



Password

Summer 2006

THE PROVINCE CONTINUES TO GROW

Consecration of Nantahala Lodge

Trailed in the Winter 2005 edition of Password, the new Lodge, taking its name from an Indian word, was consecrated with great success at the Ellindon Masonic Centre Peterborough.



Those didn't look like Indian Scouts to me!

Although it is to be a daytime Lodge, the Nantahala Consecration took place at Ellindon on the evening of Tuesday 29th November last. The Indian word Nantahala means "land of the midday sun" — an appropriate name for a noonday Lodge. The Provincial Grand Master, RW Barrie Hall, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Derek Young and the rest of the Consecration Team enjoyed a lively Festive Board presided over by W Bro Norman Manser, the first Master (or should that be Chief) of the Lodge.

Proposed Wollaston (Wilaveston) Lodge Update

Last autumn, a working group was established with the brief of finding a home for the proposed Wollaston lodge, which it was agreed must be within the village. The former Working Men's Club has recently changed its identity and is now a club for the whole community, thus being ideal for the purpose. An upstairs assembly room can be used as a Lodge Room and for holding the Festive Board.

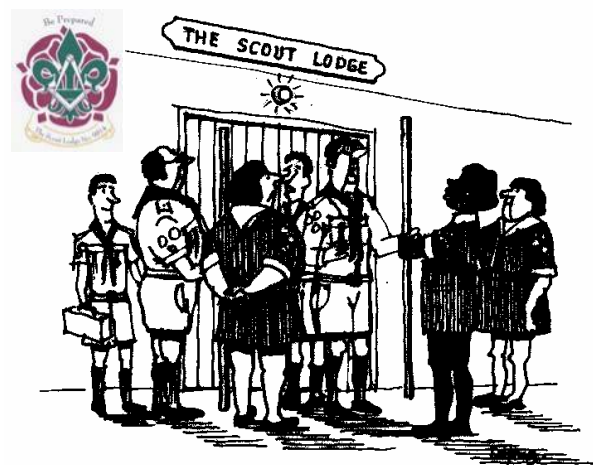
Over 40 Masons having connections with the village have been contacted, and the petitioners will be drawn from these. Some potential candidates for initiation have also been identified. The Assistant PGM W Bro Max Bayes, who was brought up in the village, will be the first Worshipful Master and other offices that have yet to be finalised will be announced in due course.

Scout Lodge Consecrated at Northampton

In 2004 the County Chairman for Northamptonshire County Scout Council, W Bro Ken Briers, in consultation with the new County Commissioner, Bro Rev'd John Simmons, decided that the work undertaken by the late Bro John Askew should be revisited and a paragraph was inserted in PASSWORD to ascertain if there was any support for the formation of a Scout Lodge. The feedback and enthusiasm was more than sufficient to call a Meeting of interested Scouts and past Scouts.

The Petitioners then met on several occasions to undertake the requisite preliminary work and agreed to ensure that if the Petition was successful, a firm foundation would be laid and the true principles of Freemasonry and tenets of the Craft would be transmitted through the Scout Lodge from generation to generation.

The Warrant was duly approved by Grand Lodge in December 2005. Sadly the Brother whose original idea it was to form this Lodge (Bro John Askew) was called to the Grand Lodge above



in January 2006. The Consecration of the Scout Lodge No 9814 took place in Northampton on 20th April 2006 when 127 Brethren joined the 28 Petitioners in a wonderful ceremony led by our Provincial Grand Master (thankfully recovering well from major surgery) and ably assisted by the temporary Provincial Cornucopia Carrier, W Bro Wayne Williams PAGDC, APGM. W Bro Ken Briers was then Installed as the first Worshipful Master by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Derek Young. It is intended that regular meetings of the Lodge will be held throughout the Province.

Interest in themed Lodges has blossomed

PROVINCIAL NEWS

Take Care - Really Take Care

I reflected at our May Provincial Grand Lodge meeting that to characterise last year as personally and Masonic ally memorable would perhaps leave me open to a charge of gross understatement.

Masonic ally we enjoyed a splendid year which included two Consecrations, Nantahala our new mid-day Lodge at Peterborough and the Scout Lodge based in Northampton. Banner dedications at John Pyel and Graham Milton Lodges, together with the Christmas Carol Service at Peterborough Cathedral and a host of other Masonic occasions made for an eventful and memorable year. A fine record of candidate recruitment likewise signalled a thriving Province and one certainly in good heart.

I too, following my enforced "sabbatical" in the very skilful hands of surgeons in our sister Province of Leicestershire and Rutland, found myself in every respect in very good heart. That I did so was also very much due to the most wonderful support and encouragement from all the Lodges and Brethren of the Province and from our good friends in many other Provinces. So many cards, letters, 'phone calls, messages and visitors - Brethren, from the bottom of my heart I thank you.

Your kindness and concerns were so greatly appreciated by Joy and myself.

During my hospitalisation and subsequent convalescence, I had more than a little time to reflect on the importance of the Almoner's role and how much I appreciated that role in a very personal way and over a long period of time.

How often do we say to family and friends - "take care" - when we bid them farewell? Many, many times of course. It is a phrase which has myriad dimensions and which epitomises the crucial role of the Lodge Almoner - a role which is frequently

underestimated and which few fully recognise and appreciate. Needless to say it is a role which is at the very heart of Freemasonry and one which perhaps epitomises our Grand Principles more than any other Office.

