

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF

WEST KENT

MAGAZINE

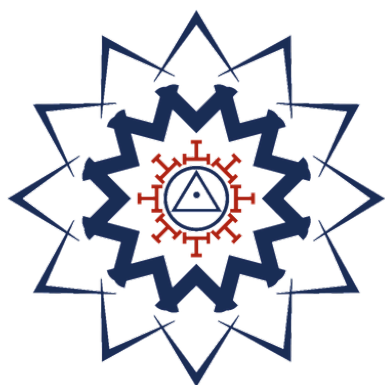


PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF WEST KENT



PROVINCIAL GRAND
CHAPTER OF WEST KENT

AUTUMN 2026



BUILDING TOGETHER

Attracting Members – Growing Freemasonry



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From the Provincial Grand Master & Grand Superintendent

Charity, Community and Making a Difference

Charity has always been at the heart of Freemasonry. But for me, charity is about much more than simply raising money. It is about service: giving our time, sharing our skills, supporting those who need us and playing an active part in the communities in which we live and meet.

As we continue to develop our Provincial Strategy and embed Building Together across West Kent, I want us to think increasingly about what charitable service can mean for each of our Lodges and Chapters. Community engagement is how we make ourselves relevant and an organisation that men want to join.

There will always be important causes that we support collectively as a Province. But alongside them, I want every Lodge and Chapter to ask a very simple question: *What matters to us, and what difference can we make?*

Charity Close to Our Hearts

Every Lodge and Chapter is different. Our members come from different communities, professions and backgrounds and have different interests and life experiences.

That diversity gives us an enormous opportunity.

There may be a hospice, food bank, youth organisation, veterans' group, community project or small local charity that has particular meaning to your members. There may be a cause that has supported one of your families. There may simply be an organisation doing remarkable work in the community around your Masonic Centre that could benefit from our help.

Find it. Get to know it. Ask what it needs. And remember that our contribution does not always have to come in the form of a cheque. Sometimes time is every bit as valuable as money.

Could members volunteer for a day? Could you help renovate a community facility? Support an event? Provide practical expertise? Help a local organisation raise its profile? Open our Masonic Centres more widely to community activity?

That, to me, is Freemasonry visibly living its values.

Two Provincial Charities We Should Be Proud to Support

We already have wonderful examples of practical charitable service within West Kent.

Our West Kent Branch of the Masonic Trout and Salmon Fishing Charity has been operating since 2009. Its purpose is beautifully simple: providing an interactive fishing and countryside experience for people with special needs, including those with physical or mental disabilities, disadvantaged people and those who have experienced trauma. Its wonderfully appropriate ambition is to *“Catch the Smile.”*

Those who have attended one of its events will understand that this is about far more than catching fish. It is about companionship, confidence, inclusion and giving somebody a day to remember.

I would particularly encourage our members to support the Fishing Charity not only financially, but by getting involved. Give a day. Volunteer. Help at an event. Experience for yourself the difference that a relatively small commitment of your time can make.

Likewise, Teddies for Loving Care – TLC is one of the simplest and most effective examples of Freemasonry making a very human difference.

TLC provides teddies for distressed children attending hospital emergency departments. What appears to us to be a small teddy can provide reassurance and comfort to a frightened child at a very difficult moment. More than one million TLC teddies have now been distributed nationally, with much of the funding coming from Freemasons through their Lodges.

I would love every Lodge and Chapter in West Kent to regard our Fishing Charity and TLC as causes that belong to all of us.

Support them. Talk about them. Invite their representatives to tell your members what they do. Better still, become involved.

Sometimes You Have to Set Yourself a Challenge

I have always believed that if we are going to encourage others to become involved, occasionally we should be prepared to challenge ourselves too.

In 2022, my son James and I walked the Pilgrims' Way, undertaking a difficult challenge to raise funds for the West Kent 2026 Festival.

We wanted to do something that would capture people's imagination and provide a focal point around which others could offer their support. The generosity we encountered along the way was extraordinary, and together we raised over £10,000 towards the Festival.





