



WEST KENT NEWS



PROVINCIAL EXEC

Get the latest news from across the Province

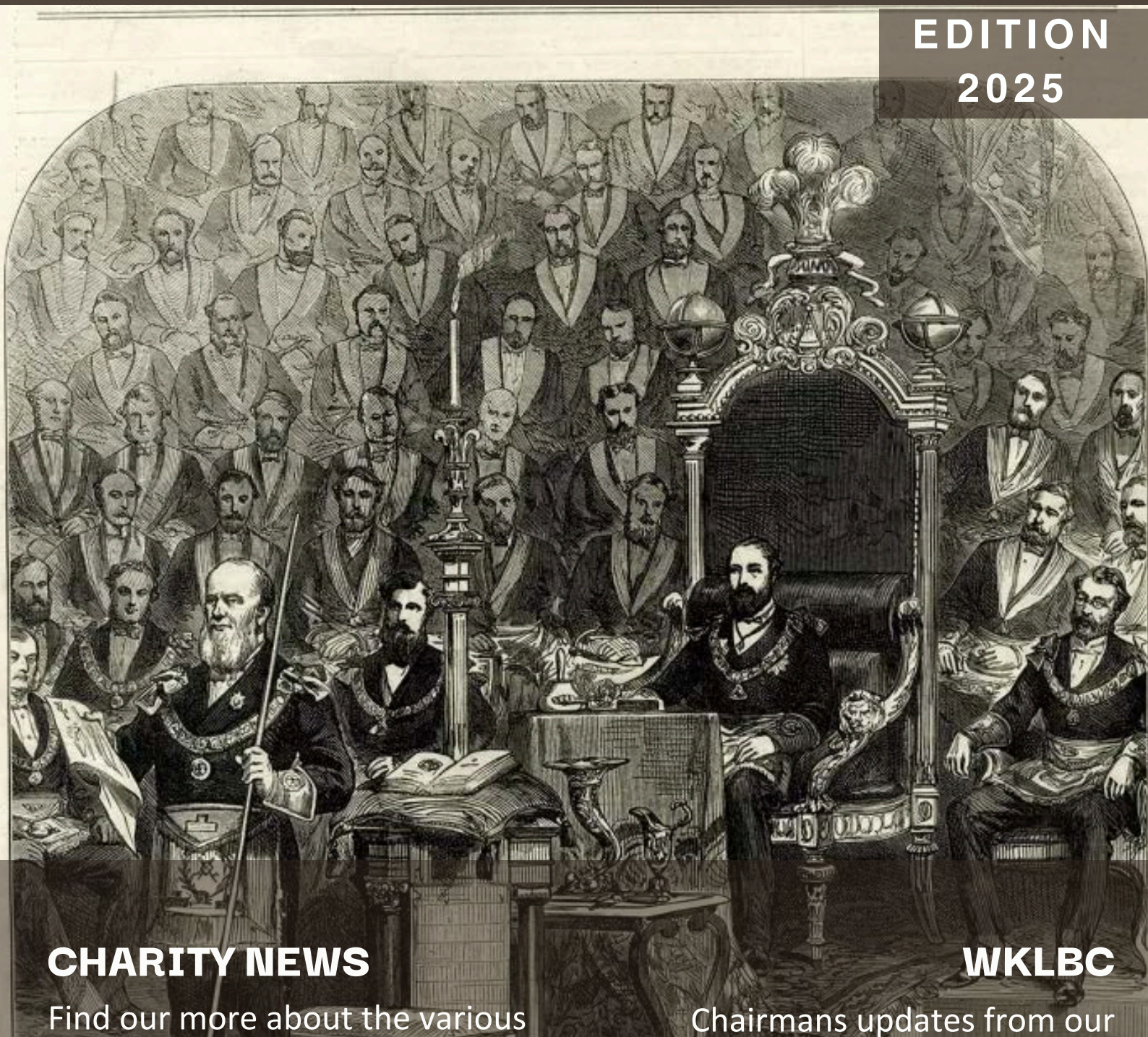
ROYAL ARCH NEWS

Find out what is happening in the Royal Arch across West Kent

Issue No.18

SATURDAY, MAY 8, 1875.

**AUTUMN
EDITION
2025**



CHARITY NEWS

Find out more about the various charity events in General News

WKLBC

Chairmans updates from our West Kent Light Blues Club



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OUR PROVINCIAL GRANDMASTER AND GRAND SUPERINTENDENT ELECT: ANDREW WADDINGTON

Brethren and Companions,

As the time fast approaches when I will take on the roles of Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent I am running through a gambit of emotions from excitement, trepidation and pride.

However, I have also not lost sight of the need to remain humble, have integrity and recognise the level of service I owe to the whole Province. You all deserve no less.

I am looking forward to this new chapter within West Kent. It will be an exciting time, for many of you it will be a new experience. But I am sure that it will be a worthwhile one.

I am extremely lucky that the Provincial Executive team which consists of a balance of young and dynamic new members laden with good ideas, as well as the more experienced members who bring with them a wealth of experience and sage advice will continue to discharge their duties for the benefit of all.

Likewise, to all of the Provincial Secretariat, Provincial teams and departments across the whole province, who I will not refer to here for fear of missing someone out, and to you all.

Their support and the support of you all is crucial to our success.

I also have the unstinting support of my wife Clare. She has been amazing in her support up to this point and that will be continuing. West Kent has become very special to her, and she has made a lot of friends because of her support. I have commissioned a life size photograph of me to remind her of who I am.

It would be remiss of me not to thank Mark Estaugh, our outgoing Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for all the fantastic work that he has done over his tenure, together with his Executive, past and present, for all they have done with Mark to steward our Province over the years and to make it the success it is today.

Our membership challenge remains at the forefront of what we must tackle and improve on. With that in mind, over the coming months we will, as a whole Province, not just a few of us, be adopting the Building Together Strategy.

This is not a new initiative. It is the harmonisation between the Craft and Royal Arch, something we have been advocating for a while now. Cementing the fact that we are all on one journey, in one organisation.

The Craft and Royal Arch membership teams under Kevin Swift and Vince Lethbridge are already working together, as are the Mentoring Teams under Jason Russell and Alan Wodzinski. The Almoner team and the newly commissioned team dealing with resignations and cessations under Pip Neville are also part of that process.

Working alongside Eric Lewis, Provincial Learning and Development Officer and his team, Gordon Rollo, Provincial Grand Communications Officer and his team, Robin Rudkin and the External Events

Team they will be in a strong position to assist you all to grow, nurture and benefit your own particular units.

By building together, we become stronger together. Building together will be rolled out over the coming months.

Needless to say, it needs full support from all. Not just lip service. They are Your Lodges, Your Chapters, Your Future. In fact the future for all of us,

I will be saying more at my Investiture meeting on the 17th October, which I hope that if you are eligible to attend, you will be.

Your attendance not only, makes the day more special for me, selfish I know, but it also shows the Rulers that we are united as one Province and supportive of them.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible on the day. I look forward to our journey together, and I look forward to helping to make West Kent the very best that it can be.

Freemasonry in West Kent stands on firm foundations, already laid by my predecessor but we must always seek to grow, modernise, and to continue supporting our members.