The Almoner is literally the Lodge Welfare Officer seeking and providing help and support for Brethren, widows, and their dependents experiencing varying degrees of distress. It is vital assistance which may be either financial or simply the giving of caring time and companionship. As a little ritual reminds us - "Charity in the heart of a real mason goes farther than monetary considerations - a kind word of sympathy and encouragement is worth all the gold in the universe to a harassed brother." What Brother can undertake such a demanding Office? On the one hand he needs to be very knowledgeable and up-to-date on all the available sources of financial assistance, including State benefits and our wonderful National and local Masonic Charities. Being familiar with our own comprehensive Almoner's Handbook is a major and vital task in itself, whilst a capacity for considerable hard work is essential for any aspiring Almoner.

As well as this awareness of available financial assistance and knowledge of how to secure appropriate help, the Almoner needs to be dedicated to his role. He needs to be at ease and sensitive in caring for the elderly, the sick and the infirm. Needless to say he has to do all this quietly, effectively, and always in confidence without fuss or publicity.

Even all this can be but the tip of the iceberg. As well as looking after the material needs of those known to be in distress, our Almoner has to have the most sensitive antennae in judging

potential distress and providing assistance at the earliest opportunity. How often do we notice the absence of a particular brother from our Lodge meetings and whether or not the frequency of his absence increases. We may not have this awareness but the Almoner is not only trying to do this but also trying to find out whether or not there is a problem to be overcome before the Brother can regularly resume his attendance at Lodge. In effect the Almoner is the prime architect for membership retention.

If all this sounds like "Mission Impossible" then we should be all the more appreciative of the job each and every Lodge Almoner performs on our behalf, for they do quite amazing work year in and year out. How much easier however would that job be if every Brother resolves to provide regular support to his Almoner by always:-

☒ being ready to help when invited
☒ assuming the role of Assistant Almoner and being aware of, and reporting identified or potential distress to the Almoner.

☒ perhaps acting as a member of a small Almoner's sub-committee keeping track of Lodge absentees, ensuring that the Almoner is aware of the reasons why, and helping the Brother back to a regular attendance if at all possible.

"Really Taking Care" surely makes for a caring Lodge, a happy Lodge and a truly Masonic Lodge of fraternal affection of which we can be justly proud.

May I wish you all a happy and relaxing summer break? I look forward to seeing you throughout a new, busy and rewarding Masonic season ahead.

Do Take Care.

RW Bro W. Barrie Hall
Provincial Grand Master

Provincial Grand Lodge

On 18 May 2006, the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro Barrie Hall hosted his first Provincial Grand Lodge meeting since his Installation in October last year. Since then, R. W. Bro Barrie has undergone major heart surgery and was welcomed with great delight by all those present.

The PGM was supported by many distinguished visitors from other Provinces who watched as the new Provincial Officers were appointed. The

new Provincial Senior Grand Warden is WBro Richard Turpin of the Meridian and Royal Air Force Lodges, who has since been appointed as the new Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire. WBro Terry Roy of Pomfret and Harmony Lodges was appointed as the Provincial Junior Grand Warden and who since then, has been invested as 2nd Provincial Principal of the Royal Arch Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire.

In his address, the Provincial Grand Master noted that the last 12 months had been memorable for him, both Masonic ally and personally!. When he said that both he and the Province were "in good heart", he was greeted with warm applause!. He urged the new Provincial Officers to help younger Masons as part of the mentoring arrangements which the Province had adopted to help retention and education of newer members.

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A caring Lodge is a happy Lodge

OTHER ORDERS

New Provincial Grand Master for Mark

On Saturday 24th June 2006, the Corby Masonic Centre was the venue for a very warm and auspicious occasion. The Pro Grand Master for the Mark Degree, the M W Bro John Hale, supported by a team from Mark Masons Hall in London, installed W Bro George Bonham as the new Provincial Grand Master for the Mark Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. R W Bro George Bonham succeeds R W Bro Roy Bradley who has just stepped down after five very successful years.



The same ceremony also saw the new Provincial Grand Master install his Deputy W Bro Richard Turpin OBE PAGDC.

In his acceptance speech, the Provincial Grand Master paid tribute to Roy Bradley and expressed his wish to continue his good work, and felt that with the support of his Deputy, they could continue to build on Mark Masonry's popularity.



Consecration of New Ailwyn Mark Lodge

On Saturday 25th March RW Bro Roy Keith Bradley, in what was to be his final duty as Provincial Grand Master of the Mark Province, consecrated a new Mark Lodge, The Ailwyn Lodge No 1871 to be centred at Ramsey on the extreme eastern edge of the Province. Thirty four Brethren had signed the petition and there was already considerable interest from Brethren wishing to be Advanced as Mark Masons.

The Provincial Grand Master observed, in his address to the Brethren, that this was the first Mark Lodge to be formed since the consecration of Rockingham Lodge No 1645 in January 1988. He noted that many senior Brethren from Lodges concentrated in the East side of the Province had felt a real need for a daytime Mark Lodge to facilitate Brethren who perhaps worked irregular hours or who preferred travelling during daylight hours. The Lodge will meet three times a year in the Abbey Masonic Rooms in Ramsey on the first Thursday in April (Installation) and January and the second Thursday of September.

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Invests New Executive Team

On Thursday 22nd June, at the busiest Annual Convocation for some years, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, E Comp Peter Kitson invested a new Provincial Executive viz:- E Comp David Jackson as Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Terry Roy as 2nd Grand Principle and E Comp Mike Coleman as 3rd Grand Provincial.

In his address to the Convocation, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent noted that the Province was in very good heart and, bucking the national trend, had again managed a modest increase in membership. He was pleased to note that all Chapters had embraced the revised Ritual and that the quality of their work was impressive. He was also very encouraged by the numbers of candidates coming forward for Exaltation and by the attendance levels in Chapters.