Last year I swapped walking boots for a paddle and kayak and undertook another rather different challenge – kayaking solo along the River Thames from Cricklade to Teddington

I was not alone in undergoing physical challenges to raise money and there are many fine examples of Brethren and Companions who did just that. From running, cycling, walking, pulling vehicles amongst others.

Challenges such as these are certainly physically demanding, but that is rather the point. You do not need to take on physical challenges. Your challenge might be considerably less strenuous! What matters is having an idea, being prepared to do something with it and bringing others with you.

Imagine what could be achieved if Lodges and Chapters across West Kent each found their own challenge, project or community cause.

The Extraordinary Achievement of Our 2026 Festival

We should also reflect with enormous pride on what has been achieved through the West Kent 2026 Festival. When the Festival was launched, the Province accepted an extraordinarily ambitious target of **£2,502,026** for the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Behind the fantastic amount ultimately raised are thousands of individual acts of generosity.

Sponsored walks, runs and challenges; dinners, raffles and social events; regular donations; Lodge and Chapter contributions; Charity Stewards quietly encouraging support; members organising events; families and friends joining in and countless people simply deciding that they wanted to help.

To every Brother, Companion, Lodge, Chapter, family member, friend and supporter who contributed in whatever way they could, I offer my sincere and heartfelt thanks.

As Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent, I could not be prouder of what our Province has achieved.

But I hope we will regard the conclusion of the Festival not as the end of something, but as an opportunity to ask: *What next?*

From Fundraising to Community Engagement

One of the great opportunities presented by Building Together is to connect our charitable work more closely with our communities.

We should not be a Province that simply meets behind closed doors and occasionally sends donations into the community. We should be part of that community.

That means developing relationships with local organisations, inviting people into our Centres, supporting community events and allowing people to see Freemasonry through what Freemasons do.

When a group of Freemasons spend a day helping a local charity, supports children through TLC, gives somebody an unforgettable experience through the Fishing Charity, or gets behind a cause that matters to its local community, such as food banks, community kitchens etc, people see our values in action.

The West Kent Widows Sons bring cheer to many disadvantaged children and their families at Easter, Christmas and throughout the year by raising funds, having fun and doing what they love.

And that is infinitely more powerful than simply telling people what our values are.

My Challenge to Every Lodge and Chapter

So, as we look beyond the tremendous achievement of the 2026 Festival, I would like to issue a challenge to every Lodge and Chapter in West Kent.

Choose something that matters to you.

Support TLC. Support our Masonic Fishing Charity. Support the West Kent Widows Sons. Find a local charity or community organisation close to your hearts. Raise some money but also consider giving your time.

Perhaps set yourselves a challenge.

Most importantly, get involved.

Then tell us about it. Share what you are doing across the Province so that your enthusiasm can inspire others.

Our Provincial Strategy is not simply a document. Building Together will succeed when its principles can be seen in what we actually do: supporting one another, strengthening our Lodges and Chapters, engaging with our communities and demonstrating through service the positive contribution that Freemasonry continues to make to society.

The West Kent 2026 Festival has shown what this Province can achieve when we unite behind a common purpose.

Now let us take that same enthusiasm, generosity and determination back into our communities. Find the cause that matters to you. Give your time as well as your money. Get involved. Encourage others to join you.

And together, let us continue to make a difference.

RW Bro Andrew Waddington

*Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent
Province of West Kent*



From the Deputy Provincial Grand Master

As we approach the start of this masonic year, I find myself thinking where did the summer break go with, for once, some exceptionally good weather, if a bit warm, and the batteries recharged for the start of the next masonic year.

Last masonic year was remarkably busy with Installation of our new PGM, the launch of the building together program and the final push of the 2026 festival. What a great total and yet again the members of the province excelled themselves in the aid of charity, as they always have done. The final announcement video did reflect in the support of those in need which our fund raising was supporting.

Now that the festival has finished it time to look to support those local charities that need our support and of course to look for those charities that could benefit of the support of the Freemasons Charity, the new name of the MCF. Please remember what was said at the announcement of the festival total, they are there to support those charities that require larger financial support from our masonic family. I did reflect on those events that had made major donations to the festival, and I hope that they will continue, but this time with more local charities benefitting from this support.

