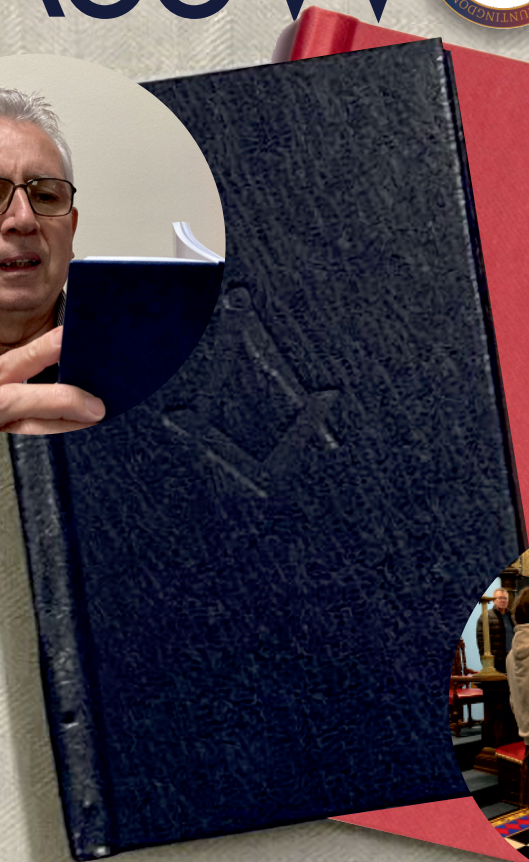


NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE & HUNTINGDONSHIRE

PASSWORD



Engaging with Our Ritual

SEE PAGES 11, 17, 19 & 35

**SPRING
2026
EDITION...**

**PGM/MEGS's
Message**

SEE PAGES 4, 5 & 6

**MCF/Community
Engagement**

SEE PAGES 14 & 18

**News From Around
The Province**

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www.northants-hunts-masons.org.uk

From the Team

Provincial Grand Communications Officer & Communications Committee Chairman

Jason Brice

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Dear Readers,

Welcome to the latest edition of our Password Magazine. As always, this issue reflects the breadth of activity, generosity and commitment that exists across Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire. Within these pages you will find news from our Lodges and Chapters, reports of remarkable charitable efforts, and stories that demonstrate the positive difference our members continue to make in their communities.

Our theme in this edition is the importance of learning and delivering our ritual. Ritual is more than words committed to memory; it is the shared language of our Order, the means by which we pass on our values, and the foundation upon which meaningful Masonic experiences are built. When learned with care and delivered with understanding, it strengthens confidence, deepens engagement and enriches the experience for candidates and members alike.

My sincere thanks go to the Communications Team who work diligently behind the scenes to produce this publication, and to every member who has taken the time to submit articles, photographs and reports. Your contributions ensure that this magazine truly represents the life and vitality of our Province. I hope you enjoy this edition.

Jason

WBro Jason Brice

Provincial Grand Communications Officer

This and previous PASSWORD editions are available at www.northants-huntsmaons.org.uk



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Notable Events

Go to 'Notable Events' on the Provincial Website for further information on these and many other forthcoming events

NHNYMC

Grand Lodge Meeting

Provincial Grand Charity

Richard Sandbach Lodge of Research

Provincial Grand Lodge

Chapter of United Services

Three Counties

NH Lodge of Installed Masters

Provincial visit to Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Chapter

Sartoris

2026 AGM

Quarterly Communications

AGM meeting

RW.Bro Sir David Wootton - The Third Pillar Review

AGM & Appointments

New Chapter Consecration

Promotions to Past Ranks

Provincial Lecture Competition winning Lecture

Communication Update

AGM & Appointments

New Chapter Consecration

Rushden Masonic Hall - Sunday 8th March 2026

Great Queen's Street, London - 11th March 2026

Sheaf Close - 14th March 2026

Sheaf Close - 16th March 2026

Sheaf Close - 21st May 2026

Sheaf Close - 23rd May 2026

Sheaf Close - 27th May 2026

Peterborough - 3rd June 2026

Great Queen's Street, London - 10th June 2026

Sheaf Close - 25th June 2026

TBC

Message From The PGM/MEGS

Brethren and Companions,

as we emerge from what has been a very wet winter into the spring, the days are starting to get longer with lighter evenings, and spring is threatening to arrive. A time for growth and renewal. As we have been pushing forward with our attraction campaigns, I have been reflecting on what makes us different as an organisation to many others that compete for the attentions of potential candidates and what keeps us engaged within our Lodges and Chapters.

What is it that really distinguishes us from the other fraternal organisations, such as Round Table, Rotary, Lions, and others, and what is it that uniquely binds us together?

I would argue it is our ritual.

Our ritual helps us connect with Freemasonry and each other, it assists us to look inwardly initially and understand who we are. Through its symbolism it teaches us valuable life lessons, but more than that, we learn to support each other, working together in a positive environment. There is nothing more thrilling than delivering your first large piece of work on the floor, knowing that every

brother has your back, everybody is on your side, and wants you to succeed - where else in life does this happen?

We come together through the crucible of the ritual, through the challenge we place on ourselves and each other, and by collaborating with each other, whether within our Lodges of Instruction or outside them supporting and helping each other, formally or informally when visiting senior members' homes to be mentored and assisted. Or working together with another Brother in a similar role in a different Lodge. We support and encourage each other and in doing so, at the end of an evening we all know that we have done our best. We congratulate each other, at our festive boards, coming together as a unit, bound by the fellowship that our ritual brings.

That is why I felt that this edition of Password should be dedicated to our ritual and to our learning and development, which for me is one of the most important parts of our Freemasonry. Embedded within its three - now four great principles. There is a unique combination of camaraderie and of learning together both the ritual and ceremonial aspects of the Craft.

Brotherly Love/

Friendship: The fun and enjoyment we share at all



our festive boards or when we meet each other outside of Lodge on social evenings, Ladies festivals or simply on a walk or bike ride for charity. But especially at Lodges of Instruction, where the ritual is shared and polished whilst having fun and preparing for our next ceremony.

Relief/Charity now

Service: The funds that we raise together to support those less fortunate than ourselves. The time we give to assist and support others and our communities.

Truth/Respect and

Integrity: Without which we could not function in our Lodges, respecting everyone who tries their hardest. Respecting the time and effort individuals put in to learning their work. Understanding that we are not all the same and some struggle more with ritual whilst others thrive, but it takes more than good ritual to make a good lodge, and there are parts for everyone, some are natural DC's others are Secretaries or Almoners. Each playing their part in their Lodge.

This issue of Password celebrates our ritual, it



includes details of how you can further your learning, both for the ritual specialists who may seek "Silver Matchbox" level ritual or for those who find learning more difficult there are articles on strategies to support the learning and remembering of ritual. We are all different and all bring our individual skills to our Lodges.

I feel I should make mention of the Issues we are facing with the Metropolitan police and other forces across the country in relation to the need for serving officers to register their membership. This is of course a worrying time and unacceptable and unfair to any reasonable thinking person, however we are where we are. UGLE have sought through legal channels to challenge this action and have lost those legal challenges. As such the law has decided that the MPF may continue to request this disclosure of membership. As such and as we have all taken an oath to support the law of our country, we must now comply and I encourage any members needing to make such declarations to do so now in a timely manner. It is fully understandable that there are members amongst us whose careers and therefore their families' livelihood may be affected by these developments. Whilst we hope these actions and views within the Police will not adversely affect any members, and we also hope

it doesn't affect individual memberships, or a Brothers choice to stay a member. I do however understand that should any brother feel that their membership is or will impact upon their career and therefore their family, I for one acknowledge, that they may reluctantly wish to step away for a short period of time. I accept this knowing that they will take the lessons they have learned and the values of Masonry with them through their life and through their career, regardless of whether they are attached or unattached to any particular Lodge. Those who do need to take this action, I hope, will once circumstances permit, return to us when they would be welcomed back with open arms.



On Monday 23rd February I had the great pleasure of presenting RW.Bro Nic Hart with his 60-year service award. Accompanied by my two predecessors and his two successors, RW.Bro's Barrie Hall and Max Bayes, we enjoyed a most convivial afternoon of conversation and tea, remembering historic events in The Province's history, and being

very well supplied with tea and cake by Mrs Val Hart. Also visiting his parents on the day was WBro Ed Hart who many will remember from his days as an active member of Merit and Chetene Lodges in Stamford. Ed is keeping well and practising his masonry in South Wales but reassures us it is not a patch on Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.

Wednesday 25th February saw the announcement that the RMBICC along with the MCF and UGLE have decided to sell, as going concerns, our remaining 15 care homes. As a main board trustee for the RMBICC, I can assure you all that this decision was not taken lightly or easily. With a history of over 180 years of service to our members, such a change was difficult to consider. However, it is the right decision. Our portfolio of homes is of an age where repairs and maintenance are becoming ever more expensive. The nature of the care delivered in registered care homes has changed a great deal and is now much more complex. The regulations become ever tighter and although we are in the top 5% of regulatory outcomes with many homes being deemed Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission, to achieve this level of excellence takes great resources. In addition, rising costs of utilities, food and staff wages mean the cost of high-level care is ever increasing. The model of funding our residents care, when they can no longer contribute, is becoming ever more challenging. With a total number of over nine hundred beds of which we subsidise

Message From The PGM/MEGS

almost three hundred individuals care over and above local authority rates, there is again more pressure upon the Charities. This subsidy has become unsustainable in the long term, especially considering all the above cost pressures. In order to offer support which is sustainable and also spread more equitably across the wider membership, and not just in provinces where a physical home exists, this programme of asset disposal will enable us to review our support and work towards a more equitable grant based programme. I recognise there will be members with many questions following this announcement, who may wish to understand it further and I invite them to call me directly and I will be happy to discuss it with them, or if a particular Lodge would like me to visit to explain in more detail please invite me along.

