

CONCORD



The **BIG** Day



**Buckinghamshire
Back with Bang**
For the first time in
300 years

**A Sunday meeting
extravaganza**

**Over 70 candidates
in one day**

**At the United Grand
Lodge of England**

Don't miss it!

13 MEMBERSHIP
COMPETITION

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THE NHS

28 AGAINST
BULLYING

Cover price:
£5

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Editorial Submissions
concord@buckspgl.org

Membership Officer
membership@buckspgl.org

Bucks Provincial
Communications Officer
comms@buckspgl.org

Editor
editor@buckspgl.org

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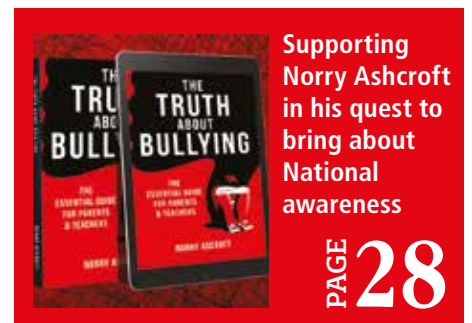
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Welcome

From the Provincial Grand Master

In the last edition of Concord, I said

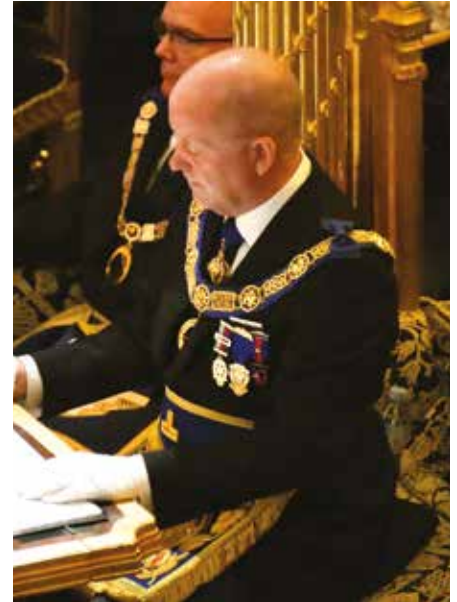
“We now have in excess of 250 new members waiting to join Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire. Ironically, the biggest problem we face in 2021 is how on earth do we get 225 initiations done in 12 months?”

“When circumstances permit, we will all need to embrace this opportunity.”



We now have in excess of 260 new Initiates waiting to join of which 160 are new applicants created by our new automated marketing and membership process, which is an exceptional success, especially in a year in which we could not meet. Of course, no process works without outstanding people and is no accident or coincidence. It is a direct result of a new strategy we put in place in 2018 based on the principle that if we increased membership we would, by definition, be doing everything else well.

A team of 26 have been interviewing and sustaining the wealth of new candidates on Zoom calls on a weekly basis for 18 months. In a normal year we might need to keep them engaged for 6 months prior to Initiation. Having to sustain this for 18 months, and in some cases now 2 years, has been very hard work indeed for this team virtually every day and this level of commitment is not sustainable. I thank this team all for their hard work and success for the Province.



With this many candidates and the number constantly increasing, it is impossible and unreasonable to expect these 26 team members to continue to maintain this level of hard work. It became obvious very quickly that some drastic action was needed.

Making the impossible happen

In February I was fortunate enough to take part in a Zoom catch-up meeting with a number of senior Craft and Royal Arch leaders. The Pro Grand Master was also in attendance and challenged us to **“Bring Masonry Back with a Bang”**.

During this meeting I spoke about our problem with the increasing number of new recruits and the difficulty in sustaining their interest for such a long time. In a moment of madness, I asked the Pro Grand Master to give Buckinghamshire the use of all 24 lodge rooms and the Grand Temple in Freemasons Hall for one day to see if we could have our Lodges initiate over 70 new members in a single day.

I have to say that in making this request I did not think for a moment that it would be possible. I was subsequently shocked to receive a phone call from the Grand Secretary giving us the go ahead which had been approved by the Grand Master. Grand Lodge’s approach was very much to **find a way to make it happen**, This meant a temporary change to the Book of Constitutions to enable Freemasons to meet on a Sunday for the first time in 300 years.

I would like once again to thank the Rulers for their forward, proactive and creative thinking that has made this possible. ▶

Welcome



*“Most Worshipful
Pro Grand Master
the Brethren of
Buckinghamshire
have accepted your
challenge.”*

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies is heading up a team of outstanding individuals to deliver this event and rise to the challenge.

Please make the most of this once in a lifetime opportunity and make sure that if your Lodge has a candidate that you book in and give them the chance to be initiated at Freemasons Hall. If you do not have a candidate but your Lodge wants to participate then get in touch with Simon Williams, our Provincial Membership Officer, who may be able to allocate one to you.

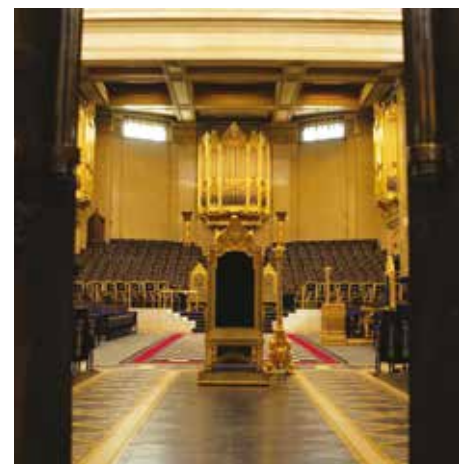
Your Initiates will be invited to attend the final meeting of the day to collectively receive the Charge on the Grand Temple floor, something we could not have dreamed of 18 months ago.

This will be a great day which is not



to be missed. The dining fee has been heavily subsidised by benefactor and Buckinghamshire Freemason David Briant and his wife Sylvia for which we are continually grateful. There will be some outstanding entertainment in the Grand Temple during the day to keep you all engaged until the mass charge later in the afternoon.

From speaking to these new members, they are different now having been at home, without social contact for 18 months. They now want to go out,



they want to mix and make new friends. They want to go to large social events such as Ladies Nights where their partners can wear new evening finery. It is a complete change in the trend that has existed for years as a result of the decline of these events.

With many people now working from home, Freemasonry will thrive because people want to get out and meet their friends more than ever. The new younger members are looking for that warm social environment and long-term friendship that Freemasonry provides and sustains.

I would like to congratulate those that have received letters of recognition and thanks from the MW Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent. As you will see from

the article in this edition, we had many people with their feet on the ground, working for the good of others less fortunate, throughout the pandemic. I would particularly like to thank Assistant Provincial Grand Master Phil Blacklaw for leading this endeavour from February 2020, before most of the population realised that others would need help and leading all the charitable feet-on-the-ground work we did during Covid.

It gives me great pleasure to take this opportunity to thank you all for the outstanding effort throughout the pandemic and your continued support in raising and donating money to our 2021 Festival Appeal for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. Many of you will

remember our excellent Festival Fortnight when many of us took on challenges culminating in our magnificent mid Festival Ball held on the 23rd June 2019 which was an outstanding success and raised a great deal of money for the MCF. I remember having a few aches and pains, having just completed a 26-mile canoe marathon on the river Thames as part of the fortnight. Due to the pandemic, our 2021 Festival will now culminate with a Finale Ball next year on the 25th June 2022 to be held at the Double Tree Hotel at the Milton Keynes stadium. I do hope that you will all be able to attend.

I know you are all very keen to get back to our meetings and as I mentioned in the last edition of Concord, due to the magnificent efforts you have all made over the last year which have attracted so many new members,

*“The Future of
Freemasonry in
Buckinghamshire
is Very Bright and
Exciting Indeed.”*

RW Bro John Clark
Provincial Grand Master



Welcome

The BIG Day

We are in an enviable position unequalled across the country, where we have over 250 candidates lined up to join, some having seen the amazing work of our members during last year's crisis but largely due to our new membership strategy and automated processes. A dedicated team of 26 members have kept these patient new candidates engaged throughout the pandemic. It seems only right that we should now cement their great work by giving these Initiates a historic day to remember.



