



Password

Winter 2005

NEW PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER INSTALLED

Wicksteed Park at Kettering was the venue for the Installation of our new Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro. Barrie Hall. On this special occasion, the M.W. Pro Grand Master, the Most Honourable the Marquess of Northampton was able to be present to install the new PGM. The Pro Grand Master was returning to his Mother Province as he was initiated into Ceres Lodge No. 6977 in Northampton in 1976.



Over 450 brethren including 20 present and past Provincial Grand Masters and many other distinguished guests attended the Ceremony. In a departure from the usual Masonic protocol, the Past PGM, R.W.Bro. Nicolas Hart attended at the special invitation of the PGM Designate.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro Derek Young opened Provincial Grand Lodge and the PGM designate was escorted by Masters and Past Masters of Risdene, Pomfret, Socrates, St. Peters, Lodge of Fidelity, Lodge of Perseverance and Lodge of Merit.

The Pro Grand Master then installed R W Bro. Barrie as Provincial Grand Master and

urged the Province "not to work him too hard; in that way, he would last for many years to come!".

The Provincial Grand Master then went on to invest W.Bro. Derek Young as Deputy PGM, to reappoint W.Bro. Max Bayes as Assistant PGM and to invest W.Bro. Wayne Williams as Assistant PGM.

In his inaugural Address, the PGM welcomed the Pro Grand Master and all the other guests including 8 Heads of Other Orders. He had inherited from his predecessor a happy Province "in good Hart" and he intended that the Province should be contemporary and proactive in its thinking and practices and vibrant in its love and enjoyment of Masonry. Our policy of "openness" would continue to be an important way of ensuring that we remain part of the wider community. The PGM then went on to say, "we must find better ways of communicating what we stand for and how much we enjoy membership of our Order. This will help us with the development of a more coherent and relevant recruitment strategy. Our Initiates are the lifeblood and basis of Freemasonry".

On Lodge meetings, R.W. Bro. Barrie said, "we should review our traditional style of meetings - not change for the sake of change but we must ensure that we meet the needs of our members especially as their leisure time is limited". Lodge meetings should not always be about Degree ceremonies - learning about our rich heritage through papers, lectures and specialist demonstrations would not only be enjoyable but would help to retain and inform younger members.

He would be reviewing the 3-way communications between the Executive, the Grand Officers and Lodges to see if even better information and feedback could be achieved - this was a vital part of a happy Province.

Key aims for his term of office would be:

- * To enjoy and be happy in our masonry.
- * To care for others
- * To maintain standards in our public and private lives

At the subsequent dinner, in the reply to his toast, the Pro Grand Master gave a very thoughtful address about the directions which he hoped Freemasonry would take in the years to come. He believed that "openness" would help explain ourselves to a sceptical public and show them all the things which are so special about us:

- * We must be relevant to young men today
- * We must communicate the moral and social values of our order
- * We must practice out of the lodge those things we have been taught in it
- * We should make a daily advancement in the "knowledge of ourselves"

Lord Northampton hoped that brethren would continue to enjoy their Freemasonry and ensure that meetings were pleasant occasions for their visitors by minimising lodge administrative business, by keeping ceremonies to a maximum of 1½ hours and by circulating Minutes and other papers in advance. He urged brethren to recognise that "old habits would not retain new candidates and members." "Openness will help us to ensure our future".

The Pro Grand Master ended by congratulating the new PGM on his appointment and wished him and the Province well for the future.



The Province has a new leader

PROVINCIAL NEWS

From the Provincial Grand Master

I write this a few short days after a most memorable Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Wicksteed Park when it was my great privilege to be installed by the Pro Grand Master, Lord Northampton, as Provincial Grand Master of this very special Province,

Every Lodge in the Province was represented, together with many visitors and friends from Provinces far and wide. I thank them most warmly together with so many brethren whose kind messages of support and encouragement were greatly appreciated. My thanks too to so many brethren whose superb planning and organisation enabled the meeting to be such a happy and trouble-free occasion.

As PGM I am very conscious of the great honour bestowed and the considerable responsibilities for the "faithful discharge of the duties annexed to the appointment". I inherit a very happy and successful Province from Bro. Nicolas Hart who led us with great distinction through a period of considerable, indeed unparalleled change, most especially in his commitment to "Openness" which represented a "sea-change" for the better in attitudes within and towards Freemasonry. I also extend our grateful thanks to Mrs Valerie Hart whose unfailing support to Bro. Nicolas in every aspect of Provincial life was greatly appreciated.

The strength of this Province is in great measure due to the wonderful legacies inherited from our four distinguished Past Provincial Grand Masters. On these foundations it is in turn my intention to seek to lead a Province which is both

A View from a "Young" Master

I am in the fortunate position that my time as Master of my lodge has coincided with the installation of our new Provincial Grand Master. Furthermore, because my lodge, Socrates No 373, is the 2nd oldest in the province I was asked to perform a minor part in the ceremony, to be part of the procession which escorted the Provincial Grand Master designate (as he was at that stage) into the lodge.

For me personally and I am sure for the 400 or so present, it was a truly momentous occasion in every way. One could not fail to be inspired by the sight of so many Grand Officers from a wide range

contemporary in its thinking and practices and vibrant in its love and enjoyment of masonry.

"Openness" will remain a key strategy and most especially I shall continue to encourage community based projects within the Province, remembering always that we are very much part of the community and not in some way separate. It is also my intention, in collaboration with you all, to emphasise a number of other important areas.

