



News & Views

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The Provincial Grand Master accompanied by the Provincial Executive and distinguished guests retire from the Annual Provincial Meeting



Annual Provincial Meeting

THE ANNUAL PROVINCIAL MEETING is always an impressive affair, set as our cover picture shows, in the ornate and lofty surroundings of the Southampton Guildhall. This year the Provincial Grand Master welcomed well over a thousand Brethren and distinguished guests, some of whom had travelled from various parts of the south of England, the Channel Islands and from as far away as Spain.

Much of the business of the meeting comprised of the appointment and promotion of Brethren within Provincial Grand Lodge. In his keynote speech the PGM congratulated them all and hoped that the meeting would be an enjoyable and memorable experience, observing that new ranks bring new responsibilities as well as opportunities. Masonic friends and colleagues seated in the body of the hall gave enthusiastic applause when "their man" climbed the steps to the stage for that high moment of their day.

Charlie Kemp stood down as AFGM after six hard-working years and the Provincial Grand Master was pleased to appoint the Reverend John Harvey (*on the right*) to this post. The appointment was a ceremony in itself as first John's patent in the form of a scroll was formally presented before he was escorted to the stage to be invested with his chain of office. John is well known for his services to Freemasonry in the Craft, Royal Arch, Mark and Royal Ark Mariners and Rose Croix. He is also a member of both the German and Scottish Constitutions as a result of overseas postings with the Royal Army Medical Corps in which he had a distinguished career. He is currently Curate at St. Augustine's Church, Aldershot and an Officiating Chaplain to the Forces, particularly within Aldershot Garrison. At the Annual meeting John was also appointed to the post of Provincial Mentor.



Other Provincial Officers were appointed or re-appointed with the investiture of John Stringer (*below*) as Provincial Grand Orator being a first for our Province. John has a team of



Orators covering the twelve Groups and their role will be to deliver a range of short orations. The purpose of these is to enhance the experience of the ceremony by explaining some of the hidden meanings and especially the symbolism that might otherwise be missed, not just by the Candidate but by all the Brethren present. The PGM encouraged all Lodges to request presentations and pass details to John of any Brethren who have the aptitude to join his team.

In his speech the PGM made particular mention of the Mentoring Scheme pointing out that every initiate must have a Personal Mentor to whom he should be introduced at the end of his Initiation Ceremony (*see the article by DPGM Mike Wilks on page 6 of this issue*).

The PGM announced the launch of the new Master Masons' Guide which is a compendium of information to be presented to each Brother following his Third Degree Ceremony. This guide will complement the "Welcome to the initiate" booklet and will be available for purchase at nominal cost by all other Brethren.

The involvement of Southampton University Lodge in the Universities Scheme received a particular mention. The scheme is aimed at attracting younger men into the Craft and so encouraging them to embrace Freemasonry as part of their life-skills. (*see page 6 of this issue for more on this Scheme*).

The Provincial Grand Master concluded by thanking all Brethren for their support with the message "Brethren, let us continue to make our Craft attractive to men of integrity and ideals, ensuring that they benefit from, and enjoy, the whole Masonic Experience and so secure the future of Freemasonry as an integral and honourable part of our Nation".

The Alms Collection at the Annual Meeting was dedicated to "Help for Heroes". This Charity has received support from the Royal Arch and other Orders as well as from individual Lodges and Brethren. If other Lodges/Brethren wish to contribute it is requested that payments are sent to the Provincial Treasurer made payable to "Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Lodge Relief Chest No. EO112". Full recognition will be given to the Donors.

THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY GENERAL MEETING

Supported by the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight

will be held at the Bournemouth International Centre, Exeter Road, Bournemouth
on Saturday, 27th September 2008 at 11 am

This year our Province is privileged to host a General Meeting of the Freemasons' Grand Charity. The meeting is open to all Masons and non-Masons and will include a short financial report from the Council of The Grand Charity, presentations by representatives of charities that have received grants from The Grand Charity and an update on the support being provided to non-Masonic charities. Admission is free. No Regalia to be worn. Lounge suits/jackets and tie for men and smart casual for ladies please.