On a Sunday, for the first time in 300 years of Freemasonry, the United Grand Lodge have granted Buckinghamshire Freemasons the exclusive use of Freemasons Hall in London.

The Grand Master has given his assent for the Rulers of the Craft to allow us access to all 24 Lodge Rooms and the Grand Temple, to initiate those candidates that have been waiting patiently to join over the last year.

Lodges will be invited to carry out the initiation of their own candidates throughout the day, with their own officers in their own meetings, but with the historic opportunity to do so in one of the beautiful temples at Grand Lodge, giving your members the opportunity to open your own Buckinghamshire Lodge and welcome a new member in the Headquarters of Freemasonry. We only have to look at recent events in the media recognising us in a far more positive light, to realise we are attracting younger candidates and strengthening the future of our wonderful institution.

The Provincial Executive and I have been extremely proud to have worked alongside a committed team in the preparation of this unique event. Many are 'light blue' or newer members and this is part of our forward-thinking strategy and the realisation that these new members hold the keys to many of the challenges ahead of us. Those being

initiated will join a group that will forge a unique bond which will remain throughout their masonic lives.

This unique day also presents us with the opportunity to open our Provincial Grand Lodge in the morning and give the Acting Provincial Officers of the last two years the chance to fulfil their roles within our Provincial meetings. The intention is to open Provincial Grand Lodge with the outgoing officers from last year 2019-20. We will then call off and proceed with the Individual Lodge Initiations throughout the day and then in the afternoon we will call back on and close Provincial Grand Lodge with this year's Acting Provincial Officers. The meetings will finish with a final Lodge Initiation, when all those that have joined during the day will be invited to witness a very special ceremony. This will culminate in all the candidates receiving the charge together on the Grand Temple floor.

Those attending will have the choice to dine during the day in the Gallery Suite of Freemasons Hall, whilst others may choose to attend a Festive Board in the Vestibules outside the doors of the Grand Temple in the late afternoon; depending on numbers and availability. Some Lodges may choose to dine in one of the many venues around Great Queen Street, whilst others may simply choose to host a special festive board for their candidates at their Lodge's next regular meeting.

Lodges should be encouraged to organise



transport together, and those wishing to drive into London can park close by our headquarters at discounted rates, when presenting their tickets at Grand Lodge reception desk. There should be plenty of parking within 5 minutes walk, with London being generally quieter on a Sunday. Alternatively look at group bookings on trains to maximise discounted rates, or get your centres to arrange coaches.

Brethren, this maybe one small first step for the initiates, but it's a giant leap for freemasonry... so please remember when deciding to attend or not... it will be a once in a lifetime historic opportunity for your Candidates and Lodges.

Sincerely & fraternally

W. Bro Bill Smithson
Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

A Personal Journey... From Master Mason to Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Someone asked me the other day why did I join the Royal Arch and did I enjoy it. I thought it a strange question to ask of me, but it did start me thinking how much I have enjoyed and continue to enjoy my journey in the Royal Arch. However, it was not all plain sailing, and I thought I would share my journey with you.

I was initiated into Vale Lodge no 6632 in Jan 1996, and from the moment I joined, I was hooked on Masonry. I accepted every invitation to attend other Lodges, some of which I am still attending 25 years later. I loved the Craft and everything it had to offer me; it was a place where it wasn't what I did for a living that was important, but who I was as a person. That is something that Masonry should continue to be immensely proud of. I met so many wonderful and fun people who remain my closest friends today.

My interest in the Royal Arch began when I started to notice that a lot of the members of my Lodge wore a Jewel.

I had no idea what it was or why they wore it, and I did not want to look stupid by asking the question. However,



one of my Lodge members, the late great W Bro Eric Niblett, saw me looking and starting to explain about the Royal Arch. He said that as a member of Vale Lodge, there was an expectation that I would join Hampden Chapter.

What I didn't know at the time was that other members of my Lodge wanted me to join their Chapter, notably one W Bro Vic Richards. I did think at the time it was nice to be wanted, although I had no idea what I was joining or why I was joining the Holy Royal Arch. I subsequently joined Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter in September 1998, six months after I had become a Master Mason, much to the annoyance of Eric, but he did forgive me.

I will never forget the day I went into Chapter; so many memories, all good. To see a Chapter room set out for the first time was an incredible sight. The colours on display, the way the room was furnished, the people wearing different masonic regalia all added to the enjoyment, and I must admit my confusion. I had been in Masonry for two and half years and in that time probably had attended about 100 Lodge meetings (yes, I was very keen); I thought I understood Freemasonry. Joining the Royal Arch opened up a whole new world. As for the many questions it resolved it also raised a whole new lot of questions that I now needed answering.

After 23 years in the Holy Royal Arch, I am still enjoying my continuing journey of discovery, not just about the meaning of the ceremonies and where they fit in with the Craft and other orders but also the discovery of myself.

I started this piece by saying I had been asked two questions; it seems only fair that I now answer them.



Q1. Why did you join the Royal Arch?

A1. Put simply, I was encouraged to join; I also wanted to learn more about Masonry. Seeing the Royal Arch jewel made me appreciate that there was more to it than what I had learned in the Craft. It certainly has not disappointed me.

Q2. Do I enjoy the Holy Royal Arch?

A2. As The Grand Superintendent, you would not be shocked if I just said yes. However, there is more to it than a straight yes. I love the Royal Arch; it has given me a greater understanding of Masonry in general; for me, it helps and continues to help fill in the blanks in Masonry. It has helped me feel part of something much bigger than ourselves, a sense of belonging and a greater understanding of myself. Have I also mentioned I find it great fun, and if it wasn't enjoyable, I would not want to be part of it.

As your Grand Superintendent, there is an expectation that I know everything there is to know about the Holy Royal Arch. I am sorry to disappoint you, but that is not the case; however, I want to ensure you that I continue to learn and develop every day and always encourage every member to do the same.



Have **YOU**
the skill
sets which
could help
the Royal
Arch in
Bucks?



We are looking for people with **IT skills, Social Media skills, administration abilities** and those who can be **ambassadors for the Royal Arch, to assist in taking on the challenges of the future.**

You do not need to have gone through the Chairs in Chapter to be able to help. The pay is rubbish, but you will be part of something very special.

If you are keen, please send a short intro along with skill sets to Our Provincial Scribe E Mel Shah: nilmel2@btinternet.com



"There is no greater journey than one you must take to discover all of the mysteries that lie within you"
Michelle Sandlin

If you are a member of the Royal Arch, consider joining the RAVC club, either via Facebook or look on our website www.buckspgc.org for details.

If you are not already a member, ask your Lodge Secretary for details, or ask your Lodge's Royal Arch representative. Come and be part of something special and start a journey of self-discovery that you, as I have, will never forget and never regret. There has never been a better time to become a member of our wonderful Buckinghamshire Holy Royal Arch Province.

Bletchley New Chapter of Improvement Room



They do say that practice makes perfect, and in Masonry that is so very true.

Chapters of Improvement are not new in Buckinghamshire. E Companions Paul Lear, Tim Gerrard and the Prov Scribe E Mel Shah, continue to do a fantastic job helping to run Beaconsfield's COIs over many years. Thanks to the Bletchley Centre, we now have a dedicated Chapter instruction room that will enable companions to learn more about the Holy Royal Arch and help them to continue their Masonic journey. This facility is available for all Chapters and can be booked via E Comp Malcolm Wheeler at Mal.wheeler@hotmail.com

As Prov 3rd Grand Principal, I am delighted to be able to share this news with you. Thanks to everyone in Bletchley for making the new facility possible.

Let's make full use of this beautiful room. It is a great way to learn more about the Royal Arch and why it is essential to become a member of a Chapter to continue your Masonic journey.