Recruitment

In a more structured and contemporary approach to this key area, vital to our long term well-being, I have invited assistant Provincial Grand Masters W. Bro. Max Bayes and Wayne Williams, to find better ways of communicating the aims of Freemasonry and the joys and pleasures of membership to attract future candidates. "White Table" social occasions, appropriate to different Lodge circumstances, and which may include dining, presentations, and a guided Lodge Room tour, would then be enjoyable opportunities to meet possible new members.

Lodge Meetings

I shall also invite Working Parties to review two other aspects of contemporary practice. Firstly to examine our traditional styles of Masonic meeting and to recommend any appropriate changes to bring these more in line with today's life style commitments and constraints. Secondly to review, and where appropriate, to ensure effective three-way communications between the Executive, Group Officers and Lodges - so essential

of Provinces filing into the lodge to witness this important Masonic event. The occasion had the feeling of a coronation.

At the Festive Board the Pro Grand Master spoke about the need to reach out to young men to prevent the alarming decline in our numbers. He spoke of the need to find one's spiritual self in this ever materialistic world that we live in.

Those of us in business know that creation of wealth and building the bottom line is the principal goal and there is little room for sentiment. For me Freemasonry provides that vital counterbalance. Witnessing this great event and listening to the Pro Grand Master confirmed to me

to a happy and successful Province.

Masonic Heritage

I believe our Lodge meetings should not always be concerned with our traditional Degree ceremonies, important as they are. We are all today's trustees of a great Masonic heritage and learning a little more of that heritage is always an enriching and enjoyable experience,

Presentations of papers, working the Masonic Lectures, demonstrations of key elements of our Degree ceremonies and experiencing historical re-enactments of Degree ceremonies of "yesteryear" are just some of the ways of appreciating our Masonic heritage. Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Derek Young and our Training and Education Officer, W. Bro. Reg Hirst will lead our efforts in developing a portfolio of titles within these various areas and from which Lodges may pro-actively select topics to include in their season's schedule rather than only when a degree ceremony is not possible.

Brethren, Freemasonry is most certainly to be enjoyed and whilst I have outlined some future priorities we should continue to remember our key aim is "to please each other and to unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness". If we can do this and continue to practice the virtues of caring for others and maintaining standards in our public and private lives we shall assuredly continue to be a Province of which we can continue to be very proud.

RW Bro W. Barrie Hall

what I already know, that is that Freemasonry is a wonderful product which in my mind is even more relevant in the 21st century than ever before.

It was a wonderful day and our newly installed Provincial Grand Master best summed matters up when he described it as a truly auspicious occasion.

W Bro Tim Fussell leads a busy life as a Tax Partner in a City firm of accountants. and at 44 he is just the sort of younger Mason that the PGM referred to in his inaugural address.

OTHER ORDERS



Friday 22nd April.

Some 117 members and guests, including E Comp. Richard Wallis, Grand Superintendent of Warwickshire, gathered to see our own Grand Superintendent present E Comp. Nicolas Hart to be inducted as MEZ by E Comp. Vic Bashford. The Third Grand Principal then gave a most interesting and thought provoking talk entitled 'A Future for the Royal Arch', which enthralled all present.



Mark 2010 Festival

Members of the Mark Degree are still working very hard to raise money towards their 2010 Festival target of £200,000.

Two events organised during the year were most successful. The traditional Mark Barbecue held in July at the Collyweston Slate Mine raised over £3000 and the Mark Grand Ball, which was held in Northampton on 29th October 2005,

contributed a further £7,000. The two events were extremely well attended and the Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Degree, Bro Roy Bradley, seen here with his Deputy W Bro George Bonham, said that he was particularly pleased with the support that both events had received and that he was grateful to all who had helped raise such magnificent sums at both the Ball and the BBQ.

Chapter Ladies Evening

The members of Eleanor Cross Chapter and their wives and friends joined First Principal David Stone and his wife Heather for a Cruise on the 'Indian Chief' narrow boat.



The cruise started at Stoke Bruerne at 7pm travelling through the famous Blisworth tunnel to Gayton and return to Stoke Bruerne at 10pm. On route there was a quiz and a buffet dinner with 'Bucks Fizz' and plenty of wine to make an enjoyable and unique evening adventure.

Visit of the Third Grand Principal

The Provincial Chapter of First Principals 3422 was delighted to receive The Reverend Canon Neil Collings, Third Grand Principal, as principal guest at its Installation Convocation on

50 Years of Mark Masonry



At the meeting of Mark Provincial Grand Lodge at Corby on 25th June the PGM Bro Roy Keith Bradley was delighted to be able to present to Bro Richard Sandbach a framed certificate on his completing 50 years in the Mark Degree. Bro Sandbach was Advanced into the Degree on the 23rd March 1955.

An Honour for our Grand Superintendent

At the Installation of the new Grand Superintendent for Norfolk in Norwich on Thursday 6th October, Supreme Grand Chapter had invited E Comp. Peter Kitson to deputise for the Third Grand Principal who was otherwise detained.

It's not everyone who gets to wear the ermine trimmed robes.....!

What next, you ask?

Consecration of a New Red Cross of Constantine Conclave at Peterborough

A new Conclave of the Masonic and Military Order of the Red Cross of Constantine and the Orders of the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre and of St. John the Evangelist has been founded at Peterborough. Named the Crux Rubra Conclave, and numbered 481, it is the third Conclave to be founded in the Masonic Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and falls within the East Midlands Division of the Order

In the presence of many Knights of this and other Divisions, the Ceremony of Consecration was conducted by the Intendant General of the East Midlands Division, Right Illustrious Knight Michael Henry Roalfe, assisted by his Deputy, Very Illustrious Knight Kenneth Ronald Chopard, and Officers of the Division

The Constituting Sovereign, Right Illustrious Knight M. H. Roalfe, enthroned Illustrious Knight R. A. Meanwell as the first Most Puissant Sovereign of the Conclave. Further information may be obtained from the Conclave Recorder, Illustrious Knight W. L. Steele on 01572 722 734



Have you an article for this page?

RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION

Mentoring in the Province of Northamptonshire & Hunts

In September 2004 this Province launched a Mentoring Scheme. The Provincial Executive was prompted into serious action by information brought back from official visits to other Provinces. W.Bro Derek Young learned that in Buckinghamshire and four adjacent Provinces 28% to 30% of Initiates resign within five years and 50% of them do so because of wife/partner/girl-friend pressure, the ladies saying they did not feel part of it and the men saying they did not know enough about Freemasonry to discuss or defend it in a social situation. Also that 90% of the Initiates said the night of Initiation was the best night of their Masonic life but 56% said their Passing to the Second Degree was the worst because they then felt lost, 'as if they had never been there'. Resignations of Masons 4 to 5 years through the Chair was also a concern. I believe that the Mentoring Scheme we have produced provides possible solutions to these problems.

Gloucestershire had produced a Mentoring Scheme and Booklets and after studying them it was recommended that Northamptonshire and Hunts should use the same basic plan but substantially re-write the booklets to meet the needs of our own Province.

A committee was formed consisting of a Master Mason (not through the Chair), a Past Provincial Officer, a junior Past Grand Officer and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the time, all from different parts of the Province, ensuring a range of experience and awareness of needs. The interest with which the booklets were received seemed to show that the Committee's work had been well done. Although every Lodge in the Province was issued with three copies of the four-booklet guide to Mentoring demands from Brothers for further sets ran quickly through stocks we had hoped would see us through three trial years. However it has proved possible to issue one further set to each Lodge in September 2005.

Lodges were asked to appoint a Mentoring Co-ordinator and most did so within a few weeks. Meetings of these M.C.'s were held at which further guidance from the Province and discussion amongst those present provided assistance in the launch of the scheme.

At the time of writing this report (October 2005) Lodges are starting to send in reports of their efforts to implement the scheme in its first year and offering comments on the Scheme and Booklets, which will lead to improvements in 2006. It is too early to make any firm conclusions but indications are that the Scheme has been generally well received. A few Lodges already have it fully in place and many others are in process. Of course a few have done nothing with candidates yet.

Some Lodges have already adapted the way the scheme to suit their own Lodge and others have looked at the problem of members Initiated in the last five to ten years who missed out on the help and information the scheme provides.

Problems have arisen in some Lodges in finding Mentors with the knowledge and experience necessary who are not already engaged in other demanding work in the Lodge or in Freemasonry generally. Resources of videos, books and leaflets also needs to be more organised. More details of problems and criticisms will no doubt soon emerge and strenuous efforts will be made to meet them.

In asking all Brethren to support us in applying the Mentoring Scheme I have the backing of the Provincial Executive and the Pro Grand Master in his recent speech to the Cornerstone Society (Summer 2005) quoted figures similar to those at the beginning of my report pointing out **'that doing nothing now is not an option'**

W Bro Reg Hirst PAGDC

Lodge of Installed Masters No 3422

At the Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Lodge of Installed Masters Lodge meeting on the 27th October, just one day after the Installation of RW Bro Barrie Hall as PGM, W Bro Keith Tomlinson was installed into the Chair of the Lodge by Bro Nicolas Hart the PPGM and then, in what must have been an extremely rare, if not unique situation, he invested RW Bro Barrie Hall as his Senior Warden.

This Lodge enjoys what is unquestionably a unique position in the Province in that, under recently changed regulations, its members do not have to subscribe to the Grand Charity or pay a subscription to Grand Lodge. This had led to a reduction of annual subscription to only £10 which, without doubt, is a firm incentive for all Past Masters to join as full members and participate in what the PGM recently described as a most important Lodge in the Province for the advancement and dissemination of Masonic knowledge.

Any Brother interested in joining the Installed Masters Lodge should

St Neots Cambs PE19 1UF or by telephone on (01480) 212251 or 07973 480867. Membership is open to all Past Masters in the Province who are subscribing members of another Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Craft Lodge but Lodge Wardens in particular are always welcome to attend as guests.

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Keep your Information Officer informed of any planned events

MASONIC MISCELLANY

Inter Provincial Fly Fishing

The Inter Provincial Fly Fishing events in 2005, have again proved to be most successful and enjoyable days. This year we have seen the launch of the first 'Wheelyboat' to be made available at Pitsford Water, and named after W Bro Hector Woolnough.

Some 20 years ago W Bro Hector Woolnough and W Bro Derek Lloyd of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire, and Bedfordshire Masonic provinces respectively, instigated the inaugural Inter Provincial Fly Fishing meetings between the two Provinces..

Over time the original two Provinces have been joined by Cambridgeshire and Norfolk, with each Province being responsible for hosting and organising one meeting each season.

The original Masonic aim for these days has remained the same; Fly Fishing Mason's meeting for a fraternal days sport, promoting excellent company for a

Sulgrave Lodge Meeting

Those Brethren who had the good fortune to be at the meeting of Sulgrave Lodge on Friday 4th November were treated to a rare privilege of being entertained and instructed by VW Bro John Hamill PGSwdB the Director of Communications at Grand Lodge.