It's an important meeting — Do make sure your Lodge is well represented

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Grand Rank Appointments

NOT EVEN A RAIN SWEEP LONDON could dampen the anticipation of Brethren and their guests as they joined the Provincial Grand Master and members of the Provincial Executive for a private dinner prior to the April Investiture in Grand Lodge.

The following Brethren were appointed or promoted by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master at Great Queen Street on the 30th of April, including Brethren who are members of Lodges in our Province or who reside within our boundaries and received Grand Rank via other Provinces.



First Appointments

W. Wilbers	AGDC (Active)
J.H. Martin	AGStdB (Active)
C. Head	GPurs (Active)
G. Angell	AGPurs (Active)
S. Allan	PAGDC
L. Pomeroy	PAGDC
P. Kaine	PAGSwdB
T. Sydeff	PAGSwdB
T. Rogers	PAGSupWks
W. Griffiths	PGStdB
G. Oughton	PGStdB

Promotions

Rev. Dr. J. Railton	DGClap to GClap
J.M. Codd	PGStdB to PGD
J.S. Arnold	PGStdB to PAGDC
B. Drake	PGStdB to PAGDC
R. Mabey	PGStdB to PAGDC
R. Newman	PGStdB to PAGDC

Reappointments

D.K. Williamson	AGM (Active)
A. Englefield	GChancellor
(Active)	
J.C. Edgercombe	GSupWks (Active)

Editor's Jottings

WELCOME TO OUR first twelve page edition which is designed to give prominence to more of your news and views.

This year Charlie Kemp (*top right*) hands over the Provincial Executive responsibility for the magazine to APGM Graham Williams (*bottom right*). Charlie has been my mentor in producing your magazine since I took over some three years ago and I am very grateful for his help, guidance and support.

The magazine team says farewell to Reporters David Foot, Barry Wharley, Mike Connor and Terry Nye thanking them for their regular and comprehensive support and wishing them well in their new and continuing roles in the Province.

Once again my grateful thanks to all News and Views Group Reporters and Photographers and of course to you, the Brethren and Companions who provided material for this issue. Also to Ian Williams, Chris Bryan, John Strivell and David Tonge for help with the photos and proofing.

Copy date for the next issue is the 6th of December

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Listen my Children

...and you shall hear, of the midnight ride of Paul Revere

Longfellow's epic poem charts the heroic deeds of Paul Revere which are brilliantly brought to life in this year's **PROVINCIAL LECTURE**.

The Provincial Lecturer for the forthcoming year is **W. Bro. Chris Brier** and he welcomes you to his lecture entitled **"PAUL REVERE: PATRIOT AND FREEMASON"** which provides an interesting and informative insight to the early days of Freemasonry in North America, particularly in Boston, and of the role played by many influential men of the day and most notably Paul Revere.

Were Maams involved in the famous Boston Tea Party? What of the midnight ride undertaken by Revere? These and other interesting facts are highlighted in the lecture that lasts for approximately 40 minutes.

Interested in hearing more? Then please contact Chris by phone on 023 92827129 or 07801 396593 or by e-mail on chrk19th@aol.com



Steward's Lectures

DOES YOUR LODGE have gaps in its schedule this year? Rather than doing another demonstration, maybe your Lodge would appreciate a Lecture? Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge has a number of Lecture Teams willing to travel to your Lodge and perform a Lecture. For details contact David Foot on 01329 221805.

Long Lost Brother

ABOUT 10 YEARS

AGO we were at a saleroom in Petersfield when my wife Lyn saw a Masonic certificate which we bought for around £5. I had a good look at it and found a date on it of 12th

September 1881 and the name of Marine Lodge No. 222. The word Calcutta was underlined as was a Brother's name, William Dear.