My vision is of a Province that is vibrant, inclusive, and inspiring – where each Brother and Companion feels valued and connected. Regardless of age, experience or standing.

Let us build the future of Freemasonry in West Kent together: with purpose, pride, and unity.

Let us not forget that whatever we do and however we do it, it should be fun. An enjoyable experience that we want to share with others.

I thank you all for your continued support and I look forward to serving you all as Provincial Grand Master and Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

Sincerest Fraternal regards,

Andrew



DEPUTY PROVINCIAL
GRAND MASTER:
GRAHAM RAVEN



I do hope you had a restful summer break and refreshed for what will be a most exciting time for the Province.

The executive and the secretarial teams have been working hard, with UGLE, to make all the arrangements for the Installation of our PGM designate.

An event not to be missed as they only occur every 10 years and many members of the Province have never experienced this ceremonial high. It will of course be another milestone in the Provincial history, the eighth PGM of West Kent,

With Andrew at the helm of the Province there will be some new initiatives and changes to some old procedures, bringing them into line with the present UGLE guidelines and streamlining Provincial procedures.

The introduction of Portal is progressing slowly within the Province with nearly 40% of the Provincial membership signed up. Brethren the other 60% need to be signing up, as in due time all membership changes will be done by the members themselves and enhancements to Portal will reduce

the paperwork the secretaries have to carry out, but only if you sign up.

Building together is getting close to roll out within the Province, the PGM will inform of the start date at his installation. The Executive, Membership and Mentoring team have attended the launch workshops and are developing the roll out plan under the direction of the PGM designate.

I'm sure I will see many of you on the 17th October and around the Province on what will be a new era in the Province's history, and let's enjoy the new direction as enjoyment of the craft is what it's all about





ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER: DANIEL UNTHANK

We're back! The afternoons of sweating through a meeting wondering why Masonic regalia doesn't include striped shorts and t-shirt are dwindling away. The new season has begun, and we head into an incredibly exciting period for the Province.

Before we headed off for the summer break, I had the distinct pleasure of attending William D'Aeth Lodge. Apart from being my first visit as an APM, it was also the first presentation of the 2025 Cornwallis Lecture. An incredibly interesting lecture by Bro. Matthew Watson exploring the artwork of William Hogarth and its hidden Masonic symbolism. A very engaging subject with some real insight into Hogarth's work and satirical nature.

I also had the privilege of attending Richard of Bordeaux Lodge to see them conduct a double Passing and Initiation. An excellent meeting that proves the Lodge's mentoring is working; the brethren who were Passed then went on to present the Working Tools and Gloves to the Initiate!

On the social side of life, the Encore event was a fantastic success! Brilliant organisation by Olly Parker-Grater, Liam Turner and the team. It was probably the hottest day of the year, but the entertainment, food and company were excellent. Its going to be hard to top next year.

The summer recess allowed for a swift catch up with the goings on at The White Lotus before preparing various admin tasks ready for the new Masonic season. It promises to

be a busy and enjoyable start to the season with an entertaining visit to the West Kent Motoring Lodge (Kentmere) already undertaken, long service citations to present and other celebrations to be a part of. The Kentmere Lodge meeting was thoroughly absorbing with a talk by Bruce Crompton of Combat Dealers on the restoration of a Panther Tank, one of very few working Panthers in existence. Bruce is also very passionate about preserving our history and supporting the Armed Forces and Veterans.

Part of my new role is being a member of the Armed Forces Committee established by UGLE. Freemasonry and the Armed Forces have a plethora of common values and aims. There has always been a strong link between both organisations, and we want to ensure Freemasonry's ongoing support for the Armed Forces Community remains effective. You are likely to have seen the recent video reflecting the links we, as freemasons, have with the military and the announcement that we have achieved the Defence Employer Recognition Gold Award. As a Province, we have a huge part to play in strengthening relationships with military charities and organisations. With Remembrance Sunday rapidly approaching, the Executive will again be participating in Remembrance Parades across the Province. Please show your support and gratitude to those that have served, and continue to serve, our country by joining us at your local Service. Details of locations, timings etc will follow via Provincial communications.

So, what does the future hold? Obviously, the main event on the horizon is the Investiture of our new Provincial Grand Master, Andrew Waddington. For many it will be the first opportunity of seeing such a ceremony, and it will be a very

special day. If you haven't done so already, book in via the link: [Installation of Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent Tickets, Freemasons Hall, London | TryBooking United Kingdom](#).

We are also in the final six months of our 2026 Festival. This is our chance, as a Province, to support the MCF and provide a vital source of funding. Our Festival only lasts 5 years, but the MCF assists Masons and our families continually. Being a foremost charitable organisation, it seems only right that we do our part to help the MCF provide support, care and services to Freemasons and their families in need and supporting other charities to help the most disadvantaged in society. Now is the time to show how charitable you as a Lodge, and individual, are. For those that have Festival donations via direct debit coming to an end, there is now the opportunity for continuous giving. This basically just allows your current monthly donation to continue beyond 2026, meaning you can still play your part in helping those in need. As an added bonus, the continued donations will count towards our next Festival period. Follow this link to keep your important donation going beyond 2026 - [Continuous Giving Relief Chest Scheme - Masonic Charitable Foundation](#)

These are exciting times for West Kent and, personally, I am very much looking forward to getting out and about, seeing old friends and making new ones. I will have the very happy duty of presenting members with long service citations, seeing Lodges make new Masons, Fellowcrafts and Master Masons, as well as enjoying Festive Boards with you all. I wish you all a happy, harmonious and engaging new Masonic season.

Fraternal best wishes
Daniel

William D'Aeth Lodge 18th June 2025 – The Cornwallis Lecture



Obligatory selfie before entering the Lodge



Not the Three Amigos; the three ProvGDCs – Andrew Montebello (left), Dan Unthank (right) 2020-2025 and Chris Clark (centre) 2016-2020



Richard of Bordeaux Lodge 28th June 2025 – Initiation and double Passing





ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL
GRAND MASTER:
BIPIN PATEL



Dear Brethren,

Time truly does fly when you're enjoying yourself—and I certainly made the most of the summer break (with plenty of golf, I might add!). It feels like only yesterday we paused for the holidays, and now we're gearing up for an exciting final quarter of the year.

One of the key highlights ahead is the Installation of our new Provincial Grand Master. While he follows in the footsteps of an exceptional predecessor, I have every confidence that Andrew Waddington, our Provincial Grand Master Designate, will bring his own distinct energy and vision to the role. It will be a privilege to support and collaborate with him as we continue to shape the future of our Province. I look forward to seeing many of you at the Investiture on 17th October at Great Queen Street—a momentous occasion for us all.

📌 **Portal Reminder** A gentle nudge to all Brethren: please ensure you're registered on Portal. This will soon become the primary way to manage and update your personal information. As the platform evolves, it will offer even more useful features—so stay tuned.

🔧 **Lodge Activity & Membership Growth** It's been heartening to see several lodges remain active over the summer, with some even requesting additional meetings to initiate multiple candidates. If your lodge is considering multiple ceremonies, I encourage you to embrace the opportunity. It may be a shift from tradition, but it's a powerful way forward.