The Royal Arch has had a most successful period with increasing membership and more than doubling the usual number of exaltations over the last 12 months. There were 107 exaltations last year, which of course includes the twenty-six new Companions inducted into



Abingdon Chapter last November. In addition, many other Chapters are holding multiple ceremonies, and I firmly believe this experience in the Royal Arch bonds all Masons together even further. I myself joined the Royal Arch as part of a multiple ceremony with Excellent Companion Ged Dempsey and I believe going through that ceremony together, and waiting outside the door together before going in, has bound us even closer as friends. We have consecrated our new Chapter of Provincial Grand Stewards in the memory of and named after E Comp Wayne Williams past Most Excellent Grand Superintendent. This proved to be a most memorable and successful, and we were joined at the Festive board by Wayne's Widow Jean and family members.

I am looking forward to the two further consecration meetings

later this season, the Chapter of United Services and Sartoris Chapter.

It remains, as it has been for the last few years, still vital for us to continue our drive to increase our membership numbers, with our target of three thousand members not far away, but will demand some serious effort this season and possibly next, to ensure that we achieve it and continue to grow. In addition to multiple ceremonies and working hard at discover freemasonry events and open days, we must also deliver friendship, fun and purpose to all our members, so that each individual feels the unique experience of Freemasonry, and that it continues to be important to them and relevant within their lives, so that individuals value their membership and remain amongst our numbers.

As one member recently summed it all up, we continue: 'with a foot in the past, a purpose in the present and an eye to the future.'

I wish you all well, and may the Great Architect of the Universe care for and guide you all.

RW.Bro Mark Constant

**Provincial Grand Master
and Grand Superintendent**

February 2026



UNITED GRAND LODGE



SUPREME GRAND CHAPTER

2025 Provincial Carol Service

Peterborough Cathedral provided a stunning backdrop for the Provincial "Festival of Lessons and Carols" that marked a beautiful start to the festive season.

Around 1,000 people filled the Cathedral to enjoy an uplifting evening of narrated lessons and magnificent choral music from the Cathedral Choir, alongside the opportunity for everyone to join in with familiar Christmas carols. The atmosphere was one of warmth, reflection and shared celebration.



News From Provincial Grand Lodge

Remembrance Day & Poppy Appeal 2025



Changes to the Executive

The Provincial Grand Master RW.Bro Mark Constant is pleased to announce the appointment of W.Bro William Diggins PAGDC as Assistant Provincial Grand Master. W.Bro Diggins will take up his position at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting on Thursday 21st of May 2026.

W.Bro Diggins will be taking over from W.Bro Francis Margôt PSGD who has performed his duties with exceptional diligence and commitment during his two-

year term of office. W.Bro Margôt will remain in post until the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting. The Provincial Grand Master thanks W.Bro Margôt for his exceptional service to the Province, not just as Assistant Provincial Grand Master but also as Senior Group Officer for Huntingdon and a Provincial Senior Grand Warden and looks forward to continuing to work with him after May as a member of the past Provincial Executive.



Our New Provincial Secretariat

The following positions are designate from January 2026 with the appointments to be made in May at Provincial Grand Lodge.

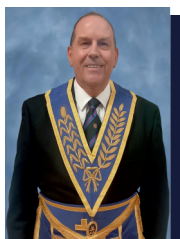
W.Bro Mark Charteress will be appointed as Provincial Grand Secretary and Provincial Grand Scribe E.

W.Bro Kevin Forman will stay on as Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary.

W.Bro Alex Robertson is joining as Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary

Ex Comp John Ford will be Assistant to the Royal Arch Executive.

W.Bro Ian O'Connor will be retiring, with thanks for his service.



The Provincial Grand Master is also pleased to appoint **W.Bro Rhys Perrin** to the Provincial Communications Team as "Events Liaison Officer".



Abington Chapter 25 in 25

Wow, Wow, Wow! Those were the words echoing around the room each time the twenty-six candidates were restored to light during an evening that will long be remembered in Northamptonshire & Huntingdonshire.

What began as an ambitious idea - to Exalt 25 candidates into the Royal Arch in a single meeting - was met with understandable curiosity and no small amount of caution. Abingdon Chapter who hosted the event, supported by the Provincial Team, dispelled any doubts with a ceremony that proved to be as precise as it was colourful, and as inspirational as it was historic.

Meticulous planning, dedicated rehearsals and a shared sense of purpose came together to produce a truly exceptional display of heartfelt and engaging Royal Arch ritual. In the end, 26 candidates experienced Exaltation together, each one clearly moved by the dignity and atmosphere of the occasion. Their excitement was matched only by that of the Companions who had gathered to witness such a rare and uplifting event. This remarkable evening is already being spoken of as one of the finest displays of Royal Arch ritual seen in the Province. The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent has expressed his pride in every Companion whose hard work, commitment and passion made this historic ceremony possible.

A number of the newly Exalted Companions will remain with Abingdon Chapter, while the others will now go on to join the Northampton Chapters of their choice — carrying with them a shared experience that will surely bind them together throughout their Royal Arch journey.



For Master Masons contemplating their next step toward completing their Masonic story, there has never been a better time. Speak with your Royal Arch Ambassador and discover how you too can explore the long-lost secrets of the Master Mason.



Lodges and Chapters of Instruction

Throughout the Province, brethren and companions benefit from a range of Lodges or Chapters of Instruction (LOI) whether delivered as a United LOI covering an agreed group or centre or on an individual Lodge or Chapter basis.

Each may be unique, but all will provide first class help and support to all members when practising their ritual and below are the views of W.Bro Mark Titterton, Preceptor of Kettering United LOI.

One of my great pleasures in masonry is working with newer Masons in instructing and practising their ritual as they progress towards the chair.

I'm sure many experienced brethren remember their early days in office and being somewhat bewildered by the ritual and learning their roles. A bit of a 'rabbit in the headlights' moment. I feel that Lodges of Instruction (LOI) assist in dimming those headlights a bit. Lodges of Instruction across the Province operate in many different formats, all provide great

assistance to their members. As the preceptor of the Kettering United LOI, it is a pleasure to instruct and assist members in learning their roles and responsibilities across all offices. We make every effort to not only instruct, but also to make it fun. The friendships that develop between brethren from all lodges often continue throughout their masonic career and can only help with engagement and retention. Witnessing the support and teamwork at the LOI evenings between members from various lodges is a real pleasure. Many LOIs have a festival meeting at the end of the season, which are special evenings for all attending.

Summer Instruction



Inevitably, brethren can drift apart during our summer break, with the potential of losing enthusiasm for masonry. In 2024 and 2025 we ran additional evenings to continue with the LOI work. Initially called Summer School, now known as Masonic Summer Instruction, the meetings have proved very popular with brethren from Kettering and other centres. Indeed, meetings were also held in Wellingborough and Rushden for brethren from those areas, again building friendships and bonds between brethren from multiple lodges.

Our meetings were generally held every other week from May to August, and on varying days to allow for



member's commitments. The camaraderie is superb, usually ending with a beer (or two) at a local hostelry and an 'end of term' party!

Find more about Summer Instruction in your centre.

Some quotes from brethren:

"...never fails to spark a light bulb moment; there's always something new to learn and I always leave a little wiser" Carl Myers

"...keeps the momentum going through the break ensuring you don't get rusty. A wonderful place to try another role, stretch yourself while meeting new brothers in a friendly and relaxed environment – no stuffiness allowed!" Simon Hales

"...a place to learn, practice and build friendships with other brothers all going through the same journey" Andi McGuire

Contact details are included within the online Masonic Year Book, via Provincial website for the following LOIs ;

- Northampton
- Wellingborough
- Corby
- Kettering
- Stamford
- Wellingborough Chapter of I



News From Provincial Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Membership Officer

Jonathon Hibbins

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Welcome to 2026 and a time to reflect...

As we enter the 4th year of our Membership Challenge we can look back on some amazing progress and incredible efforts to bring

reduction in overall membership across the Province in 2025.

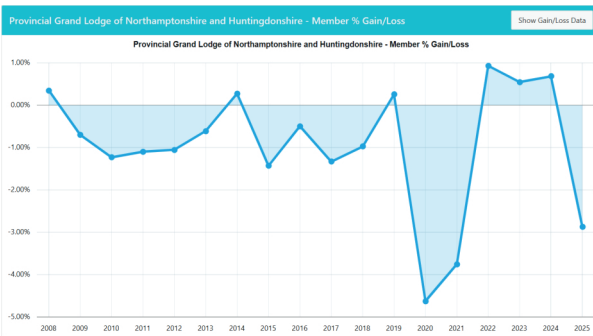
The 2024 Membership Challenge graph shows a record number of 173

including a 20% increase in resignations and very sadly a 27% rise in deaths - and we are suddenly faced with a huge swing from +20 to -82 members in 2025.

Our membership age profiles comprise +85 = 7%; +75 = 21%; +65 = 20%; +55 = 23%; +45 and below = 29%

The cost of living crisis continues biting harder than many anticipated and those retired on fixed pension/planned incomes are seeing significant financial strain on their resources with constantly rising costs. The mid age ranges are seeing the same financial strains coupled with ever increasing demands on their time; and finally the youngest element are under the most pressure we have ever seen with housing and living costs, whilst employment practices are perhaps the most challenging seen for many years. So challenging times we live in indeed.