VW Bro Hamill spoke at some length on "The Craft, the Press and Public Perception". The thrust of his lecture, which was followed by a lively question-and-answer session, was that Freemasonry should return to the openness of the Order practiced in the 1930's before the Second War made it more secretive. Only with this spirit of openness could Freemasonry hope to shed some of the misconceptions that had arisen from its silence when under attack. VW Bro Hamill theorised that, in

morning session of boat fishing, an enjoyable three course lunch taken at mid-day, followed by an afternoon fishing session and evening weigh-in. All monies raised are used for each provinces charitable purposes.

The photo right shows the Chairman of Northamptonshire & Hunts F. F. Assn., W Bro Arthur March displaying an excellent 3lb rainbow trout caught, as part of his overall catch at the July meeting at Pitsford.

On the 20th May 2005, a Drive on Wheelyboat, to accommodate wheel chairs for disabled Fly Fishers, was launched onto Pitsford Reservoir carrying the name, and in memory of W/Bro Hector Woolnough. Hector had for many years been the main Fly Fishing Instructor in conjunction with Anglian Water at Pitsford Reservoir, and in recognition of this, a room is also named after him in the new Pitsford Fishing Lodge. The boat was officially launched onto Pitsford Reservoir by Mrs. Mary

the absence of any solid facts to refute the fantasies often written about the Craft, the public will create their own often unflattering definition of Freemasonry -- sound words well worth taking to heart at a time when we hear so much about openness in Freemasonry.

He noted that in a conversation with Bernard Levin some years ago he had been advised that it took very little to undermine a reputation but required a great deal of time and effort to restore one.

In the picture on the right W Bro Wayne Williams Asst PGM, a founding member of Sulgrave Lodge, who had been largely instrumental in getting



Woolnough, accompanied by her daughter Leslie.

Leslie Woolnough responded on behalf of the family, congratulating all those concerned. Her father, Hector, would have fully approved of the boat, as he had often expressed his desire that the joy of fishing should be accessible to all.

VW Bro Hamill to come along that evening, is seen flanked by VW Bro Hamill on his left, and W Bro Dennis Nail, the Master of Sulgrave on his right. Everyone present at that meeting had certainly made their requisite 'daily advance in Freemasonry' for that day.



Nearer my God to Thee?

Intrepid Risdene Lodge Chaplain, W. Bro. Jack Leach and Mrs Mabel Leach on the Balloon Flight presented to them by their family on the occasion of Jack's 80th Birthday. Discretion does not record Mabel's age. Both thoroughly enjoyed the 45 minute flight over Northamptonshire and, not least, the champagne on landing.

Tell your Information Officer

Whatever happens in your Lodge may well be of interest to others but unless you tell us about it we won't know.

Please keep your Information Officer informed so that he can pass it on!

You'll never know what may prove to be of interest unless you submit it

COMMUNICATIONS

Valuable Information on Masonic Relief Grants

W Bro Dr Viv Thomas PJGD is Chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee of the Grand Charity.

The Grand Charity is the central grant-making charity for all Freemasons of the English Constitution. One of the three committees which comprise the Grand Charity is the Masonic Relief Grant Committee and I have been fortunate to have been Chairman for the past two years. The Past Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Nic Hart, assured me, on putting my name forward, that they (The Grand Charity) simply needed a Doctor for some medical advice and that I would need to attend once a quarter for three years. That may have applied to the other two committees, but the then chairman of the Masonic Relief Grants Committee very kindly advised me that I was joining his committee, which, by the way, met monthly, with a tenure of office for nine years!

It is however, an enormous privilege to be able to assist actively and regularly, those who, for any number of reasons, are in desperate need. It is important to recognise that from its title, the Masonic Relief Grants Committee deals entirely with members of the Craft, or their dependents. The non-Masonic grants given for medical research, disaster relief etc, are dealt with by a different committee.

The remit of my committee is far-reaching. Thus, we have provided help to a widow whose husband died 60 years ago and will continue to do so as long as there is a financial need, in order to assist as many cases as possible, we work on a budget of approximately £2.8 million. If we acknowledge the statistics, which shows a decline in membership to below 300,000 and with our present level of annual contribution to the Grand Charity of £7.50, it is not too difficult to recognise that the Masonic Relief Grant Committee alone will account for more than the whole income per year.

From September 2004 to August 2005, we were able to assist 1,992 cases, with a total cost of £2, 848,652. This spending would have covered financial aid for normal daily living, funeral expenses, provision of wheel chairs or other mobility aids. Our Province has been well represented, in that our Provincial Almoner, W Bro John Partridge, has ensured that Northamptonshire & Hunts remains well within the Top Ten of the most active Provinces in the claims submitted and actioned.

We are also able to cross refer to the other main charities. If we received an application for financial support where there may also be an indication for a medical input, we can ask the New Masonic Samaritan Fund to consider the case. Similarly, if a Mason, unable to work, needs assistance, there may also be further help for his children from the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

All of this, of course, cannot happen without a considerable input from the "backroom" staff at the Grand Charity. Each month, I receive a compiled book of 150-200+ applications, which each member of the Committee will peruse for a few days, to arrive at an appropriate sum to be dispensed. The totals to be awarded are agreed at Committee in the morning meeting and I am able to sign the cheques for distribution in the afternoon. There is a great deal of satisfaction to be enjoyed in signing cheques for approximately £200,000, knowing the good those cheques will do and that that money has come from us all.

In essence, Brethren, the Grand Charity is YOUR charity, and, by bringing needy cases to the attention of your Almoner, we can continue to help the poor and distressed.