Thanks to your unwavering support, we've successfully halted the decline in Provincial Membership. With continued dedication, we're poised to enter a new phase of growth—reversing long-standing trends and building momentum for the future.

🎯 **2026 Festival Appeal** As many of you know, our 2026 Festival concludes next year. We've already raised over £2 million, and we're now within reach of our target—just over £400,000 to go. If your lodge has funds in its relief chest earmarked for charitable giving, now is the time to consider transferring them to the Festival Relief Chest. No notice of motion is required—just a proposition from your Charity Steward, seconded and approved by the Brethren.

🚩 **Personal Thanks** A heartfelt thank you to everyone who supported me during my 101-hole golf challenge. Your advice and encouragement helped me complete the feat on one of the hottest days in June. Together, we raised just over £8,500 for two incredible causes: the MCF and the Freddie Farmer Foundation, which supports disabled children locally. I was truly moved by your generosity—thank you.

I look forward to reconnecting with you all at the Investiture.

Best wishes,

Bipin



ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL
GRAND MASTER:
DUNCAN ANNELLS



Following my appointment as APMG at Provincial Grand Lodge in June, I would like to thank all of the brethren, not only those of West Kent but those further afield, for their very kind congratulations and good wishes.

I hope to rise to the high standard of my predecessor, Peter Brooker, in the role as group 3 APMG with the excellent centres of Tunbridge Wells, Sevenoaks, Sidcup and Edenbridge. It will take time to get to see all the lodges, but I will be along soon! Having been a West Kent mason for over 25 years, and a mason for 32 years in total, it should be said that West Kent feels like "Home", and the brethren of "Home" have much talent, skill, enthusiasm and drive. The challenge ahead is to harness those qualities to improve our organisation going forward.

Freemasonry is in changing times, and it is only together with Royal Arch companions we can grow and flourish. We must keep a watchful eye over those who have walked the masonic path before us. The long service Citations are an incredible recognition of the drive and dedication of being a freemason. I have already enjoyed presenting some of these Citations in West Kent. The vast array of stories, experiences and anecdotes are amazing to hear, with the many years spent in freemasonry.

Freemasonry is a wonderful organisation and is something to share, with this in mind, it is for us all to find like minded men to join us in West Kent and swell our numbers. Within our Province we have membership officers and a whole team to assist with recruiting and helping any candidate join. The chap you have in mind might be better suited to a lodge closer to his home, rather than your own lodge.

Remembrance Day in November is a time to come together as Freemasons around the Province and show our gratitude in a public facing role. I will be at Tunbridge Wells main parade, and I encourage brethren to attend their local services in this 80th year marking the end of the second world war to remember our fallen brethren.

We must remember we are all ambassadors of Freemasonry, showing the wider world just what an excellent organisation we are. The season is about to provide us all with good company to share what we do best "working together"!



ASSISTANT PROVINCIAL
GRAND MASTER:
DAVID HUNTLEY



As this is the last opportunity to say a personal thank you to our Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Mark Estaugh, I am sure that along with many others, we thank you Mark for your absolute dedication to the Province and for your outstanding service to us all.

Mark has been a truly amazing asset to West Kent and this is recognised not only by us but over the last few years in particular, various other PGM's and senior members of other orders regularly speak of Mark in the highest terms such is the high regard he is held in, we have been truly blessed by your leadership Sir and you will be missed by us all.

This takes nothing away from your successor Andrew Waddington, who is a wonderful choice to lead us going forward, we look forward to working with you Andrew and wish you every success in your new exciting role as our new PGM.

Just before the summer recess, (21st June 2025), Chislehurst Lodge 1531 held its 706th meeting where they celebrated its 150th years of existence, a remarkable achievement.

It was a very enjoyable installation meeting lead by the W.M. W.Bro. Aleksandar Dishkovski who despite English not being his native language, is a credit to the lodge and a joy to watch.

We sincerely wish Chislehurst all the best for the future, it is a very warm and friendly lodge to visit and they always make visitors very welcome, Congratulations Chislehurst on this wonderful milestone in your history.

Fraternal best wishes
David Huntley





THE DEPUTY GRAND
SUPERINTENDENT:
JAMES MARSH



Brethren and Companions,

I hope you are all returning to Masonry feeling fresh and reinvigorated after the summer recess and are looking forward to an enjoyable new season.

There has been little rest during the summer for the Provincial team; as our Grand Superintendent stands down we have already started to prepare for the Installation of our new Provincial Grand Master/Grand Superintendent – exciting times for our Province.

Our Royal Arch figures continue to make for very good reading with our number increasing and our resignations falling. With the new initiative of 'Building Together' being rolled out later this year (watch this space!!), I am confident that we will see a surge in both our Initiations and Exaltations and our resignations will continue to reduce.

I want to thank all those who have brought members of the Province into the Royal Arch; and those who have excelled in this can expect a visit from a member of the Province this season to thank you personally for your magnificent efforts.

I want to extend a warm welcome to our new 3rd Provincial Grand Principal; Alan Wondzinski is well-known in our Province as one of our Provincial Mentors, and his knowledge of, and experience in the Royal Arch will I'm sure be invaluable - I am looking forward to working with him.

The future of Royal Arch masonry in West Kent looks bright; this said, I am fully aware that we are not to rest on our laurels, and the Royal Arch Team are determined to continue to drive forward with our work incorporating the ethos within the new Building Together initiative to ensure that as many West Kent members as possible are able to enjoy the colour, ceremonial and splendour of the Royal Arch.

Thank you all for your continued efforts in making the Royal Arch in West Kent so successful – I am a very proud Deputy Grand Superintendent!



2nd PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPAL: CHRISTOPHER ASHBY

Companions and Brethren,

What a summer we have had with heatwaves galore.

It was a summer when you could not help but say 'Yes let's get out and enjoy it while we can', 'Yes let's get the BBQ out and have a party'. I do hope that you did use all of the sun's rays to their fullest to recharge your batteries and enjoyed every minute with family and friends.

Now we are at the beginning of another Masonic year and after all the goodness we received from the sun it should be a YES YEAR. A year when we banish the soothsayers with their doom and gloom and look forward with a positive attitude.

We all know that PGM/MEGS's have a set term on a Patent and as such Mark Estaugh has completed his term as PGM/MEGS. That should be no reason for a feeling of doom for under his leadership there have been many success stories within our province which need to be celebrated. I for one congratulate Mark on the fantastic achievements and hope that after 10 years of hard work he will enjoy a little rest.

We welcome a new PGM/MEGS with Andrew Waddington and this, I am sure, will bring new ideas and a different outlook. Those attending the Installation of Andrew will witness a special occasion which only occurs every 10 years.

Was your Lodge and Chapter represented at the Installation to welcome our new PGM/MEGS as well as show our support for him moving forward. That support word should be YES my unit was represented because I was there. As a Province using the YES word we can achieve anything we set our minds to.

Yes I can be part of team to achieve everything I am asked to.

Yes I can be one of the team to put on a family function for my Chapter/Lodge.

Yes we can increase our numbers within the Craft Lodges and RA Chapters by talking to people positively about Freemasonry.