He congratulated E Comp Derek Young (Deputy Provincial Grand Master) and E Comp Dr Bob Beeton on their First Appointments to past rank in Supreme Grand Chapter. E Comp Peter Kitson presented a set of engraved crystal whisky glasses to the retiring Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Ken Bacon and paid tribute to him for his dedicated service to Provincial Grand Chapter over the last eleven years - first as Provincial Grand Scribe E from June 1995 and then as his very able Deputy from June 2000. He wished Ken many years of health and happiness to enjoy the many invitations he will no doubt get to visit Chapters as Past Deputy Grand Superintendent.



The Grand Superintendent, E Comp Peter Kitson with the Past Grand Superintendent E Comp Richard Sandbach and the newly installed members of the Executive

Dedicated Web-site For The Holy Royal Arch

The Holy Royal Arch in Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire will launch its new Web-site in August 2006

The site will be managed by E Comp Gerry Crawford of St John's Chapter No 3972 and can be accessed from the Provincial website at www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk. Chapters are encouraged to send details for inclusion to E Comp Roger Wood at rogerwood@talk21.com.

Have you an article for this page?

MASONIC MISCELLANY

The Assistant Grand Master Visits Lodge of Perseverance No 455

The March 2006 meeting of the Lodge of Perseverance No. 455 in Kettering was an historic occasion with the presence of RW Bro David Williamson, the Assistant Grand Master, who was making his first visit to the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire. He had stressed that he hoped it would be a regular meeting with no special arrangements made. In fact the meeting was to be a most interesting one with the Worshipful Master, WBro David Watson raising his son, Andrew.

The Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Barrie Hall, attended together with his Deputy and Assistants to welcome the Assistant Grand Master into his Province. The Provincial Grand Master was only just recovering from major heart surgery and was unable to stay for the festive board as he had an early appointment with his surgeon the next morning. Fortunately the surgeon signed him off as having made a complete recovery after a very successful operation for which we are all most gratified and pleased.

The Assistant Grand Master was accompanied by WBro Peter Kinder, AGDC, a well-known member of our adjoining Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. The Lodge Officers had been well briefed as to the procedure to be followed and they carried out their duties to perfection.

The ceremony of Raising was completed to the great satisfaction of more than 100 Brethren present. Bro Andrew Watson will forever remember that ceremony carried out by his Father in the presence of the Assistant Grand Master and the Rulers of the Province.

WBro Albert Shepherd, PAGDC, was to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of his Initiation into Lodge of Perseverance and his Jubilee Certificate was presented to him by R W Bro Brian Smith, P Prov GM, who had known him for more than 52 years and who was the next Initiate so that they followed each other through the offices in the Lodge leading to the Master's Chair. RW Bro Smith reminded the Brethren of the enormous contribution which had been made by Bro Shepherd to the Lodge, the Kettering Masonic Hall, the Kettering United Lodge of Instruction, the Province and to the Craft in general. He also paid tribute to Mrs Joan Shepherd who until her untimely death had steadfastly supported her husband and Freemasonry in Kettering. After the presentation, R W Bros. David Williamson and Barrie Hall each congratulated Bro Shepherd on his achievements and thanked him.

Following the meeting, R W Bro Williamson wished to meet as many members as time would permit and several Brethren were introduced to him by the Worshipful Master. The Assistant Grand Master's visit will long be remembered for his friendly demeanour and his interest in the conduct of Lodges and Freemasons generally.

At the festive board, Bro Shepherd, who had served during World War II as an airgunner in a Lancaster Squadron, was presented with a picture of a Lancaster bomber and its crew as a token of gratitude from his Mother Lodge.



GM and Pro GM assist MTSFC "To Catch The Smile"

The Masonic Trout & Salmon Fly Fishing Club was founded in 2000 by a group of keen Fly fishermen. The idea was to take disadvantaged children for a day's Trout Fishing. Participants come with their Carers. Each child is allocated a Fisherman for the day who will cast and invite the participant to retrieve the cast, explain the rudiments of the sport and encourage them to have a go.

Apart from events organised by local Branches, the Club holds a National event. At the one last year, the Patron, Lord Northampton, invited the Club to hold the event this year at his lakes at Castle Ashby and offered to pay for the trout.

The event was held on 22nd June 2006 for 87 children. The Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent and Pro GM Lord Northampton attended and fully participated. The GM presented each participant with a Certificate of Achievement and various individual Prizes.

The Province was represented by the PGM, Assistant PGMs and Officials of the local Branch of MTSFC who assisted with the event. Everyone present had a wonderful day.



During the day, a cheque for £5,000 for MTSFC funds was presented to the Grand Master from the D C James Charitable Trust in the name of St. Crispin Lodge.

The local Branch would welcome assistance from Fishermen. Anyone interested can contact the local Chairman, Bro Andy Adamson on 01536 515526.

Keep your Information Officer informed of any planned events

MASONIC MISCELLANY

"In the Spotlight 2006" Musical Talent Competition Lady Freemasons at Sulgrave

The second of the "In the Spotlight" competitions was held at Northampton Masonic Hall on Saturday 6th May and was once again an acclaimed success from amongst the contestants and the audience alike.

Host for the evening Roger Rice introduced a varied and talented group of contestants treating the audience to music genre from Pop to Opera. Opening the show "Smokie 2" gave a rendition of "Living Next Door to Alice" with Mike "Chubby" Britton eliciting some lively audience participation! There were performances from three "old favourites"; last year's runner up Steven Brown with a stirring rendition of "Walk Away", Alan Woolls with "Everybody's Talking and Ray Price with the Eagle's "Lyn Eyes". Then came a surprise from the "Maisonettes" (should it read "Masonettes?") five ladies lead by Mary Brown who did the Sandie Shaw number "Long Live Love" complete with a choreographed hand jive - wonderfully entertaining!