In fact, it was great to see that one such scheme that had been such a great support of the festival, the second-hand regalia sales which had through the hard work of Peter Wise and others had donated over £44,000 to the festival, has already started supporting the supply of porting wheelchairs to local hospitals, supported by other companion orders within Kent, and promoting our orders support of the local communities, the total already donated is over £10,000.

This first quarter will be busy with many visits to lodges within the province and our sister provinces which are always most enjoyable. Quite a few community events to be attended to promote masonry within West Kent. The chance to present quite a few long service citations, one of the most enjoyable parts of the duties of a DPGM.

For those who received who received preferment in June at the annual investiture meeting at Great Queen St and now is the time to enjoy your new positions and support your Lodges and the Province, and as the PGM said it iss you're meeting so please try to again support this event in 2027.

Brethren, I hope you had a good break, and I look forward to meeting you on the circuit in the new season.

Graham



From the Deputy Grand Superintendent Masonic Charity – Relief and Service

In 2023, UGLE introduced a new four-word statement of our organisation's guiding values — Integrity, Friendship, Respect, Service. This move was not meant to signal the removal or replacement of our traditional principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth, but it was designed to underline and reinforce those traditional principles and to better describe Freemasonry in the modern world.

Traditionally when thinking about 'Relief' our members would understand this to be our charity giving in the form of monetary donations. Before the formation of the large Masonic charities, individual Lodges had a responsibility towards their members and their families - a lodge was more than simply a place where Masons met for their ceremonies, it was a source of practical assistance where they would provide food or clothing as well as financial assistance to their widows and orphans or those in need locally.

Nowadays of course we have the Freemasons' Charity which is funded by Freemasons and their families; it helps to improve the lives of those in need by working in partnership with some of the country's biggest charities as well as assisting local causes across England and Wales and contributing to appeals for humanitarian or disaster relief worldwide.

The modern Masonic principle of 'Service', expands on the traditional Tenet of 'Relief' by acknowledging that our Masonic giving, whether through our alms collections, or by contributing to major Provincial or UGLE causes, is still a vital part of being a Freemason; but it also recognises that 'Service' means giving 'charity' in many other ways, whether this is by giving our time or expertise in supporting a community project, listening to somebody who is going through a difficult period, or visiting a Brother who is unwell etc. All of these are vital parts of our charity or 'Service' as a Freemason.

The important thing is that charity and Service are not always about the size of a contribution - it is a willingness to help and support.

Freemasonry may have had significant changes since 1717, but a fundamental, underlying principle of being a Freemason has not – if somebody is in difficulty and we can help - we help. And long may that continue.

James

Provincial Charity Committee News 2026 and Beyond

Brethren & Companions,

2026 Festival

The 2026 Festival has now concluded with the magnificent total of **£3.9 million** in support of the Freemasons' Charity, (formerly the Masonic Charitable Foundation). This outstanding achievement reflects the generosity, commitment, and steadfast support of all our members across West Kent.

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone who contributed to this remarkable result. Whether through donations, fundraising, encouragement, or dedicated service, your efforts have made a genuine and lasting difference to those who rely on the vital work of the Freemasons' Charity. Your dedication embodies the very best of our Order, and the impact of your support will continue to be felt for many years to come.

A special mention must be made of all the Charity Stewards, who have worked tirelessly within their Lodges and Chapters, coordinating fundraising, inspiring participation, and ensuring the festival remained at the forefront of our collective efforts.

Freemasons' Charity Local Impact

Since its establishment in 2016, the Freemasons' Charity (FC) has provided **£687,452** in direct support to 92 charities and community groups within West Kent. This targeted assistance has made a significant and tangible difference, helping organisations that address the most urgent and pressing needs in our local communities. Through careful assessment and responsible governance, FC ensures that funding reaches charities delivering real, practical improvements to the lives of vulnerable and disadvantaged people across West Kent.

