

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF

WEST KENT

MAGAZINE

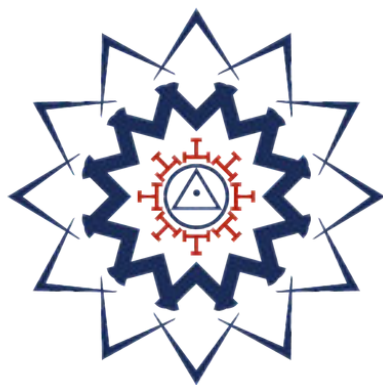


PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE
OF WEST KENT



PROVINCIAL GRAND
CHAPTER OF WEST KENT

NOVEMBER 2026



BUILDING TOGETHER

Attracting Members – Growing Freemasonry



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From Andrew Charles Waddington *Provincial Grand Master & Grand Superintendent*

Every Day Is a School Day

Understanding and enjoying our Freemasonry

Every day is a school day. It is a familiar saying, but one that I believe is particularly appropriate to Freemasonry. No matter how long we have been members, what offices we have held or what honours we have received, there is always something new to discover.

One of the great strengths of Freemasonry is the richness of our ceremonies, traditions, history and symbolism. Yet how often do we stop to consider what they actually mean?

We can spend years attending meetings and delivering ritual without fully appreciating the meaning behind the words or the symbolism we encounter. Understanding why we do things, rather than simply how, can transform our experience and make our Freemasonry so much more rewarding.

Solomon: Learning at Our Fingertips

We are fortunate to have **Solomon**, the United Grand Lodge of England's online Masonic learning platform, offering a wealth of information for Brethren and Companions at every stage of their Masonic journey.

From short articles and presentations to structured learning modules, Solomon provides an accessible and enjoyable way to explore our ceremonies, history, symbolism and traditions.

The **Solomon Academy** also offers learning modules leading to certificates and the opportunity to achieve a diploma. These provide a worthwhile challenge and recognition of the effort made to broaden our Masonic knowledge.

Whether you are an Entered Apprentice, an experienced Past Master or a Royal Arch Companion, there is something for everyone. I would encourage you to explore what is available. You may be surprised by just how much you discover.



When you complete a Solomon diploma you receive a ornate tie pin to show to brethren.

Learning Together

Of course, Masonic learning is not confined to a computer screen.

Some of our most rewarding learning comes from discussions in our Lodges and Chapters, mentoring, Lodges of Instruction, presentations and simply asking questions.

I am particularly pleased that **our new Learning Hubs at Bromley and Tunbridge Wells** will soon be operational, providing further opportunities for Brethren and Companions to learn together, develop their understanding and share their experiences in a welcoming and supportive environment.

Importantly, learning should be accessible to everyone. We recognise that some members may have learning difficulties or be neurodivergent, and that different people learn in different ways. Help, advice and support are available through our Provincial Learning and Development Team, and I would encourage anyone who might benefit from additional assistance to make contact. No one should feel excluded from the opportunity to learn and enjoy their Freemasonry.

Our experienced members have a tremendous amount of knowledge to share, while newer members often bring fresh perspectives and questions that encourage us all to think.

Learning should never be a chore. It can be interesting, entertaining and, above all, enjoyable.

Building Together: One Journey, One Organisation

Learning and Development is an important part of our Building Together Strategy in West Kent. Our approach of **One Journey, One Organisation** recognises the close relationship between the Craft and Royal Arch and the opportunities both provide to deepen our understanding and enjoyment of Freemasonry.

Building Together is not simply about attracting new members. It is equally about ensuring that those already with us remain interested, involved and enthusiastic.

The more we understand, the more we appreciate, and the more we appreciate, the more we enjoy.

A Challenge to Us All

So, here is a simple challenge.

At your next Lodge or Chapter meeting, listen for something in the ceremony that you have never really considered before. Ask a question, look it up on Solomon or discuss it with another Brother or Companion. Perhaps complete a Solomon learning module or consider working towards one of its diplomas. And when you discover something interesting, share it with others.

Whatever our experience or rank, none of us should ever believe we have learned all there is to know about Freemasonry.