I set out to find out about this Brother and took the certificate with me to Sharn Hall Lodge in London. There I was told that the Lodge is still active and meets in Portishead in Somerset. I contacted a Provincial Officer in Somerset who put me in touch with the Secretary of Marine Lodge. I also sent an email to Grand Lodge who replied that Bro. William Dear was initiated on 12th of September, passed on the 24th of October and raised on the 12th December, all in Calcutta in 1881. He was aged 38 years and was an Engineer. I went back to the Secretary of Marine Lodge who told me that what I had was very valuable to his Lodge as when they moved back to the UK in 1972 most of their long history had been lost.

As Master at that time of Cloisestum Lodge I arranged to visit with my Senior and Junior Wardens and Secretary to present the certificate and a port decanter with Brother William Dear's name and the dates on it. What a truly wonderful day we all had! Now that's what Masonry is about, remembering a Brother from 126 years ago.
thanks to Brian Durrant



Loads of Money

A BEVY OF PRETTY YOUNG LADIES selling raffle tickets passed among the Gentlemen at the February Gentleman's Dinner at Brook House, Botley and in less than 15 minutes had sold £2,800 worth.

A fine dinner was enjoyed by the 170 gentlemen who attended and afterwards they were regaled with many humorous stories and anecdotes from the evening's guest speaker, Phil Bennett the former Welsh rugby fly-half.

The raffle was followed by a charity auction where the MC for the night Howard Smith acted as auctioneer, several major items were bid for including signed football shirts from both Portsmouth and Southampton football clubs.

A highly successful evening was concluded with the presentation of a cheque from a major high street bank to the Worshipful Master of the Stewards Lodge, Harry Preece. In all a total of £7000 was raised, being split between Research into Prostate Cancer and Riding for the Disabled.
thanks to Barrie Hewitt

COULD IT BE A SIGN OF improving recruitment that we have seen a number of double ceremonies recently?

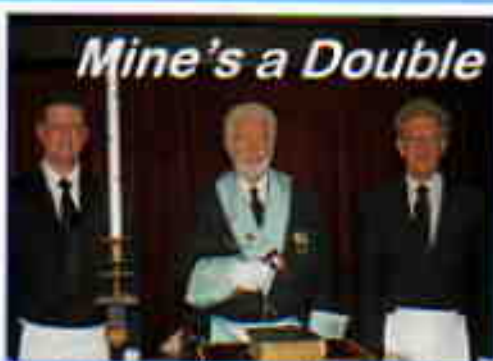
We are all fully aware, that a Lewis is the Son of a Mason,

and as such is privileged in being made a Mason before any other person. Merdon Lodge recently took this quite literally.

Outside it was a damp, murky day, but inside the Lodge room at Hursley there was a warm feeling of anticipated delight about the evening's ceremony. At 17:35 on Saturday 8th March Allan Olley (himself a Lewis) entered the Lodge and was initiated into our Ancient Order by the Master of the Lodge, Geoff Dobson, and after being presented with the Book of Constitutions and the by-laws of the Lodge, was then asked to sit in the North East.

The knock on the door that followed at 18:15, indicated that there was another candidate wishing to be admitted, and this proved to be David Olley, the son of Brother Allan and of course a Lewis. Accordingly, Brother David was initiated some 40 minutes after his father. At the appropriate time, both Brothers were invited to retire and were re-admitted together to receive the Charge to the Innate, which was joyfully delivered to them by IPM Terry Hawton.

This was indeed an unusual occasion but enjoyed by all who were involved. At the after proceedings, during the toasts, it was nicely summarised by one of the speakers who said, "Today we have seen a Father and a Son become Brothers in their Mother Lodge".
thanks to David Boughtwood



Mine's a Double

Chernobyl Lifeline

SIXTEEN CHILDREN of ages ranging from nine to twelve from the contaminated region of Belarus being

cared for by Silver Birch Link, were hosted at a party arranged by Ken Warren, Secretary of Unity Lodge, as part of their respite visit to the New Forest area. Here they can stimulate their immune systems and effectively add years to their relatively short lives.

The party started at mid-day with a welcome by Masons from the New Forest Group of Lodges. Children enjoyed plenty of sandwiches, cakes, jelly, ice cream and squash. Magician and Balloon man Andy Nineham provided tricks and treats which enthralled the children, causing laughter and delight. Language was no barrier in giving and receiving the happiness communicated by this event.