The winners of the evening came from three new faces. In third place came "Jaki P" performing the tear-jerking "O Mio Bambino Caro"; second place went to "Scarlett" who was accompanied by her fellow 6th-form students Cara on double bass, and Jack on drums with "Fever" but this year's winner was "Lloyda" a young lady from Wales attending college in Northampton

who sang so beautifully "I dreamed a Dream"

The standard of performance amongst the contestants was very high. The audience were asked to vote on the acts and the scores collected by assistant host Frances Rice. These were calculated by a computer and presented on an electronic scoreboard - very Eurovision style!

Chairman's lady Anne Stevens made a presentation to the winners for which our thanks go again to Rawley Jones for donating three hand-carved wood clocks.

"In the Spotlight" this year raised just under £800 to be shared between the Hall and Organ Refurbishment Funds and is organised and run by Tony Potter, Tony Pickering and Roger Rice and their families in support of the Northampton Masonic Hall refurbishment.

VW Bro Pamela A. Green, PGDC, Grand Inspector for Beds, Herts, Cambs, was the featured speaker for Sulgrave Lodge, 9462, at St. George's Avenue, Northampton, Thursday, 30 March 2006. More than 100 brethren of Sulgrave and their ladies and guests packed the lodge room to listen to her speak on "The Order of Women's Freemasons." VW Bro Green entertained the crowd with the history, the structure, and the ritual of women's freemasonry after which she answered questions resulting from her lecture. Many observations were made throughout the evening, but two items were especially appropriate to men's freemasonry--the need for more openness to the public and the importance of charity as a cornerstone of the organization.



After a very entertaining and informative meeting, the brethren and their ladies continued with an equally enjoyable festive board. At the end of the evening, the WM, W Bro D. Nail, presented VW Bro Green with the gavel used in the festive board as a token of appreciation for an excellent evening. The gavel had been specially made by W Bro R. Jones and engraved with the Sulgrave Lodge name and number.

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Executive Changes in Royal and Select Masters At the Annual Meeting of the East Midlands District of Royal and Select Masters, the District Grand Master, R. Ill. Comp. Michael Richards announced the retirement of the Deputy District Grand Master, Ill. Comp. Ted Bramford as well as the District Principal Conductor of the Work, Ill. Comp. Clifford Tysoe. In addition, the District Director of Ceremonies, Ill. Comp. John Harris also retired

from office. The District Grand Master paid tribute to their tireless work for the Order and wished them well for the future.

Ill. Comp. Mike Jolley, Deputy District Director of Ceremonies was promoted to Deputy District Grand Master and Ill Comp. David Jackson to District Principal Conductor of the Work. The new District Grand Director of Ceremonies is Ill. Comp. Russ Howard and Ill. Comp. Martin Wilson was re-appointed as District Grand Recorder.

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

COMMUNICATIONS

Royal Order of Scotland Annual Outing Following the usual custom of inviting the Ladies to their June meeting, on 5th June the Royal Order of Scotland entertained the Ladies to lunch in Kettering at 12 o'clock precisely. Following a convivial meal the Ladies departed for a visit to Prebendal Manor at Nassington, near Oundle. The photo shows the RW Provincial Grand Master Bro Gordon Gentry, with some of the Ladies waiting to board the coach.



Prebendal Manor is the oldest Manor in Northamptonshire, dating from the 13th century. It is a grade 1 listed building, once King Cnut's Royal Manor. From 1110 to 1846 the Manor was home to the Prebendaries, officers of the Church, many of whom were important and powerful men. The Medieval Centre provides an insight into the lives of Prebendaries, including Simon of Sudbury, who later became Archbishop of Canterbury and was beheaded in the Tower of London during the Peasants' Revolt.

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**7th October 2006
MOTOWN NIGHT**

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**7th, 8th & 9th December 2006
CHRISTMAS
PARTY
NIGHTS**

Provincial Grand Lodge Continued from Page 2/

He reported that the Provincial Grand Charity had made donations of over £110,000 to local organisations and that the 2013 Festival in favour of the RMBI would be launched on 23 March 2007.

The meeting was notable for the retirement from his office as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies of WBro Neville Manning. The Provincial Grand Master praised the dedication he had shown during 5 years as DC and 4 years as Deputy DC before that. In accepting two gifts to mark his retirement, WBro Neville said how much he had enjoyed his office and he wished his successor, WBro Neil Young well in his new role.

(The full text of the PGM's Address will appear, as usual in the Provincial Year Book for the forthcoming year.)

New Grand Officers' Meeting

New Provincial Grand Master, R. WBro Barrie Hall welcomed the Province's Grand Officers to their first meeting as a group early in May this year. The PGM said that he regarded the Grand Officers as a key line of communication from Lodges to the Executive of the Province. Many of those present were also Group Officers who were responsible for helping individual Lodges with any problems and acting as trusted friends and advisers should Lodges seek advice. The PGM asked that Group Officers at each centre should have regular formal meetings and that Secretaries should be encouraged to bring any problems and recommendations to the attention of Group Officers rather than directly to the Provincial Office.

The Assistant PGM, WBro Max Bayes gave a brief synopsis of the Grand Lodge Accounts and the effect which the rising costs of Freemasonry would have on individual members. Many of those present felt that we should remember our basic principles and not just focus on charitable giving.

Discussion also covered mentoring, recruitment, appointments and promotions as well as "white table" arrangements and it was agreed that meetings should be held twice a year in future.