E Comp Stan Green
Prov 3rd Grand Principal

*"BE PART OF SOMETHING SPECIAL
JOIN THE HOLY ROYAL ARCH
AND CONTINUE YOUR PERSONAL
MASONIC JOURNEY, ASK YOUR
LODGE ROYAL ARCH REPRESENTATIVE
FOR FURTHER DETAILS"*

ANNUAL CONVOCATION OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND CHAPTER OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The annual meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire is being held on Monday 6th September 2021, Covid permitting, at the Berkshire Masonic Centre, Mole Road, Sindlesham, Berkshire. This will be our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent's first meeting of the Province as Grand Superintendent. This meeting will be an opportunity to celebrate the appointments and promotions of all those companions from 2020 and 2021. It also allows us to reflect on a year that has affected us all.

If all goes according to plan and the restrictions are lifted, this is a great way to start getting back to our masonic normality. As a Province, we fully appreciate that not everyone will be comfortable attending meetings; we equally know there is an appetite from many members to return to meetings when allowed. If you do not feel comfortable attending, please be assured we will drink a toast to you on the day and look forward to being reunited with you as you feel safe to do so.

Tickets for the convocation are already selling out rapidly. To avoid disappointment, please book early. Booking forms are available on the Royal Arch Provincial website: www.buckspgc.org

Payment for tickets can be made by bank transfer and traditional cheques. Details for this are appended to the booking form.

Provincial Grand Scribe E Mel Shah



HELPING TO UNDERSTAND THE ROYAL ARCH BUCKINGHAM CHAPTER IS 150 YERS OLD

The Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire has a new Grand Superintendent who is determined to build on the success of his predecessor, such as innovations with established Chapters amalgamating with closing Chapters which have proved successful and renewed the purpose of both.

Buckingham Chapter 591 – now 150 years old – is one of the oldest and respected Chapters in the Province with a very distinguished membership. The Chapter members want to secure the next 150 years for this vibrant Chapter. They have discussed with the Grand Superintendent ways of reinvigorating the Chapter and celebrating this remarkable milestone. The Chapter has a long and distinguished history. It has stuck firmly to the founders' intentions that it should be an example of all that is good in the Royal Arch. Notably, each meeting should matter and benefit all its members in enjoying the ceremonies and learning and developing our knowledge of the Holy Royal Arch.

Our Grand Superintendent has asked me to work with the Chapter members to make Buckingham Chapter a centre of excellence for developing our knowledge. The intention is to establish a Chapter where convocations help us learn about the Royal Arch in general. There are so many questions we need to find the answers to.

We already have the national repository, 'Solomon', which is ensuring an eclectic range of materials for Companions to read. However, we need to answer questions about our fantastic Order that are not being answered as fully as members want. The Royal Arch is an enthralling, captivating order on an intensely personal level, aiming to help us clarify some incredibly complex and significant ideas about ourselves. However,



much of what we read consists of unclear and indistinct thoughts, often obscure, confused, with overly abstracted arguments, making contemplation of man's spiritual nature harder than it needs to be.

We need somewhere where we do not have to try to work it all out by ourselves. The Royal Arch is a vast subject; the Chapter wants to engage with the thoughts, opinions, and arguments of all Bucks Royal Arch Masons, clarifying concepts in the light of the Order.

To provide benefit to Buckinghamshire Companions - now that is a fun challenge. More details will be available soon about how you can be a part of this new educational and informative Chapter. New members and new teachers are always welcome.

If you are not a member of the Holy Royal Arch, please talk to your Lodge Royal Arch Rep or your Lodge Secretary and find out more about your personal masonic journey.

"Any fool can know things; the point is to understand" - Albert Einstein

Let's all try and understand together.

E Comp Stephen Knight
Prov GSN



THE ROYAL ARCH VISION CLUB

RAVC

The Province of Buckinghamshire is delighted to offer you the opportunity to join this new Royal Arch initiative. RAVC is a club for Royal Arch members new and old, who want to learn more about the continuation of their Masonic journey.

MEET THE EXEC

The first full meeting of the RAVC will give you the opportunity to meet the Buckinghamshire Exec of the Holy Royal Arch. Enjoy bacon rolls and coffee and at 11.30 the meeting will continue with a pictorial visit to the places featured in the Exaltation Ceremony in the brand new Chapter Room.

Sat 13th Nov, doors open at 10.00am,
Bletchley Masonic Centre, MK2 2BZ

Please book in here:
ravic@buckspgl.org

Masonic Aprons

The Apron is the most visible identification feature of a Freemason and the item that is often referred to by non-Masons when talking about our Order.



The Apron, of course, is an inheritance from the days when Masons were operative and needed a protective garment when they were working with the blocks of stone, and rough edges and chips of stone would be a constant hazard. In those days the apron would have been much longer and have covered the lower legs as well as the torso. It would probably have been supported by laces around the neck as well as the waist. The apron would probably have been made from calf or sheep skin, as they would have been stronger and have been readily available in the Middle Ages. There would have been no ornamentation on an operative Mason's apron, but it would have distinguished him from other trades people who would have worn different styles of apron.

We do know that even in the very early part of the Middle Ages there were Trade Guilds and aprons were used in a ceremonial form and there is a record of a Mason bequeathing his apron decorated with letters that have a Masonic allusion even today. When the first Grand Lodge was formed in 1717 it brought together Freemasons from four active Lodges in London, one of which was a Lodge for Operative Masons and the others apparently were formed of members who in the main were not connected with the trade.

During the 18th century, the aprons worn in Lodges evolved from the basic white lambskin apron to other more exotic designs. Certainly, in the Hogarth print, 'Night', the Worshipful Master and his Tyler are wearing plain white aprons, but these soon became unfashionable. As Masonry spread throughout Europe and around the world it would appear that fancier designs were created, and in some respects, these served to illustrate the Degree or Degrees, which were being worked, or to which the apron's



owner belonged.

In 1767 the Modern Grand Lodge issued an instruction which allowed members of particular Lodges to also line their Aprons with white silk. It is apparent from engravings and reports of the time that many of the Brethren, Grand Officers or not, were edging their Aprons with blue silk.

It is also of interest to note that the method of wearing the Apron was customarily different for the Brethren in the Three Degrees. The Entered Apprentice wore his with the flap turned inside so that it was invisible. The Fellow Craft wore his with the flap up and fixed to one of his waistcoat buttons while the Master's flap hangs down



on the outside. Such traditions hang on in some parts of the country today, and you may observe some Lodges in different Provinces where the Fellow Craft and Entered Apprentice wear their Apron in such a manner. Reports from those days also indicate that on the Grand Lodge meeting days, the Grand Officers aprons were finely decorated. The Regalia for the Grand Master and his Deputy appear to have evolved as time went on. Initially Collars rather than Chains were worn (according to portraits of the High Rulers), but definitions of Chains evolved later for all Grand Officers. The Aprons of the Grand Master, his Deputy and the Provincial Grand Masters also evolved through time. Initially Provincial Grand Masters had a pomegranate as the emblem in the centre of the Apron with no embroidery around the edge. It seems that the Provincial Grand Masters changed to full embroidery around their Aprons sometime in the 1860s but the first mention in the Book of Constitutions is 1884. Surviving mid-Victorian Aprons sometimes show a transitional pattern with pomegranates spaced out around the Apron border. (Grand Lodge information sheet). The final definition was that of the Aprons of 'Masters and Past Masters of Lodges'. The Rosettes were to be replaced by three sets of two right angles formed by perpendicular lines on horizontal lines. In 1815 these emblems were to be of ribbon of the appropriate colour for Past Masters (sky blue) and for Grand Officers (garter- blue or gold).

If you visit a Masonic Museum, take a little time to seek out these old Aprons; they are worth a look!

