



NEWS & VIEWS



Festival
2016



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IT'S ALL HAPPENING HERE! - find out what on page 3

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Provincial News

Preparing for the Festival

PREPARATIONS FOR THE 2016 FESTIVAL are gathering pace and I want to update you on how these affect you and your Lodges.

But first, what is John Donoghue (on the cover) up to? Like many others he's getting ready for the launch of the 2016 Festival but John has set himself a particular challenge. He is in training for an epic cycle ride in support of the 2016 Festival and the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

Commencing on the 1st of July, John is proposing to cycle through the whole of our Province visiting every Masonic Centre where he will deliver to your representatives a personal letter from me, together with an information pack explaining the wonderful work that the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys does on behalf of our Province. He will be stopping in a tent overnight and covering a total distance of approximately 500 miles. If you would like to offer John help or assistance or to sponsor his ride you can contact him on 07861 748507 or by email at jdgonner2000@yahoo.co.uk

At the Provincial level planning began way back in August 2008 with the formation of a Strategy Committee consisting of the Provincial Grand Master, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and myself. The Committee has met regularly since and were joined in 2009 by Barrie Hewitt, Provincial Grand Charity Steward (Designate).

The Committee formulated strategies for the Festival before handing these over to the Festival Appeals Committee. Among the key decisions were:

- Setting the Official Launch date
- Pre-launch donations to be credited to the Festival Appeal

- Introductory Festival Web Site formation (prior to full Festival Web site)
- Production of Provincial Donation forms
- Deciding that donations should go direct to RMTGB and not via a Festival Relief Chest

The Festival Appeals Committee is working very hard in the background and each Group will soon have its own Festival Committee.

There are numerous ways you can support the Festival:

- Start early, donate regularly
- Purchase an RMTGB diary
- Save your silver in an RMTGB money box
- Support the cycle ride
- Organise fun events

As you will recall a prelaunch took place at the Provincial Annual General Meeting in 2009 when the President of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, Mike Woodcock, gave an excellent presentation including two case histories which highlighted the work of the Trust within our Province.

Contrary to some ideas the Trust is essentially a poverty charity assisting the children of Freemasons who are suffering hardship. It is worth noting that in our Province in 2008 we had 49 beneficiaries who received £173,000 in assistance from the Trust. Over the last five years Hampshire and Isle of Wight beneficiaries have been assisted to the extent of some £885,000.

The official launch will take place at the Provincial Annual General meeting on the 7th of July 2010 although most Lodges have already started contributing to the Festival.



2016 Festival Director Designate
Geoff Tuck

Information is already available on the Provincial web site where you can find explanatory notes for the Gift Aid Envelope Scheme together with single and regular donation forms.

Why not download yours now?

For more information, visit the Provincial Web site at www.hants-iow-mason.org then follow the links Province - Charity - Festival or contact the Festival Director or Provincial Grand Charity Steward at rmtgbfestival.hantsandlow@googlemail.com or you can ring the Festival Help Line on 02380 268059.

For more information on the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys visit www.rmtgb.org

We can look forward to exciting times ahead so let's hit the ground running and make the Festival fun.

Let's all build a better future for our youngsters by supporting the Province, supporting the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys and supporting the Festival.

ARE YOU A NEWER MEMBER, wondering where the splendid coat of arms on the Provincial Tie originates? Keith Dibben explains

The colour of the stripes on the tie are dark blue and light blue representing Craft Masonry and maroon representing Chapter.

The tie is emblazoned with the 'Coat of Arms' of the Masonic Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight which is made up of the Shield from the Coat of Arms of the United Grand Lodge of England which was granted Letters of Patent in 1919. To this shield is added a 'bordure' (border) in which symbols are shown which represent various local topics. Opposite you can see an illustration of our 'Coat of Arms'

The shield in the centre of our 'Coat of Arms' is divided into two. The left hand side

of the shield shows the coat of arms of the Premier Grand Lodge founded in 1717. These arms were borrowed from the Worshipful Company of Freemasons of London which had been granted to them in 1472. This livery company represented stonemasons. The compasses symbolised their trade and the castles their buildings. Compasses play a significant role in Freemasonry in the Degree of the Master Mason and with the Square form the most recognised symbol of Freemasonry worldwide.

The right hand side of the shield was the coat of arms of the Atholl or Antients Grand Lodge founded in 1751 which was, until 1813, in competition with the Premier Grand Lodge. The four figures depicted are believed to represent the banners of the four principal tribes of the twelve tribes of Israel, which are symbolically important in Royal

Arch Masonry. The Man is said to represent Reuben, the Lion Judah, the Ox Ephraim and the Eagle, Dan.

