's not a smile on my face!



## THE AMBASSADOR FOR THE WEST KENT LIGHT BLUES CLUB: ROBBIE DEVLIN

The West Kent Light Blues Club is a club within our Province that services the newer Masons.

It has its own identity and constitution, which was drafted in conjunction with the Provincial Grand Master in 2015, designed to be supportive of the Provincial aims and objectives.

Our primary goal as a Club is to develop friendships between those Masons yet to attain Provincial Rank across our Province. The Club allows us to engage more frequently with our members, mostly through the social events we hold. We encourage engagement through a variety of organised social events. Such events will regularly be posted on the website.

We encourage members from across our Province to meet and mix and to engage in the joy of visiting other Lodges. Membership to the Light Blues Club is automatic. There is NO cost. There is NO age limit. Everyone who is new to Masonry in our Province is automatically a member of our Club until they've attained their first honour.

We have almost 1800 Light Blues in West Kent and we are attempting to bring as many of them together in small groups, with similar interests and experiences to share in the joy of Freemasonry while providing a gateway to a fun, beneficial and rewarding community of their peers.

If you are a Light Blue then, look out for us on the West Kent Provincial Website and join us in participating in our activities. I look forward to seeing you at some of our social events over the next few months.





## WEST KENT LIGHT BLUES CLUB CHAIR: LIAM TURNER

As the recently elected Chair of The West Kent Light Blues Club, it is my utmost pleasure to address you on behalf of our Club. I emphasize the importance of your participation, as every member plays a crucial role in our growth and success. Our committee is dedicated to organising events catering for the needs and interests of members.

Our new committee members are, Dave Edwards of Westwood 8046 serves as our Deputy Chair; Paul Clark of Saye and Sele 1973 is our Secretary; Antony Doody of Westwood 8046 is the Treasurer; Nigel Leek of Ravensmead 6404 holds the position of Events Officer; Liam Barnard of William D'Aeth 8710 is our Membership and Engagement Officer; and Duncan Callnon of St Barnabas 6315 serves as the Communications Officer.

Our events encompass a wide range of activities, including lectures on Freemasonry and social gatherings. Currently, we have a cricket match against East Kent Light Blues on August 13th at Meopham Cricket Club. On September 23rd, we have a special visit planned to the Lodge of Sincerity (Shooting Lodge) where we will begin the day with breakfast, followed by an Initiation ceremony and then a shooting session. The cost for this event is £32.00.

As we enter the new Masonic year in September, we will organize more social events, including breakfasts in various locations within our Province. Some of these events may include visits to museums or local attractions, and others may feature lectures on Masonic topics.

We also strongly encourage our members, especially our newly initiated members, to visit other Lodges. It would be beneficial for some of you to attend an Initiation ceremony at a different Lodge, enabling you to gain a deeper understanding by observing the proceedings. With regards to this, if you contact me I will happily arrange a time and place that is convenient for you.

Drinks evenings will take place on Fridays each month, rotating across our Province. These gatherings may occur in Masonic centres or local pubs. It is important to note that all our events are open to Dark Blues as well as family and friends, as we aim to foster camaraderie and connections amongst all masons. After all, we are one community.

To stay updated on our events, please scan the QR code provided, and you will receive regular updates from the Light Blues. I encourage all members of our Province to sign up, Dark Blues as well. Additionally, our committee holds monthly meetings on Zoom/Teams, and any Light Blue is most welcome to attend. To obtain the sign-in details, please reach out to us via our Information WhatsApp or by emailing me at [WKLBCChair@westkentmasons.org.uk](mailto:WKLBCChair@westkentmasons.org.uk).

Should you require further information about any of our events or have suggestions for new ones, please do not hesitate to contact us. We value your input and are eager to hear from you.





## PASTORAL CARE TEAM (PCT)

### Excellent attendance for PSA Screening

On a sunny, hot morning when it must have been very tempting to spend time enjoying the weather, 348 Brethren, family and friends made the trip to Oakley House for the Care Team's annual Prostate Cancer tests. Of those 119 were first timers, which demonstrates an increased awareness of the importance of being tested. When the results were in, 9 attendees required urgent follow-up tests with a further 6 recommended to see their GP without undue delay.

However, it wasn't just PSA testing on offer and 179 attendees took advantage of Blood Glucose screening, five of whom were recommended to visit their GP. For the first time a variety of other optional screening was on offer with 119 participating in a broad range of tests.

Our Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Ian Gallehawk was among the first to arrive, whilst the Teams own Grand Originals, Phil May, Colin Wright and Jenny the phlebotomist were back, having been the instigators of the first session in

2016. Colin was once again ensuring the smooth running of the physical aspects of the day having also procured all the necessary equipment. George Buckberry, another member of the original team, did the fantastic and unenviable job of co-ordinating the bookings and ensuring that all the paperwork was in good order, ably assisted by Stefano Buscaglia.