Strengthening Local Partnerships – The Next Phase

Moving forward, it is the PCC intention to build on the achievements of the past six years and strengthen our ability to identify and engage local charities that are delivering meaningful support to the most disadvantaged individuals in our community. This will ensure that our resources continue to reach those who need them most. We would like to work closely with the Charity Stewards of Lodges and Chapters to develop stronger local partnerships, enhance the visibility of charitable opportunities, and encourage proactive submissions from organisations operating within West Kent.

By combining the local knowledge of Charity Stewards with the governance and oversight of the PCC, we can ensure that applications are well-supported, appropriately assessed, and directed towards charities whose work delivers measurable benefit to those facing hardship, disadvantage, or vulnerability. Strengthening this collaborative approach will help us maintain the high standards of stewardship that our members expect and that our communities deserve.

Transition to Continuous Giving – WK4EVER

As the 2026 Festival has now drawn to a close, all Festival 2026-related QR codes should be removed from your Lodge / Chapter summons and literature.

The province is now operating the Continuous Giving scheme (WK4EVER). Monies donated into the Freemasons' Charity (MCF) through this scheme are individually attributed and will be recorded against your name for honorifics allocated to the next Festival. To contribute, two QR codes are provided at the end of this article.

Lodges and Chapters are encouraged to promote WK4EVER wherever appropriate so that members may continue their charitable support.

Strengthening Charity and Community Together

On behalf of the Provincial Charity Committee, thank you once again for your exceptional commitment, generosity, and service. The legacy of the 2026 Festival will endure for many years, and together we will continue to uphold the principles of charity, compassion, and community that define West Kent Freemasonry.

Acknowledgements and Committee Membership Update.

Lastly, the team would like to express our heartfelt thanks to W. Bro's Peter Sawyer and Tim Perrin as they step down from the PCC. Peter's guidance and wise counsel during his years as Treasurer have been invaluable, and we are deeply grateful for his service.

To Tim we extend our sincere appreciation for his dedicated service to the PCC over the years as he takes on the role of Provincial Grand Mentor, we wish him every success in this important new role.

We are pleased to welcome Peter O'Donnell and Bruce Manning on to the Provincial Charity Committee. Their experience, enthusiasm, and commitment to supporting charitable work across West Kent will be of great benefit to the team.

Provincial Charity Committee: Steve Rozier (Chairman), Dave Stock (Secretary), Peter O'Donnell (Treasurer)
Committee Members: Kieron Lockyer, Martin Eggleton, Ian McDermid, Eric Lewis, Peter Hayler, Bruce Manning

Kindest Regards

Steve Rozier

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

West Kent Forever Giving WK4EVER



Single Donation



Regular Donations

To make a donation, or to set up a direct debit scan the QR codes

Parv Choudhury founder of Truly Beloved and West Kent brother

Newly made brother Parv, had a sincere wish to render himself more extensively serviceable to his fellow creatures. Here is his story of Benevolence and Brotherhood.

Benevolence

Truly Beloved began with a promise — a promise made by the charity's founder, Parv, to his late mother. After years of caring for his brother, who has Down Syndrome and Cleft Palate, Parv saw first-hand the difference that love, positivity, and the right support can make in a child's and their family's life.

When his mother passed away, he vowed to continue her legacy of compassion by helping other children and families facing similar challenges. From that promise, Truly Beloved was born — a charity built on love, faith, and the belief that every child deserves to feel valued, supported, and truly beloved.

His mission is to make a real and lasting difference in the lives of children and young people with disabilities and special educational needs (SEN) across the UK. They provide long-term, meaningful support — not a one-off gesture, but a genuine commitment to each family we serve.



The charity believes every disabled child deserves access to the therapy, equipment, and family support they need to thrive. We exist to bridge the gap between what the system provides and what children and families actually need.

Truly Beloved has been chosen as one of three official charities supported by Councillor Lisa-Jane Moore, Mayor of Bexley, during her 2026/27 term — alongside Crossroads SEL and the Diabetes UK Bexley Support Group.

The Mayor's Charity Appeal, themed “Simunye Bexley – Bexley Together,” raises funds throughout the civic year for causes that make a real difference to Bexley residents.