However, our Fraternity has faced far greater challenges - I was privileged to listen to W.Bro William Diggins' lecture recently: "Freemasonry – a journey through hard times" – and his account of wartime masonic persecution and



the joy of Freemasonry to the wider community. We continue to see positive Discover Freemasonry initiatives being championed by many Centres and Lodges with great success in attracting new members for those with strong activity plans.

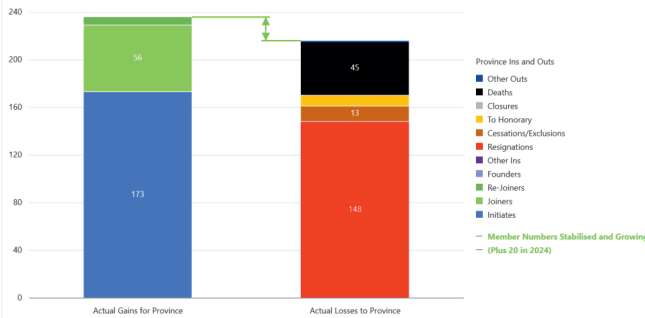
Many Lodges have busy calendars of ceremonies built on the back of their hard work and enthusiasm. However, facts must be faced that the latest data shows a concerning downturn with 2.8%

initiations and a total gain of 236 members. We then factor losses - 148 resignations, 45 deaths & 23 others - this total reduced to a positive gain of only 20 members. Wonderful to have positive growth, but frustrating to see the hard work eroded through these losses.

Now we look at the 2025 Membership Challenge graph and see a 16% reduction to 198 gains with 31 fewer initiations. Balance this with 281 losses

Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire - Membership Challenge

Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire - Membership Challenge (Based on 2024 Figures)



stoicism in rebuilding our fraternity was inspiring. It shows us that our future is in our hands. Our shared values of Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Service have never been more important... And these values and our determination to succeed are our greatest strength. Our mix of ages brings

remember. To have fun in our diversity and honour the traditions we hold so dear while creating a future worthy of our valued predecessors. So let us in 2026 renew our determination to face these challenges through planning membership initiatives – both for new and existing members to maintain their enthusiasm, but also in getting out into our

events, holding centre open days to open our doors to the public and to innovate to succeed – there is no magic answer to attracting and engaging members, but co-ordinated and consistent action and sharing successes to help others is key - most importantly to have FUN in every moment so that we can truly enjoy this wonderful fraternity for many years to come.

It has been a true privilege to serve our Province as PGMO and as I stand down in May I ask you all to welcome and support my successor, W.Bro Simon Biggs, and I wish him and



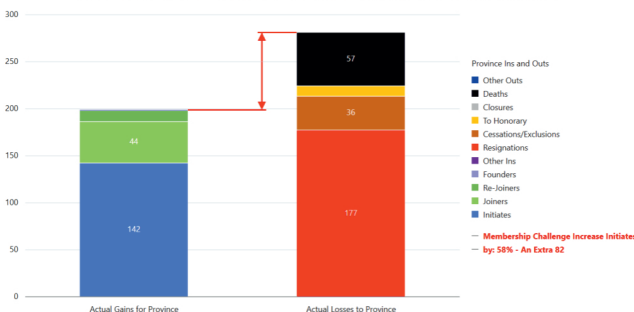
you all every success moving forward – we look forward to seeing many of you at various centre workshops in the coming months to kick start your Attraction planning – please do contact me to arrange a meeting in your centre ASAP.

W.Bro Jonathon Hibbins,
Provincial Grand Membership Officer



Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire - Membership Challenge

Provincial Grand Lodge of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire - Membership Challenge (Based on 2025 Figures)



wisdom, strength, and vitality to our organisation and the most special of friendships to enjoy and

communities – Lodges coming together to showcase Freemasonry in their towns at public events, with open social

News From Provincial Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Mick Warren

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We begin our report with the amazing news that Buckby Castle Masonic Lodge raised £5,000 for Northamptonshire Domestic Abuse Service (NDAS), and that figure includes support from Province.



NDAS began under the name of Northampton Women's Aid in 1976. Originally staffed by volunteers, the organisation has changed a great deal since then but has continued to dedicate itself to helping and supporting the victims of domestic abuse, campaigning and raising awareness of domestic abuse, and keeping victims and their children safe in Northamptonshire for nearly 50 years.

In addition to providing safe accommodation, they support victims and their children in the community through outreach support, via their advice line and with a range of group work open to clients in their accommodation

and living in the community. In 2024 alone, they supported over 100 families in refuge, answered more than 1,000 calls on their advice line, and provided critical support to hundreds of individuals through group work and outreach – and our money will help them continue this vital work.

Also, W Bro Allen Betts of the Town and Country Lodge raised £400 by selling cannula plants. He presented a cheque for £400



to the Northampton Young Carers team in Wellingborough. Allen is pictured along with W.Bro Mick Warren.

Finally, great news that The Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF) has awarded a £60,000 grant to Peterborough Women's Aid

in order to fund The E-scape Project, which has two services attached to it. The first is the Healing Together Programme for primary school age children. It lasts 6 weeks and was put together by clinical and trauma informed experts. Each child is allocated an Early Intervention Workers and learn about how their body and brain work together, their feelings, senses and strategies they can use to help their body and brain feel safe. The second is the DAY Programme delivered in secondary schools and Sixth Forms. This is a multimedia programme that uses short films, advertisements, and chart music to raise awareness and provide education about domestic abuse and exploitation. The charity deliver this one to one where appropriate or through assemblies and PSHE sessions. The majority of referrals come through the designated safeguarding lead in schools. The charity explain that they recently widened the reach of the DAY Programme sessions to boys who attend Peterborough United Football Schools and at 'The House' - a project supporting care leavers.

Great news across the Province!

W.Bro Mick Warren
Provincial Grand Charity Steward



Peterborough Women's Aid Charity CEO Amanda Geraghty meeting with W.Bro Neil Handley, Senior Group Officer, Peterborough, and pictured delivering the DAY Programme in a Secondary School



Provincial Grand Mentor

Alex Thomson

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The Path to Resignations

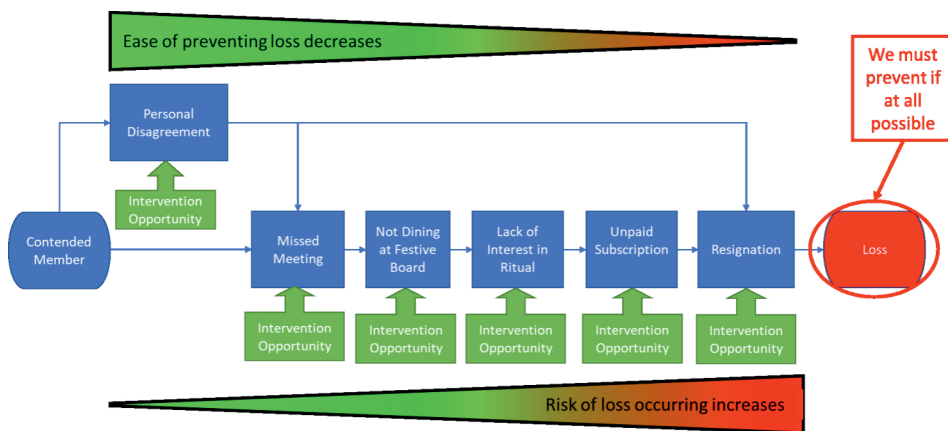
Brethren all, our work in terms of mentoring is to assure that our Brethren are engaged and enjoy their Freemasonry, for the most part we are successful. However, it is the case, that we are, from time to time, unsuccessful and this results in a resignation. It

Clearly this impacts our ability to hit next step 3000.

With the launch of Building Together earlier this year, the Members' Pathway foundations were built upon and certain modifications made to how we look after our members. A key modification was the migration of the

resignation.

Consider a simple process from which a happy and contender Brother may go through before they resign and are lost to the Unit. The figure below shows some of the indicating factors which I explored in the previous article, there could, of course be many more.



is almost never the case that the resignation is wholly unexpected, this MUST be a concern to us all. This is important because as of the time of writing in mid-December 2025, we had lost 152 Brethren to resignation. For context we lost 137 Brethren to resignation in the same period in 2024.

responsibility for managing the risk of resignations within our Units to the role of Lodge Mentor. Indeed I touched on this in my previous article for Password and I make no apology for reintroducing it in this edition. However, I thought it might worthwhile considering the possible steps to losing a Brother to

The purpose of the figure is not to cover all possible causes rather it is to show the importance of early intervention.

W.Bro Alex
Thomson
Provincial
Grand
Mentor



News From Provincial Grand Lodge

Provincial Grand Almoner

Greg Warman

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A core tenet of Freemasonry is looking after others and our Almoners throughout the world strive to deliver care and support to those in need. In truth, all brethren are Almoners and the following is a wonderful example of how universal that care can be for members and families wherever they may be dispersed.

Bro Paul England, in the middle of the picture, a member of St Peter's Lodge No 442 embarked on a cruise in Canada with his wife Denise on 25th September 2025.



On 1st October, Lodge secretary W.Bro Mick Smith received a phone call from Paul's daughter Debbie, who was distressed and stated her father had been airlifted from his cruise and was now in Clare's Mercy Hospital, St John's, Newfoundland. He was seriously ill and her mother, Denise had been taken to the Holiday Inn, St John's. Debbie asked for help as Denise was finding the situation difficult, with many phone calls from afar and the cost prohibitive.