The Lodge of Unity and Provincial Grand Charity of Hampshire & IOW donated over £3,000 to the Chernobyl Lifeline to assist bringing the children from Belarus. Our photo shows Ken Warren handing a top-up cheque and Gift Aid forms to Sue Molden, Chairperson of the Silver Birch Link.

Group Representative Andrew Wójcysz expressed his pleasure at seeing the happiness of the occasion. At the end of the day, children were given toys, a watch, pens, pencils, coloring books and a TLC Bear to take home.
thanks to Andrew Wójcysz and Brian Williams



The French Connection

GORDON BROWN, a former Worshipful Master of the Charles Dickens Lodge, moved to France a number of years ago and subsequently joined Lodge La Pierre Eternelle No. 912, meeting in Cholet, just south of Nantes.

Early in April 2008, four members from Charles Dickens paid a visit to this French Lodge, of which W. Bro. Gordon is now the Director of Ceremonies – no mean achievement for an Englishman, when the Lodge works in French!

The English Brethren were warmly welcomed into La Pierre Eternelle, meeting in a local hall, which has to be converted into a Lodge Room on every occasion. The first surprise came when each member who arrived was greeted by all present, not with the customary handshake, but with a triple kiss on the cheeks. After some initial reticence, this soon became familiar, although it is unlikely that it is a custom that would travel very well back across the Channel.

The Meeting was due to open at 7.30, but after pre-meeting chatter, with drinks and canapés, it actually started around 8.15. Although completely in French, the Lodge uses a direct translation of Emulation ritual, which could just about be followed with the minimal language skills of the Englishmen.

In addition to the fascination of observing familiar procedures in a foreign language, the English Brethren were particularly impressed with some aspects of the evening, which might be of interest when considering the problem a number of our Lodges suffer with retention of members. Firstly, the Brother who was initiated at the previous Meeting was invited to stand and talk about his feelings regarding that Ceremony and what Freemasonry in general meant to him, which he duly did, speaking for a good five minutes.

With no candidates that evening, the Lodge called off, and the most recently initiated Brethren were put into the three Chairs and the Deacons' positions. With the actual officers beside them, and with written ritual, they then performed a First Degree Ceremony, up to the end of the obligation. In addition, there were regular stops to discuss the meaning and significance of certain words, signs or actions, with the Brethren in the body of the Lodge enthusiastically contributing their ideas.

Towards the end of the evening the Secretary read brief outlines of the work to be done in the forthcoming meetings of neighbouring Lodges and members who had recently visited other Lodges give an account of their experiences.

The evening culminated in an extremely convivial meal, with toasts to the President and the Queen as well as the expected Masonic toasts and a great deal of "Franglais" was spoken by all. The room was then cleared again, and everyone drifted out into the night as one o'clock approached.

Photo from left to right - W. Bro. John Walker, Steve Fleisher (WM of Charles Dickens Lodge), Steve Hurrell, the Vénérable Maître of the Lodge Pierre Eternelle, VF (Vénérable Frère) Gouazgue Bostemps and W. Bro. Phillip Robson.
marks to John Walker



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Mentoring Matters

Some thoughts of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master

MENTORING IS NOT NEW to

Freemasonry. It is embedded in our culture and enshrined in the first of the Grand Principles on which our Order is founded – Brotherhood Love. It is about 'Caring' - looking out for each other, particularly our newer members.

Initiates' Seminars confirmed what might be described as the blindingly obvious - that many of our new members felt isolated after the excitement of their Initiation. They attended Lodge and were asked to leave "for a short while", then spent the next hour or so outside, unaccompanied. This was unacceptable hording on the unforgivable in the modern world. We must demonstrate to men joining us that we do care so that they feel that they belong. The Craft is competing with many other activities for men to spend their leisure time. Not only must they feel wanted but they must also know what is going on. Men are no longer prepared to join an organisation and then sit on the sidelines bewildered until things start to fall into place.