W Bro Viv Thomas PJGD

VISITS TO LODGES BY THE PGM

6th December - Old Northamptonian Lodge No 5694
13th December - Gates of Billing Lodge No 9309
5th January - Pomfret Lodge No 360
13th January - St Crispin Lodge No 5627
17th January - John Pyel Lodge No 5195
18th January - Waynflete Lodge No 4452
10th February - Eleanor Cross Lodge No 1764
9th March - Rockingham Forest Lodge No 9491
13th March - Grand Junction Lodge No 9775
15th March - Sothius Lodge No 8774
16th March - England's Centre Lodge No 2555
17th March - Lodge of Heritage No 9344
22nd March - Towcestrian Lodge No 9510
31st March - Kingsley Lodge No 2431
7th April - Thomas Deacon Lodge No 9126
18th April - Peterborough & Counties Lodge No 2996
19th April - Town & Country Lodge No 9580
27th April - Coritani Lodge No 8079



Pen portrait of John Payne, the new Communications Officer for Northampton Lodges.

W Bro John W. O. Payne was initiated into the Lodge of St. George No. 5978 in 1994 and became WM in 2003. In 2004, John joined the Lodge of Installed Masters No 3422.

He was appointed as a Provincial Grand Steward in 2005, and joined the Palmer Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No.

8995 in the same year. Exalted into Kingsley Chapter No. 2431 in 1995, John was appointed Second Principal in October 2005.

John joined Victory Preceptory No. 207 of Knights Templar in 1997, becoming Eminent Preceptor in 2004. Having joined the R. E. Provincial Prior's Bodyguard in 1997, he is currently serving as Registrar of the Bodyguard. He is also a member of three other Preceptories - Holy Cross No. 554, George North No. 610 & Peter George No. 572. Married to Shirley and lives in Northampton.

The next Password is to be published in Spring 2006, stories and photos of events can

Prominent Masons

Obituary - W Bro George

Rutherford PPrSGW

One of the stalwarts of masonry in Corby, W Bro George Rutherford, who recently received his Certificate for 50 years in Masonry, died on 15th August.

Numerous Brethren from across the Province joined a large congregation at St Andrews Church of Scotland, Corby, and afterwards at Kettering Crematorium, for the funeral service. The mourners were led by his family and his younger brother, W Bro Bill Rutherford PAGDC.

E Comp Ken Bacon

As this Autumn edition of Password goes to press, please spare a thought for the Deputy Grand Superintendent, of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, E Comp. Ken Bacon who had a knee replacement in mid-September.

Many will know him in his guise as "The demon Masonic Bowler" and we can report that, despite the knee replacement from which he is thankfully making a rapid recovery he soon expects to be back on form - handicappers beware!

CHARITY CREDIT CARDS

We are always trying to find new ways to raise funds for our Masonic Charities but, one option used by many charities, is to offer an "affinity" credit card for our members. The usual arrangement is for the credit card provider to pay a proportion of the spending on each card back to the charity which provides the card. The percentage payback is typically 0.25% and, as this is technically a royalty, the charity cannot reclaim the tax through the Gift Aid Scheme.

As an alternative, some banks and building societies offer a credit card which pays a "Cashback" of 1% to the cardholder which can be voluntarily donated to a charity using Gift Aid. If only half of all Freemasons were to use such a card and, on average, spent £250 per month on their cards, after recovering the tax, this could generate an income of over £6 million each year. Clearly such a possibility is worth investigating and the attached questionnaire will help to assess whether use of a Cashback Card would be worthwhile.

The Card would be applied for in the usual way and any balances from your existing cards could be transferred to the new card. The cardholder would be asked to sign a declaration that he is a UK taxpayer and that he wishes the chosen charity to reclaim the tax on his gift.

If the Province responds supportively, it is possible that Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire could be used as a trial area. To assess the potential support, it would be helpful if you could complete the questionnaire and return it either to your Lodge Secretary or directly to the Provincial Office. Please help us to help the charities by completing the form - we need as comprehensive a response as possible.

A Unique Occasion ?

On what must surely have been a unique occasion our PGM RW Bro Barrie Hall was



able to get together with our four Past Provincial Grand Masters who have between them ruled over the Province for almost 35 years. Under their leadership the Province has grown from strength to strength as it will undoubtedly continue to do so under our new PGM who has made it clear that Masonry is to be enjoyed by all.

A Quarter of a Millenium

There can be no doubt that 50 years is a long time in Masonry and to achieve it shows a dedication to and love of the Craft that is worthy of recognition. Thus the 50 year certificates have been recently presented to W Bro's Edwin Lunn, Cytringan Lodge; James Culross, Hamtune Lodge; Derek Hooton, Whytevell Lodge; and Raymond Thorpe, Socrates Lodge plus VWBro David Manners, Beneventa Lodge.

Unfortunately photographs of these five worthy brethren were not to hand in time for publication but then one could argue after their being around in Masonry for all those years most members of the province would undoubtedly recognise them.

We must surely wish them all continued enjoyment of their activities in the Craft.

QUESTIONNAIRE

Please return either to your Lodge Secretary or directly to the Provincial Office at Freemason's Hall, St. George's Avenue, Northampton. NN2 6JA.

Q1. Do you use a Credit or Charge Card (e.g. Visa, Mastercard, American Express) Y N
If no, go to Q.7.

Q2. Is your Card a Charity or Affinity Card? Y N

Q3. Is your Card a Cashback Card? Y N

Q4. Do you pay off the balance at the end of each month? Y N

Q5. Have you ever changed the Credit Card which you use? Y N

Q6. On average, how much do you spend each month on your Credit Card? £.....