The 'bordure' or border to our 'Coat of Arms' reading clockwise from the top right hand corner depicts the Head of the Dragon of Wessex, the Hampshire Rose (repeated between each of the other symbols), a Stags Head representing the New Forest, a Galleon symbolising the ports of Southampton and Portsmouth, a Horses (or Pony's) head again representing the New Forest, the Head of the Hampshire Hog, and a symbolic representation of Carisbrooke Castle symbolising the Isle of Wight.



THE PROVINCIAL OFFICE?

"I've heard a lot about it, but where is it and what do they do?"

It is often said "Oh! It's up at Chandlers Ford somewhere, they deal with the running of the Province, send out lots of paperwork and hand out Provincial Honours and the like".

I am sure there are plenty of other myths and misinterpretations and hopefully I can answer a few, especially to give the younger Brethren some insight into the workings.

The Provincial Office address is 85 Winchester Road, Chandlers Ford. It is actually situated in The Hillway, off the main road by Kings Court Restaurant,

All Happening Here!



and adjacent to The Kings Court Masonic Centre. It is on the right hand side as you drive into the Hillway (cover photo).

In the General Administration office (opposite) you see the Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary and Mrs. Mary Thorpe, busy at their desks. They deal with a host of correspondence, Lodge Summonses, Annual Dues, Returns of Masters and Wardens, general phone enquires, filing and of course the ever increasing e-mail requests, covering such matters as telephone numbers, addresses, requests for books and many other aspects of general administration.

The end wall is taken up by a stack of individual Lodge Drawers. These contain documentation appertaining to all the Lodges and Chapters in the Province, dating back to their Consecrations. Large amounts of records and Brethren's Masonic history are stored on the UGLE Adelphi database system, which we use in this Province.

The Provincial Grand Chapter is also administered from the Office, with Chapter records and information held here. The Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, E. Comp. John Walker, works from his home, but calls in weekly to discuss matters. A vast number of Masonic records and archives, are also stored here. Too numerous to list.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, W. Bro. Brian Ridler, with his assistants W. Bros. John Talbot and Gordon Crabbe have an office across the corridor (above left). They work on Wednesdays and deal with the finances of the Province, checking Lodge Accounts and Annual Dues.

Along the corridor, the walls are flanked with portraits of present and past Grand Superintendents and two Past PGMs; their eyes following you inquisitorially, as you pass by.

My office is adjacent, (top photo) next to the Board Room. At the time of writing this I was preparing the Provincial Appointments and Promotions of those Brethren who are eligible. Some 360 forms to

be checked and presented to the PGM for his final approval. There are many other tasks to undertake for the smooth running of our Province, By-law changes, 50-60 year Certificates, Book of Constitutional matters, Discipline, Dispensations and arranging Provincial Visits, to name but a few.

Opposite my office, is a small reception room, which doubles as a print room. Here we print Lodge Summonses and the vast amount of paperwork sent out to the 254 Lodge Secretaries, members of the Executive and Group Area Representatives.

The Board Room' takes up the complete depth of the building and is

located at one end (above right). It is used by the PGM for his Executive Meetings and the Grand Superintendent, E. Comp. Dr. Roger Jago chairs his Chapter and Executive meetings here.

The Hubert Giles Trust, General Charitable Trust, Tom Langton Fund, Discipline and Finance committees, all meet throughout the year in the Board Room, the proceedings being watched over by portraits of previous Provincial

Grand Masters, R.W. Bro Ernest F R Moss, Alan D Chun MBE and James E Bullen.

I have the privilege of attending most of these meetings, in the capacity as Secretary. Many of the Committees are chaired by the Provincial Grand Master, who is extremely busy in his own right, but still finds time to look in to see how his Province is being run.

There are many antique Masonic books, reference books, records and archives held in the Board Room and others stored in the vast loft space; and yes Brethren they do occasionally see the light of day.

Brethren, I hope this has given you some insight, albeit very brief, of the Provincial Office. The best way of finding out more is to pay us a visit and if I, or one my staff, have a couple of minutes to spare, we will be pleased to give you a guided tour but I ask that you telephone first, just in case I am engaged on some Masonic business.

The Provincial Office is open Monday to Friday 9-15a.m. to 4-45p.m. for enquiries and closed for lunch between 1 and 2p.m. Mrs. Mary Thorpe works on a Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday. John Drake works Wednesday, Thursday and Friday.