Mick researched and emailed the Grand Lodge of Newfoundland and Labrador, receiving from Bro Tucker, SW at St John's Lodge No1 a reply that he in turn had involved the lodge Almoner, MWBro Don Vokey, who was also the Immediate Past Grand Master, and who now intended to visit Bro Paul the next day. However, Paul had by now been moved to another hospital, but RW.Bro Daniel Crocker, the Grand Secretary, picked up the trail and on 3rd October, the wives of local Canadian masons became involved by helping to convey Denise from her hotel to the hospital on a daily basis. This continued for many days and in addition, took Denise for afternoon teas and other support.

By 8th October, Paul's condition had deteriorated and he was now unconscious and intubated. There had been hope of flying Paul home in the immediate future, but this was dashed as he underwent two heart operations. On 30th October, serious concern was expressed that Paul by now was on 'end of life' care and on 4th November, Bro Paul sadly passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

Overall, Denise had been contacted by a local mason on each of the thirty-four days that Paul was in hospital, and on many days, driven to hospital and supported by their wives. Denise and Debbie arrived home on 11th November.

Bro Paul England PPJGD was initiated into St Peter's Lodge in 1995 and despite suffering with health problems for some years, including a prosthetic leg, Paul was an excellent lodge Almoner for St Peter's from 2016 to the time of his death. In 2020, he was honoured to receive a British Citizen Award (BCA) for his exceptional endeavour and charity work that positively impacts communities.

Footnote

W.Bro Mick Smith, on behalf of St Peter's Lodge has commissioned a set of three oak turned gavels and plates in a presentation chest as a gift to St John's Lodge No1 in appreciation of their efforts and support for Paul and his family. The gavels include engraved tributes to Bro Paul, with the presentation box carrying a separate tribute to St John's. Plans are now being finalised for Mick and Alan Salt (IPM), together with partners Jackie and Sally and Chaplain Tony Rogers all to travel to Canada on 6th June 2026 and make the presentation in person to MW.Bro Don Vokey.



W.Bro Greg Warman
Provincial Grand Almoner

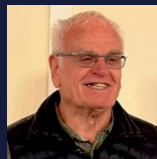
Learning and Development

Provincial Grand Learning & Development Officer

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The Solomon Diploma

The Provincial Grand Mentor, WBro Alex Thomson,

was highly pleased to be able to present WBro Mark Dutton, ProvSGD, with a Solomon Diploma this week, February 15th 2026.

themselves just what a fantastic resource it is. It's not just for new Masons"

Solomon can be found on the Provincial Website > Member Info > Education > Solomon OR

Membership/Mentoring > Mentoring > Useful Link > Solomon

If you require more assistance, contact your Lodge Mentoring Co-Ordinator.

The Solomon Diploma is awarded only to those diligent Brethren who have successfully completed all four Welcome modules on Solomon, i.e. Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason and Companion. The four stages of Pure Antient Masonry.

Bro Mark is not the first in the Province to achieve this coveted award, but is one of less than a handful who have acquired the full set. He said, "I would urge everyone to log into Solomon and find out for



Mark Dutton, Alex Thomson, Jon Channon, Francis Margôt APMG

RSLor WM Stuart Morgan writes: "The 2026 Richard Sandbach Lodge of Research keynote event will take place on **Monday, 16th March 2026** at 6pm at Sheaf Close in Northampton. This year the Lodge is honoured by the presence of the Most Excellent Second Grand Principal Sir David Wootton, for an insightful and thought-provoking presentation entitled: **'The Third Pillar Review: why it's important and how we can do it better'**."

This meeting is a unique opportunity to learn more about how the UGLE is working to increase our profile and impact on serving others. It will appeal to anyone curious about Freemasonry's approach to cementing our reputation as a force for good in society at large.



Use the following link to book onto this special event
<https://bit.ly/49TXrtA> or scan the QR code above

Third Pillar Review

"Join us on 16th March at Richard Sandbach Lodge as Sir David Wootton explores Freemasonry's Third Pillar — inspiring meaningful charity, community action, and a stronger future for our Craft."



Sir David Wootton

Richard Sandbach Lodge
of Research 9600



Community Engagement Lead

John Fergusson

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Community Engagement – 2025 Reflections

In 2025, Community Engagement across the Province continued to grow in both scale and impact, clearly demonstrating the positive effect that Freemasonry has within our communities. During 2025, collectively, we



supported our communities in a range of different way. Northampton and Peterborough hosted blood donation sessions with the National Blood Transfusion Service, helping to provide vital capacity for lifesaving donations. Our outstanding Province wide fundraising efforts raised £175,000 for the proposed Maggie's Centre at Addenbrooke's, as well as additional donations for the Northampton centre. Additionally, we were able to support the Northampton



General Hospital with a £55,000 donation for their HiFU integrated service for treatment of prostate cancer.

Our members volunteered their time and energy in many ways from supporting The Royal British Legion's annual Poppy campaign which generated a tremendous £35,000 for the appeal. serving more than 18,500 meals through Three Pillars Feeding the Homeless, supporting Veterans Community Network events, hosting Open Days, or distributing over 10,000 Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) bears.

Our centres have opened their doors not only to members, but increasingly to the wider public, strengthening relationships and showcasing Freemasonry as an active and caring presence in their communities.

One of the insights from 2025 is the power of personal connection. Many projects began with a single conversation

or an individual member's connection to a local cause. These conversations (and relationships) continue to form the foundation of meaningful and lasting community partnerships.

In 2026, our aim is to build on this foundation. Community Engagement is not about isolated events, but about long term continued involvement, visibility and collaboration within our towns and villages. Every Lodge, centre and member has an opportunity (should they wish to do so) to play a part whether



through volunteering, partnership building, or simply sharing the impact of our efforts.

Together, we can ensure Freemasonry continues to be recognised as a positive force for good and a thriving organisation rooted firmly in its communities

Your Community is Our Community.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,

John Fergusson

Community Engagement Lead



Understanding Neurodiversity and Support



Neurodiversity is an umbrella term for natural brain variations, with common types including Autism, ADHD, Dyslexia, Dyspraxia and Tourette's syndrome, all affecting how people process information, communicate, and learn. Neurodiverse individuals often demonstrate a range of different strengths, as well as facing a number of challenges. It is common to experience more than one neurodiversity such as ADHD alongside Autism.

In this edition of Password, WBro Greg Bagniuk, Deputy Provincial Grand Director of



Ceremonies has reached out to brothers who live with the day-to-day challenges of neurodiversity, and the impact that this

has had on their experience of learning ritual. **W.Bro Shaun Warren, Membership Officer of Sartoris Lodge** has offered his support to anyone experiencing similar difficulties to his own. He is very candid about his reasons for joining masonry, the challenges he has faced, and the positive impact that masonry has had in his life. The questions he was asked, and his responses, are shown below.

Can you tell me what Neurodiverse conditions you have, and how you first became aware of them.

I was diagnosed when I was around 10 years old with, "Severe ADHD and learning difficulties" I first started to notice symptoms from my diagnosis at an early age. I would frequently hit my head to make myself cry as I was unable to regulate my emotions. Often during my classes I would get into trouble for misbehaviour,

lack of focus and general inability to sit still, every sound and every movement outside of my line of sight I would need to see what the source was without even thinking I'd just react.

What impact did you being neurodiverse have on your decision to become a Mason.

Having had no connections to freemasonry and because of my neurodiversity, I was extremely isolated from friends and family. The decision to join freemasonry stemmed from this, and the longing to find friendships and a social group from which I could grow.

What challenges, or opportunities, has being neurodiverse presented during your time in Masonry.

I would honestly say the biggest challenges I have faced would be my constant need to do right by others whether that is my performance during ritual or my punctuality when attending practices and events. This also includes procrastination when practicing ritual at home due to my ADHD procrastination is a nightmare and the bane to my existence.

However the opportunities in masonry that have been provided to me through the support from my Lodge have been amazing in which the Brethren are always there to provide support whether that's through a phone call or meeting up to go through some ritual in person, this in turn provides me a confidence boost when I feel low and have been avoiding everything. I would also state that the opportunities to meet new people was an amazing surprise to me I have met through the light blues and visiting other lodges some amazing brothers and have made some very close friendships and bonds and I have Freemasonry to thank for this!

What methods do you use to help you learn ritual?

The go to methods that I use due to my ADHD is I like to run through it with other brothers whether that is a

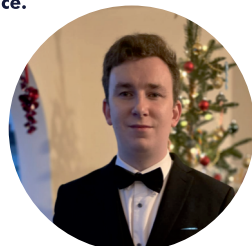
1 on 1 or in a group, the brethren help keep me focused and it actually helps me pick ritual up really quickly. However, if that option is not available, I use reminders and deadlines that I must stick by to keep me focused and on target when an upcoming meeting is due, and I have a piece of work to remember.

There are a range of learning styles which may support neurodivergent individuals:

- Visual learners grasp concepts best with diagrams, charts, and videos.
- Auditory learners learn most effectively through discussions, lectures, and audio materials.
- Kinaesthetic learners benefit from hands-on activities and movement-based tasks.
- Non-linear learners learn at their own pace and in the order that best suits their interests and understanding.

For those of you interested in finding out more about this subject, the attached link will take you to a newly created page on the Provincial Website which the Province of East Kent created and has proved successful for brethren looking for support.

Keep an eye out on forthcoming second risings for dates of summer workshops which W.Bro Greg will be hosting around the province.



W.Bro Shaun Warren

News From The Light Blues

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WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING?