Q7. If Freemasonry were to introduce a Charity Cashback Card, would you be willing to use it? Y N

Q8. Would you like the Card to have some sort of Masonic symbol?. e.g. Square & Compasses? Y N

Q9. If you would not use such a Card, why would you not use it? Y N

Please give reasons: _____

be included by sending details through your local Information Officer (see yearbook)

MASONS NEAR & FAR

A Musical Talent Competition in May entitled "In the Spotlight" raised over £1,000.

Efforts continue at The Freemasons' Hall, Northampton to raise money for their refurbishment. The event was organised by Bro Tony Potter of



Kingsley Lodge and W. Bro Roger Rice from The Lodge of St. James. Above can be seen some of the Acts in progress. The level of talent on the evening was very high and the Competition was eventually won by Joanne Ketley who was accompanied by W. Bro George Clayton, the Provincial Grand Organist.

NORTHAMPTON MASTERS ALL AT SEA

Northampton Masters of 1999 - 2000 and their Ladies regularly meet together to attend various events. Previously visiting Dublin, Edinburgh, Barcelona and Rome, this year WM Alan Bailey and his wife, Gill, arranged a Cruise on the recently launched "Arcadia", calling at Vigo, Lisbon, La Rochelle and Brest. A most enjoyable time was had by all.



The group at one of the formal functions.



ON YOUR BIKE

Members of the new Graham Milton Lodge No 9796 enjoyed their first Social event on Sunday 3 July 2005 at a fabulous Garden Party at the home of W. Bro Alan and Marion Cox.

The motorbikes in the picture left were not the Raffle prizes but were the pride and joy of the attending members.

Password Articles

Keep those articles coming through your local Communications Officer whose name you will find in the Provincial Yearbook

CELLULAR PHONE CARPHONE KITS CELL PHONE CAR KITS SUPPLIED, FITTED AND REPAIRED

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A Heads of Orders Luncheon - Province of Leicestershire & Rutland - at Leicester on 3 Oct 05 attracted an eminently illustrious gathering of excellent right worshipful members from a number of Orders from our area. The Brethren pictured - many of whom you will n doubt recognise are:

Front row - left to right (seated): E.Comp. William (Bill) G. Dawson, Grand Superintendent, Royal Arch, R.W.Bro. Michael H. Roalfe, Provincial Grand Master, Craft and Divisional Intendant General, Red Cross of Constantine - E.Mids.Division, R.W.Bro. Anthony (Tony) Morris, Provincial Grand Master,



Mark. Back row - left to right (standing): M.W.Bro. Michael E. Herbert, Grand Master - AM Degrees and Grand Superintendent KTP - E.Mids.Dist.No.31, R.W.Bro. Michael P.G. Cowood, District Grand Prefect, AM Degrees - E.Mids.Div, R.Ill.Comp. Michael A. Richards, District Grand Master, Royal & Select Masters - E.Mids.Dis, R.Wy.Bro. Bryan B. Wills, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler - OSM, Prov.of E.Mids, V.Ill.Bro. David D.M. Parks-Bowen, Inspector General - Rose Croix, Leics. & Rutland Dis, R.E.Ill.Kt. Edward (Ted) W. Bramford, Provincial Prior - KT, Prov.Priory, Leics. & Rutland and DGMM E.Mid.Counties Div. - Operatives.

Interest in themed Lodges has blossomed

MORE MASONIC MISCELLANY

Visiting Nova Scotian Lodges

by W. Bro. Andrew Ward
Thomas Deacon Lodge No 9126

I first visited Nova Scotia in the autumn of 2000, and have been back on many occasions. The Freemason's Hall in Nova Scotia is in the main street of Halifax, and I made due enquiries with my Lodge Secretary on my return as to whether this was an approved lodge to visit before my next trip.

Subsequently I have visited three of the lodges there. Two of the lodges use Emulation ritual and, except for retaining the traditional penalty in the obligation, their ceremonies are similar to our own whilst the others use York Rite as adapted by the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Meetings generally start around 7pm and finish around 10pm. There is no formal dinner, but a supper is provided for brethren requiring something to eat. The Lodge is generally "called-off" and "called-on" several during the evening, which gives the brethren chance to chat amongst themselves whilst the candidate is being prepared. St Andrew's Lodge No. 1, is the oldest lodge in North America, and dates its warrant to the year after Halifax was founded in 1750. Being also the oldest lodge in the British Commonwealth, the Master, Wardens and brethren of St. Andrews have various privileges. The Master has the honour of carrying the Book of Constitution in all Masonic processions when the Grand Master of Nova Scotia or his Deputy are present. The Officers of the lodge are entitled to wear gold chain collars. The brethren are entitled to wear aprons trimmed with Grand Lodge blue and two stripes of gold braid to signify their bicentenary status.

The photograph shows W Bro Andrew Ward on the left with W. Bro. Kenneth P. Simmons, the Master of Keith Lodge, and Bro Andrew's father W. Bro. John Ward at a meeting of Keith Lodge in November 2004.



It is interesting to note that in the Canadian Lodges, mentoring has been a way of life for sometime. Lodges generally open in the third degree and work down to lower degrees as and when required, as such, Fellowcraft and entered apprentices have little to do in the lodges. A Past Master is generally appointed to leave the lodge with the junior brethren to instruct and teach them whilst excluded from the temple. In addition, each brother will have a guide or mentor who is not necessarily their proposer or seconder. This person will be the one who leads the candidate around the lodge in the ceremonies. (In most cases more than one candidate will be present at each of the ceremonies, and all will be blindfold.)

To the editor of Password

Dear Sir,

May I thank the brethren of the Province for the wonderful gift of a bureau, which The Deputy PGM presented to me at the end of the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in May.