Yes I will talk to everyone regarding membership of the Royal Arch and Craft whenever I am in company of others.

Yes I am going to be positive in my attitude and actions.

Yes I am not going to use the words 'NO BUT' in the future.

You may think that this is over the top but by all of us starting with a positive outlook we can move mountains.

The words NO BUT we should banish from our vocabulary within West Kent.

Even a Chapter or Lodge closing is a positive move. The unit would have completed what the Founders set out to achieve. Remember that as Freemasons our brethren long ago would have completed a building and moved on to a new site. At this new site they would have joined a lodge/chapter to continue their work. Are we any different? When a unit is looking at closing it is up to all the members that they work together ensuring that each one joins another unit either as individuals or small groups to maintain the friendships forged over the years before the closure. That way the continuation of our work in the service of others will be maintained, enhanced with Freemasonry in all four steps flourishing.

I do hope that you will join with me in this being a YES YEAR.

YES I look forward to seeing you at a Convocation or Meeting in the coming year.

Fraternal Greetings
Chris Ashby



**PROVINCIAL ROYAL ARCH
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER:
JAMES ASHMORE**



ROYAL ARCH-THE UNMISSABLE EXPERIENCE

Our Royal Arch membership in West Kent is at an all-time high. From 2022 to 2024 our numbers grew steadily and this year they surged.

This pattern has been replicated in other Provinces and Royal Arch is undergoing a significant upswell across UGLE. Why?

To those of you who are Master Masons and have not yet joined Royal Arch, here is an explanation of why so many of your peers have chosen to experience this fourth and climactic event in their journey in Pure, Antient Masonry. It is also an invitation to you-to talk to your lodge RA Liaison Officer and learn more.

RA is the fourth and final step of your personal journey in Pure, Antient Masonry. There are certain things in the Third Degree that are left open and Royal Arch provides the answers in a brilliant, colourful and deeply meaningful ceremony called Exaltation-and it is not called that for nothing!

That ceremony is like nothing else in Freemasonry and very different to Craft; it is however indissolubly linked to it-in particular, it evokes a greater understanding of the nature of the Supreme Being and your relationship to it

Today, candidates for Initiation pay a single fee which entitles them to join both Craft and Royal Arch; why would you buy a ticket to a wonderful four-act play and then walk away before the last act which is the climax of the whole performance?

Exaltees will be very happy to tell you that their Freemasonry has been immeasurably enriched by joining Royal Arch-many join chapters that are not linked to their lodges and thus discover a whole new circle of friends-Companions by name and Companions by nature

Being in Royal Arch confers a raft of distinct and significant advantages, which include eligibility for consideration for Active Rank in Craft and the ability to join other Progressive Orders in Freemasonry that require it before admission

The ambience in a Royal Arch chapter is noticeably different to that in a Craft Lodge; you will find it less formal and even more intimate, as befits an elite band of men

Finally, you will have the assurance and status of being a Free and Accepted Mason in the very fullest sense of that term-a wonderful base from which to expand your Masonic horizons even further.

Right now we are at a very exciting juncture in West Kent for both Craft and Royal Arch. During the months to come you will learn more of a new, fully integrated membership vehicle called Building Together.

This will be underpinned by a Provincial membership team acting in a unified way, dedicated to growth and retention of our members across both Orders. This will be nothing less than the final realisation of the phrase "One Journey-One Organisation".

James Ashmore

**Provincial Royal Arch
Membership Officer**

ROYAL ARCH MENTOR:

ALAN WONDZINSKI

With the new Masonic year now underway, now is an appropriate time to remind you of the support and assistance available to Lodges and Chapters from the Provincial Grand Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team.

A Glimpse through the Archway – A light hearted and entertaining playlet in Lodges designed to inform and encourage Master Masons to join the Royal Arch.

The Royal Arch in Camera – A presentation in Chapter explaining some of the protocols and procedures in a Chapter, the characters portrayed in the various Offices and some important aspects of symbolism in the allegory of the Royal Arch story.

Understanding the Royal Arch – A presentation which endeavours to provide a greater understanding of the Royal Arch by examining the Exaltation ceremony from different perspectives in an insightful but easily understood manner. (Available from late October/early November).

Emergency Royal Arch Ritual Response Team – Your next meeting is imminent and you have a ceremony to perform when you learn that a key Officer is unable to attend. The Ritual Response Team will endeavour to fill the Office so that your ceremony can go ahead as planned.

For more information on any of the above, please contact E Comp Alan Wondzinski at:

RAMentor@westkentmasons.org.uk

ASSISTANTS TO THE PROVINCIAL GRAND PRINCIPLES:

Robert Gaywood PGStB

Yashwant Patel PGStB

From Labour to Refreshment: A Look at Our Chapter's Bright Future

As your Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals, it's a great honour to share some thoughts with you. It feels like just yesterday we were sharing a cup of tea or a beer and now here we are, together again on our Royal Arch journey.

I'm constantly inspired by your dedication, passion, and the genuine camaraderie that defines our chapters.

The past year has been a testament to our strength. We've welcomed new companions, shared memorable convocations, and continued to support our communities.

Every ritual perfected, every lesson learned, and every laugh shared is a building together in our Masonic temple.

Looking ahead, the future of our Royal Arch is incredibly bright. We have a shared responsibility to building together our strong foundation.

Let's focus on mentoring our newest members, ensuring they feel welcome and truly understand the profound beauty of our ceremonies. Let's also re-engage our current members by making every meeting a can't-miss event, full of fellowship and purpose.

Most importantly, let's remember the core of what we do: we are friends and brothers on a shared path. The bonds we form and the wisdom we gain are the true treasures of our order. So, let's go forward with an open heart and a renewed sense of purpose.

I'm excited for what we will accomplish together and look ahead to the new year.

Please register to attend the Investiture of our new Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, on Friday 17th October 2025 at Freemason Hall and make it memorable event. Fill the Temple to the rafters.



PROVINCIAL GRAND MENTOR:

JASON RUSSELL



MENTORS UPDATES

Brethren and Companions,

The Provincial Mentoring Team is now fully established, already generating renewed energy and enthusiasm across the Province—especially within our units where it matters most.

The team's purpose is simple: to offer support, guidance, and encouragement to Lodge Mentors in order to enhance the experience of all members. Every new Initiate and Companion should be supported by both a Unit Mentor and a dedicated Personal Mentor to guide them through the early stages of their Masonic journey.

At the heart of our mission lies a simple truth: Freemasonry should be enjoyable and fun.

Enjoyment is the cornerstone of engagement and retention, it must remain our central focus.

Building Strong Relationships

By now, each Craft Lodge Mentor should have begun building a relationship with their assigned Provincial Mentor, engaging in discussions about mentoring and engagement strategies at lodge level.

These early conversations are the vital first steps in: Fostering supportive relationships, Identifying opportunities for improvement, Sharing practical ideas that truly enhance the Masonic journey for new and experienced members alike.

A Collaborative Approach

When Lodge and Provincial Mentors work together, we create a collaborative environment where we

can share ideas and best practices, listen to different perspectives and find practical and flexible solutions. This is not a one-size-fits-all approach.