LOCAL LIGHT BLUE CLUB EVENTS

Across the Province, Light Blue Clubs continue to prove that the simplest gatherings often create the strongest bonds. Roman and Viking Pint Nights bring Brethren together in relaxed surroundings, where conversation flows as easily as the ale. The festive Corby Christmas Lunch has become a highlight of the calendar, drawing an enthusiastic crowd for good food, good humour, and genuine seasonal cheer. And in Wellingborough and Rushden, the regular pizza nights offer a dependable space to chat, catch up, and enjoy the easy companionship that sits at the heart of our Craft. Each event has been extremely well attended, reflecting the appetite among our Light Blues for connection, laughter, and shared experience.

Join today and watch your masonic circle grow.



Our Monthly Mooches have quickly become a favourite fixture, to enjoy time together in the fresh air. September saw us mooching around Rushden Lakes, taking in the water views. October brought a gentle ramble through Peterborough's Central Park, while November offered a crisp amble around Brixworth's scenic paths. We rounded off the year with a December stroll through Wicksteed, complete with dogs, children and partners, adding to the cheerful atmosphere. These relaxed outings continue to show that fellowship thrives just as well on a footpath as it does in a lodge room.

5POF - CHRISTMAS

What a cracking night at St Wilfrid's Lodge. We welcomed Bro Rory Hannan into the Craft with a superb initiation - and with the NHNYMC Committee turning up en masse, he barely had time to sit down before they signed him up as a Light Blue too. Efficiency at its finest.

The Lodge was heaving with Light Blues, creating a brilliant mix of noise, warmth and good-natured enthusiasm that showed Freemasonry at its best. It's nights like this that remind us just how lively our LB community really is.

Huge thanks to St Wilfrid's Lodge for the hospitality. We're looking forward to seeing Bro Rory at future events - and no doubt at plenty of 5POF evenings as he settles in.



This year's Christmas Appeal once again showed how brilliantly the Brethren rally together when it matters. In true Masonic — and festive — spirit, support poured in for local food banks, Palmer Court, and of course the vital work of helping the homeless through 3 Pillars. It was a reminder that while we may enjoy the mince pies, it's the generosity and unity of our members that really make the season shine.

CHRISTMAS COLLECTION

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PASSWORD

SPRING 2026 •

NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

COMPETITION TIME!!!

We're opening the floor to the families of NHNYMC members - it's time to help us name our brand-new mascot. Whether you go clever, or classic, we want to hear your ideas.

How to enter:

Send your suggested name to dfordacupuncture@icloud.com. The winning name will be revealed at the AGM in March, so get those creative gears turning -glory (and bragging rights) await.



5POF - BURNS NIGHT SPECIAL



A fantastic fifty-two Light Blues descended on Thistle & Rose for their Annual Burns Night, and what an evening it turned out to be. We were treated to an excellent and heartfelt initiation ceremony for Bro Kevin, delivered with all the dignity and warmth the occasion deserved. The haggis was duly paraded, addressed, and enthusiastically toasted — a moment that never fails to raise both glasses and smiles. Adding to the magic, we enjoyed a superb musical interlude from the SymBolics, whose performance lifted the room even higher. The food, as ever, was spot-on, but it was the fun, humour, and unmistakable fellowship that truly made the night. If ever there was an example of the Light Blues at their very best, this was it.

LBS ON TOUR - LONDON

The Masonic Walk was a standout success, with just shy of fifty enthusiastic walkers joining us for an engaging tour through London's rich Masonic landscape. From historic streets and hidden architectural gems to iconic landmarks such as the Courts of Criminal Justice and the majestic St Paul's Cathedral, the walk brought to life the stories, symbolism, and quirky tales woven into the fabric of the City. It was a day of fellowship, fun, curiosity, a beer or two, and plenty of good humour — especially when we reached that stop where someone inevitably asks: Were the rumours about the Kray twins being Freemasons true? Well... you'll just have to join us on the next walk to hear the full story



This year's lecture competition was a real treat. W.Bro Dr Albin Wallace took first place with a brilliant dive into Medieval Mystery Plays — proving once and for all that the Middle Ages can still draw a crowd. Hot on his heels was W.Bro Ben Sheard, whose exploration of the history and meaning of the tracing board came a very close second. Two excellent talks, separated by the narrowest of margins, and a great reminder of the talent we have within our Province.

NEW FOR 2026

There's plenty more on the horizon, so stay tuned for dates and details. Football golf will be making an appearance and we're lining up a Big Breakfast at a local venue with strong provincial connection. Lots to look forward to as the year unfolds.



Check out
Facebook for all
our upcoming
events

JOIN TODAY



A Chapter Consecrated in Honour and Memory

A truly historic occasion took place at Sheaf Close on 23rd January 2026 with the Consecration of a new Royal Arch Chapter within the Province — the first such Consecration in 24 years. The Chapter, named The Wayne Williams Chapter of Provincial Grand Stewards, was created in loving memory of Excellent Companion Wayne Williams, Past Grand Superintendent, whose leadership, warmth and dedication left an enduring legacy across the Province.



The Charter, issued by Supreme Grand Chapter, was formally read by the Provincial Scribe Ezra, Excellent Companion John Ford, marking the official establishment of the Chapter and underscoring the significance of the moment within Royal Arch Masonry in our Province.

Following the Consecration, Companions and distinguished guests gathered for a formal dinner, at which the Williams family were Guests of Honour. The occasion provided an opportunity not only

to celebrate the creation of the Chapter, but also to remember Wayne Williams as a husband, father, friend and Mason.

During the dinner, the Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion Mark Constant, addressed those present with a heartfelt and personal speech, recalling his own memories of time spent with Wayne and reflecting on the qualities that made him such a respected and much-loved figure. In a particularly touching moment, Excellent Companion Mark Constant presented Mrs Jean Williams with a beautiful bouquet of flowers on behalf of the Province, a gesture warmly received and met with heartfelt applause.



News From Provincial Grand Lodge

Palmer Court

The Masonic Housing Association (MHA) has just celebrated its 50th birthday having been established in 1975 and offers sheltered accommodation which is primarily for older people who wish to continue independent living. The MHA run 5 sheltered housing schemes across England.



One of MHA's homes, Palmer Court, is located in Wellingborough. Palmer Court consists of 35 self-contained one-bedroom flats across two buildings; the original building which was built in 1984 and the more recently completed wing in 2014. A number of the flats are suitable for couples, offering residents a private space while still benefiting from shared facilities and community support. Many of the current residents are not Freemasons (or do not have a connection to Freemasonry) and we are delighted that so many in our local community are able to live at Palmer Court and enjoy its extensive facilities.

The Palmer Court House Committee is made up of many

Freemasons who generously give up their time and offer their experience to help with the running of the home. Social life at Palmer Court is active and engaging. There are regular events from bingo and coffee mornings to themed garden parties and seasonal celebrations which are organised by the residents themselves with support from staff as well as many of our members.



Devonshire Court

For over 200 years, **The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI)** has delivered the very highest quality residential care, nursing support, and dementia care services. Its network of 15 care homes support over 1,000 older people and has residents from all backgrounds, which while many residents are Freemasons and their families, these homes also offer places to the wider community in which they are located.

As a Province, our Lodges and members offer their

support to our local home, Devonshire Court either in the form of their time or through donations which are used to provide residents for extras such as day trips and similar.

Devonshire Court in Oadby, offers residential and dementia care for up to 69 people who are either permanent residents or staying at the home for a short respite break.

The home has been rated Outstanding by the Care Quality Commission (CQC) for caring, responsiveness, and leadership. This recognition highlights RMBI's commitment to high standards of care, compassionate support, and residents' wellbeing.

It is a source of great satisfaction that residents in our communities have the opportunity to access such high-quality residential care.



The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Care Company ("RMBI Care Co") announced on the 25th February 2026 that, following a thorough review, it has reached a decision to sell its portfolio of 15 care homes (the "Homes") it operates across England and Wales and to exit its operations in the residential care sector. Although the company is being sold, it is still available to members and we still hope friends will continue to support the homes as it will be some time before it changes hands.

News From Around The Province

Kettering & Thrapston

Local Communication Officer

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On 22 October 2025, Trinity Lodge No.

9165 marked its ruby anniversary with a memorable meeting in Kettering. Consecrated on 12 October 1985 for Brethren from Rothwell and Desborough, the Lodge was founded under the guidance of RW.Bro Richard Sandbach, Provincial Grand Master. The first Worshipful Master, W.Bro Norman Smith, was installed in the Chair of King Solomon by his brother, W.Bro Brian Smith, Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

Of the 28 founding members, four survive: W.Bros Bryan Rowney, John Harvey and Malcolm Smith, who remain active in Trinity and Bro Norman Austin, now affiliated with a Market Harborough Lodge.

The evening was presided over by WM W.Bro Graham Parr and featured W.Bro Kevin Williams reading excerpts from the Consecration minutes, with the Worshipful Master recalling notable 1985 events. Though a planned Initiation was postponed, an exemplary demonstration was performed. W.Bro John Harvey later proceeded to deliver an engaging history of the Lodge. The Festive Board recreated the 1985 menu: Prawn Cocktail, Braised Steak and Gateau. Toasts honoured the founders, with WBros Rowney and Harvey present.



Cytringan Lodge enjoyed an excellent Christmas event on 13 December, bringing together Brethren of all ages, with family and friends, for an evening full of festive activity and good humour. The celebrations featured Christmas carols and seasonal poems, alongside a lively programme of games including rolling for whisky, card games and an entertaining Party Hedgehog competition. The raffle was particularly well supported, with brethren donating a wide range of prizes. Generous contributions helped raise over £650 for Lodge charity funds, while sausage rolls and mince pies ensured everyone was well refreshed throughout the celebrations.



