



# NEWS & VIEWS



## Hosting the Grand Charity

ON A GLORIOUSLY SUNNY DAY last September our Province was honoured to host the General Meeting of The Freemason's Grand Charity at the Bournemouth International Centre. In attendance were our Provincial Grand Master with his wife Jenny, many of the Provincial Executive, Heads of other Orders, Masonic dignitaries from neighbouring Provinces and a substantial number of non-Masonic V.I.P.'s.

All those present at the opening of the General Meeting in the Tregouwell Hall were warmly welcomed by the Vice Grand President of The Freemasons' Grand Charity R.W. Bro. Rt. Hon. Lord Lane of Hordell.

A phased grant of £72,000 to the Royal National Lifeboat Institute, to fund an introductory D Class Crew Training Course, having been approved at the last General Meeting, a presentation on behalf of The Freemasons' Grand Charity was made jointly by our own PGM and V.W. Bro. Richard Merritt (*centre above*), Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge of Dorset, to David Brann, the RNLI Fundraising and Communications Director.

In his response David Brann thanked The Freemasons' Grand Charity for their generous grant and reminded everyone of the historical links between the RNLI and Freemasonry. These stretch back as far as 1871 when Freemasons of that day paid for a lifeboat which, not surprisingly, was named "The Freemason".

Moving presentations were made by Guest Speakers representing two charities which had received substantial grants



from The Freemason's Grand Charity. The Breast Cancer Haven presentation was given jointly by Chief Executive Paul Arengs-Jones and founder Sara Davenport. This is the only charity that promotes integrated health care designed to support people through their breast cancer treatment. The charity provides up to date support, information and complementary therapies to people who need immediate help.

*(continued overleaf)*

# Provincial Roundup

## GRAND CHARITY

*(continued from cover)*

Shirley Methrell then explained the work of the Elizabeth Foundation, a national charity with its Headquarters in Colham.

It is the Foundation's belief that every deaf child should be given the opportunity to learn to listen and talk. The Foundation helps to run parent-centred education programmes for newborns, toddlers and pre-school children who are deaf or hard of hearing in an environment with lots of talking. Here children continue to develop their listening, language and speech skills. The Foundation also provides support for hundreds of children through their Home Learning and Support Programme for families of young deaf children aged from birth to five years.

In his Address the Provincial Grand Master said it was a tremendous honour for the Province to facilitate the event. He welcomed all the members of The Freemasons' Grand Charity Council, dignitaries and the many national and local charities present. He urged all present to take the opportunity during lunch to visit the stands of the many local and national charities in the Purbeck Hall and to learn more about the work they are doing. He also paid tribute to the Organising Committee who, under the chairmanship of APOM Mike Codd, had done such a splendid job in planning and managing the event on the day with the help of Brethren from the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge under the watchful eye of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Les Hipwell.

The Provincial Grand Master then referred to Help for Heroes, a charity dear to his heart and which had already received generous support from the Brethren of our Province. He was delighted to introduce as the final Guest Speaker, their co-founder and Chief Executive, Bryn Pary.

In his presentation Bryn explained how the charity was launched less than twelve months ago, being strictly non-political and with the sole aim of doing something practical to help wounded service men and women, in particular those serving in Iraq and Afghanistan.

In his closing address, the Vice Grand President of the Freemasons' Grand Charity thanked our Provincial Grand Master and the Province for their support and wished everyone well.



The consensus of opinion was that the meeting had been a tremendous success with the moving talks given by the Guest Speakers possibly the highlight. Later in the day everyone retired to the cliff walk overlooking Bournemouth Bay and pier where they had a rare opportunity to watch a demonstration of the RNLi's lifesaving crew in action with a Coastguard helicopter.

*from a report by Andrew Weldoys  
Photos courtesy of Nigel Lush & Ross Young Ltd of Fareham*

## The Rulers' Forum

**THE RULERS' FORUM** is a new Masonic body formed in 2006 which effectively replaces both the General Council of Grand Lodge and the Associated Masonic Provinces Groups and is a new means of communication between the Brethren and the Rulers of the Craft. Provinces are divided geographically into nine Groups with Metropolitan Grand Lodges forming the tenth. Our Province is part of Group 9 (RFG9), which covers the nine Provinces in the south west including the Channel Islands.

The full Rulers' Forum meets biannually in London to consider matters brought before it by, and to raise matters with, the ten Groups. Our Group is represented on the full Forum by R. W. Bro. Brian Bellinger, W. Bro. James Colville and a Brother from the Province of Dorset as the Grand Master's appointment.