Membership Competition

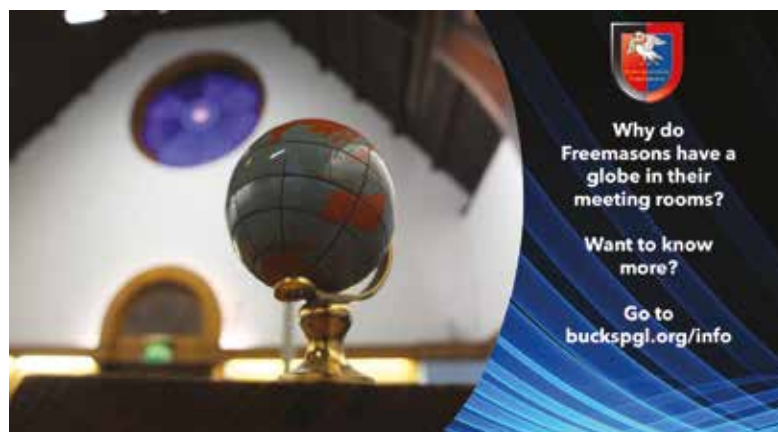
As part of our ongoing membership drive the Province have been running regular membership posts on Social Media. These pose questions and invite those interested to register their interest in Freemasonry via our website. Some of these adverts are shown below. These have proved to be highly successful.

Social media by its nature can be a ravenous beast. As a result, we need to update and refresh our content on a regular basis. That is why we are launching a Competition. A competition which we hope will unleash the creativity we know exists in the members of our Province.

We would like you to create a series of posts for social media which can be used to attract those interested in joining our wonderful fraternity.

To win you need to provide An original series of 5 Social Media Posts we can use on Facebook, Twitter or Instagram which will entice people to register their interest in joining us.

- They can be photograph and question based as we are using now
- They can be a series of short videos no longer than 30 seconds each.
- They can be something you think will work well on the Social Media platforms above.



NEW!
"On the Square"
board game

How to Enter

All entries should be sent to W.Bro. Phil Witney at philipwitney@gmail.com

Entries will be judged by the Executive.

The prize will be one of the new On the Square Board games which can be played with Friends and Family.

The closing date for all entries is 31 August 2021.

Chains' Letter

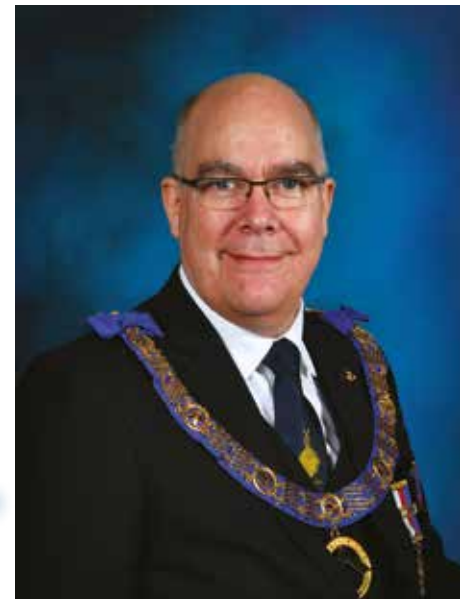
One of the major changes to come out of lockdown has been the increasing use each of us has made of online ordering. A big winner of this has been Amazon and with their promise, in many instances, of a same day delivery it has become an increasingly popular choice.

Whilst Amazon has grown, it also provides a means of giving something back. It has recently introduced a service called "Smile" which pays a small percentage of each transaction to charities and worthy causes. I am pleased to be able to confirm that our own

Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund (BMCF) is now benefiting from this and you could assist its excellent work by supporting it through Amazon Smile. For every qualifying purchase Amazon will donate 0.5% to the BMCF.

Get Started Today

It is easy to get started, instead of visiting amazon.co.uk you just type smile.amazon.co.uk into your browser. Then select "Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund" as your chosen charity. Each time you plan to order from Amazon, just start by visiting smile.amazon.co.uk and everything else is done for you. The prices are the same, but the BMCF will be benefitting with each of your orders.



The BMCF provides grants and support on behalf of Buckinghamshire Freemasons to non-masonic causes in Buckinghamshire or with strong Buckinghamshire connections. It is generally funded through a £3 per head voluntary subscription collected with your Lodge subscriptions as well as occasional and very welcome donations. To date it has provided in excess of £1.3M of grants which have greatly enhanced the lives of so many people.

smile.amazon.co.uk

I hope that we will be able to benefit from this Amazon scheme and further boost the number of good causes we are able to support, but to do so **needs your help**. Please do visit smile.amazon.co.uk and consider setting this up to benefit the Buckinghamshire Masonic Centenary Fund.

Hugh Douglas-Smith

*Deputy Provincial Grand Master,
Chairman Buckinghamshire Masonic
Centenary Fund*

amazonsmile
You shop. Amazon gives.



W Bro Alan Dawes, W Bro David Cooper, W Bro Steve Oliver, Bro Tim Coole, Bro Carlos Sepulveda.

KEEPING FREEMASONRY ACTIVE - THE MARLOW LODGE CASE

It's no surprise to anyone that the global pandemic has affected, in one way or another, everyone's life. Freemasonry, the way we live, and our Lodges have all been impacted.

Marlow Lodge isn't a young Lodge, with the average age of 66 years, and embracing this new virtual life hasn't been without challenges. However, I'd say that we've managed really well!

The Lodge holds a weekly meeting, giving everyone an opportunity to catch-up and share the latest news, with almost half of the Lodge joining every week. After 40 weeks, meeting every week, this seems like a new ritual. It has been a good space to keep brothers that are self-isolating connected but also we've been really lucky to have two prospective candidates joining us.

It was in one of these meetings that we decided to undertake the task of improving our presence on Helipad. We managed to reach 85% of Brethren signed up to Helipad.

Our Charity Steward also embraced this virtual life and organised the Charity Steward's AGM, which allowed the Lodge

to continue with their much-needed charity work. Along with that, he also organised a Quiz night where the brethren joined with their partners.

As a Lodge we were lucky to hold our installation meeting in 2020 under the

rule of 6, and even had a couple of LOIs in preparation for an initiation ceremony. Sadly, this needed to be cancelled at the very last minute due to national lockdown. We look forward to receiving our joining candidates as soon as we can.

The Lodge Zoom Meeting



Cartoon created by W Bro Gerald Sclater.



BCCL Installation – Photo Challenge

A fantastic Installation ceremony for the Bucks Classic Car Lodge took place on Saturday 19th June in Marlow.

Our very own PGM, performing one of 3 installations over the next few weeks, was installing Worshipful Brother Steve Blair into the chair of King Solomon. Carried out under the rule of Six, they were a little “ring rusty” but the ceremony went very smoothly with a good, healthy dose of humour!!

In a slight deviation from the usual 2 metre distanced photos that we have all become accustomed to, the brethren in attendance tried to “mix it up” a bit and hopefully make the pictures a little more interesting. They did the standard “straight” shot, followed by some jumping shots.....who says Freemasons can’t levitate!! Finally, the classic “model” floor pose. It was great fun and something that we encourage all Lodges to try.

THE PHOTO CHALLENGE

In fact the BCCL would like to put out a challenge to all other lodges to come up with more inventive/creative photographic ways to celebrate their meetings! So if you get a great photo of your Meeting send them into W. Bro Philip Witney at:- philipwitney@gmail.com

Phil will collate all the entries and present them to the Provincial Executive to judge, with the winner and a prize being announced at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in October!!



It would be great to get as many lodges that are meeting between now and then to get involved, so please get your creative caps/aprons on and let’s see what we can get!!