The PGM's 'Caring for our Brethren'

policy, which covers mentoring, was formally introduced in our Province four years ago when it was distributed to all Lodges with a letter signed by the PGM. Many other Provinces have since introduced a formal Policy. Primarily the Policy is intended to guide Lodges towards ways of ensuring that they appreciate and discharge their responsibilities, particularly towards our newer members.

Some Lodges resisted implementing the Policy, on the basis that it was the responsibility of the candidate's proposer and second to look after him during his early formative years within the Craft. The proposer and second have a duty of course - but many are not able to discharge that duty fully. It may be that they have other responsibilities within the Lodge, which prevent their spending time with their candidate. Vary often the proposer is himself a relatively new mason and not able to provide guidance and assistance which an experienced mason is able to provide. This is not the fault of the new brother. Why should he be disadvantaged because his proposer and second are unable, for whatever reason, to look after him? And why should the Province risk losing good men?

The Province therefore decided to take responsibility for this aspect of retention and

to do whatever it could to ensure that every effort is made to make our new members welcome so that they enjoy the Craft and look forward to their Lodge meetings. The Caring for our Brethren Policy was intended to achieve that objective. It will do so provided due care is exercised in the selection of the Lodge mentor, and the Personal Mentors, and that they embrace the need for their role.

The importance of a formal mentoring regime has now been recognised by Grand Lodge. The Rulers Forum arranged a Mentoring Presentation to Grand Lodge at the Quarterly Communication in March this year. The Pro Grand Master has since required all PGM's to nominate two brethren who will take responsibility for mentoring within their Province. In our Province the new Assistant PGM, the Rev. John Harvey has been nominated to take this responsibility assisted by W. Bro. Ken Young who has been actively involved in the Training and Education initiative over the years. The nomination of such senior brethren indicates the importance that the PGM attaches to Mentoring. Thankfully, the vast majority of Lodges in this Province have embraced the PGM's initiative which is vital to retain candidates. The rest must surely follow as they come to appreciate the importance of the initiative and see the benefits derived by those Lodges which have implemented the policy in full.

V.W. Bro. Mike Wilks

University Lodges

ANOTHER EXCITING INITIATIVE was recently taken up in our Province when Southampton University Lodge became the fifteenth to join the Grand Lodge Universities Scheme. Less than half a percent of Freemasons in this country are under the age of 25 (the average age is 57) and thousands of young people are missing out on something they would find enjoyable and fulfilling.

The Scheme links a single Lodge to each University. It does not impose a uniform model but instead offers support and guidance on facing challenges. Lodges have attracted members in various ways: a website, or use of the Provincial website to ensure that young people enquiring about Freemasonry are directed to the respective University Lodge. In Manchester, initiates invite their friends to the festive board after their initiation. Most of those friends have gone on to be initiated. In many Lodges, the members coming in has meant multiple ceremonies; some Lodges

have initiated seven candidates at once.

Retention is also key. Lodges have changed where and when they meet and dine. Some have changed the way they firm out parts of the ritual, and the way that they allocate offices, to enhance the opportunities to do ritual entry on. But students move on and Lodges must accept this. The Scheme is looking to establish a network of Lodges nationally that will be attractive to Masons leaving university and starting their careers.

The Assistant Grand Master, R. W. Bro. David Williamson, who set up the Scheme, and the Provincial Grand Master attended a committee and Lodge meeting in April to gauge the member's support. Together with APGM Mike Codd, who has been at the forefront of discussions, WM Peter Greenland, Metropolitan Grand Steward Jonathan Rowe and Rob Benle they fielded questions from the Brethren (below).

The last stage was the passing of a motion in open Lodge and the application to join has now been approved. We wish them well and await the results of this initiative with interest.



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Minor's Major Achievement

THE 24-HOUR ENDURANCE RUN from John O'Groats to Land's End seemed the perfect opportunity to see if all the hours of hard work I'd put into restoring my 1929 Morris Traveller "Emily" had been successful.

This year is the 60th anniversary of both the Morris Minor and the Marie Curie associations and to my wife Susan and I it also seemed an ideal opportunity to combine the "JOGLE" with fund raising for this deserving cause.