Brotherhood

Parv joined Freemasonry through W. Bro Barry Wells and W. Bro. Mick King, two well-known figures from the local working men's club and members of Hereditary Lodge 5731. It all began quite unexpectedly when he opened my first charity shop. Out of the blue, Barry appeared with a cheque from the Hereditary Lodge as a donation to support the new venture. That simple act of generosity left a lasting impression and opened the door to something much larger.

Parv was drawn to Freemasonry because he wanted to give back to society and make a meaningful difference in the world. The values he saw in action — particularly the emphasis on charity, mutual support, and community — resonated strongly with the work he was already doing.

In January 2026, Parv was initiated into Hereditary Lodge as an Entered Apprentice. From the very beginning, the members have been exceptionally welcoming, making me feel part of a genuine brotherhood.



Barry and Mick have continued to support the charity in practical ways, attending key events such as the Bexleyheath BID functions and the civic parade, where the charity was recognised as the Mayor's chosen charity. Their ongoing presence has reinforced the connection between the principles of Freemasonry and the day-to-day work of running a charity.

For Parv, the two go hand in hand. Freemasonry teaches the importance of Relief — actively helping those in need — and of building a better society through personal contribution. Running a charity is simply the practical expression of those same ideals: identifying need, offering practical support, and working with others to improve lives. Joining Hereditary Lodge has given him both a formal structure and a supportive community in which to continue that work.

What can we, as brothers, do to help?

You can support Truly Beloved in three powerful ways

- 1. Join our community lottery:** Contribute as little as £1 per month and help fund life-changing support for the children we care for.
- 2. Help us find business sponsors:** We're looking for companies willing to donate a fixed annual amount to sponsor a child. In return, sponsors receive regular updates from their chosen child (perfect for sharing on social media) and are featured on our website — gaining visibility and demonstrating real social impact.
- 3. Share our story and find champions:** Help us spread the word and connect with people who can promote the charity and amplify our mission.

www.trulybeloved.org.uk

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Kent Freemasons Donate £10,000 for Hospital Wheelchairs



W.Bro. Peter Wise is a character well known in both West & East Kent, as well as other Provinces from Cornwall to Northumberland! For some years he has been the “go-to guy” for super-cheap second-hand regalia, and has raised over £100,000 for Festivals and other good causes, from the Gurkhas to the Thanet Disabled Riding Centre in Broadstairs.

In October, returning from holiday, Peter contracted a mystery infection in his foot requiring 7 weeks of hospitalisation, with multiple surgeries, in Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Woolwich (QEH) and St Thomas's London, and is still undergoing outpatient treatment. During this time, Peter realised that a great many of the delays in getting treatment result from a shortage of Portering Chairs, not the Porters themselves!

In February, he started an appeal, in conjunction with sales of second-hand regalia, to raise money to buy some of these Chairs. He contacted many of his friends in Kent, and from their generosity, raised £10,000 in just 8 weeks, to purchase TWENTY new Portering Chairs for QEH.

W.Bro. Scott Dunn, in his position as Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for Kent in the Order of the Secret Monitor, and his current Chairs in Kent Mark and Knights Templar, was responsible for the funding of 7 of these chairs. It was therefore appropriate that he accompany Peter, on 29th April, to present the cheque to the Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust Charity at QEH.

The photographs show Peter and Scott, with Margarita Vidiella, Head of Charity and Volunteers, and Nathan Ahwieh, Fundraising & Engagement Coordinator.

The pictured chair is a smaller version of the chairs on order, but this is one Scott found abandoned outside the hospital! That's why there is a shortage!

Peter's appeal is continuing, in order to supply at least one more major hospital in Kent with new chairs, and is happy to receive nominations, as well as donations!



Editor of this Edition of West Kent Magazine!



There are words in the First Degree ritual about charity and “do we have anything to give in the cause of charity”, and about being a better man and a good mason.

This edition is all about our incredible charity work and the natural benevolence we have as Freemasons. But can it be more than just giving money to a raffle, it can be about a challenge to yourself, or you gift your time to help a brother in their time of need.

Thank you.
Matt The Tash.



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