Practical Tools for Lodge Mentoring

To support and empower Lodge Mentors, here are a few practical tools and resources we recommend:

Entered Apprentice Welcome Pack (Presented by the Personal Mentor at the end of the Initiation ceremony)

A well-prepared welcome pack offers clarity and reassurance on an overwhelming day. It should include Lodge and LOI meeting dates and times, contact details for key officers, lodge bank details, hymns, dress code, etiquette and any other helpful lodge specific information.

Best Practice Document – “Pick & Mix” Approach

The purpose of this document is to provide lodge mentors with a practical framework of proven strategies and flexible approaches to support effective mentoring at all levels of freemasonry. It is designed to enhance the experience of every member by promoting meaningful engagement, personal development, and long-term retention.

Solomon: Learning at Your Own Pace

An invaluable online resource for personal development. Use Solomon to encourage self-directed learning, deliver engaging “nuggets” at LOI, promote EA, FC, and MM Certificates presented in Lodge or LOI to celebrate achievement.

West Kent Light Blues Club is an excellent initiative for brethren yet to receive provincial honours. It offers informal networking, opportunities to meet peers, a stronger sense of belonging.

Promoting the Royal Arch within the Lodge encourages deeper engagement, broadens members' understanding of Freemasonry, and strengthens connections by completing the journey in Pure Antient Freemasonry and expanding their masonic circle.

Encouraging Active Participation

Encouraging active participation for every Brother and Companion is vital, fostering involvement through structured visiting programmes and unit led social events. This will help build lasting bonds and a true sense of belonging. Informal gatherings outside lodge such as dinners, family events, or community activities play a crucial role in forging friendships, involving loved ones, strengthening our sense of community.

Social Engagement is a vital pillar, we must never underestimate the power of social connection.

Encouraging Lodge visiting, in particular, can significantly enhance the masonic journey. It builds camaraderie, fosters personal growth, and let's not forget it adds an important element of fun and enjoyment.

In Summary

Our shared goal is simple:

To create meaningful, enjoyable, and supportive masonic experiences that inspire commitment, friendship, and pride in membership.

By Building Together unit by unit, brother by brother, we can make this a reality for every member.

Fraternal best wishes

Jason Russell

PROVINCIAL MEMBERSHIP OFFICER: KEVIN SWIFT

I hope you managed to take advantage of the summer break to work on your plans to attract new members so that your unit can close this year with a larger subscribing membership than last year.

Being refreshed from that summer break and returning to our Masonic business we now need to schedule the initiation of any sponsored candidates and progress relations with Independent Enquirers to qualify them as suitable applicants for membership, or not as the case may be, and then build ceremonial work plans around them.

There are positive signs that Lodge activities, guided by our Provincial Membership and Mentoring Teams, are beginning to influence results. Resignations reported so far this year are down compared to last year and are on a par with the number of recorded initiations but the closure of a number of Lodges and the cessation and exclusion of members continues to widen our Membership Challenge. Retention remains the key to success.

That said, there are already quite a number of Initiations scheduled for the coming months and some former members of closed Lodges have yet to conclude the process of applying to join an alternative West Kent Lodge. I would ask that those members endeavour to conclude their joining before the end of this year and if any member requires assistance with selection of a suitable Lodge, please let me know. I have been greatly encouraged to hear and see positive changes towards our "Yes If, not No Because" culture and across the

Province I have seen Lodges and Chapters:

- Schedule two different ceremonies in a single meeting to accelerate the progression of existing members and create the capacity for membership growth
- Arrange extra, extraordinary meetings to reduce the waiting time of sponsored candidates for initiation who are eager to join us.
- Adapt their traditional unit practices to accommodate multiple candidate ceremonies, be they Initiations, Passings, Raisings or Exaltations
- Streamline some of their meeting agenda, such as minute and report reading, to make time for more ceremonial activity and/or shorten the meeting time
- Offer new membership opportunities to other units where their planned future work leaves little scope for initiations or progression within a reasonable timescale

All these efforts to embrace change and adapt practices will contribute towards our goal of meeting the Provincial Membership Challenge.

No unit can afford to merely pay lip service to our Membership Challenge and the need to plan its' own future. If your Lodge has not yet engaged with your Provincial Membership Officer (PMO), or has yet to turn discussions into actions, then please be receptive to doing so.

Our PMOs are on hand to give their time to help you plan the future shape of your units to attract new members so do reach out to them. Don't forget it's Your Lodge, Your Future.

As we move into the last quarter of 2025, we need every Lodge to be in positive growth mode and I can only encourage the prioritisation of initiations, conversion of joining member opportunities and the progression of suitable prospective applicants including Independent Enquirers.

Finally, there are some exciting times ahead for membership activities as the Building Together Strategy comes to our Province. In short, this is the harmonisation of the best membership practices and processes currently laid down for our use in the Members' Pathway and Archway. Its' purpose is to strengthen and future-proof our Lodges and Chapters and move us even closer to One Journey, One Organisation.

Building Together implementation will take the form of Provincial Executive briefings alongside Provincial Membership Team training ahead of a rollout to the wider Province in the coming months. More information will follow in due course.

Wishing you every success.
You can contact me at pmo@westkentmasons.org.uk

Fraternal best wishes
Kevin Swift





PROVINCIAL GRAND ALMONER:
GRAHAM TARRAN



Dear Brethren and Companions,

I trust you have all had an enjoyable and relaxing summer, and are enjoying the resumption of meetings following the summer break.

During the summer break, the team have been continuing with several initiatives.

Emergency Contact Numbers for Widows

We have produced cards with emergency masonic contact numbers together with fridge magnets for Lodge Almoners to send to the widows. These are being sent to all the Almoners for forwarding on to the widows that you support.

First Aid Training

We are putting the finishing touches to new first aid training sessions which will be provided free of charge to any member of the Province interested in attending.

We aim to have a minimum of at least one member per Lodge and Chapter who is either first aid qualified, or who has attended one of the Provincial training sessions.

We are looking at a booklet and checklist to support the training, and which hopefully would always be available alongside the emergency contact list at every Lodge and Chapter meeting.

Dartford Fellowship.

I strongly encourage everyone to consider visiting the Dartford Fellowship. The Fellowship is a long established organisation which provides regular opportunities to meet like minded people in an informal and friendly environment at Dartford Masonic Centre, to experience presentations on a host of interesting subjects, to participate in outings and short holidays.

The next meetings of the Dartford Fellowship up to Christmas are as follows:

- 7th October Open 'Mike' meeting
- 21st October Talk on the Battle of Trafalgar by Charles Marchant
- 18th November Talk titled 'It's not nearly Christmas again?' By Chris Pope
- 2nd December Christmas Lunch

To book in, please contact the Secretary David Planner on 01322 401364.

MCF withdrawing Christmas Cards.

Please note that the MCF have withdrawn the service of providing free Christmas cards to Lodges and Chapters. I will not therefore be distributing out Christmas Cards this year.