Each Province is entitled to nominate four members to serve on the committee of its Rulers' Forum Group. Our four Representatives are R. W. Bro. Brian Bellinger, V. W. Bro. Michael Wilkes and W. Bros. Geoff Tuck and James Colville. The present Chairman of RFG9 is our own NJM and the Group Secretary is W. Bro. Geoff Tuck.

Our Group meets biannually in April and October to consider matters brought before it by our Brethren and to determine which matters may suitably be brought before The Rulers' Forum in London. The committee of RFG9 also considers matters discussed at the full Rulers' Forum and where appropriate disseminates these, normally via the Provincial Office.

The Rulers hope that by these arrangements, suggestions for the future well being of the Craft may be placed before them by any Brother for consideration and would particularly welcome constructive comment from newer Brethren. Should any Brother wish to bring any matter to the attention of the Rulers' Forum, please write to the Provincial Office or email the RFG9 Secretary W. Bro. Geoff Tuck at [gwtuck@masonic@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:gwtuck@masonic@yahoo.co.uk).

It will be appreciated from the foregoing that personal matters, those of a parochial nature and those concerning individual Lodges and Masonic Centres etc. are NOT subjects for discussion at Rulers' Forums. We DO look forward to hearing from you.

W. Bro. Geoff Tuck  
Provincial Grand Charity Steward

## Almoner's Corner

**UNDER THE AUSPICES** of The Freemasons' Grand Charity three working parties have been looking at: A Handbook for Lodge Almoners; Training and Support for Almoners; Keeping in Touch.

It is hoped that the findings of these groups will be launched in May/June 2009.

Yes, at last The Freemasons' Grand Charity is reviewing the possibility of a common application form for the four Charities.

Our Roles and Responsibilities Handbook has been with you for approximately eight months and I would like some feedback. Has it been helpful, what do you feel is missing? Remember if you need some further training please contact your Group Almoner.

With the recession beginning to bite it is important that we maintain our contact and be more vigilant with Brethren and Dependents.

You will all have received the flyer regarding the Bournemouth Holiday from the 26th June to 10th July 2009, please start now to identify applicants. If you require any further information please contact your Group Almoner.

I would like to thank you all for the sterling work you are undertaking in your pastoral care of the Brethren and Dependents and I look forward to working with you in 2009.

W. Bro. Malcolm Childs  
Provincial Grand Almoner

## Historical Records

**EARLY IN 2008** The Pro Grand Master and the Board of General Purposes launched a survey of Lodges and Chapters to ascertain what records they hold and the accommodation and conditions in which they are kept.

This initiative recognises the increased interest by both Masonic and non-Masonic researchers in the part Freemasonry has played in the history and social development of both the United Kingdom and those countries in which the Craft has been introduced. It is hoped that the completed survey will help towards the production of a history, to mark the 300th Anniversary of the formation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717; involve and educate members; and improve the public's understanding of Freemasonry as well as providing an inventory of records available for future research. Both the Provincial Grand Master and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent support this project and have appointed W. Bro. Ian McKiver to act as Provincial Coordinator

## The Oration Scheme

**FREEMASONRY IS**, numerically, on the decline with the result that more Lodges are ceasing to exist than at any time in our history. The reasons for this are many but one of the most telling is that we live in an age that emphasises speed in all things, whereas Freemasonry is a long-term commitment with gradual achievements in both ritual ability and succession in office. One can sit in the comfort of one's lounge, press a button and view a superbly produced film or programme instantly. Contrast this with a newly-initiated Brother's progress in his Lodge which can take as long as ten or more years. Today's young men are not accustomed to such a long, slow climb in any part of their lives and so they leave. They need our help to maintain their steady progress, help to understand the deeper meaning of the ritual they are hearing and performing. If we can provide it they will become the committed Masons the Craft needs if it is to survive.

Lord Northampton, the Pro Grand Master, has launched the Oration Scheme in an attempt to reverse the current trend and your Lodge is urged to take advantage of it. The Orations are short, mostly five or ten minutes in length, and designed to help us all examine the ritual we perform and understand it better; thereby we become more committed to our Masonic careers. Lodges are urged to make use of the Scheme by inviting their Group Orator to attend a meeting and deliver an Oration, followed where possible by a question and answer session.

It should be emphasised that an Oration is not intended to provide something at a Lodge meeting where there is no ceremony; rather it should be viewed as "an extra" to be delivered as an agenda item in its own right, or at the very least when the Candidate is out restoring his personal comforts. It should certainly be in addition to the regular agenda.