The brethren may like to know that it is a George III mahogany inlaid bureau desk, made between 1770 and 1790, just a little older than the Province itself! It has tulipwood bandings and boxwood

stringing lines, and is very attractive.

It is absolutely superb and graces our sitting room, where Val and I admire it every time we go past, and are reminded of that very happy occasion when our new Provincial Grand Master presented it to me.

We are both very grateful indeed, and send our sincere thanks to you all, and also for the little bit of extra cash that went with it!

Nicolas Hart

Installed Masters Garden Party

Johnny Harris's Band at the Installed Masters Garden Party at the home of Francis and Michelle Margot featured Jamie Davidson aged 13, standing to the right in the shelter, at his first outing as soloist with the trumpet section with father Garry on the Trombone and mum Julie on the Alto Sax. This years event was another very successful event raising the very welcome sum of £2350 for Papworth Hospital.



Wollaston Lodge (Wilaveston)

The idea is being floated for a new Lodge to be formed in the village of Wollaston in Northamptonshire. Membership being available to those who have an association with the village, either through birth, residence (now or previously), education or employment.

Our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Max Bayes, who was born and bred in Wollaston, is particularly keen on the venture.

If you have a connection with the village, and would be interested in taking part either as a Founder or a subsequent Joining Member, please contact W. Bro. Max Bayes, or W. Bro. John Rivett, Secretary of Heigham Lodge 8486 (Tel: 01933 665338).



GRASS ROOT NEWS

Northamptonshire & Hunts Diary of Events

11 December 2005	Provincial Carol Service Peterborough Cathedral
26 January 2006	Graham Milton Banner Dedication
19 January 2006	Palmer Lodge (Celebration Appointments)
30 January 2006	Wardens Training Evening St Georges Avenue
31 March 2006	Initiates Supper, Northampton
27 March 2006	Wardens Training Evening Peterborough
29 March 2006	Initiates Supper, Peterborough
20 April 2006	Provisional Consecration of new "Scout Lodge"
22 April 2006	Provincial Priory of Knights Templar Kettering
20 April 2006	DCs & ADCs Training at Corby
18 May 2006	Provincial Grand Lodge St Georges Avenue
22 June 2006	Provincial Grand Chapter St Georges Avenue
24 June 2006	Provincial Grand Lodge of MMM at Corby

First Responders

The number of Brethren who have attended courses of training provided by the staff of St John Ambulance at Northampton and Kettering. We are fortunate to have the services of St. John Ambulance which is the UK's leading First Aid, transport and Care charity. To ensure that there are sufficient members trained to serve the needs of each Lodge more "volunteers" are needed and the course, like that depicted right at Kettering, is both interesting and fun; phone the Provincial Office if you are willing to take part.



Nanthahala Lodge No 9805

By the time you read this the Consecration of Nantahala Lodge No 9805 will have already taken place and I am reliably informed that rumours about recruiting candidates for a midday Lodge are totally unfounded (see below)



For those who are wondering about the connection it appears that it has nothing to do with the proximity of the consecration to the American Thanksgiving holiday but relates to the Lodge name and time of meeting. For those who are unaware the name is a Cherokee word which translates as "Vale of the Noonday Sun". We wish the new Lodge every success. Editor

Retirement of Two Long-standing Palmer Court Stalwarts

It was a pleasant but sad occasion at the monthly Coffee Morning last June when two long serving members of Palmer Court retired and were presented with tokens of appreciation from residents and House Committee members.


W.Bro. Royston Taylor of Hatton Lodge, who retires after 20 years service as Assistant Warden and Mrs Joan Winn, who has served so diligently as Secretary to the House Committee since the opening of Palmer Court, were presented with gifts to mark the occasion by Keith Underwood, a resident, and Bro. R A (Peter) Palmer PPGM respectively.


Among those taking advantage of the beautiful warm and sunny Spring morning were many residents and visitors who were able to relax in the garden reminiscing over the happy times that have blessed Palmer Court over the past twenty years. Seen below in the recently completed conservatory are from left to right: Mrs Betty Taylor, W Bro. Royston Taylor, W Bro. Stan Wilford, Mrs Joan Winn and Bro. Peter Palmer.



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Your Password needs you; keep the news coming in!

CHARITY NEWS

Something to Smile About

The Huntingdon Group of Lodges over the past few months have collected the superb total of £6000 which, added to a donation from the Provincial Charity resulted in a very happy gathering of W Bro John Benson, together with Masters and Charity Stewards representing the Lodges involved, celebrating the handing over of £11000 to Kathy Nicholetti one of the trustees of the Mid Anglia MS Therapy Centre in Huntingdon. The centre offers a wide variety of treatments which help to improve the quality of life of people suffering from Multiple Sclerosis and other debilitating diseases.



The centre belongs to a Federation consisting of almost 50 centres in England with each operating as a separate charity with the Federation setting standards of operation. All their income is raised from donations and general fund-raising in the community so they said that they were most grateful for the help received from local Freemasons.

John Pyel Lodge Recruits a Mason

On behalf of the members of The John Pyel Lodge No 5195, W. Bro Stan WILFORD, PJGD presents a cheque in the sum of £1,000 to Susan McGowan, a representative of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association. The money will be used to train a new Guide Dog, a golden Labrador, who has been named 'MASON' in honour of our organisation. The photograph shows W. Bro Stan Wilford presenting the cheque and receiving a photograph of the latest "initiate".