Provincial Grand Master's Diary 2006

	LODGE	NO.
Tuesday 12th September	Petriburg	8767 (Inst.)
Thursday 21st September	England Centre	2555
Wednesday 27th September	Towcestrian	9510 (Inst.)
Friday 29th September	Kingsley	2431
Monday 2nd October	Cytringan	4048 (Inst.)
Thursday 5th October	Fitzwilliam	2533 (Inst.)
Wednesday 11th October	Burghley	9364 (Inst.)
Thursday 12th October	De La Pre	1911
Wednesday 18th October	Risdene	6532 (Inst.)
Thursday 19th October	Unity	9495 (Inst.)
Tuesday 21st November	Peterborough & Coun.	2996 (Inst.)
Thursday 23rd November	Coritani	8079
Tuesday 5th December	Old Northamptonians	5694 (Inst.)
Tuesday 12th December	Gates of Billing	9309

The next Password is to be published in Spring 2007, stories and photos of events can

Prominent Masons

W Bro Alfred Cox PPrSGW (Certificate of Merit), London Grand Rank

Worship Brother Alfie, as everyone kindly knew him, passed away on Saturday, 22nd April, 2006, he



would have been 90 on 17th June. Alfie was married for 64 years but, since the death of his wife Dorrie in 2003, his health had declined although he always retained

his sharp wit and humour and regularly attended Sothius Lodge.

He had an enviable Masonic history, Initiated February, 1949, in London, into the Lodge of Four Virtues, No 6275. He served as their Treasurer for 14 years and an ardent Festival Secretary. He occupied the Master's chair in 1960, later achieving the honour of London Grand Rank, Still remaining a member of his mother lodge, he made his final visit to Lodge of Four Virtues in 2004 on the anniversary of his initiation 55 years earlier.

He moved to St. Ives in 1958 but continued to support his mother lodge and in September, 1977, he became a founder member of Sothius Lodge No 8774 where he served as Treasurer for many years and as organist, both in the Temple and at the Festive board became their inimitable favourite; he deservedly earned his rank as PPrSGW. In 1999, he was presented in Sothius lodge, with a certificate marking his 50 years in masonry. Later in 2003, he felt he was incredibly honoured by his presentation of the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Merit.

He was a fine mentor to everyone, proposing many new brethren, of whom the majority, including two of his sons, Gordon and John, became masters of their lodges. His other son Jeffrey, who was initiated into St Ivo Lodge, before Sothius was consecrated, and also went on to occupied the chair of St. Ivo.

His ritual, his music, his toasts and his presence will all be missed but he has left the Lodge with many fond memories.

He will be very sadly missed by masonry and all who met him. He certainly 'Lived respected and has died regretted'.

W Bro Peter Anthony Glover PPrJGW

On 20th February this year the sudden death of W Bro Peter Glover was a shock to his devoted family and a large number of his Masonic friends and colleagues; particularly in the northern part of the Province where he had served for some time as a valued member of the Communications Committee as the Information Officer for both Stamford & Peterborough areas.

Peter was Initiated into Vale of Nene Lodge No 7006 in December 1968 and served as Master in 1984. Over the years he continued as an active member of the Lodge and was its Secretary at the time of his death. Peter was also a Founder Member of Schola Regia Lodge serving as its master in 1997 and, at time of his death, was the Director of Ceremonies.

In other Degrees he was an active member of Steanforde Mark Lodge, of which he was Master in 2002, the Steanforde RAM Lodge and in 2003 he became a Founder of the Peterborough Council of Royal & Select Masters. Peter's death meant the loss to the Province of a dedicated and hardworking Mason whose helpful nature and wise council will be sorely missed by all who knew him.

WWII Lancaster Presentation

W Bro Albert Shepherd, PAGDC seen admiring the picture of a Lancaster bomber and its crew presented by his Mother Lodge to mark the fiftieth anniversary of his Initiation into Lodge of Perseverance.



See Page 4 for more details.

ME Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Meritorious Service

At the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Chapter on 22nd June, E Comp Peter Kitson presented his Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's Certificate of Meritorious Service to E Comp Alister Hurford of St Peter's Chapter No 442.



E Comp Peter Kitson, seen here congratulating Alister after the meeting, told the Convocation that because Alister didn't get out much these days it had taken considerable effort to get him to Northampton without disclosing his intentions.

W Bro Dennis Phipps 1926-2006

Freemasonry will miss W Bro Dennis Phipps PJGD, who went to the Grand Lodge above on 15th April 2006.

Dennis was initiated into Ceres Lodge in March 1970 and became Worshipful Master in 1984. He was also a Founder of Cumnton Lodge and was Master there in 1981. He achieved Grand Rank in 1997 as PJGD. Dennis will be best remembered as the man who Proposed the Pro Grand Master, the Marquis of Northampton, into Freemasonry.

Dennis held many ranks in Freemasonry, best noted as a superb Director of Ceremonies, he was also a fine Mentor and Counsellor to younger Brethren. He was born in Creaton and then moved to Easton Maudit where his father took on a farm as a tenant of the Marquis of Northampton and it was here that he learnt his farming skills.

He was an active member of the Northampton Masonic Hall and made a great contribution to the running of the building over the years. Dennis was very respected throughout the whole of our Province and will be sadly missed.

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!

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

MASONS NEAR & FAR

Capt. Keith Rumbold MBE

Ferraria Lodge member Capt. Keith Rumbold has been appointed a MBE in the New Year's Honours. Keith, who is serving with the Royal Engineers in Germany, received the honour in recognition of his outstanding charity work, having raised over £50,000 for cancer related charities by completing 19 sponsored marathons.

His last marathon in 2004 raised £2000 for the benefit of Corby Lakelands Hospice (reported in a previous issue of Password).