Keeping Traditions Alive: The Value of Ladies' Nights

Ladies' Nights remain one of the most enjoyable and valuable traditions in Freemasonry. They provide a great night out while offering an ideal opportunity to welcome non-Masons and introduce potential candidates to the warmth and sociability of lodge life.

Two recent events highlighted this perfectly. At the Lodge of Perseverance No. 455, W.Bro David Meeks, was joined by his daughter, who delivered a memorable and heartfelt response to the

Ladies' Toast. Another evening, held jointly by St Crispin and Trinity Lodges, saw W.Bros Sam Haigh and Graham Parr delight guests with surprise singing waiters performing rousing Italian songs, filling the room with laughter and fun, followed up by an Excellent Jazz Trio.

Events like these strengthen bonds, welcome new faces and remind us why such traditions are well worth preserving.

Full details of all of these stories can be found on the [Provincial Website](#)

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PASSWORD

SPRING 2026

• NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF NORTHAMPTONSHIRE

Corby, Oundle

Local Communication Officer

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The Corby Masonic Complex

has once again demonstrated its commitment to growth and fraternity, with several exciting developments taking place this season.

Expansion of Facilities

The management team is proud to announce the addition of a second lodge room within the complex. This new space provides further opportunities for rehearsal and ritual, ensuring that brethren have the facilities they need to continue their work in comfort and tradition. The expansion reflects the team's dedication to securing the future of Freemasonry in Corby.



The Light Blue Club has enjoyed renewed energy, with recent activities designed to bring brethren, families, and friends together. Highlights have included a local boxing event and a convivial Sunday carvery lunch at the Stamford complex. These gatherings underline the Club's mission to make Freemasonry in Corby more than ritual alone, fostering fellowship and enjoyment across the community.



The brethren of Corby are not content to sit still. A thriving dancing club has been established, welcoming members, families, and friends. This initiative adds yet another dimension to the social life of the complex, encouraging participation and enjoyment across generations.



Charitable giving remains central to the ethos of Corby Freemasonry. Over recent years, the complex has proudly supported the local foodbank appeal, particularly during the Christmas season. This year, donations are once again building steadily, a testament to the generosity and compassion of the brethren.



News From Around The Province

**Huntingdon,
Ramsey,
St Ives,
St Neots,
Kimbolton**

Local Communication Officer

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Companions from St Ivo and Socrates travelled to see Bro Ian Stewart Exalted into Euston Chapter. He later received a Craft/Royal Arch pin from MEGS, Mark Constant, denoting the harmonisation of the Craft and Royal Arch within the Province. Said Comp Ian, "I'm looking forward to visiting other Chapters soon."

Bro John Clarke lost for words. For once, maybe just this once, the articulate and quick-witted Senior Group Officer, John Clarke, was stunned into silence when the PGM RWB Bro Mark Constant announced a field appointment to Past Provincial Grand Steward and presented him with a Provincial Grand Stewards red apron on the 40th anniversary of his Initiation



Group Membership Officer Phil Miles proves his tenacity in welcoming Bro Phil Harty into Ailwyn Lodge. Bro Harty first enquired in 2020 but wasn't ready until this year. Bro Harty noted, "If Phil hadn't kept in touch over the years, I might not have pursued the enquiry. I'm so glad he did."



Hinchingbrooke Lodges' first 'second-time' WM, Albert Bareham, made history when he performed the Lodge's first 'double -first' with Bros Matt White and Ryan Wooley. This milestone meeting was a positive contribution, with another planned, to support the PGM's Next Step 3000.

MCF Grand Patron. Euston Lodge was recognised as only the 17th Grand Patron at the MCF AGM and honoured with inclusion on the display in Lodge Room 16 at UGLE HQ. The award is a testament to the fundraising efforts, over £40,000, by the Lodge under Charity Steward, W Bro Bob Catchpole. (pictured WM Chris Elt)



Peterborough

Local Communication Officer

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The United Grand Lodge of England's official podcast came to Peterborough in September, to catch up with Three Pillars Feeding The Homeless Charity founder, Ged Dempsey and see the feed in action.

On Tuesday 23rd December 2025,

W.Bros Bill Marshall and Roy Stockbridge of Fitzwilliam Lodge presented a cheque for £3,000 to Little Miracles in Peterborough.



Thomas Deacon Lodge carried out a triple initiation

on Wednesday 4th February. The WM Michael Marjoram was assisting by the official visitor, W. Bro Mick Warren, along with W. Bro David Burton. The Initiates were given the brand Initiate Packs to begin their journey in The Craft.



At the Christmas meeting of Petriburg Lodge on 12th December 2025, Mr David Smart and Mr Daniel Smart a father and son were initiated into the lodge in a Double Ceremony.

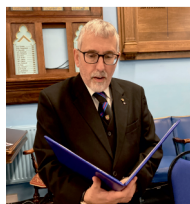
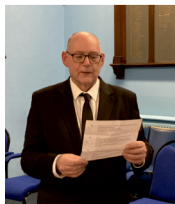
A nice turn out of 60+ members and their guests including the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro Mark Constant, saw the lodge conduct a lovely ceremony that was both individual and combined in all relevant aspects of the ceremony. We all know how emotional and impressionable a Father and Son combination is in any ceremonial work and the Christmas Lodge and Festive board lived up to that billing.

The Fitzwilliam Lodge meeting in

January 2026 saw an explanation of the 1st degree, read by the Officers of the Lodge, Senior and Junior Brethren. Taking it's inspiration from Solomon, the night also included an explanation of The Tracing Board. It proved very successful and the Lodge look to repeat it next season.

AND HUNTINGDONSHIRE

WWW.NORTHANTS-HUNTSMASONS.ORG.UK



PASSWORD **27**

News From Around The Province

Northampton

Local Communication Officer

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On Monday 12th January 2026, it was the turn of Dr Field Lodge to invite members of its mother lodge, Eleanor Cross Lodge to their annual exchange visit. This exchange visit has taken place every year, in January, for as long as any member of either lodge can remember and may even date back to 1968, the year after Dr Field Lodge's consecration.

Each Lodge takes it in turn to host. This has ensured close ties between the lodges over the years and the exchange visit has been the

introduction to visiting for many junior brethren and the beginning of many lifetime friendships. The invite is often immediately reciprocated, and this year was no exception, with a number of Dr Field brethren attending Eleanor Cross Lodge's Boar's Head meeting later that week.

As always the visiting brethren received a warm welcome and were welcomed by Worshipful Master W.Bro Rob Sneddon. They

were then treated to a high quality raising ceremony for Bro Jack Foster, delivered by a past masters' team of W.Bro Scott Austin, W.Bro Kevin Foreman and W.Bro Paul Sparks, in the chair, with W.Bro Justin "Axel" Foley as Senior Deacon.

Following a group photo of members from both lodges the brethren proceeded to a very convivial festive board enjoyed by all.

On Saturday 17 January the Leather on Willow Lodge held its first installation meeting following its consecration in 2024. Its first master, WBro Mark Hunt, installed Bro Matt Sturgess into the chair of King Solomon in an assured manner.

The official representative of the Provincial Grand Master, WBro John Fergusson, completed a rare double, as it is not often that the same brother gives the address to the Master on his installation, as also delivered the charge after initiation to him, which WBro Fergusson did, as a regular visitor to Eleanor Cross Lodge, WBro Sturgess' mother lodge, which both he and the Worshipful Master clearly remembered. WBro Sturgess confidently appointed and invested his new team of officers.

As well as being presented with a past master's jewel, WBro Hunt was presented with an engraved whisky decanter by the Senior Warden, WBro Tim Mills, in recognition of all

his work in conceiving and setting up the Lodge.

There were a number of visitors from other cricketing lodges, including Essex and Buckinghamshire. The latter included the recently retired APMG for Buckinghamshire, WBro John King, from Lily Lodge of Richmond, who invited members to attend their next meeting, as the Association of Cricket Lodges looks to create strong ties between the various cricket lodges, not only by mutual

visiting, but by inter lodge cricket matches, social events and attending T20s.

If any brother is interested in cricket then Leather on Willow Lodge is looking for joining members and if any brother knows any non masons who are cricketers or cricket fans who would be suitable candidates then please let the Lodge know.



Northampton

Local Communication Officer

Tim Mills

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A very special event took place on Saturday 20th September 2025 at Sheaf Close, when Cervisia Lodge held a meeting to receive The Provincial Deputy Grand Master, VW Bro Tim Almond, together with members of the Banner Dedication team.

The Provincial Grand Master very kindly agreed to allow us to hold our banner dedication as a white table event with the bonus of allowing non-masons into the temple to witness the actual Banner Dedication.

The banner dedication was attended by 103 Brethren and guests in the Lodge room, which included Bro Rachel Davison

The Dedication Ceremony of the new Cervisia Lodge Banner was then conducted by the Provincial team in a wonderful manner, with the DPGM as the dedicating officer and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies WBro

Roger Blason conducting proceedings.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain WBro Aaron Day acted as the dedicating chaplain and gave an excellent oration. (with adverts)!

After the ceremony the guests were invited to the festive board where a truly memorable event ensued, Members of Cervisia making sure that the brethren and guest's glasses, were always charged, with ALE of course, entertainment was kindly provided by WBro Reuben Freeman.

A truly memorable day was had by all, and what made it even more special was that Bro Michael Writon signed the whole ceremony and toasts at the festive board for several hearing-impaired people that attended.



The Installation meeting of St Johns Lodge

took place at Sheaf Close on Monday 20th October, the Lodge was honoured to receive The Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Mark Constant accompanied by WBro Ian Wilson PDGDC. Wbro Reuben Freeman then Installed Bro Mario Antoniou in the chair of King Solomon.