LODGE CHARITY CONTRIBUTIONS AROUND THE PROVINCE

- Ailwyn Lodge** - £280 to the St Thomas a Becket Church Ramsey
- Ceres Lodge** - £500.00 to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.
- Corbie Lodge** - £700 to the Corby based 'Homecare District Nurses'
- De la Pre Lodge** - £600 to "BDF Newlife" a charity for genetic research into Birth defects.
- Dr. Field Lodge** - £1,000 to Guide Dogs for the Blind.
- Grey Friars Lodge** - £1,400 given to three local Charities in Northampton.
- Old Kimboltonians Lodge** - £900 to the Masonic Charities
- Old Northamptonian Lodge** - £600.00 to The Mia Lucy Trust Fund and £600.00 to Macmillan Nurses.
- Risdene Lodge** - £600.00 for a specialist wheelchair for Mrs Jennie Gillan a local MS sufferer from Sharnbrook Beds.
- St. James Lodge** - £3000 to the Warwickshire and Northamptonshire Air Ambulance.
- St. John's Lodge** - £400.00 to the Marie Curie and £400.00 to Northampton Young Carers Service.
- Samuel Pepys** - £600 to the Parkinsons Disease Society.

Euston Lodge Charity Evening

Euston Lodge held a get together in St Neots when W Bro Mick Pescod, Master, distributed the magnificent sum of £3050 that the Lodge had raised for various charities (Sue Ryder Hospice Moggerhanger £ 750, East Anglia Childrens Hospice Milton £ 750, Macmillan Nurses £ 750, Huntingdon Multiple Sclerosis £ 300, RSPCA £ 300 and St Neots Abuse Centre £ 300). During the event the Dep PGM W Bro Derek Young took the opportunity to explain something about Masonic Charities to the recipients.



SUPPORT FOR THE TSUNAMI APPEAL CONTINUES

The Mark Masons Benevolent Association for Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire and the Beneventa Lodge of Mark Master Masons came together to present a further £2,200 to the British Red Cross Society to help in



their efforts with the Tsunami Appeal. Seen above is W Bro Chris Beck, the Mark Provincial Charity Steward presenting the cheque to Mr John Bradshaw, Communications Manager of the British Red Cross.

Is Yours a Listed Lodge?

Are you in a Listed Lodge? No, that is not referring to a Lodge that is either so old and set in its ways that English Heritage have suddenly taken a special interest in it. The fact is Province needs to know what donations your Lodge had made to charities so that they can be listed in the Provincial Year Book. Secretaries are asked them to list, under various specified headings, the nominated charities that their Lodge has supported during the past year; the form is then to be sent in with the Annual Return.

The good work continues; keep it up!

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

ELLINDON LAMS FLOWER FESTIVAL

On Saturday and Sunday the 5th and 6th June Ellindon LAMs hosted a Flower Festival using Masonic Symbols, signs, Regalia and certain Lodges and Degrees as a theme. The then Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Nicolas Hart had shown great interest in this project and given encouragement for Province wide participation.

Pictured below with RW Bro Nicolas is the Mayor of Peterborough, Cllr John Horrell, with Mrs Betty Horrell, the Mayoress, and The Very Revd Michael Bunker, Dean of Peterborough Cathedral.



Pictured above enjoying the "Festive Board" display is RW Bro Barrie Hall with his wife Joy and W Bro David Pittham whilst to the left are depicted the cornerstone (a display produced by Mrs Pamela Harris's who, with Mrs Jenny Dunk, had been the chief instigators of the Festival) surrounded by the three degrees of Craft masonry.

A large number of masons, their families and friends attended as did significant numbers of the the public from Peterborough and the surrounding community. Overall the weekend was an outstanding success and all who took part were to be wholeheartedly congratulated on a very hard job extremely well done.

Northampton LAMS



So far 2005 has been very interesting. Apart from our regular monthly coffee mornings, we have enjoyed Luncheons, featuring speakers, and had an enjoyable trip to Ragley Hall, the home of the Marquess and Marchioness of Hertford which opened especially for our party. Touring this fine house was a pleasant experience as it is very much a family home, with pets sleeping where they please. The mural on the south staircase was very memorable, as was the excellent lunch. Our coffee morning in August is traditionally held in our Chairman's garden and this year we spent a lovely hot morning in the garden of Mrs Marjorie Snedker. Pictured are Barbara Kent and Betty Jones trying to guess the name of the cuddly lamb.

Other events include a look around the Masonic Hall in Birmingham, and lunch at Jonathan's Victorian Restaurant, followed by a flower demonstration. Our Christmas lunch was on Wednesday 7th December and a Service of Carols and Readings in the Griggs Room will be held on Saturday 17th December at 3pm. Our Gentlemen's Luncheon will be on Sunday 29th January 2006 at St. George's Avenue. At all functions we are working towards raising money for our chosen Charity for this year, the NSPCC. We are always looking to encourage new members to join our thriving Club so anyone interested in more details, please contact the Secretary, Jackie Stanton, on 01604 891307.

Huntingdon Group Church Annual Service

The annual Huntingdon Group Service of Evening Prayer has become quite a feature in the calendar over the past few years. This years service took on a new significance when, on behalf of Euston Lodge, W Bro Derek Young the Dep PGM presented a cheque for £10,000 to the Revd Roger Arguile towards the cost of St Mary the Virgin's organ restoration fund. The monies had been collected over a five year period and represented around 10% of the overall cost of refurbishing this important historic organ dating back in part to the early 1800s.

Revd Arguile, seen right with the Dep PGM, commented that the Lodge members had made a very positive contribution to the lives of many thousands of people from the St Neots area who would benefit from this magnificent instrument being once more available at weddings funerals and services throughout the years to come.