Recognition by the Grand Master

Recently a number of Buckinghamshire Freemasons were recognised personally by the Grand Master for their dedication and effort during the Covid pandemic. Each received a letter and certificate signed by the Grand Master. A list of Buckinghamshire Brethren is shown below:

Worshipful Brother Phil Blacklaw,
PSGD, AsstProvGM

Worshipful Brother Mark Duncan,
PProvSGD

Worshipful Brother John King, ProvGMen
Brother Ameet Doshi

Brother Jordan Anderson

Worshipful Brother Mark Burnham

Brother Amir Ghomshei

Brother Ben Housego

Worshipful Brother Ash Bosamia

Worshipful Brother Mark Palmer

Worshipful Brother Martin Fifield

Brother William Holland

Brother Stephen Cleary

Worshipful Brother John Morris, SLGR,
PProvGReg, PProvSGD

Worshipful Brother Timothy Gerrard,
PProvJGD, PProvAGSuptWks

Worshipful Brother Colin O'Dell,
PProvAGDC

Worshipful Brother Brian Neighbour,
PProvAGDC

Worshipful Brother Steven Acton,
PProvGSuptWks

Worshipful Brother Paul French, PProvJGD

Worshipful Brother Paul Gausden,
PProvSGD

Worshipful Brother Stephen Tunney,
PProvSGD

Worshipful Brother Gary Brodie, PSGD,
AsstProvGM

Brother Jack Clark

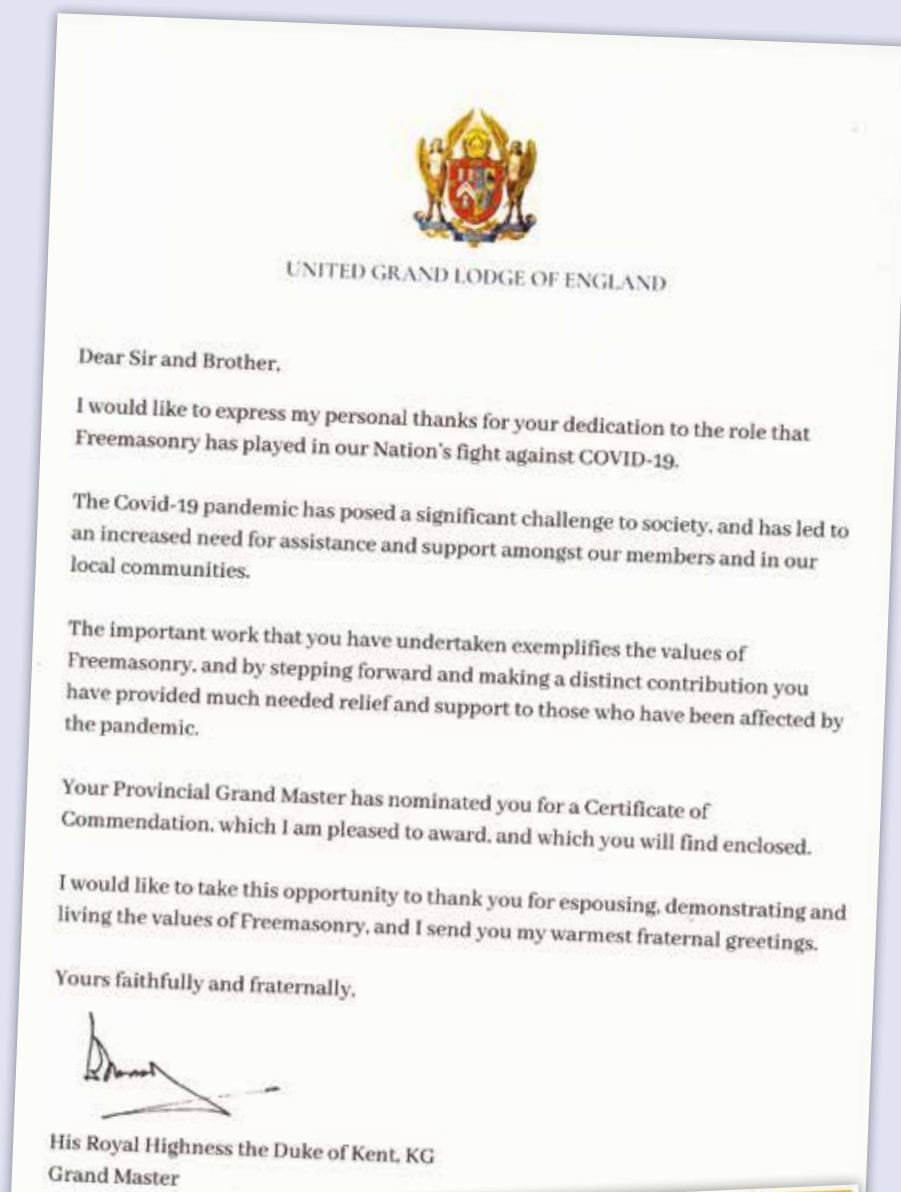
Brother Paul Williams

Brother Kevin Ansell

Brother Simon Williams

Worshipful Brother Gary Mason, PAGStB,
PProvSGW

Worshipful Brother Anthony Robinson,
PSGD, AsstProvGM





Big Band Swing

In November each year, Haddenham Lodge 8944 put on their annual live music night in partnership with Big Band Swing, an 18 piece big band with W Bro Lee Buckingham leading the group from the front.

But the 2020 lockdown struck and the event had to be cancelled to the disappointment of lots of regular supporters as well as the Lodge & band members. The band was formed in 1996 and this annual event has been taking place since 2011 as a partnership. Previously to that the band performed their own concerts. Lee approached the Lodge to offer the services of his band for a charity fund raising evening and after the first year, it has remained in the Lodge's calendar thereafter.

The 2019 concert saw a sell out of 130 people attending with the dance floor packed throughout the evening and bar staff kept very busy. The band opened with a big attention grabbing, fast tempo swing

number, before moving on to provide guests with a mixture of music from the magical big band era of yesteryear. Hits from the great Glenn Miller, Count Basie, Duke Ellington, Neal Hefti and many more ensured feet were tapping! Vocalist Jackie Highe gave the guests great performances of well-known tracks from Ella Fitzgerald, Rosemary Clooney, Natalie Cole along with modern tracks by the likes of Adele & Bette Midler. Throughout the two sets of music, the talents of the band spoke in volumes. Solos from numerous different players as well as tight sectional elements proved that these guys have worked hard and enjoy playing.

The event every year is a great success and raises money for the Lodge Charity Funds to donate to local causes as part of the "Masters List". Many thanks are owed to the 18 musicians who perform each year at this event, Lee is hugely proud of the show the band puts on and looks forward to the concert each year.



So, if you would like to attend the next Lodge concert, the date for 2021 is Friday 12th November at Haddenham Village Hall. Tickets will go on sale summer 2021 providing CoVID19 restrictions are lifted for indoor concerts by then.

www.BigBandSwing.co.uk
www.HaddenhamLodge.co.uk

WBro Lee Buckingham ProvSGD
Charity Steward



His Royal Highness The Duke of Edinburgh

On 9th April 2021 the country and the world lost one of the most outstanding men of our time.

Much has been written of his many achievements both at home and abroad but what of the man and his impact on us. Prince Phillip was a man of great integrity and loyalty. The principles by which he lived are very close to the principles of Freemasonry and we do well to try and emulate him in this respect.

He was the longest serving Ranger of the Great Park, Windsor, acting as steward for one of the nation's most iconic landscapes for nearly 70 years. His role began in 1952 when the Queen, as one of her very first acts following her accession, made him Ranger of the Great Park. During his time in post, The Duke made an immense contribution to the Park, working closely and actively with the team at The Crown Estate to ensure it is both protected and improved for generations to come. We in Buckinghamshire are very fortunate this wonderful place is on our doorstep.

One of The Duke of Edinburgh's greatest legacies is undoubtedly the Duke of Edinburgh's Awards, created in 1956



to develop and equip young people for life and work. This desire to help young people to progress has also found root in Windsor Great Park, with a broad range of apprenticeship and work experience opportunities available in areas such as farming, forestry, horticulture and building.

Whilst his loss to the nation is great, his impact on our lives and those of future generations is immeasurable.

Slough Lodge Leads with way with B.I.G. numbers!

Old Paludians Lodge (7181) is leading the way for candidates for initiation at the B.I.G. Day in September.

This Slough Lodge has an incredible 8 candidates to be initiated on the historic day, with others being interviewed over the coming weeks to possibly swell these numbers even further. This fantastic response is the result of hard work from the Lodge members, combined with a great response from the hot meals provided daily to Slough residents during the COVID pandemic. Some of these candidates have been waiting for over a year to join and what better reward than

to be initiated at Grand Lodge.