The festive board followed and did not disappoint, The Provincial Grand Master on his reply introduced to the Lodge WBro Simon Walmsley who is the RCG6 representative for the University Scheme. WBro Walmsley then gave a resume on all things University Scheme which was well received by the brethren.



News From Around The Province

Wellingborough & Rushden

Local Communication Officer

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Next Step 3000

The Wellingborough and Rushden Lodges have been very active throughout the summer. Lodge Membership Officers have been working both individually and collaboratively to raise the profile of Freemasonry locally and attract new members. In Wellingborough, under the guidance and leadership of W Bro John Marlow, the team provided excellent support to the International Waendle Walk that is held annually in and around the area. In addition, the Discover Freemasonry gazebo was clearly visible during Armed Forces Day. These two events, and other activities were used to promote the open day that was held at the Masonic Hall in Wellingborough in September. The Local lodges were all well represented along with the Light Blues, Palmer Court, Women's Freemasonry, the MCF and several other local organisations that receive support from local masons both directly and indirectly. Over a dozen new contacts were made from interested parties.

Following the Wellingborough Open Day in September, Whytehall Lodge 8400 hosted an information evening offering those interested a greater insight into Freemasonry in general. The APGM, WBro Dale Gilbert and W Bro John Ferguson gave short presentations and welcomed contributions for several brethren. Ladies were also encouraged to attend and Women's Freemasonry gained 2 new potential candidates.



The Webb Ellis Lodge commissioned an advertising board on the pitch side at The Old Scouts rugby club. The aim of the initiative is to attract younger men who are currently playing, or generally interested in rugby, whilst on familiar territory. The banner utilises a QR code that links to a website and an email address to make contact to a special interest lodge.

Masters of The House: Entertainment was provided by sitting masters of Wellingborough Lodges. Held on February 21st. It was a very successful evening and a report will follow.

Forthcoming Events:
Discover Freemasonry – Pitch secured at Pistons and Props (Sywell) – September 26th/27th



Stamford

Local Communication Officer

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The December 2025

meeting of The Lodge of Merit saw Bro Adam Adamson passed in a moving ceremony, honouring the memory of his late father, W.Bro Andy Adamson, a much-loved and respected Mason. The ceremony was delivered with near-perfect ritual, guided expertly by the officers and led superbly by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Chris Needham in front of many distinguished visitors. The festive board that followed reflected the warmth, pride, and high standards for which the Lodge of Merit is renowned.



Burghley Lodge held a highly successful Race Night at Stamford Masonic Centre, bringing Brethren, families, and friends together in support of the Lincolnshire Air Ambulance. The evening generated tremendous enthusiasm, with strong support from attendees and race sponsors. Thanks to



this generosity, together with a significant contribution from the Provincial Grand Charity of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, an impressive £1,640 was raised.

Sammie Evans, daughter of

W.Bro Mark Evans, of both Vale of Welland and Chetene Lodges had all of her hair cut off to provide hair to produce wigs for "The Little Princess Trust". She was inspired by the memory of three year old Ivy Healey who had beautiful blonde hair which was lost due to her cancer. Mark



campaigned at all of the Stamford Lodges and beyond to raise enough to purchase wigs for girls in the same position at a cost of £700 each. The total at present is in excess of £2000 enabling the purchase of three wigs.



W.Bro. Mick Wren, Worshipful Master of Chetene Lodge,

recently presented a cheque for £1,000 to Willoughby Academy in Bourne. Willoughby Academy is a specialist school supporting pupils aged 2 to 19 with a wide range of complex Special Educational Needs and Disabilities. Chosen as W.Bro. Mick's personal charity for his year in office, the academy holds special significance, as his grandson is a pupil there. Mick spoke highly of the exceptional care, dedication, and progress achieved by the staff in supporting his grandson's development. The presentation photograph shows W.Bro. Mick with the Headmistress and his grandson.

News From Around The Province

**South West
Brackley,
Daventry,
Towcester**

Local Communication Officer
Rick Hill
07595 038473
rickhill65@mac.com



On October 26th, 2025, Bro Ryan Appleton took on the Venice Marathon in Italy and was proud to run in support of Teddies Loving Care. Over the years, these teddies have been distributed across the following:

- Numerous Children's Wards
- Accident and Emergency Units
- Paramedic Ambulances
- Northamptonshire Fire and Rescue Units
- Air Ambulance Helicopters

For a child, an emergency hospital visit can be frightening and overwhelming. TLC helped ease that experience by giving young patients a teddy - a comforting gift that brought reassurance in their time of need.

TLC is funded entirely through donations, and every penny went directly towards getting more teddies into the arms of children who needed them most at distressing moments.



Walking 60 Miles in November for Prostate Cancer Research

Bro Kevin Austen of Beneventa Lodge took on the 'Walk 60 Miles in November' challenge to raise money and awareness for Prostate Cancer Research in honour of his dad, who had been bravely fighting prostate cancer for over 12 years. Seeing the strength, dignity, and determination he showed throughout his illness inspired Kevin to push himself and do something meaningful in his name.

His original target was 60 miles, which felt a significant challenge in itself, but once Kevin reached that milestone he decided to push on and set a new goal of 120 miles. In total, he managed to walk 105 miles, raising £1,245 for the charity so far.

Unfortunately, during the final week of the challenge Kevin's Dad's health deteriorated rapidly, and his focus had to shift to caring for him and supporting his Mum. Very sadly, his Dad lost his battle with prostate cancer on 4th December.



Although Bro Kevin didn't reach the full 120 miles, he's incredibly proud of what was achieved. Every mile was walked for his Dad, and the generosity and support shown by friends, family, and colleagues was truly humbling.



Roll Of Honour

Many congratulations to all the Brethren featured on our Roll of Honour.*



60 YEARS

Oliver Nicholas Norwood Hart

The PPGM, RW.Bro ONN Hart, being presented with his 60 year certificate by the PGM, RW.Bro Mark Constant.

It was wonderful to have a quartet of PGMs in the room, with both PPGMs RW.Bro Max Bayes and RW.Bro Barrie Hall in attendance (see page 5).

Lodge

Merit



Philip Alvin Kitchin
Peter Charles Russell Norman

St Wilfrid
Peterborough & Counties

50 YEARS

David Brian Banner
Eric James Lindsell
Michael McLaughlin

Lodge

Ceres
Risden
Ailwyn

This is in Public Recognition of the valuable service given by the above Brethren.

*As of 26th February 2026

St Peter's Chapter 150th Anniversary



What a wonderful evening the 150th Anniversary of St Peter's Chapter turned out to be! On Thursday 20th November 2025, exactly 50 years to the day of the Centenary celebrations, the oldest Chapter in Peterborough welcomed over 30 guests - including The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, The Deputy Grand Superintendent, The 2nd and 3rd Grand Principals, the Past Deputy Grand Superintendent, 21 Active Officers of Provincial Grand Chapter, together with representatives from Gildenburgh, Dr Oliver, St Andrews, Chichley, St Ivo, Pemberton, Abingdon, Socrates, Nil Sin Labore, Fidelity, St Crispin, Thistle & Rose, Euston and Waynfleet Chapters.

After the exaltation of Bro Brian Aird of St Peter's Lodge, MEGS presented the Chapter's newest Companion with the much-sought-after 'Royal Arch/Craft' pin badge. Those in attendance were then treated to a presentation of the 150 year history of St Peter's by E.Comp Craig Bunday – an abridged version of a specially printed booklet to Commemorate the evening.



For Brethren who fancy a new challenge... how about pure Emulation Ritual?

Inaugurated in 2025 in our Province, Melius Lodge of Emulation instructs and rehearses pure Emulation Ritual. Our meetings are conducted in the same format as the Emulation Lodge of Improvement (ELoI) in London.

ELoI is over 200 years old, and it's purpose is to maintain and demonstrate pure emulation ritual in all four ceremonies. ELoI meets every Friday at 6.15pm at Great Queen Street, from October to June. Often referred to as the 'Silver Matchbox' Lodge, it's main aim is to rehearse and demonstrate pure Emulation Ritual for all offices. The Silver Matchbox is awarded to any brother who works an entire ceremony from the chair: "without standing in need of prompting or correction in either words or actions". As of December 2025, there have been 369 brethren who have completed this unique achievement.

Our Province has three brethren who hold silver matchboxes, W.Bros Billy Glover, Eddie Storey, and Mark Titterton – all with 'scratches' for more than one ceremony. Mark is now a member of the ELoI committee in London.

Eddie, Billy and Mark are the preceptors of Melius and enjoy working with brethren who want to pursue and perfect their emulation ritual. Other committee members include

W.Bros Tony Landon (treasurer), Allen Betts (secretary), and John McGrath (assistant secretary). As Mark Titterton is a 'recognised' preceptor of ELoI, Melius is a recognised Lodge of by London for Emulation Ritual. This makes Melius the perfect environment for any brethren wishing to progress their ritual in its pure form.

Melius respects and understands that Lodges have their own customs and variations, there is no intention to alter that. Currently, meetings are held on the third Wednesday in Kettering, with other venues to follow soon.

Membership is £10 per annum.

Please contact the secretary for further information.

W.Bro Allen Betts
07872 101790

secretarymelius9491@outlook.com



MELIUS
LODGE OF EMULATION
(No 9491)



The 2026 Provincial Lecture Competition Final

was held on Monday 19th January at the Corby Masonic Complex, hosted by the Richard Sandbach Lodge of Research No. 9600. The evening proved to be a superb showcase of Masonic learning, research and presentation; attracting strong support from Brethren across the Province.