Once again, the Widows Sons transported the samples to the Pathology Lab, this time led by Terry Nemeth, who was accompanied by six other biker Brethren.

Thanks are due to everyone involved, the phlebotomists, volunteers, the Brother Paramedics... far too numerable to be named here but without whom 15 attendees may have remained blissfully unaware of the need for further investigation.





## FRATERNAL LOVE AND FELLOWSHIP

Back in 1975 a group of Brethren and Companions in East Lancashire requested their Masonic Centre to make a room available occasionally in order that they might form a Masonic Fellowship, essentially a club where not only widows but older, perhaps lonely, Brethren and their wives could meet socially on a regular basis. Needless to say, it proved very popular and a number of similar groups sprang up around the country including one in our own Province which meets in the Dartford Masonic Centre. The Fellowships aim to further that sense of belonging to the "Masonic family" thus enabling older members and widows to maintain contact with the Craft in a social environment

The Dartford Masonic Fellowship meets twice a month, typically starting with mid-morning coffee which is followed by a talk on some topic of general interest given either by a visiting speaker or a member of the Fellowship. The meeting ends with an optional two course lunch.

The Fellowship also arranges day trips and holds a Christmas Lunch. Upwards of 60 widows, Brethren and their wives attend each meeting. Currently the Fellowship has to charge a subscription of £25 per year which just about covers the basic running costs. The lunch costs a further £16.

Ideally there should be similar Fellowships throughout the Province, not necessarily at each Centre but certainly covering every area. However, there are a number of issues that have to be faced if this is to be achieved. Firstly, the availability of a low cost venue that can provide affordable dining.

Secondly, finding a sufficient number of dedicated volunteers prepared to take on the tasks of setting up and running individual Fellowships. Thirdly and by no means least, money.

These issues are not insurmountable, we are sure that there would be sufficient support from Brethren and Companions, the venues are available at our Centres and the financial arrangements at Dartford do work; although ideally there should be a way of subsidising at least part of the cost. In an ideal world groups of Lodges would come together to assist and support a Fellowship in their local catchment.

As the group charged with complementing the work of our Almoners, specifically in improving the well-being of our members and widows, the Pastoral Care Team is anxious to encourage the development of new Fellowships. We cannot provide funds, we can do little to provide physical support but we can share the experience of others and assist in setting up new ventures. Further, in conjunction with our Province, we are able to provide support by communicating with potential users. If you are interested and prepared to help set up a Fellowship or if you would like to become a member of a Fellowship, just email - [davidhedges@virginmedia.com](mailto:davidhedges@virginmedia.com)





PRINCE GEORGE DUKE OF KENT COURT,  
ASSOCIATION OF FRIENDS' CHAIR:  
MIKE BOWYER-JONES



The weather has brightened up and enabled the residents to take advantage of the sunshine and top up on vitamin D.

The Association of Friends believe that an active mind and body will help the residents avoid mishaps and tumbles that can be so debilitating to our senior members. We therefore support regular music therapy which stimulates their memory and strengthens the chest and core muscles as well as 'fun, fit and fabulous' exercises that may be performed sitting or standing, to enhance balance and general flexibility whilst promoting a general feeling of well-being when the body releases the endorphins.

In addition, "The Friends" support Traditional and National days as well as other events throughout the year.

"So what can I do to help?" I hear you ask - well all this costs money. By supporting our 500 Club, for just £50 per year, be it Lodges, individual members, relatives or members of the public, everyone will have a chance to win £1000 from our prize draw, whilst supporting our wonderful Home.

By joining the 500 club it enables us to forecast our income and obtain more competitive prices by "block booking" entertainment etc. in our residents calendar.

We also have Thursday and Saturdays available for our Coffee Mornings. Lodges may sponsor these to enable coffee and cake is served, chat with the residents and brighten their day! Members of the Association and staff will be present to assist you, so all you have to do is turn up.

Remember this is our Masonic Home and any one of us may have cause to call upon it for assistance for a loved one or even for ourselves.

Contact Details - Association of Friends: [aofpgdkc@gmail.com](mailto:aofpgdkc@gmail.com)

For 500 Club: [aof500club@gmail.com](mailto:aof500club@gmail.com)



FEEL LIKE DOING  
SOMETHING  
A BIT DIFFERENT?

**BREAKFAST  
AND A  
SHOOT!**

STREAMLINED INITIATION.  
FULL ENGLISH BREAKFAST.  
SHOOT INCLUDED.  
EXPERT ASSISTANCE AVAILABLE  
LOW PRICE OF £32 PER PERSON.  
LIMITED SPACES AVAILABLE.