Although he is a relatively new member of the Lodge Keith makes the effort to get back to the UK at the right times to fit in a few meetings each year to join his father-in-law Ken Blachford and his brother-in-law David who are also members of the

Our Man in Basra

W Bro M Caseman-Jones PPrGStwd
PM and Sec Waynflete Lodge No 4452

A full time serving Police Officer and Major in the T.A., W Bro Mike Caseman-Jones was called upon to do his duty for us in Basra. His term of duty started in late May and as we go to print he is still out there. He is however not alone, seen here



with Bro John Dyer of the Pegasus Forces Lodge. Mike has written a diary of his visit to Iraq, which makes very interesting reading, please take time to catch up on his exploits which can be found on the Provincial Website - www.northants-huntsmasons.org.uk

We all send our best wishes for a safe return.

The Peppermint Men

I'm going to be a Mason, said sir one day at tea.
It will only mean one evening out, once a month, said he.

One evening quickly led to two, followed by three, then four.
And pretty soon I asked his name when he walked in the door.

He bought a jar of peppermints and put some in a tin.
"I have to hand them round" he said "or they won't let me in"
So now when friends come calling and ask "Where is he then?" I say, "you won't see him tonight. He's with the Peppermint Men."

He dines out fairly often, super meals, mainly roast,
While I sit at home and watch the box and eat my beans on toast.

A clean white shirt is needed, his gloves as white as snow.
His suit well pressed, his gloves at hand. Oh dear, I wish he'd go.

He's started talking to himself, I heard him in his den.
I think he's going crackers. I blame the Peppermint Men.

"I'm going in The Chair" he said. "A position of renown."
That's nice, I thought, with his poor legs he's better sitting down.

"You'll have to make a speech" he said, "when it's your Ladies Night." I looked at him in horror as fear replaced delight. I scribbled through a pad or two as I tried hard to think. I threw away six ballpoint pens as they ran out of ink.

But now the evening has arrived, no words can really tell.
That it is going to be the best evening of my life, and I hope Gentlemen, yours as well.

Thank you Peppermint Men and may God bless you all.

Password Articles

Keep those articles coming through your local Communications Officer whose name you will find in the Provincial Yearbook. Remember this is your magazine and it relies for its success on your inputs of interesting material; it won't work without you.

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MORE MASONIC MISCELLANY

Masonic Finances 2006

Masonic finances have been the subject of much discussion recently. In 2004 Grand Lodge was faced with costs in excess of £2.4 million relating to the removal of asbestos from Great Queen Street. These exceptional costs resulted in an increase in charges by Grand Lodge in respect of every registered member. Individual Lodges had little choice but to recover these charges by increasing Lodge subscriptions.

In 2005 the asbestos removal incurred additional costs in excess of £450,000 to Grand Lodge and it must be assumed that sooner or later some of these costs will need to be recovered from the registered members. We must assume that maintenance costs of Great Queen Street will remain high as the building is now some eighty years old. It is, therefore, almost certain that these costs will continue to be recovered from the membership. To be fair to Grand Lodge, steps have been taken to reduce running costs and to increase income by developing areas in the basement to create rental space. The effect will be of assistance, but not terribly significant. Provincial Grand Lodge has suffered deficits in each of the last four years. There have been plausible reasons for these deficits (Freemasonry in the Community, Stands at Peterborough Show, Installation of a new Provincial Grand Master etc.) but the fact remains that reserves have been diminished. Some degree of balance has been attempted by increasing membership contribution to Provincial Grand Lodge from £5 to £6 and then again from £6 to £7. (Incidentally, this figure lags way behind many other Provinces who are already up to £12 per member). These increases are, again, ultimately reflected in the subscription charge that an individual Lodge has to collect from its members.

Let us be absolutely clear that no blame must attach to either Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge for these increases. They are the result of factors beyond the control of management.

The question that remains is 'what are we to do?' Subscriptions in most Lodges in our Province are now about to be in the region of £150 per annum. This in itself remains solid value for money. It is

usually found that new entrants to the Craft think that this is a very reasonable annual price to pay for membership of our organization. The problem seems to be with those of us who are used to paying substantially less. However, the serious problem is envisaged as being the effect on multiple memberships. Many members will be tempted to reduce the multiple memberships or the membership of 'other orders'. This would have no effect on the overall total of Masons in the Province, but it would seriously affect the individual Lodges. Some members may feel it necessary to resign from newer Lodges of which they are founders or joining members, or they may decide to leave their Mother Lodge and retain membership of the newer, often more vibrant, Lodges. Either way it could cause major difficulties to a good number of Lodges.

So what is the answer?

I have suggested in the past that an increasing membership would have the effect of reducing per capita costs. Our Province has initiated an average of almost two new members per Lodge in the last year. We are, however, one of the few, if not perhaps the only one, that is experiencing an increasing membership. I do believe that we can continue this achievement as we have proved that there are quality young men in the popular world that would enjoy Freemasonry. Other Provinces are working on this premise. I accept that declining membership is a bigger problem in Provinces that have substantial urban areas within them. We all know of the problems in the Metropolitan area, and other cities such as Birmingham and Manchester have serious problems. I believe that we are ideally placed as we have most of our centres in a market town environment, and I truly think that the surge in Masonic membership will be 'market town' led. We are gradually recovering our position as a valuable part of any community, and this will surely lead to increased membership. Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire can be an example to many other Provinces in this matter. However, it would be almost impossible for these increases in membership to have an early effect on Masonic finances. We must therefore explore other avenues. Freemasonry is a very significant contributor to Charity and can be very proud of what it achieves in this respect. However, my view is that we have, in recent years, leaned too much towards our charitable feelings. We have fundamental principles, one of which is,

indeed, charity, but we have also Brotherly Love and Truth. I believe that we should devote more attention to these and consider more our relationship with not only our Masonic brethren, but also our fellow man. We should also at all times, remember Truth, and make sure that we conduct ourselves at all times in an upright and morally correct manner. The Charity element seems to have become all-important and we, both as the Craft in general and within our Province in particular, raise substantial sums and support many non-Masonic organizations. The danger is that we are supporting these good causes whilst our own finances are becoming very parlous. Charity does begin at home and we need to reconsider our situation. If our Lodges diminish and eventually fail, we will have killed the golden goose, and our continuing support will not be available. Let us, therefore, rethink our fundamental position.