We have a wonderful organisation with so much to offer, and the more we put into it, the more we get out of it. So let us remain curious, share our knowledge, encourage one another and, above all, enjoy the experience. Because **making a daily advancement in Masonic learning is key to understanding and enjoying what we do.**

RW Bro Andrew Waddington

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



From Graham Raven *Deputy Provincial Grand Master*

As we approach the start of autumn and the clocks going back, I find myself thinking has this year gone. It has been a busy start to the masonic season with many enjoyable official visits, one sadly being a Lodge closure but the positive side of that was 90% members have found new lodges to enjoy their membership in.

The Building Together program has really taken off well with Lodges taking on the 5 streams of the program which has enabled them to look at themselves and their long time future and looking at engaging with members and making themselves attractive to new members.

Our local communities are benefitting from our support in both, financial and time, and new initiatives for community engagement are being well supported by lodges and members.

I had the pleasure to attend Walsingham Lodge to present W. Bro. Peter Giles with his 50 year long service citation, a most enjoyable event, looking back on his time in the craft and the changes in freemasonry over those 50 years. Talking afterwards with the newer members of the lodge and visitors it did raise discussions on how different it was for a young mason back then. There were limited TV channels, no internet access and mobile phones were very rare and like a house brick if you had one.

How did a young freemason learn his craft then? It was the regular attendance at LOI's and nuggets passed down from the senior freemasons.



Reading was the blue book supported by limited guidance note from UGLE. The support from books on the roles of Lodge officers by numerous masonic authors, Neville Barker Cryer being one of the most published, the provinces own author Charles Carter on the role of the Lodge DC and secretary and one of the most useful books I read was the guide for the master elect by W. Bro Halliday, a regular visitor at many West Kent Lodges.



Of course, now the information for aspiring members is on the internet, most provinces have guides for support of all officers on their websites, and of course the Solomon teaching resources from UGLE is an excellent learning tool. Support of our craft learning is so advanced from those 50 years ago, and hopefully supporting brethren to have full enjoyment of the craft we all enjoy all we hold so dear. I did enjoy my research via Solomon and completing the modules, if obtaining the diploma did take some time, but worth it expanding my masonic knowledge. Old dogs can learn new tricks.

We hope to see many of you on our travels through the province, all enjoying our freemasonry and each other company.

V W Bro. Graham Raven
Deputy Provincial Grand Master
Province of West Kent

Some Royal Arch Books I Would Recommend

by Alan Wondzinski, 3rd Grand Principle

The Freemasons' Book of the Royal Arch by Bernard E Jones

If I were allowed to own only one book on the Royal Arch it would be **The Freemasons' Book of the Royal Arch** by Bernard E Jones, past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. Written as a companion volume (no pun intended, although you have to admit, that was clever) to his Craft book, **A Freemasons' Guide and Compendium**, it was first published in 1957 with a revised edition published in 1970, and although over 50 years old, it remains the quintessential reference book on all aspects of Royal Arch Freemasonry. As far as I'm aware, this book is now out of print but second-hand copies often appear on Amazon (at much inflated prices) and eBay. There used to be an online electronic version free to download but it would seem to have been taken down, however, who knows what a comprehensive search might uncover.

200 Years of Royal Arch Freemasonry in England by Yasha Beresiner

Yasha Beresiner is a highly regarded Masonic scholar and another past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. Published in 2013 to mark the bicentenary of the foundation of the Royal Arch as a separate, distinct Order, this book is in three parts, more in the form of a history of the Order than a reference book. Part 1 presents a concise history of the Royal Arch from the early 18th Century to the Union of the two Grand Lodges in 1813. Part 2 speaks for itself with the rather unique title of **A day in the Life of a Duke (Sussex) 27 December 1813** (the date of the Union of the two Grand Lodges). Part 3 is **A Chronology: May 1814 – October 2013** which comprises a brief overview of important dates in the history of the Royal Arch during that period as well as other events of historic significance. Available to purchase online and at most Masonic bookshops.