REGISTER INTEREST AT:  
[WKLIGHTBLUES@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:WKLIGHTBLUES@BTINTERNET.COM)

LODGE OF SINCERITY 6868  
SATURDAY  
23RD SEPTEMBER



# CRICKET MATCH

SUNDAY 13TH AUGUST 2023



WEST KENT



EAST KENT

**MEOPHAM CRICKET CLUB**

40 OVERS PER TEAM.

£18 INCLUDING TEA AND INSURANCE.

12PM ONWARDS FOR 1PM START.

ENQUIRIES TO [WKLIGHTBLUES@BTINTERNET.COM](mailto:WKLIGHTBLUES@BTINTERNET.COM)

The Boundary, Meopham Green, Meopham,  
Gravesend, DA13 0PZ





A new section has been added to our magazine. 'Orders Beyond The Craft' will feature one of the Orders administered by Mark Masons Hall in each of our upcoming editions, for information.

## ORDERS BEYOND THE CRAFT: ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

The Order of the Secret Monitor revolves around the Brotherhood of David and Jonathan and is, in its way, older than Freemasonry itself having developed from a Dutch secret society in the 1500s.

The story of David and Jonathan is one of great friendship. David was the father of King Solomon, who we all know from our Craft masonry. Originally a shepherd, he became an aide at the court of Saul, Israel's first king. David distinguished himself as a warrior, and his encounter with Goliath is known to all of us. Jonathan was the eldest son of King Saul and forged a strong friendship with David. After Saul jealously turned against David, Jonathan attempted to reconcile them, but he was only briefly successful. Saul tried to enlist Jonathan's aid to kill David, but Jonathan remained David's friend and warned him of Saul's anger so that David hid. The shooting of arrows is part of this story as well as the various refuges occupied by David where Jonathan visited him. Jonathan knew of these hiding places by secret means of recognition, hence the Order of the Secret Monitor.

The principles of the order are founded upon these grand examples of friendship and also the social duties of benevolence and charity.

As Craft masons we meet in Lodges, but an assembly of Secret Monitors is held in a Conclave. There are three, outwardly simple but profoundly moving degrees and it is upon the principles exemplified therein that the system of communicating friendship and caring among the members of the Order is promoted in a practical way.

The First Degree recounts the great and abiding friendship of David and Jonathan, and the lesson this degree imparts is the intrinsic importance of true friendship. The Second Degree emphasises the further lesson of fidelity to the brethren. The Third Degree of the Order is unique in English Freemasonry in that it is also the ceremony of installation, in which the elected brother is installed as Supreme Ruler of his Conclave.

As part of the ceremony the newly installed Supreme Ruler also receives his 'commission' (usually from the Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler), which carries the rank of 'Supreme Ruler within the Order'. The third degree prepares a brother for the responsibilities of leadership and reinforces the new relationship he has with his brethren as a Supreme Ruler within the Order.

Unique to the Order of the Secret Monitor are the four Visiting Deacons who have a special function within our Conclaves, not dissimilar to that of Lodge Almoner. The primary responsibility of a Visiting Deacon is to maintain regular contact, between meetings of his Conclave, with the members who have been assigned to him, and afford assistance and support to a brother in time of sorrow and distress. Reflecting the important nature of their caring role they are seated at the corners of what is designated the Holy Ground or Magen David in a Conclave.

The Order is non-denominational and open to every member of a Regular Craft Constitution. Within Kent we have ten Conclaves situated throughout the county. Our rituals and ceremonies generate a deeper understanding of the Craft principle of brotherly love. In the Order of the Secret Monitor the Supreme Being is called 'The Almighty Friend of all friends', the significance of which can only be fully appreciated by members of the Order.

For more information, please contact:

Daniel Unthank PAGDC

Deputy Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler

Email: [daniel@holbrookpropertyfinance.co.uk](mailto:daniel@holbrookpropertyfinance.co.uk)

Tel: 07984456570







**On Thursday 6 June, Ian Gallehawk Deputy Provincial Grand Master had the privilege of attending the formal opening of the garden at Sevenoaks Community Hospital together with our Provincial Charity Steward, W.Bro. Steve Rozier, W.Bro. Peter Hayler, a member of the Provincial Charity Committee, and many members of William Sennocke Lodge No 6932**





## WEST KENT EXTERNAL EVENTS TEAM: GORDON ROLLO

So far this summer we have attended 7 events, we have further secured our attendance at the following:

- 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.

We are 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.



Another excellent Kart Grand Prix. Absolutely fun afternoon. Lots of spills and excitement at Buckmore Park. It was lovely to see so many happy faces. Congratulations to the winners Sidcup Strikers, 2nd place Cassil 9088 and 3rd place Scrapco Scrappers. Plus a further donation to the 2026 Festival. Thanks to Tim Perrin for organising the event. A few aches and pains today for some of the drivers no doubt.



# WEST KENT NEWS

10th Edition

SUMMER  
2023