All lectures delivered on the night were of an exceptionally high standard, making for a closely contested and thoroughly engaging competition. Each finalist demonstrated not only depth of research, but also skill in delivery and a clear passion for their subject, ensuring the judges were faced with a challenging decision.

The competition was ultimately won by W Bro Dr Albin Wallace, whose lecture on Medieval Mystery Plays stood out in a field of outstanding presentations. Dr Wallace was presented with a quach by the Provincial Grand Master in recognition of his achievement and as a symbol fellowship with the Richard Sandbach Lodge.

As winner of the competition, W Bro Wallace will now go on to present his lecture to the Lodge of Installed Masters No. 3422 in June, a well-deserved honour following an excellent performance.

The evening concluded in warm fellowship, with many Brethren commenting on the quality of the lectures and the continued



strength of Masonic education within the Province. The Provincial Lecture Competition once again demonstrated the depth of talent, scholarship, and enthusiasm that exists among our members.

The evening was perfectly concluded with a Burns Night themed Festive Board, featuring a stirring Address to the Haggis by Alex Thomson, piping by Alisdair MacDonald, and excellent support throughout the evening from Andy Mackie.



LAMS and The Order of Women's Freemasons

The Millies – Wives, Partners and volunteers of Wellingborough masons hold a monthly coffee morning throughout the season. For the very reasonable price of £3 attendees have almost unlimited top ups of hot drinks soaked up by almost as much cake as it's possible to consume. The mornings are always well attended and people are keen to participate in the 'mega raffle'. The Proceeds are utilised to fund various projects throughout the centre which recently have included new secure doors to the rear of the building, a disability access ramp and re writing of the lodges honour boards. The management company and lodge members are very grateful for their hard work and contributions.



LAMS near you

Corby – Katie Mason
corbylams@yahoo.co.uk



Northampton – northampton-lams.org.uk
webmaster@northampton-lams.org.uk

Rushden – Susan Noble
susanjnoble@googlemail.com

If you are a wife or partner of a Brother, please feel free to get in touch and find out more about the LAMS and what they do.

Enterprise Chapter No. 53 (OWF)

It was a very special event on 9th November 2025, as the Enterprise Chapter was consecrated. There were many Grand Lodge Officers present including: the Grand Master, MW Bro J M Knight; the Immediate Past Grand Master, MW Bro Z D Penn; the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro E J Keitch; and the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro M E Attwood. VW Bro Pam Green GReg was installed as the very first MEZ of the Chapter, and Password has it on good authority that everyone was on our best behaviour!



Hello Casters

Here are the dates and venues for the MTSFC events for the 2026 season.

Thursday 16th April – Elinor Aldwinkle – Fly Fishing

Thursday 07th May – Browns Lake Addington – Coarse Fishing

Thursday 11th June – Browns Lake Addington – Coarse Fishing

Thursday 09th July – Browns Lake Addington – Coarse Fishing

Thursday 17th September – Browns Lake Addington – Coarse Fishing

Please make a note of these dates in your diary.

I hope you will be able to join us to fish or help, please let me know by email or text of your availability for the first event at Elinor.

As always your support is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

David Etty

Caster Organiser

ettyandco@aol.com

mob: 07856 439989



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Provincial Grand Chapter 2026/2027 Active Officers

Office	Name	Chapter
Deputy Grand Superintendent	David BURTON	Gildenburg 2533
2 nd Provincial Grand Principal	Barry HOWARD	Eleanor Cross 1764
3 rd Provincial Grand Principal	Christopher MULLEN	Chapter of Fidelity 445
Provincial Grand Scribe E	Mark CHARTERESS	Northampton 360
Provincial Grand Scribe N	Anthony ALBRECHT	Perseverance 455
Provincial Grand Treasurer	Duncan Philip CHILDS	Perseverance 455
Provincial Grand Registrar	Andrew WARD	Dr Oliver 3964
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies	Robin PORTER	Whytewell 8400
Provincial Grand Sword Bearer	Dane PAUL	St Peters 442
Provincial Dep Grand Director of Ceremonies	Vince TINDALE	St Peters 442
Provincial Dep Grand Director of Ceremonies	Thomas WEBSTER	Dr Oliver 3964
Provincial Grand Almoner	Gregory WARMAN	St Ivo 2684
Provincial Grand Charity Steward	Michael WARREN	Chicheley 607
Provincial Grand Membership Officer	Philip MILES	Socrates 373
Provincial Grand Communications Officer	Jason Warren BRICE	St Crispin 5627
Provincial Grand Mentor	Timothy LUCY	St Crispin 5627
Provincial Grand Sojourner	Barry POTTER	Wellingborough 737
Provincial 1 st Assistant Grand Sojourner	Thomas REED	St Crispin 5627
Provincial 2 nd Assistant Grand Sojourner	Neil Sheppard	Abington 8041
Provincial Assistant Grand Scribe E	Stephen ROGERS	Socrates 373
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Paul HENRY	Piscator 7557
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	William MARSHALL	Chicheley 607
Provincial Grand Standard Bearer	Peter CHAPMAN	Kingsley 2431
Provincial Grand Organist	Graham CASEY	Gildenburg 2533
Provincial Asst Grand Director of Ceremonies	Andrew MACKIE	Thistle and Rose 6644
Provincial Asst Grand Director of Ceremonies	Alexander CRUICKSHANK	Perseverance 455
Provincial Grand Steward	Ian CHAPMAN	Abington 8041
Provincial Grand Steward	Luke CLARK	Chicheley 607
Provincial Grand Steward	Robert COX	Chapter of Fidelity 445
Provincial Grand Steward	Stephen DOWDY	Kingsley 2431
Provincial Grand Steward	Frederick HOLLAND	Dr Oliver 3964
Provincial Grand Steward	Malcolm LUPSON	Abington 8041
Provincial Grand Steward	Alexander THOMSON	Eleanor Cross 1764
Provincial Grand Janitor	John Brian DAVIES	Whytewell 8400



Provincial Grand Lodge 2026/2027 Active Officers

Rank	Name		Lodge No.	Lodge Name
DepProvGM	ALMOND Timothy Joseph		9510	Towcestrian
AsstProvGM	GILBERT Dale Robert		6532	Risdene
AsstProvGM	DIGGINS William Thomas		5978	Lodge of St George
ProvSGW	HOFFMANN Paul Anthony		9126	Thomas Deacon
ProvJGW	WALTON Michael Andrew		6516	Lodge of St Paul
ProvGChap	NEEDLE Paul Robert		8869	Cumtton
ProvGTreas	CHILDS Duncan Philip		455	Lodge of Perseverance
ProvGReg	KEY Simon Daryl Colin		8526	Lactodorum
ProvGSec	CHARTERESS Mark William		360	Pomfret
ProvGDC	BLASON Roger John		7557	Piscator
ProvGSwdB	HURLEY Darren Paul		6532	Risdene
ProvGSuptWks	PESKETT Steven		6977	Ceres
ProvDepGSec	FOREMAN Kevin Gary		8158	Dr Field
ProvDepGDC	BAGNIUK Gregory Keith		737	Wentworth
ProvDepGDC	WILSON Ian Charles		8869	Cumtton
ProvGAlm	WARMAN Gregory Leonard		9282	Hinchingbrooke
ProvGChStwd	WARREN Michael		607	Chicheley
ProvGMO	BIGGS Simon Peter		2996	Peterborough and Counties
ProvGCO	BRICE Jason Warren		4048	Cytringan
ProvGMen	THOMSON Alexander Thomas		8844	Anglo Scottish
ProvGLDO	MORGAN Stuart Frank		9600	Richard Sandbach Lodge of Research
ProvSGD	MARSTON Jason Paul		360	Pomfret
ProvSGD	BAILEY Andrew John		455	Lodge of Perseverance
ProvSGD	ROBERTS Kris Simon		9814	Scout
ProvSGD	MCCORD Ian Alexander		9877	Silverstone
ProvJGD	KEEN Ryan John		373	Socrates
ProvJGD	PEPPER James Edward		3964	Dr Oliver
ProvJGD	SMITH Mark David		5627	St Crispin
ProvJGD	DODSWORTH Mark Timothy		9491	Rockingham Forest
ProvAGSec	ROBERTSON Alexander		6516	Lodge of St Paul
ProvAGDC	MASHRU Kanesh		442	St Peter's
ProvAGDC	CROSSLEY David Edward		4990	Grey Friars
ProvAGDC	FREEMAN Reuben Edward		6838	Lodge of St James
ProvAGDC	MILLS Timothy		8844	Anglo Scottish
ProvGOrg	HITCHIN John Henry		7204	Old Kimboltonians'
ProvGStB	BALLINGER Peter Derek		2380	Beneventa
ProvGStB	ROSE Stuart Ian Charlton		4990	Grey Friars
ProvAGStB	LINDSAY Leslie		4452	Waynflete
ProvGPurs	CADBY Robert David		9497	Sartoris
ProvGStwd	HUGHES David		442	St Peter's
ProvGStwd	MANTLE Stephen Michael		2684	St Ivo
ProvGStwd	SEHMI Tej Paul Singh		6838	Lodge of St James
ProvGStwd	PERRIN Rhys Derreck		7006	Vale of Nene
ProvGStwd	MCPHERSON Ryan Jack		8736	Lodge of St Giles
ProvGStwd	PHOENIX Yan Stephan		8932	Buckby Castle
ProvGStwd	COLLINS Paul James		9048	Lodge of Harmony
ProvGStwd	EDIS Paul Stephen		9510	Towcestrian
ProvGTyler	SONES Vincent Charles Denis		1764	Eleanor Cross