Provincial membership officer, Bro Simon Williams said, "Old Paludians has taken the bull by the horns and thrown their weight behind the B.I.G. Day on the 12th September. The attitude of the members and initiates is fantastic and they are going to help to make this unique day truly unforgettable."

With over 70 candidates already registered to attend, lodges who wish to initiate candidates at the B.I.G. Day should email big@buckspgl.org to register. Booking details and dining will be released shortly.

Prebendal Close says **THANK YOU**

Hi Phil,

I personally would like to say a massive thank you for all that you and the Freemasons have done for our residents here at Prebendal during this pandemic. As you can imagine it has been a strange 11 months and at times it has been very lonely for our residents. Morale is always boosted by your generosity.

The food packages they have received during this time have been greatly received as have the pies they are currently receiving twice a week- these have been a massive hit. Some of our residents commented as follows:

- *Sheila looks forward to receiving them as she lives alone and it saves her having to cook twice a week and of course she has stated they taste great!*
- *Andy says that the help from the Masons has been amazing and most welcome at this difficult time.*
- *Lynette had a stroke before Christmas and has told me the pies were and still are most welcome as she continues to get herself back to normal- saves on washing up she says!*

Quite a few of the residents are now starting to get vaccinated and mine is later today so there is light at the end of the tunnel and myself and the residents look forward in the near future to welcoming you all back to Prebendal and resuming some sort of normality.

Once again, a big thanks to you all and stay safe and well.

Warmest regards

Beverley

*Beverley Mills
Warden
Masonic Housing Association
Prebendal Close*

The Lodge Membership Officer and the Members Pathway

Why is a Membership Officer necessary?

Freemasonry reached its peak in the UK in the 1980s and has been in decline since. In 2018, the Members Pathway was introduced to provide a process to assist Lodges and Provinces to grow their membership. Over the past two years it became clear that the process was disjointed, and that no single officer was responsible for the end-to-end management of the membership process within a Lodge. At present this is being shared between different officers, with the more successful Lodges introducing the non-collared office of Lodge Membership Officer to coordinate the task. It was therefore thought that The Members Pathway should be reviewed, and responsibility for the end-to-end management of potential candidates formalised within the Lodge. Mentoring is also part of this process and becomes involved before a candidate is initiated.

At the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge in December, a motion was put forward from the Membership Group and carried by the meeting. The motion was to allow the Master of a Lodge to appoint a collared Lodge Membership Officer.

At present over 50% of our potential candidates come to us via the Internet, and we are attracting many new members in the 25- to 35-year-old age range. This is a marked shift from where we were 18 months ago. This rise in interest is in no small way due to the excellent work of the Marketing Team.

Once the candidates apply, the Provincial Membership Officer and his team take responsibility to carry out initial suitability checks, with a view to supplying more and more high-quality candidates to Lodges. This does not, however, replace the Lodges own due diligence of potential candidates.

What then does a Lodge Membership Officer do?

The Lodge Membership Officer has 5 key functions:

1. To liaise and work with the Provincial Membership Team.
2. To lead a team in the creation of a Lodge Membership Plan.
3. To co-ordinate the Lodge's activities through the attracting and interviewing of candidates.
4. To inspire and encourage all Lodge members to identify suitable candidates for Freemasonry.
5. To liaise with the Lodge Mentor, Almoner and Secretary to plan, attract, engage, and retrieve members

In June, ten Lodges were selected to take part in trialling the Lodge Membership Officer role and they are now working with The Provincial Membership Team accordingly. It is our intention to fully implement the Office in October, to coincide with the launch of the easier- to-use Members Pathway. Each Lodge will define its own role for the Lodge Membership Officer, with guidance and support available from the Provincial Membership and Pathway Teams. Our goal is for the extended team to increase membership within all Lodges. As part of the bigger team, we can create a learning environment where the sharing of ideas and initiatives becomes the norm.

Working together, we will secure a healthy long-term future for the Lodges of the Province.

The Members Pathway will consist of four main elements, and different Lodge Officers will have defined responsibilities for parts of the process.

The four elements are:

- **PLAN**
(Lodge Membership Officer):
The Lodge Membership Officer will guide the Lodge through the process of putting a Lodge plan together to stimulate growth.
- **ATTRACT**
(Lodge Membership Officer):
Once the plan is agreed, new prospective candidates are identified and approached by the Lodge.
- **ENGAGE**
(Lodge Mentor)
Once a candidate is interviewed and has completed a form P, the Lodge Mentor becomes involved prior to Initiation. This element of the Members Pathway includes the development of individuals.
- **RETRIEVE**
(Lodge Almoner and Lodge Secretary)
The Almoner watches for those missing meetings, festive boards or unable to attend Lodge through transport or age and health difficulties.

Comprehensive guidance and support for each element will be delivered in a simple and easily accessible format.

In summary, the Lodge Membership Officer will become the catalyst for the growth of his Lodge. This is an exciting and challenging role that will allow us to bring the benefits and great enjoyment of Freemasonry to others.

Together, we can secure our future.

Simon Williams
Provincial Membership Officer

John King
Provincial Grand Mentor

New Bathroom for Florence Nightingale Hospice

Florence Nightingale Hospice is based on the campus of Stoke Mandeville Hospital in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. The Hospice is run by Bucks NHS Healthcare Trust and partly funded by Florence Nightingale Hospice Charity.

The Hospice provides a range of palliative and end-of-life care services to people in Buckinghamshire and parts of Oxfordshire and south Bedfordshire, who have life-limiting illnesses such as chronic lung conditions, cancer, and neurological conditions. It has an In-Patient Unit with twelve beds in the Hospice, and it supports patients in the home through the Nightingale 24/7 Care and Community Nursing Teams.

Buckinghamshire Freemasons have had a long association with the hospice. In 2020, the Bucks Masonic Centenary Fund (BMCF) was approached to help fund the refurbishment and refitting of the patient bathroom in the Patient Unit.

The aim of the project is to enable the patients to enjoy a "spa" experience. A new bath with a hoist that better suits the room has been installed, the walls of the room are covered in cleanable PVC, which has a "field of dandelions" mural. This ensures that the ambience of the room is calming. The floor is covered with a dark wood effect vinyl flooring, which is also cleanable.

Before work started, the bathroom was old, tired, and not practicable to use. An example of this is that a wheelchair-bound patient, requiring a hoist into the bath, would not be able to be assisted without the bathroom door being left open and a temporary screen used to maintain the patient's dignity and privacy.

The first 10 days of the project saw the bathroom totally emptied of the existing equipment and the 'first fix' elements of the project completed. There were alterations required to the plumbing because the new bath will be located in a different position. Electrical improvements were also undertaken to allow installation of improved lighting and to ensure exposed cables were minimised. The door and door frame were changed so that wheelchair users will be able to readily access the room.



The following week saw the initial installation of the floor and the wall cladding.

The wall mural was finished. The nurses from the In-Patient Unit agreed on the style of the mural whereby the dandelion seed heads evoke memories of childhood, happiness and peace as well as representing the end of the life of the flower itself and the continuation of its lifecycle



The Hospice now has a new bathroom! It's fully installed and ready to offer patients a new and more luxurious bathing experience. The nursing team have always tried to make the Hospice feel like an extension of home as far as they can, but the bathroom had fallen short of this aspiration over the years. Now it very definitely stands out as one of the Hospice highlights and shows what the Charity is able to achieve with the support of donors from around the community.

The team thank everyone for helping them to reach their goal and to make a difference. In the words of their very excited Ward Sister, "Being able to help patients with something that will improve their wellbeing is hugely satisfying".

Helping the **NHS**

£100,000

In grants to worthy
PANDEMIC CAUSES

**VALENTINES
CARDS**

to Ward Nurses



**Freezers, Fridges
& Coffee Machines**

Donated to **HOSPITAL WARDS**



100

**PAMPER
GIFT BAGS**
for ICU ward staff

Cakes

delivered to Covid Vaccine marshalls



Flowers

for Health Centre & Pharmacy staff



OVER **1000** **BARS OF
CHOCOLATE**

to Buckinghamshire
Paramedics



In January this year Buckinghamshire Freemasons changed direction in the way they chose to support the NHS, by making direct donations to wards and staff at hospitals, ambulance stations, health centres and pharmacists. Here are some of the heart-warming stories, that show that sometimes the smallest gestures can mean the most.