Royal Arch Journey by Rev. Neville Barker Cryer

Another past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge and highly regarded Masonic speaker and author, Rev Nev presents his own somewhat controversial views on the origins of the Royal Arch. Controversial they may be, but they seem to be gaining wider acceptance. When this 96 page booklet went out of print a few years ago, second hand copies were circulating at up to £100 each. The original has now been reprinted and you shouldn't need to pay more than the original price of £9.99. Also now widely available.

Some Royal Arch Terms Explained and Royal Arch Matters by Roy A Wells

Yet another past Master of Quatuor Coronati Lodge and for many years Scribe E of Domatic Chapter of Instruction, the first of these two small booklets, **Some Royal Arch Terms Explained** is a lexicon of Royal Arch and Craft terminology; words we frequently use but often don't understand. **Royal Arch Matters** is a compilation of four lectures delivered by Wells each covering such diverse topics as Passing the Chair, The Jewel of the Order, Opening and Closing ceremonies and many other Royal Arch matters. Also widely available online and in Masonic bookshops.

Exploring the Royal Arch and The Royal Arch Unearthed by Clive Moore

Two small booklets developed from lectures delivered in Chapters across West Kent and beyond by our very own West Kent Mason, Clive Moore, PProvGORator and member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. There is some overlap of detail between the two but they will both be of interest to those seeking a greater understanding of the Royal Arch.

E

Companions, have you ever wondered:

Why we're called Companions

**Where the Royal Arch
Password comes from?**

Why Cyrus let them go?

Why seven steps?

Why 72 Elders?

These and many other questions are answered in:
A Commentary on the Exaltation Ceremony

Performed in your Chapter by The Provincial Grand
Stewards' Chapter Demonstration Team.

If you would like to host a presentation please
contact me at: alanwondzinski@outlook.com

But be prepared, members of your own Chapter will
be invited to assist in the ceremony.

Supporting **BUILDING TOGETHER** in West Kent

W

West Kent Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association Annual Toy Run Appeal 2026

West Kent is often regarded as one of the more prosperous parts of the country. Yet beyond that perception lies a quieter reality. Across the communities that make up the Province of West Kent, it is estimated that around one in seven children are growing up in households living below the poverty line after housing costs are taken into account.

For many families, financial hardship is not the result of unemployment but of the ever-increasing cost of living and paying for everyday essentials. Even where parents are working hard, Christmas can become another impossible expense. For some parents, the most difficult moment of the year is knowing that, despite doing everything they can, they may have nothing to place beneath the Christmas tree. It is for those children that the West Kent Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association proudly organises its Annual Toy Run.

Over the years, the appeal has grown into our flagship charitable initiative. Supported by Lodges across the Province, Metropolitan Lodges, private donors and the chapter's own fundraising events, it has become a remarkable example of what can be achieved when Freemasons work together in the service of their communities. That generosity has a direct and measurable impact.

In 2025, the appeal raised £4,423. These funds are not simply distributed. There are no administration costs, no salaries and no overheads deducted. Every penny is used to purchase Christmas toys and gifts for disadvantaged children. Volunteers from the Charity & West Kent Widows Son's then spend hours selecting books, games, puzzles, dolls, art materials, sports equipment and presents suitable for children of every age.

Last year, those purchases filled twenty-one large boxes ready for sorting. The gifts were then distributed through the chapter's longstanding partnership with the Bromley Children's & Families Voluntary Forum, whose network of charities and community organisations identifies the families most in need. By working alongside established local organisations, the appeal ensures that support reaches those experiencing genuine hardship, making every donation count.

Last Christmas, charities including Bromley Well Young Carers, Bromley FC Community Trust, Bromley & Croydon Women's Aid, Hilda Lane Community Association, Bromley Borough Foodbank, Baby Basics Bromley, CASPA, Living Well Bromley, Crystal Palace Community Trust, The Baby Bank – West Wickham, and Shirley & Bromley Care Leavers all received toys through the appeal.

The Toy Run itself is a visible demonstration of Freemasonry in action. It has become one of the most recognisable charitable events in the West Kent Masonic calendar. As the convoy passes through towns and villages, riders dressed as Father Christmas are greeted with smiles, waves and applause from members of the public. What they witness is more than a festive procession. Every rider has given their time freely. Every donation reflects someone's kindness. Every toy has been chosen by volunteers who understand that, for the child who receives it, it is more than simply a present. It is reassurance that someone they have never met cared enough to make their Christmas a little brighter.