The Provincial Grand Master, at the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in July, appointed a Provincial Grand Orator and a Group Orator for each of the twelve Groups in the Province. Your Group Orator is waiting to hear from your Lodge Secretary. He is keen to come to your Lodge and deliver an oration that will stimulate discussion, deepen thought and increase interest that will, in turn, prompt your members, and in particular your newer members, to commit themselves to the most rewarding matter a man can possibly examine: Masonic ritual and its meaning.

Urge your Worshipful Master to ask your Lodge Secretary to make contact as soon as possible, and take your Lodge off the list of those whose numbers are declining and whose future is becoming uncertain. To set the wheels in motion contact me on 01202 741242 or at [John.Astringer27@ntlworld.com](mailto:John.Astringer27@ntlworld.com)

*W. Bro. John Astringer  
Provincial Grand Orator*

for both Craft and the Royal Arch.

Many Lodges and Chapters in the Province have risen to the challenge of preparing a return, with over 10% having been recorded by Grand Lodge already. At least another 15% are known to be in progress, but Lodges and Chapters are encouraged to make every effort to review their records and complete the survey. Those who have completed the exercise have found it both useful and interesting. Records thought to have been lost have been recovered, but equally some thought to have been safely stored were found to be missing or in poor condition.

The Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight has a long and rich history, having had Lodges from at least the early 1700's. The return from Royal Gloucester Lodge No. 130 includes records from 1772 - can your Lodge improve on that? The return from Aldershot Army and Navy Lodge No. 1971 makes mention of members who have served as a PGM (5), Grand Superintendent (3), District Grand Master (2) as well as a Grand Master Mason of Scotland, a half a dozen Knights, four holders of the Victoria Cross - oh yes, and a Prince of Wales! Do your Lodge records reveal Brethren who have given distinguished service or are otherwise of note? The only way to ensure your Lodge or Chapter takes its rightful place in our history is to make a return. Please do not feel bound to adhere to the original deadline for furnishing this information but, in any event, please deal with this as soon as possible. This is your Lodge's and Chapter's opportunity to make a valuable contribution to Masonic history. For more information contact:

W. Bro. Ian McKiver at [ianmckiver@btconnect.com](mailto:ianmckiver@btconnect.com)



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# There is a Report



**ST. MARY'S JUNIOR SAILING CLUB** in Gosport enables around 50 children to sail during the summer months and to improve proficiency and skill. To meet this goal they have raised funds to purchase a versatile and modern fleet of dinghies to cater for all ages and abilities. By introducing children as young as nine to sailing, they have built confidence and skills to enable progression to more complex, faster and more demanding sailing.

The Club also hosts two sessions a year with the kids from Chernobyl and has links with Alverstoke Junior School Swallows & Amazons sailing group. These children are too young to join the club so have special sessions that enable the youngsters to experience sailing.

Having achieved their first goal, the Club needed to replace their ageing buildings adjacent to the Alverstoke Creek, in Gosport. Haslar Lodge supported them with a donation and then made an application to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Masonic Grand Charity (Tom Langton Fund) which resulted in a further donation. Worshipful Master Clive Chainey and Treasurer Dave Wright presented both cheques to Paul Dowsett, Chairman St. Mary's Junior Sailing Club last November.

Geoff O'Neill

## A Temple Transformed

**KINGS COURT MASONIC CENTRE** has been transformed. John Gordon the Chairman of Kings Court Masonic Centre Ltd. said that the primary objectives were to make the Centre "safe, watertight and a friendly place to go!"

The budget of approximately £30,000 was spent wisely and the team, under Team Leader of the Building Committee, Jim Barriball, achieved their task in approximately 6 weeks. The bar area has been lightened using large prints of Kings Court in a bygone era and accommodates Masons and guests in a more relaxed atmosphere. Structural defects to the building have been put right to protect the asset and ensure safety, but the major transformation is in the Temple and the anti rooms themselves.

The Temple now has modern lighting, double doors and reconstructed walls, with more appropriate furnishings. It feels much larger and provides a more elegant environment in which it is a pleasure to hold ceremonies.

Members and visitors have nothing but praise for the work and have commented that the Banners being out and on display provides a degree of colour that was missing in the previous Temple.



Barry Gardiner

## Happy may we Part

**THE FINAL MEETING** of Caer Peris Lodge No. 8437 took place on Tuesday the 14th of October 2008. Consecrated in 1972, the Lodge was originally formed by Masons with connections to Portchester. The name was taken from the Roman name for Portchester - Port Peris, and the ancient name for the castle, Caer Peris. The Lodge enjoyed many years of steady growth until recently when candidates became scarce and attendance declined to a level where the members realized that the Lodge was no longer viable. Following protracted discussions, the members took the brave but difficult decision to return their Warrant.