Alms collections within a Lodge meeting are clearly for charitable purposes, but why should other fund raising efforts always be so? Raffles at Festive Boards, Summer bar-b-q's and other similar events could all be used to raise money for Lodge funds. If a Lodge were to organise a function and persuade 25 members and their partners to attend, it would be no surprise to achieve a surplus of £500. This alone could well reduce a membership subscription by £10. With a little imagination a Lodge committee should be able to organize several events during a year that would have the dual effect of bonding members together, simply by spending more time together and with their respective families, and also raising some substantial Lodge funds. The money would still come from the membership, but I feel that people are only too pleased to spend money on what should prove a very happy event, as opposed to just being asked to pay additional subscriptions.

I have heard many Lodge treasurers stand this season to announce an increase in Lodge subscriptions. Would it not be much better to hear the proposal that Lodge subscriptions be reduced? With a bit of effort from Lodge Committees, this could well become a reality.

W Bro Max Bayes AsstPGM

A fresh approach may be our salvation

GRASS ROOT NEWS

Masonic Bowls Association

The Bowls Team are once again pleased to report they have enjoyed a successful year and following last year's donation of £1,000 made to the Northamptonshire & Warwickshire Air Ambulance; they were able to make donations of £500 to the Willows Day Care Centre, The Mounts, Northampton who look



after patients suffering from Alzheimer's and £500 to the Cardiac Ward, Kettering General Hospital. Thanks are due to all of the members who make these donations, which average £1,000 a year, possible and they are looking for new members to help them keep up the good work, so please come and join in by contacting the Secretary, John Pidd, on 01604 810707 or Dennis Rideout (seen on the left above) on 01604 628564.

Lodge of Installed Masters

On a hot 7th June nearly 150 brethren packed into Kettering Masonic Hall for the summer meeting of the Installed Masters Lodge. The speaker was this year's Prestonian Lecturer WBro Granville Angell who spoke on 'The Victoria Cross - Freemasons' Band of Brothers' which has been the subject of a very successful exhibition in the Library and Museum at Grand Lodge. Since the award was first invested by Queen Victoria 150 years ago 1350 servicemen have received this the highest medal for gallantry and 10% of the recipients have been freemasons. WBro Angell has produced a fascinating book about 13 of those masons and his talk concentrated on a handful including the late Bro Tommy Gould RN who at the time of his death was a member of St. Wilfrid Lodge No. 4453. Following the talk the Provincial Grand Master R. WBro Barrie Hall was elected Worshipful Master for the ensuing year. Normally the Installation meeting is held in late October but as this year's date clashes with the sesqui-centenary celebration of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons it has been brought forward to 1st September at Northampton. The Provincial Grand Master will address the lodge following his installation.

The Installed Masters Lodge is the premier lodge of communication within the province and all installed masters are not only entitled to be members but are actively encouraged to do so. For details of membership please contact the Secretary W. Bro Simon Mighall on 01480 212251 or s.mighall@ntlworld.com.

Peppermints Put to Good Use at Last (see page 8)

The master of Trinity Lodge No 9165 at Kettering W Bro Martin Dimmock, came up with an ingenious idea to raise funds for his pet charity namely research into Addison's Disease.

Addison's disease is a rare, chronic condition brought about by the failure of the adrenal glands. Lifelong, continuous treatment with steroid replacement therapy is required. With the right balance of daily medication, most people with the disease are able to continue life much as it was before their illness.

W Bro Martin's wife Pam has recently been diagnosed with this condition and Martin's idea was to obtain a very large see-through jar of 'extra strong' mint which was displayed at the Installation meeting. The idea being to guess the number of mints in the jar with, of course, contribution to the Charity. The total number of mints in the jar was 923 and the nearest guess to this would receive the 'star prize' which was a 10 year old bottle of Highland Malt whisky.



At the following meeting the winner was announced and he was Worshipful Brother Colin Biddulph (Lodge secretary) who came in with the number 916. This unusual venture was a tremendous success which raised a total of £280. Of further interest it is a well known fact that W Bro Colin being a Salvationist is tee-total so what we all want to know is what happened to the 'star prize'?"

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Will specialist Lodges be out salvation?

CHARITY NEWS

Province of Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire 2013 Charity Festival

At Provincial Grand Lodge on Thursday 18th May 2006, the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Barrie Hall, announced our Province's next Charity Festival, which continues until 2013. The Festival is in aid of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and is in support of the important and significant work they do in providing Care Homes for elderly Masons. This work also provides for home visits and assisted care within their own homes.

commencing Friday 6th to Monday 9th April 2007.



The walk, which totals 70 miles, will be split into 5-8 mile sections with 3 sections each day. The walk is all on footpaths and quiet country roads, and passes some lovely countryside on the way. It also visits the Masonic Centres of Corby, Kettering, Northampton, Towcester and Brackley.



The Festival will be launched with a Dinner on Friday 23rd March 2007 and VW Bro John Moore, President of the RNBI, has been invited to make an address.