The significance of the Toy Run continues to be recognised across the Province. Last year's event was attended by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master for West Kent, Andrew Waddington, together with senior Provincial Officers, the Mayor of Bromley and representatives from the many charities involved. Their presence reflected the esteem in which the appeal is now held, not only within Freemasonry but across the wider community. The chapter is especially honoured that the Provincial Grand Master has since accepted Honorary Membership of the West Kent Chapter of the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association. His encouragement and continued support represent a significant endorsement of the chapter's charitable work and of the positive contribution that the Widows Sons continue to make on behalf of Freemasonry throughout the Province of West Kent.

Although this appeal has become one of the chapter's defining charitable initiatives, it forms part of a wider tradition. Across the United Kingdom and around the world, Widows Sons Chapters use a shared passion for motorcycling as a means of serving their communities. The West Kent Chapter is proud to play its part in that tradition.

As preparations begin for the Annual Toy Run Appeal 2026, the Widows Sons once again invite the Brethren of West Kent to support this remarkable endeavour. Whether through a Lodge donation, a personal contribution or by helping to spread the word, every act of generosity will help ensure that another child experiences the joy and excitement that should belong to every Christmas.

Freemasonry teaches that charity is measured not by the size of the gift, but by the difference it makes.





WEST KENT WIDOWS SONS MBA ANNUAL TOY RUN APPEAL



Charity is measured not by the value of the gift,
but by the difference it makes to another's life.

This Christmas, while many of us gather with family and friends, countless parents will face the heartbreaking reality of being unable to place a present beneath the tree for their child.

As Christmas approaches, the Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association once again invites the Brethren of West Kent to support our Annual Toy Run Appeal. Through your generosity, we can bring the joy of Christmas to disadvantaged children across our Province.

For details please email
secretary@westkent.wsmba.uk

For more information on how to make a donation to the Annual Toy Run or if you are interested in joining West Kent Widows Sons Masonic Bikers Association please send an email to secretary@westkent.wsmba.uk

WEST KENT FREEMASONS



The Kindness Cup

**Sponsor a coffee
morning for £100.**

Volunteers also welcome.



For more details please contact

Stefano Buscaglia

(Memory Cafe coordinator)

on **07971235980**

or by email at

sbuscaglia@hotmail.co.uk



Learning & Development – Putting Even More Fun into Our Masonic Journey!

By Eric Lewis

Let's face it, we all joined Freemasonry for different reasons. For some, it was the friendship and camaraderie, for others the fascinating traditions and ceremonies, and for many, simply the opportunity to be part of something special. Whatever brought us into Freemasonry, one thing we all have in common is that we enjoy being part of it. After all, Freemasonry is our hobby, and hobbies are supposed to be fun!

So, where does Learning & Development fit into all this? Well, quite simply, it's another way of getting even more enjoyment out of something we already love doing.

We're all encouraged to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, but that doesn't mean sitting in a classroom, studying textbooks or taking exams! Far from it. Masonic learning is about satisfying our curiosity, discovering fascinating facts, uncovering the stories behind our traditions and, perhaps most importantly, having a bit of fun along the way.

Think about it. How many times have you sat in a Lodge meeting, listened to a piece of ritual or looked at a symbol and wondered, "What's that all about?" Or perhaps you've heard something at the Festive Board that made you think, "I never knew that!" Those little moments of discovery are what Masonic Learning & Development is all about.

Freemasonry is absolutely packed with interesting stories, remarkable characters, ancient traditions and intriguing symbolism. There's enough history, mystery and fascinating information to keep even the most curious Brother entertained for years. And the beauty of it is that you can explore as much or as little as you like, whenever you like.

Learning doesn't have to be hard work. In fact, some of the best Masonic learning happens when we're simply enjoying each other's company. It might be an interesting conversation over a drink at the Festive Board, an entertaining presentation at a Lodge meeting, a visit to another Lodge or a few minutes exploring something on Solomon, UGLE's fantastic online learning resource.