Finally, please remember that the Provincial Almoner team are here to provide help and support to all

members of the Province, as well as being the primary support for Lodge and Chapter Almoners. Please do not hesitate to call us should you require help or advice. Our contact details are as follows:

Provincial Almoner
Graham Tarran Mob: 07790 492665 Email : provgalm@westkentmasons.org.uk

Group 1 Almoner (Dartford, Wilmington, Greenhithe)
Dave Purser Mob: 07810 798568
Email: david.purser2@hotmail.com

Group 2 Almoner (Westwood, Wrotham)
Alan Sanford Mob: 07375 414787
Email: major_sanford@hotmail.com

Group 3 Almoner (Sidcup, Sevenoaks, Tunbridge, Wells, Edenbridge)
Ray Armstead Mob: 07833 055001
Email: ray_arm@btinternet.com

Group 4 Almoner (Bromley)
Mark Taylor Mob: 07403 774434
Email: mark6520@hotmail.co.uk

Graham Tarran
Provincial Grand Almoner



WEST KENT LIGHT BLUES CLUB: CHAIRMAN: PAUL CLARKE

As we open another Masonic season, we often think about what lies ahead — the ceremonies, the festive boards, the opportunities for learning, and the pleasure of renewing friendships. Yet I would like to take this opportunity not simply to look forward, but also to reflect on a lesson I have learned over the past few months.

Earlier this year, life became unexpectedly challenging for me. At first, I did not realise the toll it was taking. My energy was lower, my focus was not as sharp, and I was not as present as I would like to have been — both in Freemasonry and in my personal life. It was only when family, friends, and brethren gently pointed it out that I began to take notice. Their kindness, their willingness to reach out, and their understanding made all the difference. Because of them, I was able to face up to what was happening and begin to put things right.

I share this not to seek sympathy, but because it reminded me of something important about Freemasonry, and about the West Kent Light Blues Club in particular. Our purpose is not just to introduce newer Masons to the workings of the Craft, or to

encourage them to explore and progress in their journey. It is also to provide a circle of support, fellowship, and connection — a reminder that we are part of something bigger than ourselves.

Every one of us, no matter how experienced or how confident we may appear, will go through times in life when things do not feel quite right. Sometimes it is obvious; more often, it is subtle and unseen. A brother may simply be quieter than usual, or seem distracted, or perhaps miss a meeting or two. It is in those moments that the smallest act of kindness can have the greatest impact. A quick message, a friendly phone call, or a quiet word of encouragement can remind someone that they are not alone.

This is why empathy matters so much. Sympathy, though well-intentioned, can sometimes create distance. Empathy closes that distance — it says, “I understand,” or at least, “I care enough to try.” In my own experience, it was empathy, not pity, that helped me to recognise what I was going through and to find the resolve to move forward. That is a gift we can all offer one another, and it costs nothing more than our attention and our time.

The Light Blues Club exists to retain and engage our newer brethren. One of the most effective ways we can achieve this is by creating an environment where people feel welcome, valued, and supported. Ritual and learning are important, of course, but fellowship and genuine connection are what truly bind us together. When we show each other kindness, when we take the time to listen, and when we offer understanding, we are living out the very essence of what it means to be a Freemason.

Looking back on my forty years in a professional life dominated by male workplaces, I have seen what happens when support is absent, and men feel unable to speak openly. By contrast, I have also seen the transformation that occurs when people are encouraged to check in on each other, and when it becomes accepted that it is “alright not to be alright.” In Freemasonry, we already have the structure, the brotherhood, and the shared values to make this culture of openness and care thrive. We need only choose to put it into practice.

So, as we look forward to the season ahead, let us do so with a renewed commitment not just to the formalities of our meetings, but to the spirit of our fraternity. Let us look out for one another, extend the hand of friendship readily, and remember that kindness is never wasted.

In truth, our greatest resource in the Province of West Kent is not our buildings, our ceremonies, or our history — it is each other. The bonds of friendship and brotherhood are what make our Craft special, and they are what will keep it alive and flourishing for generations to come.

Brethren, be kind. Be supportive. Be empathetic. Look for the quiet signals, listen for the unspoken words, and do not be afraid to reach out. You never know the difference it might make — and one day, it may be the very thing that makes the difference for you.

Paul Clarke
Chairman, West Kent Light
Blues Club

PASTORAL CARE TEAM

PSA TESTING



Test Statistics

302 had booked but only 293 attended of which 291 results were returned with 2 requiring home test kits. There were 230 Green, 27 Amber and 34 Red results to be followed up with their GPs.

Acknowledgements

First thanks to the team who comprised 6 phlebotomists and were their usual professional excellence. The rest of the team comprised Phil May, Graham Raven, Fred Halligan, John Deadman, Nigel Wooldridge, Stefano Buscaglia and me. Following recent tradition, the blood samples were delivered to the testing laboratory in London by three members of the Widows Sons led by their current President Rob. Well done to all for a successful event.

Some additional thanks to Dartford Masonic Centre for hosting the event, we were fortunate to be able to establish a clear route into registration and up to be tested and then quickly away. It was gratifying that most people took heed of the injunction not to attend until close to their time slot for testing and that contributed the speedy throughput.

Why we do it

Feedback from a participant:

"I just wanted to drop you a quick email to thank you and your team for organising the PSA testing and to share my experience.

I booked in for screening and invited a couple of non-masonic friends to attend as well. My screening came back all clear but one of my friends had to go for further tests. One biopsy later and he has been

Post Event Summary

diagnosed with stage 2 prostate cancer. We are optimistic that the cancer has been discovered at an early enough stage where radiotherapy will be successful.

If it wasn't for your screening initiative this would not have been discovered at this early stage and my friend now has a fighting chance of beating this due to your work. A big thank you to you and your team for making this happen."

Thanks to the PSA Team

LOYALTY & ROAM-EMBRANCE

Saturday 6th September saw four committed brethren of the Loyalty & Remembrance Lodge No. 5842, who meet at Sidcup, undertake a 10 mile sponsored walk for the 2026 Festival.

Commencing at Dartford Masonic Centre and greeting APGMs Daniel Unthank and Duncan Annells the group, under the leadership of W.M. Greg Rawlins, went across a circuitous route via Wilmington Masonic Centre, Sutton-at-Hone, Hextable and arriving at the Shirley Woolmer Masonic Hall after a fine day in excellent conditions.

Also participating were S.W. Nicholas Hair, J.W. Geoff Hetherington and Membership Officer David Winney.

The group had raised some £980 at the end of the day, and hoped to cross the magic £1,000 marker shortly thereafter. The lodge was also pleased to celebrate Bronze status, and is expecting to achieve Silver before the end of the fundraising window.

Hopefully this gives you all the info you need. Any questions, shoot me a line back.



A MODEL OF REVIVAL

In an era when traditional clubs and societies struggle to compete with the comforts of home, streaming services, and the ever-growing pull of social media, one West Kent lodge is not just bucking the trend—it's setting new benchmarks in Masonic recruitment, retention, and revitalisation.

Just a few years ago, Hayes Kent Lodge No. 5929 was facing the real possibility of closure. With only 13 Brethren and dwindling interest from new members, the future looked bleak. Fast forward to today, and the Lodge is not only thriving—it's breaking records and leading by example across the Province of West Kent.

This remarkable turnaround is thanks in no small part to the tireless efforts of Naz Cesur, the Lodge's Membership Officer and Secretary, supported by an equally committed team. Under his leadership, Hayes Kent Lodge has grown to become one of the largest and fastest-growing Lodges in the Province.