This will be followed two weeks later by a Provincial Charity Walk, when the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Max Bayes, will walk the Province from Stamford in the north to Brackley in the south over the 4 days during Easter,

It is hoped that all Lodges will Sponsor him for £300 - £500 per Lodge, details of which will be issued in August 2006, and forms will be available to raise this money at Festive Boards if Lodges wish, to which Gift Aid can be applied to donations.

It is also hoped that 8-10 members from each Lodge will gain their own Sponsorship and join him for one or more

of the sections.

£50 in individual Sponsorship will entitle the participant to a "Walk Polo Shirt".

£100 will also bring a Commendation from the Provincial Grand Master.

All Sponsorship will be credited to each individual's Lodge and each individual's entitlement to the Festive Jewel.



Further details will be available after August 2006 from the Provincial Office - contact W. Bro Trevor Boswell, Walk Organiser.

Stop Press - The 2013 Charity Festival Jewel has just been approved by Grand Lodge

The Provincial Grand Charity Makes a Donation to Brain Injury Support Group

A recently founded Brain Injury Support Group, based at St Andrew's Hospital, Northampton, has benefited from a donation of £972 from the Provincial Grand Charity. The aim of the Group is to provide support and relevant professional expertise to relatives, partners and carers of brain injury victims.

On behalf of the Province W Bro Gerry Crawford presented the cheque to the Group's co-ordinator, Keith Jenkins, Consultant Neuropsychologist, who said he was most grateful for this very generous donation. It will finance the first print run of 1,000 copies of an information booklet the Group badly needs. The publication will appropriately acknowledge the support of the Freemasons of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire in this most worthy cause.

(Photo shows Keith Jenkins (left) receiving cheque from Gerry Crawford)



Have you told Province ?

As an ongoing requirement the Province still needs to know what donations your Lodge had made to charities (Masonic & Non-Masonic) so that they can be listed in the Provincial Year Book. Secretaries are asked 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.

Old Northamptonian Lodge

W Bro Stuart West and W Bro Simon Ward, Masters' of the Old Northamptonian Lodge in 2004 and 2005 respectively have put some of their Charity monies together and were proud to present £2,135 to Rebecca Staden, Fundraising Assistant for Macmillan Nurses. Below is W Bro Stuart West, together with the Provincial Charity Steward, W Bro Iain Lauder, PAGDC, presenting the cheque.



The good work continues; keep it up!

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

Arthur Piggins Vascular Scanner Appeal

WBro Arthur Piggins of Spelhoe Lodge No. 8576 launched his own campaign to raise money for the Northampton General Hospital to purchase a Portable Vascular Unit following his own experience in the Hospital when he needed the aid of one of these pieces of equipment. With the help of many Lodges and then a substantial contribution from the Provincial Grand Charity, the sum of £32,000 was raised. Mr Richard Odell, Chairman of Fundraising for Northampton General Hospital Charitable Trust received a cheque from WBro Arthur Piggins, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Barrie Hall, supported by W. Bros. Max Bayes and Wayne Williams, Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, WBro Iain Lauder, Provincial Charity Steward, WBro John Cox, Provincial Treasurer and David Ratcliff, Vascular Surgeon.

"W Bro Arthur Piggins extends his thanks to the Masters and Brethren of the Lodges which supported his appeal. The original target of £20,000 was passed very quickly and with help from the Provincial Grand Charity the magnificent sum of £32,000 was raised. We can all be proud of what we have achieved.



The picture shows W Bro Piggins undergoing a scan on the new machine under the watchful eye of the Vascular unit nurses.

Freemasons Active in the Civic Community

Since Toseland Lodge was consecrated in 1978, it has provided the town of St Neots with three of its Mayors. In 1986 Bro John Pratt was Mayor of St Neots and in 1992 Bro Graham Hunt held the position. On May 17th this year, Bro Paul Ursell was elected Mayor of St Neots to become the third member of Toseland Lodge to hold this position



Toseland Lodge has always had a good record of public service, with many councillors amongst its members, including a former Vice Chairman of

Huntingdonshire District Council and a current chairman of a Parish Council. Bro Paul who was previously the Deputy Mayor in 2004, looks forward to representing St Neots at the many civic functions, during the coming year, particularly the Masonic Functions.

On the 7th October, Paul will be hosting a charity ball, at The Priory Centre St Neots. This will be a first for St Neots Town Council and Paul hopes that the many Freemasons living in and around St Neots will attend. Tickets will be available from the Mayor's Secretary, at the St Neots Priory Centre.

Teddies Extend to Ambulances

Following discussions with John Coyles, the Operations Manager, the TLC Teddies have now, since last December, been supplied to Two Shires Ambulances; Teddies delivered so far = 144
Seen left is Vicky Manifold, Shift Officer at Mereway Northampton, with WBro John Payne, the local TLC Co-ordinator. Vicky has been the 'Two Shires' contact right from the first meeting.

WBro John is extremely pleased with the very positive response to the scheme from all those at Two Shires and is quite amazed that, with everything they have to carry, the ambulance teams

have managed to find some room for a few teddies in their ambulances,

Children receive a Certificate if they are brave but the teddy is undoubtedly an added bonus which, as has been seen in the A & E units, comforts them when they are distressed.

If you would like one of these very special teddies for a youngster in your own family or circle of friends, they can be bought for £5 each - all monies to Provincial Charity.

Contact John Payne, the Northampton "Teddy Boy" on 01604-702099 if you are in the Northampton area or have a word with your own local TLC co-ordinator.....

"Stamford - WBro Philip Collins - 01780 740124

"Kettering - WBro Pat Marlow - 01536 722825

"Huntingdon - WBro Francis Margot - 07860 577740 (mobile)

"Peterborough - WBro Brian Kingston - 01733 264081