Brethren my door is always open Monday to Friday. May I wish you well and hope that you enjoy your Freemasonry.

W. Bro. Colin R Upton PAGSuptWks
Provincial Grand Secretary

Masonic Classic Vehicle Club

OVER FORTY YEARS AGO I started to enjoy motor sport as a competitor and have had the privilege of participating in many national and international events during that time both as a privateer and as a sponsored driver.

Earlier this year a decision was made, following a heart attack in February of 2008, that putting others at risk on the circuit, was not a good idea; so sadly I hung up my race wear.

In January my trusted GT6, which I had owned for over 30 years, was sold and replaced with a 1929 Austin 7 Chummy, affectionately known as 'Bluebell'. Having completed over 800 miles in the A7 so far this year I am not sure what is, or was, more stressful, 120 mph on a motor circuit or 30 mph in modern day traffic in an 80-year-old motorcar that has no concessions related to the modern day motor vehicle. No brake lights, no main beam or dip; just headlights, no indicators just hand signals and cable brakes. All perfectly legal for road use and in actual fact great fun.

In addition to my A7 I have one of only five 1960 Royal Entfield two-stroke Prince motorcycles and a unique 1927 Excelsior motorcycle which was a 'loft' find. It having been taken to pieces, and I do really mean pieces, no two items were joined together, wrapped in a 1958 Portsmouth Evening News and stored in a suitcase together with a few cardboard boxes in the loft of a friend's house. A rare two-stroke model that will remain as an oily rag rebuild, eventually.

From a Masonic perspective there is a Masonic Classic Vehicle Club with 98 members. In our Province there are just 3 members. I have to confess that we have never actually met as a group; something



that I hope this article will encourage, including potential new members. One of the great Charities supported by the club is Whizz-Kidz, an organisation that provides specialist wheel chairs for children who are less fortunate than us; they can cost more than my Austin 7!

Enjoy your motoring. If you are interested in the Masonic Classic Vehicle Club and would like more information then please feel free to contact me; **Pete Sanders** email - jackheron@tiscali.co.uk

Golf Society

OUR GOLF SOCIETY has had another very successful year. Captain, Angus Steel, led the Society members during a series of competitions and over £700 will be donated to Help for Heroes.

Winners of the various competitions were: -

Des Harvey Trophy	Iain Hayter
Lodge Shield	Provincial Grand Stewards
	Lodge (again)
Bob Mills Goodlet Pairs	Des Harvey and John Bartle
Provincial G M Trophy	Mark Mills-Goodlet
Veterans Silver	Des Harvey
Captains Cup	Brian Williams
Apprentice Cup	John Sercombe
Alan Hamilton Greensome	Mike Izzard and Jim Mowat
Mike Hayman Autumn Shield	Brian Dolling

The Society played a number of matches against other Provinces, achieving second place in the Beauchop Trophy and third in another competition behind Surrey and Middlesex.

At the AGM, Des Harvey was elected as Hon. Life Vice President in recognition of his services to the Society over many years.

Don Oliver was elected Captain. He and all Society members encourage all Hampshire Masons who play golf, to join the Society (it's free!), to play in our competitions and help raise monies for the nominated Charity in 2010, the St. Dunstons Golf Club for visually impaired ex-servicemen, police and firefighters.

For membership applications contact the Society Secretary **Brian Williams** on 02380 620202 or email - williamsassociates26@ntlworld.com

Concord takes Off



President Ron Wilton chats with new arrivals

THE FIRST MEETING of the Concord Club took place on a wet and windy November morning in the historic Raj Room of the Royal Aldershot Club and despite the inclement weather approximately sixty Masonic widows, elder brethren their partners and Lodge representatives braved the elements to be greeted by the President Ron Wilton, Chairman Andy Duff, Secretary Alan Babister and their wives.

Aldershot Group Representative Barry Jones wished the club well on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, the APGM of the Aldershot Group Eric Moody, and the Province.

The Chairman outlined the future plans of the club and in turn received many ideas and offers of help for future events. He then thanked the Lodge Almoners who had assisted in making the first meeting such a success, and the Royal Aldershot Club for its hospitality.

The Royal Aldershot Club was established 150 years ago under the patronage of Prince Albert, Queen Victoria's husband, primarily to improve the dining and social facilities for the Officers of what was then known as "The Camp" at Aldershot.

In future the Concord Club will meet on the first Tuesday of every month at the Farnborough Masonic Centre. Meetings start at 1045. New members and helpers are sure of a warm welcome.

Andy Duff