Record-Breaking Growth and Recognition

The Lodge made history as the first in West Kent to initiate five new members in a single meeting—a feat achieved with the full support and guidance of the Provincial ceremonial team. That same spirit of momentum continued with the welcome of four more joining members at the very next meeting, along with five additional applications being read out.

Their Chapter work is equally impressive. After taking over a failing Chapter, Hayes Kent welcomed 10 exaltees in one meeting—a record in its own right.

The Lodge has also been honoured with a Platinum Award for its support of the 2026 Festival, reflecting its commitment to Masonic charity and Provincial goals.

Empowering New Brethren and Supporting Others

Hayes Kent Lodge doesn't just focus on growing its own numbers—it's equally committed to nurturing its members and uplifting others. Younger Brethren are encouraged to take active roles in ceremonies, often leading parts traditionally reserved for more experienced Masons.

In a standout moment, an initiation ceremony for Martin Bieszke was conducted entirely by junior Brethren—including Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts who had been initiated only months earlier. The event was made even more special by the presence of three Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, an APMG designate, and other senior Provincial officers.

The Lodge also supports wider Masonic collaboration, recently partnering with West Kent Cornerstone Lodge to deliver a joint Second Degree ceremony and double Third Degree ceremony at Ash Cum Ridley Lodge, offering valuable experience and fraternal support.

Outstanding Leadership Recognised

Naz Cesur's impact extends beyond Hayes Kent Lodge. For his work with Ancient of Days Chapter No. 9230, he received the Most

Excellent Grand Superintendent's Platinum Award for outstanding contribution to Royal Arch Masonry, along with the Provincial Grand Master's Special Award.

PGM W Bro Mark Estaugh praised his efforts, stating:

"When one considers that the Lodge has admitted 45 members in the past decade, it proves that dynamic and focused leadership is a must in our Lodges. There is no greater exponent in West Kent than the outstanding Naz Cesur, who is an absolute credit to the Lodge."

He went on to highlight Hayes Kent's adoption of the Members' Pathway as a model for success:

"The Lodge's integration of the Members' Pathway into its DNA shows what can be achieved when enthusiasm, vision, and teamwork come together."

A Lodge with Heart and History

This past year has also seen moments of heartfelt celebration. Among them was the presentation of Grand Lodge certificates to two Brethren who travelled from Italy to receive them in person.

A Bright Future for Freemasonry

As PGM Mark Estaugh aptly concluded:

"If this Lodge is a measure of the shape that our Province is in, we have an extremely bright future to look forward to in years to come."





Calling all Dartford Grammar School Alumni – Your School Lodge needs you.

William D'Aeth Lodge No 8710 was founded by Old Boys of Dartford Grammar School in 1976. The Lodge prospered for many years, but unfortunately over recent years membership has declined, and we are now facing potential closure.

Whether a former student at Dartford Grammar School or not, the Lodge would be pleased to welcome you as a joining member to help it regrow and regain its former status as a successful and thriving Lodge.

Our membership still includes several Old Dartfordians and members and supporters of the Dartfordians Rugby Club:

<https://www.dartfordiansrfc.co.uk/news/william-daeth-lodge-2312109.html>

With your support, the Lodge associated with your School can once again flourish.

The Lodge meets at DMC on the 3rd Wednesday in March, June, September and December, the December meeting being a White Table event when we invite family and friends to join us at the festive board for carol singing. It is also our intention to add to our present social calendar by holding more events to include family and friends.

To help to **keep your School Lodge alive** please contact:

The Lodge Secretary: Nick G Jenkins Email: provagsec@westkentmasons.org.uk or

Through the contact page of our Website: <https://wdlodge.org.uk/>



NEWS FROM THE COURT

We have had a busy summer here at Duke of Kent Court Chislehurst. With coffee mornings, the 500-club raffle draw, a visit to the countryside, a jazz band, and a ukelele ensemble. The summer BBQ, which although it rained, did not dampen the spirits of the residents as we all had a sing along and dance to a Swing and Classics Band. A great afternoon was had by all.

In early September we hosted another visit to the countryside with the amazing assistance of the staff Diane, Kelly and Laura bringing 8 residents in two vehicles for an afternoon of exploring the garden and fortified with tea and cake brought smiles to the residents faces.

We are looking forward to our coffee mornings which take place on the first Saturday of every month and I am happy to say that with Colin Wright (Deputy Chairman) being so proactive we now have Lodges supporting this event until well into the new year. If you want to add your Lodge or Chapter to our list please contact either:

Colin Wright 07860 547730
or myself 07881 825600

We are of course all looking forward to our Christmas Fair and resident's Christmas Party as well as our super Christmas 500 club draw....dates to be advised.

The one sad bit of news I have to share (as many of you know,) is the passing of Martin Reeve who was a well-respected Past Chairman and an active member of the Association of Friends for many years and indeed spent his last days in The Home.

RIP Martin

If you or any of your family wish to become more involved with our wonderful residents and would like to assist The Association of Friends, please contact me direct. Help, and share a smile with our residents.

Mike Bowyer-Jones
Chairman Association of Friends
Prince George of Kent Court
Chislehurst

PROMOTING MASONIC MUSIC

Dear Brethren, Companions and members of other masonic orders, who meet in the province of West Kent.

'Music to your Ears'.

I write with good news, and to let you know about some exciting initiatives, which will hopefully result in more music within your meetings, help attract more musicians into the Craft and to develop existing musical talent.

But before going into detail, I thought you might like to know the PGM's view on this matter:

I'm delighted, that once again, brethren from West Kent are leading the way and taking the initiative, to enrich the experience of candidates during their Initiation and indeed, all of our members.

But perhaps, even more important, the measures which are being taken, will help develop musical talents and provide an enhanced opportunity for additional perspective members.

Mark Estaugh
PGM West Kent -May 2025

Most masonic meetings commence with the Opening Ode, and when accompanied by an organist, it can be quite uplifting. Furthermore, music brings gravitas and levity, at the right moments, through the ceremony. There are in excess of 1,500 masonic meetings within our Province every year, but presently we only have eight active organists, plus a small number of guest musicians.

I understand, appreciate and acknowledge, that playing the organ, especially in a live setting, can be quite bewildering, as the controls look akin to something, you might expect to find, on the flight deck of Concord, and it's quite different to a piano.

Nevertheless, of the 3700 or so members, in West Kent, I suspect that several brethren, may be hiding their musical talents under a bushel. Some brethren may have had music lessons in the past, but neither had time or purpose to develop their skills. Perhaps with encouragement, brethren would like to reignite their passion, or achieve previous musical aspirations.

Lodge Organ – Pre-Recorded Tunes

Over the last few months, with just a few exceptions, West Kent's Organs have been fitted, with a new a replacement upgraded drive, which will enable a 'flash drive pen' to be inserted. The 'flash drive pens' are now available, and come with pre-recorded tunes, such as the opening ode, closing ode and national anthem.

Consequently, even if you don't have an organist, the organ will play these tunes for you. We will soon be arranging some basic training.