Of course you first have to get to John O'Groats so on a rainy 2nd of June we meandered up country taking a very picturesque route through Stockbridge, Aylesbury, Peterborough, York, Darlaston, Edinburgh, Inverness and Wick. We had time to do a bit of sightseeing and discovered the beautiful home and garden of the late Queen Mother, The Castle of Mey, left in

Trust to ensure that the locals would have employment.

Sixteen Morris Minors left the decidedly windswept John O'Groats at 11 am on the 10th of June via Stirling and Gretna Green and completed the run some 22 hours later. Appropriately for two "old codgers" we were the last to make it to the finishing post. However we felt proud to receive our certificate and T-shirt as proof of our endurance. To date we have raised £2000 for the charity.

Thanks to Ron Hambling



Another Maiden

HAVING SUCCESSFULLY organised and been elected the President of the inaugural Masonic gathering on board HMS Queen Mary 2 in 2004 on her Maiden Voyage, W. Bro. Denis Gilbert of Totton Lodge was determined to repeat that success on board Queen Victoria when she sailed from Southampton on her maiden voyage.

A gathering was duly organised with twenty-six Brethren from England, Australia and the USA. Various topics were discussed, among them were the hosting of a Ladies Reception, donations to charity and the presentation of a Masonic minute book to the ship.

The Ladies reception was attended by the ship's Captain Paul Wright and all enjoyed a glass of champagne in a convivial atmosphere. All the ladies were presented with a "Queen Victoria" pin as a memento of the evening.

Charity also benefited greatly with the proceeds split between the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, and the choice of the ship's captain, which was the RNLI. Finally Denis undertook to present the Masonic minute book to Captain Wright before Queen Victoria set sail on her first world cruise.

Having sailed on the maiden voyages of the last two Queens Denis and his wife are no doubt eagerly anticipating the arrival of Queen Elizabeth 2 in the next couple of years!

Thanks to Barrie Hewitt

Thistle do Nicely

DURING A ROUND OF GOLF

W. Bros Angus Steel and Mark Mills-Goodlet decided that they would walk the 95-mile West Highland Way for charity. The Walk covers some of the most rugged and remote terrain in Europe.

We flew to Glasgow and spent the weekend sampling the local hospitality, a little excited but rather apprehensive about the walk ahead. After a short taxi ride to Milngavie we were ready to start the walk the next morning.

Despite losing the trail after just 50 metres (Angus was trading the map) we made good time until at 18 miles we came to Conic Hill, a 360-metre climb. Our feet were already in pieces and the first day was meant to be the easiest!

Day two was spent walking the entire length of Loch Lomond, offering some of the most spectacular views. The terrain however was not good and more suited to Mountain Goats than two Freemasons with aching limbs. By the end of the day we had covered another 21



miles and settled down in our overnight accommodation, at the very haunted Drivers Inn to a few well-earned beers and Haggis, Neeps and Tatties.

Next day found us walking into the foothills of the Highlands. After 20 miles of rugged terrain we reached our overnight stop at the Bridge of Orchy.

The hardest day followed walking uphill until midday. The ascent across Rannoch Moor, an old glacier field littered with peat bogs, is one of the most desolate places in Europe. We both knew we were approaching the hardest part of the walk, The Devil's Staircase, a climb of some 707 metres up a very steep gradient, which in the past had been the downfall of many hikers. That evening was a blur of painkillers.

The last and shortest day was also the wettest. Rain was blowing virtually horizontally into our faces and the track had turned into a river. We were soaked to the skin but we didn't care. As we walked round the shoulder of Ben Nevis the sun came out and shone on our backs as we descended into Fort William and towards the end of our trip.

On entering the town we had never been so happy to see a pavement, it felt like velvet beneath our blistered feet. Reaching the marker at the end of the West Highland Way was a very emotional moment that will stay with me for a long time. I can honestly say the West Highland Way was the hardest thing I have ever done.

Thanks to all those who supported us. We raised about £3000 for our charity, The Hospital of St. John in Jerusalem and took away some very good (and painful) memories.

Thanks to Mark Mills-Goodlet