“Operation Willy Wonka” Chocolates for Every Ambulance Station in the Province



Top: Eddie Irwin with the chocolates. Inset: Peter Smith at Wexham Park

Charity Stewards from across Buckinghamshire delivered over 1000 bars of chocolate to Ambulance Stations at Milton Keynes, Stoke Mandeville, High Wycombe and Wexham Park.

Purchased at cost using the wholesale account of Marlow Freemason Eddie Irwin, Buckinghamshire Freemasons were again able to demonstrate making a direct difference by donating straight to the front

line paramedics. Simon Lukas, Paramedic Team Leader at Stoke Mandeville wrote: “Thank you so much for the chocolate, I am always humbled by the generosity of the Freemasons, last year you gave us two Lucas3 CPR devices that have been invaluable lifesavers in recent times. I know the crews appreciate the chocolates, they are going down an absolute treat, thanks again”

Fridge, Microwave Coffee machine and Pamper Packs to ICU staff

Answering the call for help, we were able to supply 100 pamper packs for worn out NHS staff. The packs containing pocket sized Face Cream, Hand Cream, Lip Balm & Body mists, were organised by APMG Phil Blacklaw, and could be kept in their uniform to provide some comfort whilst on the wards of Buckinghamshire Hospitals. These personal items were delivered along with a Fridge, Microwave and Coffee machine, meaning nurses could have hot meals and drinks without leaving the ward, which was prohibited in Covid zones.



Left: Lee Buckingham at Stoke Mandeville. Centre: Steve Perry and Steve Acton at Milton Keynes. Below: Steve Matthews at High Wycombe.



FLOWERS FOR HEALTH CENTRES AND PHARMACIES

Haddenham Lodge Members presented flowers to four local Health Centres and pharmacies to let Doctors and staff know they are very much in our thoughts.

From Receptionists to Doctors, Clerical staff to Pharmacists all received beautiful bunches of flowers in a coordinated afternoon that turned out to be quite emotional. Some recipients were overwhelmed to know their endeavours through Covid 19 were recognised by Buckinghamshire Freemasons.

One such recipient saying "I always thought you were a mysterious bunch, you have proved me so wrong" to which the reply was "the only mystery bunch here are the flowers"



WBro Richard Forrest with flowers ready for delivery

Coffee Machines making a direct difference for Hospital Ward Staff

During the pandemic, hospital staff on Covid wards were unable to get hot drinks, as canteens and cafes were closed. Responding to a plea from a Hospital Fundraiser we were able to assist by purchasing coffee machines for every ward at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Freemasonry in the Community was highlighted in this joint venture by working alongside local resident volunteers.



APGM Tony Robinson and Haddenham fundraiser Paula Thompkins cementing our place in the community by joining forces to purchase coffee machines.



Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Bill Smithson delivering freezers to Stoke Mandeville Hospital

Helping Our NHS Stay Cool Under Pressure

Buckinghamshire Freemasons saw a post on Facebook asking for assistance to buy two freezers so that staff on COVID wards at Stoke Mandeville Hospital could take in food and provide easy access to important, hydrating ice. Our Provincial Executive immediately sanctioned funds and the freezers were ordered, purchased and delivered within 36 hours.

Buckinghamshire Freemasons Are All Heart, and on Valentines Day they are Chocolate.



Manor of Swanburn & Haddenham Lodge joined forces to buy Chocolate Hearts for Hospital Staff. To cheer up their day, nurses were given cards and chocolate hearts whilst on their shifts for Valentine's day.

Talking about the cards, psychotherapist Bethany Angell said "you have no idea how much this gesture means, particularly in the height of the pandemic, the whole hospital is talking about it. What a very thoughtful thing to do"

Steve Perry with a chocolate heart.



Tablets for The Patient Education Team at Stoke Mandeville National Spinal Injuries Centre



The Patient Education Team at Stoke Mandeville provide Peer Support to newly injured spinal patients as part of their rehab. We are a small team of 5 with 4 of us having 95 years experience between us of living with a spinal injury. Apart from teaching patients the basics of self-care when they are discharged from the unit we are able to draw on our own experiences of living day to day life and help remove some of the anxieties they may have in adjusting to their new way of living. We focus on what can be achieved rather than what can't.

Prior to COVID we would hold weekly face to face sessions to build a relationship and sometimes even longer term friendships. This sadly came to an abrupt halt in March 2020. Four of us were classified as high risk and told to isolate at home. Klaudia who manages the team was allowed in on a limited access basis but patients were out of bounds. We had to find a new

way to support our patients and so we developed a website with our key presentations and started to phone people.

During the pandemic all wards were closed to protect staff and patients and the Patient Education Team were unable to provide the training information to teach the patients day to day life skills to prepare them for discharge and their new life. Bucks Masons donated 2 tablets to the Team. The Team designed a website to house their presentations and links to partner charities who can assist with ongoing support around the UK. Richard Church, Seer Green Lodge 9055 and a member of the Patient Education Team, said that the tablets have again opened up the opportunity to help those patients confined to their bed or the ward and provide the tools that they need to live life to the full.



EASTER EGG INITIATIVE



Steve Jones of Stokenchurch Lodge 7438 and Eddie Irwin, the Marlow Centre Manager, identified a very worthy cause to support over Easter...

Alexander Devine Hospice was set up by the parents of Alexander after he was diagnosed with a brain tumour at 4 years old. Unfortunately Alexander died after battling for 4 years. The Hospice was set up because there was no dedicated children's hospice in Berkshire.

The idea: Stokenchurch Lodge members have raised funds that were used to buy Easter Eggs for the children, staff and families. Fiona Devine, the Founder and CEO of the charity sent a personal letter thanking The Freemasons for their kind generosity.

A little more on this worthy Cause

Their Vision: To provide a children's hospice service within Berkshire and surrounding counties that will give children and families a choice of care and support from a dedicated team

The Mission: To reach out to every child and family who needs care. They support children and their families from birth to 19 years old with life limiting and life threatening conditions from all faiths, cultures and ethnic groups. They cover the whole of Bucks, Berks and surrounding counties supporting 130+ children and their families in the last year. The support varies dependent on the needs but they offer sensory experiences (indoor and outdoor), a hydrotherapy pool, respite care, specialist play (music room and creative learning), support to the family as a whole, end of life care and bereavement support.

5214 Industria Lodge Supports The DASH Charity.

During the early part of 2020 WBro Steve Smith put forward the idea of Industria Lodge supporting a charity on an ongoing basis.

We decided that the chosen organization must be a charity which was to be located and operating close to our Lodge in Slough. This way we would be able to see first-hand the results of support and be able to talk directly with the volunteers and organisers. After some research, and direction from my wife who is a senior matron at the local NHS Wexham Park Hospital, the Lodge decision, signed off by our Worshipful Master, W.Bro Peter Montgomery was to support The DASH Charity. Domestic Abuse Stops Here. At the time, their local HQ was located on the Slough Industrial Estate which tied in nicely with our Lodge roots, as in 1930, Industria Lodge was formed by directors and workers from the Slough Industrial Estate, dropping the 'L' of Industrial gave the Lodge its name.

Caron Kipping of The DASH Charity is their grants writer and also a trainer and has been our first point of contact. Once our intentions of support were pointed out, she welcomed Industria Lodge to help whenever possible.