And there's another important ingredient – each other! One of the great pleasures of Freemasonry is the wealth of knowledge and experience shared by our fellow Brethren. Everyone has something to contribute, whether they've been a Mason for six months or sixty years.

Sometimes the most interesting discoveries come from a casual conversation, a question nobody thought to ask before, or even a bit of friendly debate.



Of course, there's a serious side to Freemasonry, and rightly so. Our ceremonies, principles and traditions deserve our respect. But taking Freemasonry seriously doesn't mean we can't have fun learning about it. Quite the opposite. The more we understand what we're doing and why we're doing it, the more meaningful and enjoyable our Masonic experience becomes.

That's really what we're trying to achieve through Learning & Development here in West Kent. We want to make discovering more about Freemasonry an enjoyable part of our hobby, not another job to be done. We're not here to turn everyone into a Masonic scholar or test anyone's knowledge. We're here to encourage curiosity, share interesting information and help Brethren get even more out of their membership.

Through entertaining talks, presentations, demonstrations, informal discussions and resources such as Solomon, we want to offer something for everyone. Whether you're interested in Masonic history, the meaning behind our ceremonies, the symbolism we see around the Lodge room, or simply understanding a little more about this wonderful organisation we belong to, there's always something new to discover.

And let's not forget that learning can be a great way of bringing Brethren together. A fascinating talk can spark a conversation, a shared discovery can lead to a new friendship, and an interesting question can turn into a lively discussion that continues long after the Lodge has closed. It's all part of what makes Freemasonry such an enjoyable and rewarding hobby.



There's no pressure, no homework and certainly no examinations. Just the opportunity to explore something that interests you, at your own pace, in the company of friends.

So, the next time you hear the words Learning & Development, don't think of school, lessons or hard work. Think of discovering something fascinating, enjoying a good story, sharing a laugh with fellow Brethren and perhaps finding another reason to love Freemasonry.

And if there's something you've always wondered about, a subject you'd like to explore or a question you've never quite got around to asking, please let us know. We're always looking for new ideas and interesting topics that will appeal to our members.

After all, Freemasonry is a hobby we choose to enjoy, and Learning & Development is simply another way of making that hobby even more enjoyable. Who knows? You might discover something that makes you look at Freemasonry in a completely different light – and have a good time doing it!

Because the more we discover, the more we understand, and the more we understand, the more we enjoy!



WEST KENT PROVINCIAL
GRAND STEWARDS LODGE NO 8565
CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2026

Sunday 13th December

DOORS OPEN 11:30 LUNCH SERVICE 13:00

ADULTS £37 CHILDREN £17.50

INFO & BOOKINGS

for all booking please use the QR provided



Enquiries - christmas.stewards@gmail.com

HIGHLIGHTS

Christmas Carols / Raffle / Special Guest Appearance

Oakley House, Bromley Common, Bromley BR2 8HA



From the editor of this edition of West Kent Magazine!

If you do remember your Fellowcraft degree, whether that is recently or some time ago there is a comment by The Worshipful Master when you receive your Apron – I quote: “... you are expected to make the liberal arts sciences your future study, that you may be better able to discharge your duties as a Freemason...”

It is what sparked my interest in writing a (Cornwallis) lecture, and I never thought that anyone would find my niche talk around Hogarth and his hidden masonic symbolism at all interesting. But thankfully (for me!) lots of masons attended each lecture. There are lots of us who wish to understand more of what we do, why we do it in that way and the wider Masonic history that is quite fascinating.

I am pleased that in West Kent, we really value knowledge and have an avid Learning and Development team to support us with learning our ritual but also to make sense of it too.

At my own recent lodge meeting, I was stood with our 5 new Entered Apprentices, and we were all asked, “why we step off with the left foot?”. Something we do all the time, and I had never even considered why!

This made me think how little I truly understand and a very simple question totally stumped me.

So, I logged into Solomon and used the “SolomonGPT” option to ask the question. Three floating dots later, the Chat GP function replied. I am now in possession of that knowledge to share with our Entered Apprentices and anyone else - who now can ask me that question and I can regale a comprehensive answer.

Matt The Tash



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