The final ceremony was conducted with solemnity and dignity by the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial team and the Lodge Warrant duly returned. It was pointed out that once the work of a Lodge is completed, the Brethren need to move on to new projects. The remaining members are moving to new homes within the Province where they will surely bring benefits.

Caer Peris Lodge has been proud to offer support to their Lodge widows and the Almoner of their Mother Lodge, the Lodge of Harmony No. 309, pledged to continue that support in the future.

The whole evening was a celebration of what this fine Lodge has achieved over the years which could not have been better illustrated than by a presentation by the last Worshipful Master to the Provincial Grand Master of a cheque for £300 for the Help for Heroes Charity.

Bill Starkey



**THE DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER**, Mike Wilks with his Provincial team presided over the closure of the Chilworth Lodge No. 7810 on Wednesday the 26th of November 2008 after 46 years and 318 meetings comprising wonderful works in the Initiation, Passing and Raising of numerous Masons.

This was after a ballot to close was upheld by the remaining members. During the meeting the Almoner, W. Bro. Norman

Andrew, reported that widows were being well catered for over Christmas and read out some of the letters of sympathy from them.

It was agreed that the assets of the Lodge be transferred to our Mother Lodge, the Lodge of Emulation No. 1990. W. Bro. Bill Griffiths received them with sadness but said that the widows would be looked after as their own "as any Mother would!"

W. Bro. Kevin Smith reported on invitations from other Lodges for members to join them.

The Worshipful Master, Ceris Francis then passed the gavel to Mike Wilks who said that the Lodge was like a vehicle which has completed its journey with pride and dignity and the passengers were now transferring to continue equally happy and rewarding journeys in other vehicles with other fellow passengers. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master then closed the Lodge in peace and harmony for the last time.

The Festive Board was held in good spirits as a celebration of the completion of the works of the Lodge.

Barry Gardiner

## We Have Lift-off

**THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY** has made a further donation of £4000 to the Hampshire & IOW Air Ambulance Service.



The Provincial Grand Master presented the cheque to Nicola Hawkins of the Air Ambulance, here with paramedics who crew the helicopter which is based at Thaxton.

The opportunity was also taken to present the Air Ambulance with two 'decals' which can be seen on the door of the helicopter. These were provided by W. Bro. Charlie Kemp PAPGM and will become a

permanent feature on the helicopter.

Meanwhile on the Isle of Wight the Past Master of Needles Lodge, Wayne Pritchett, accompanied by Treasurer, Mike Carr, and Charity Steward, David Morry (below right), presented a donation of £1,000 to Rosemary Norman, Project Support Officer, at the Robin Hill Garden Show. The money was raised by Lodge members at Lodge and social functions.

The High Sheriff of the Isle of Wight, Alan Trinchmarsh, was in attendance and took a keen interest in work of the Lodge and its support of this worthy cause. The presentation was watched by an attentive crowd of show-goers.

*Eric Moody and Steve Demess*



## 150 Not Out

**THE WEST GATE LODGE WITNESSED** what is possibly a unique event at their installation when three of their Brethren each celebrated 50 years in Freemasonry. Assistant Provincial Grand Master Mike Codd presented their 50 year badges and certificates. From left to right the proud recipients are W. Bro. Ron Antoney, George Guyatt and Ken Botham.

The event was even more special because in 1966 George Guyatt was the Worshipful Master, Ken Botham was Senior Warden and Ron Antoney Junior Warden. All three Brethren who are now in their nineties and have served Freemasonry with distinction. Ron Antoney also served his country with distinction, being awarded the D.S.C. for his role in the capture of Elba. The evening celebrated a wonderful achievement, one that might not be seen again for a long time.

*Barris Hewitt*



## Internet Travellers

**INTERNET LODGE NO. 9659 IS IN THE PROVINCE OF EAST LANCASHIRE** but travels widely for its meetings throughout the year. It had previously met in Hampshire & Isle of Wight in Winchester in 2006 and it was delighted to return for its October 2008 meeting at the new Masonic Centre in Brockenhurst.

On the Friday evening before their own meeting many Brethren of Internet Lodge attended Brockenhurst Lodge where they were most impressed by an excellent 2nd Degree ceremony.

The following day it was the turn of local Brethren to be guests as a large number of Internet Lodge members from around the UK, the United States, Italy, Canada, Poland, and Holland, met for one of their regular meetings - just some of the more than 250 members of Internet Lodge in over 25 countries around the world.