MASONIC MUSICAL ATTAINMENT AWARD

To provide encouragement, we are launching a new scheme, whereby any brother who achieves the following, will receive one of these specially commissioned attainment awards:

Bronze Attainment Award



A brother who has played:

- The opening ode, the closing ode, national anthem and masonic grace, with melody and supporting base clef.
- Played the above, at his mother lodge, or elsewhere, on at least 5 separate occasions.

Silver Attainment Award



In addition to the Bronze Award requirements, to have played:

- At five different lodges.
- At least one other version of the opening and closing ode.
- The Entered Apprentice and Master's song.
- Christmas Carols during the Festive Board.

Gold Attainment Award



In addition to the Silver Award requirement, to have performed at a Provincial Meeting.

I would hope that any brother who is given one of these cherished awards, will hopefully wear the accompanying specially commissioned lapel pin badge with pride.

Lodge Organ – Pre-Recorded Registrations

To assist musicians, we have also pre-recorded, onto the flash drive pens, some recommended 'Yamaha Registrations' (a set of organ sounds for masonic meetings). These 'Registrations' are intended to provide Organists confidence, knowing that the organ will sound, during a performance, as intended.

Organists Whatsapp Group

Just over a year ago, we set-up, 'West Kent's Organist Whatsapp Group' intended to provide support, encouragement, share music, exchange ideas and report instrument issues. As an example, we have discussed what is considered to be the best musical key, for playing the odes. I'm pleased to report that the group has been popular, and we have had musicians from other provinces wanting to join the group, and meet us.

Additional Members

Some of us might have in mind, a prospective candidate, who may enjoy the traditional aspects of freemasonry. Notwithstanding this, perhaps there could be someone else, who would enjoy exercising their musical talents. If you would like me to talk to a prospective member, or even show them what we do, I would be delighted to do so, and likewise, so would any of the organists within the province.

So hopefully, the above may strike a chord with you, and be of interest. I am not just the Brother, who plays music at Provincial Grand Lodge, I am here to help you. Please do not be afraid to ask for assistance. I hope that we will see more Brethren start to exercise their musical talents and develop their skills.

I'm very much looking forward to making the awards.

W.Bro. Bernard Tilley West Kent - Provincial Grand Organist

Contacts

Bernard Tilley	Award Enquiries New Members (by musicians)	batomic@ol.com
Martin Lakin	Organ Faults or supply of USB Storage Devices	martin.lakin@cornerstoneconsultancy.co.uk
Adrian Grant	Masonic Music	aggrant68@gmail.com

WEST KENT RELIEF CHESTS ARE HOLDING AN INCREDIBLE £472,000 — WHY?

Brethren,
In July, 140 Lodges and Chapters across West Kent received notifications from the MCF that their Relief Chests are at risk of becoming dormant within the next six months.

If your Lodge or Chapter is currently holding funds in a Relief Chest, now is the time to act. Please consider transferring your funds — ideally — to support the 2026 Festival Appeal.

 Deadline for donations: Tuesday, 31st March 2026

What is a Relief Chest — and What It's Not.

A Relief Chest is not a bank account. It is a charitable fund management tool provided by the MCF, designed to efficiently manage and distribute charitable donations.

Here's why it matters:

 **Simplified Giving:** Relief Chests streamline the collection and distribution of donations, avoiding the administrative burden of dealing with accountants, lawyers, or HMRC.

 **Gift Aid Optimization:** Eligible donations automatically receive Gift Aid, increasing the value of every contribution.

 **Transparency & Reporting:** Regular statements ensure full transparency and accountability for how funds are handled.

 **Secure & Controlled:** Withdrawals follow clear guidelines and require authorized signatories, ensuring funds are used appropriately.

Support the 2026 Festival

These chests are meant to enable giving, not hold unused funds. Let's ensure that the £472,000 currently sitting in West Kent Relief Chests goes where it's most needed — to your 2026 Festival. If your Lodge or Chapter needs assistance in transferring funds or has questions, don't hesitate to get in touch. Together, we can make a significant impact.

KNOT FORGOTTEN - DARTFORD SCOUTS

The members of Loyalty & Remembrance Lodge in Sidcup were delighted to support the 5th Dartford Scouts, with a submission via the Provincial Charity Committee for £2,280.29. The funds will enable new safety equipment, ropes, harnesses and all associated items for their in-house climbing wall, situated just off West Hill in Dartford.

Worshipful Master Greg Rawlins, whose sons attended this Scout hut, was especially keen to do all he could to ensure there was equipment and funding for the ongoing development and support of young people in the Dartford area. 5th Dartford are also fundraising for a new Scout hut, hoping it will be two storeys high, showcasing significant investment by them too.

Representatives of 5th Dartford were able to attend L5842's meeting on Saturday 20th September, where they were 'presented' with the funds. They were especially delighted by the

news, and their Lead Volunteer, Jason O'Brien, was particularly grateful and thanked members before the brethren tyled.

The meeting was further enhanced by confirmation of Festival Bronze, with the Silver Award being 'just around the corner'. Brother Charles Moore delivered the first and second degree working tools to aplomb, and the brethren were delighted to hear of a new "Buy the Almoner an Americano" initiative of microgiving, taking the form of £3/month as a standing order to ensure the long-term viability of the Almoner's account. The brethren were also very pleased to receive two Form Ps for new initiates.

With my best wishes,
Nicholas Hair

Our impact 2023/24
In
West Kent

Local community

5
West Kent charities supported

£91,846
given to charities in West Kent

Support for individuals and families

 91
grants awarded

 59
individuals and families helped

 £254,624
given to individuals and families

 £162,016
given to support with daily living costs

 £3,763
given to support the education of children and young people

 £88,845
given to support healthcare and wellbeing

 18
people accessed mental health support

MESSAGE FROM THE EDITOR

Brethren,

As I prepare this edition of West Kent News, I do so with a mixture of pride, gratitude, and no small amount of emotion. This is, in all likelihood, my last edition as Editor.

For several years it has been my privilege to bring together the voices, stories, and achievements of our Province into these pages. The friendships, the messages, the countless contributions you have shared have made this task both a joy and a responsibility I will never forget.

Just this past week, after giving a talk for Nationwide in Swindon, I wandered into the Wiltshire Masonic Hall. By chance, I met the Brethren of Gooch Lodge No. 1295. Without hesitation, they welcomed me to their Festive Board. That simple act of kindness struck me deeply. It reminded me that wherever we are in the world, the hand of Brotherhood is never far away. We are never alone.

That, I think, is the essence of Freemasonry — not the buildings, not the regalia, but the people: the kindness shown to a stranger, the friendship offered across borders, the reminder that we are all united in one chain of union.

To all who have supported this magazine, who have shared your stories, photographs, and reflections — my heartfelt thanks.

I leave this role confident that West Kent News will continue to be not just a record of events, but a mirror of the best of who we are.

Be kind. Be supportive. And never forget the power of a simple act of brotherhood.

S&F,
Nando Caicedo
 Editor, West Kent News



Nando Caicedo's visit to Swindon



Integrity



Friendship



Respect



Service



<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

WEST KENT NEWS

Issue No.18
AUTUMN
EDITION
2025