Recently the Lodge, following much discussion amongst its Brethren, agreed with the request of one of its members who wanted his two sons to be initiated into the Lodge. The two new candidates were to be the first, (and would perhaps be the only), candidates to be initiated in Internet Lodge.

Arrangements were put in place in 2007 for a double Initiation to be held at a meeting of the Lodge that was to take place in Rugby, and some months later a double Second Degree ceremony was carried out in Harrow.

The meeting at Brockenhurst was therefore particularly special for Internet Lodge as it conducted a double Third Degree ceremony.

Bringing each of the two new Brethren to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in Brockenhurst was a splendid and impressive occasion and all those present, including many guests from the New Forest area, enjoyed an excellent meeting.

The many Brethren of the Internet Lodge from this country and around the world had enjoyed their visit to the new Brockenhurst Centre.

*Alex Viner*

# There is a Report

## Lodge Minto

IT'S NOT EVERY DAY that you get the chance to visit another Constitution to celebrate their 150th year but such occurred in August of 2008.

Although a very small town in Fife, Scotland; Lochgelly boasts a fine Masonic centre with full Masonic facilities as well as a club building serving the community.

Founded in 1858, Lochgelly is a former mining village which has now developed into a small town serving a diverse community.

Over 200 Brethren attended the meeting with the Festive Board having to be held in the town hall to host the numbers. All of which was reported in the local newspaper.

After the Master, Wardens and office bearers, accompanied by the Band and

Piper processed in, the Deputation from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Fife were piped into the temple in full procession. The celebrations themselves were conducted by the Provincial Grand Master of Fife when corn, wine and oil were poured at each of the Warden's and Master's pedestals with a short service of thanksgiving following.

Each member and visitor received a special jewel to mark the 150th Year of the Lodge (the photo shows W. Bro. George Mars along with his hat wearing their jewels).

The after proceedings continued with a "harmony" following the festive board when even the PGM took to the stage for a rendition of "A Wee Cock Sparrow" with thereafter much music, singing and comedy from the attending brethren to entertain all, which continued well into the late hours.

George Mars



## Two PGM's?

DECEMBER 2008 MUST SURELY mark a unique occasion in the history of Phoenix Lodge, one of the oldest Lodges in the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Amending the installation meeting, at the Phoenix Lodge Rooms, were two reigning Provincial Grand Masters, both of whom are long-standing members of Phoenix Lodge.

Pictured here are R. W. Bro. Brian Bellinguz, Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Hampshire and Lo.W., together with R. W. Bro. Williams (Bill) Norton (right), Provincial Grand Master for the Masonic Province of Andalusia, seen here wearing his Spanish regalia. While resident in Spain R. W. Bro. Bill became Provincial Grand Secretary for Andalusia and, after several years in this role, was appointed their Provincial Grand Master.

While the Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and IoW can feasibly make a visit within about an hour from his home to any of his Lodges in Hampshire, his counterpart in Andalusia told News & Views that he can often get to Phoenix Lodge in Portsmouth quicker than he can get to some of his 22 Lodges in Spain, visits to which can take over 4 hours each way. In the Masonic Province of Andalusia there are Lodges with rituals conducted in Spanish, English, Danish and other languages, so they are a truly international Brotherhood.

The occasion was also marked by the presence of many more Officers from Hampshire and Io.W., namely Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Graham Williams together with former Provincial Grand Master R. W. Bro. Ernest Moss who witnessed Bryan James (centre) being installed into the Chair of King Solomon - on his birthday.

Bob Blackman



## Gosport Opportunity



THE GOSPORT OPPORTUNITY GROUP, which has been operating for 33 years and whose aim is to provide integrated play for children with disabilities, have taken proud possession of a new mini-bus. The group, which currently takes care of 38 children, will use the bus on a daily basis to transport the children to and from home and other activities.

The Brethren of Hermes Lodge raised £2000 from sponsored walks, jumble sales, tombolas, cake stalls and other fund raising activities held during their Ladies Night in March 2007 and a further £1000 from their monthly "Smasties Tube" collection. An additional £1000 was also obtained from the Thomas Bennett Langton Fund. Local developer Crest Nicholson also donated a whopping £24,000 towards the cost of the mini-bus.

A presentation ceremony took place earlier this year. Amongst those present were the Mayor of Gosport, Charity Steward Peter Smeeton (left) and representatives from other donating organisations.

Peter Smeeton

Copy deadline for the next issue is 4th of July

Grateful thanks to Ian Williams of Focusing Ltd. of New Milton for assistance with photos in this issue