During the time since April 2020 with Masonic meetings off the menu, fund raising activity has been seriously curtailed, but we have still managed to make some respectable donations to the Charity and in turn, helping their client families. Leading up to Christmas last, instead of writing and posting Christmas cards to each other, we donated money which enabled us to buy presents for the client families of DASH directly from their Amazon Wish List, ensuring that each present was a guaranteed winner! The purchases were also made through Amazon Smile so with DASH as the chosen charity, they received a small donation from every purchase too. More



Above: The Dash Charity Team.



recently, at Easter, through a Lodge appeal, we collected enough money to buy over 100 Easter eggs which were passed to Tracey Noble, Refuge Manager at DASH, who then distributed the Easter goodies to families in refuge homes helped by The Dash Charity. Both W.Bro Kevin Ogilvie and Bro Matt Durbin were very helpful in the logistics of purchasing and moving around so many eggs!

We are looking forward to inviting some of the volunteers and representatives to a White Table event once the Slough Masonic Centre is back in full swing.

The HQ I mentioned earlier has since been lost and so the Charity team work from home with the exception of the refuge team. The Charity is currently seeking a space in South Bucks or



Above: Charity Steward Industria W.bro Mally Baxter Handing Over the Eggs to Tracey Noble Easter 2021

Windsor/Maidenhead to become a Children's Hub – somewhere children and young people can go for therapies, support, and where the parent can also access help. Please let me know if you know anywhere!

WBro Malcolm (Mally) Baxter
Charity Steward 5214 Industria Lodge

To find out more about the good work of The Dash Charity visit thedashcharity.org.uk

Support to St Vincent Volcanic Disaster



Bro Talandi sorting first delivery

The 9th April 2021 marked the day that the Soufriere Volcano on the island of St.Vincent erupted violently, leading to over 20,000 residents having to be evacuated and many, many more displaced throughout the island of St Vincent and neighbouring islands of the Grenadines (SVG).

The eruption was immediately felt across the Caribbean with ash clouds engulfing roof tops, blanketing crops and plant life alike. Bro. Talandi Slater of Burke Lodge, who has generations of family on the Island, along with thousands of others suffered the impact of the Volcano. With a very tight timeline and the restrictions in place with COVID-19 the main airport on St Vincent being closed added to the difficulties. The consignment was prepared for shipping. This required immediate action in order to support this relief project and using contacts within the shipping agencies, who were willing to assist with shipping the consignments 'free of charge' at short notice.

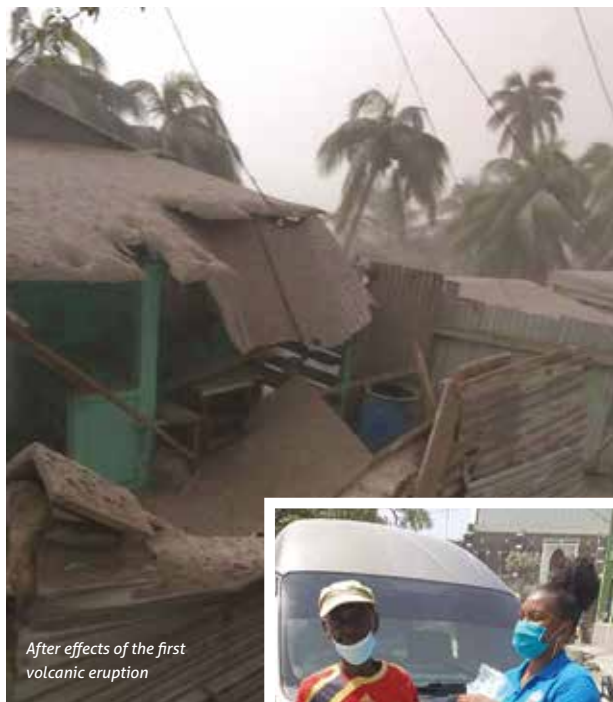
Bro Talandi reached out to Buckinghamshire Freemasons and local contacts assisted by W. Bro Mark Harry to assist in bringing together essential supplies which would be shipped to the Caribbean within a very short amount of time. Numerous donations included bottled water, tinned food, disinfectant and many other essential items. The shipment arrived after a 2-week voyage and is now being distributed across the Islands. These items will go some way to assist the citizens of SVG impacted by the Volcano, including those displaced or living in shelters.



Local distribution of much needed aid



Volcanic Ash covers the Island coastline



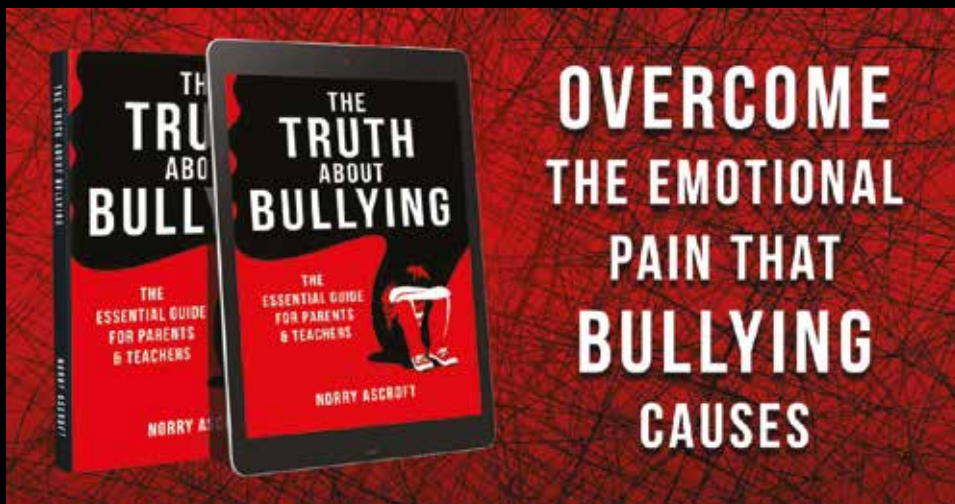
After effects of the first volcanic eruption



Islanders receiving aid

AGAINST BULLYING

One of Freemasonry's major objectives is to see that all people are treated equally and with respect. In particular, it is a goal to ensure children have a safe and happy environment to grow up in.



Bullying in school has spoiled many a child's formative years and touches the families and friends of those affected.

To try and bring awareness and understanding to the problem, Lancashire Freemason Norry Ascroft, has created an online video course that trains

teachers on 'The Truth About Bullying' and is already accredited and endorsed by his local Town Council in Blackpool. It has been his quest to supply every one of the 30,000+ schools in the UK and offer his FREE training programme for teachers and staff, guiding them through the minefield of young peoples' emotions and mental well-being. This

was achieved in December 2020 by sending free access details to every school by email and leaflet.

The programme has already been highly successful and received accolades from both schools and parents for the positive attitudes and understanding it has engendered. Freemasonry has never been constrained by geography, and Norry has been a great friend to Bill Smithson, our Buckinghamshire Provincial Director of Ceremonies, for many years. Bill has organised many charity events over the years and Norry, as his alter ego "Lionel Vinyl", has often been the 'warm up act' to get the evening started.

One of these events was the MCF Mid Festival Gala Dinner hosted by our Provincial Grand Master, John Clark, prior to the Covid 19 pandemic. As part of Norry's 'fee' Bill ensured that a donation was made towards fulfilling his ambitious aim by sponsoring every school in Bucks to receive access to the programme

It is our hope that this wonderful initiative will receive support throughout the country, most especially in Bucks ,



Norry as 'Lionel Vinyl'



MCF mid Festival Gala Dinner

from both Freemasons and the wider public together. We are determined to follow up the initial emails by contacting every school to make sure they understand the support available. Bill said "one of the hardest things for a school to admit is bullying, because by doing so there is a fear of the acknowledgement of failure'. The last thing this programme does is point the finger of blame.

This year Norry has pledged to give EVERY parent at all the schools on the Fylde Coast a free downloadable copy of his book – The Truth About Bullying. Along with these 50,000 parents, Bill has arranged for Freemasons

to give away FREE downloadable copies to every parent at every school in Buckinghamshire, and beyond. The value of this runs into a potential of over £200,000 worth of books that can be given away for free.



Perhaps the last word should go to Norry:

“In 2018 and 2019 child suicides were more than 200 per year as well as many thousands of cases of children suffering with mental health issues. During the pandemic in 2020, bullying online increased by 70%. It’s time to make a difference and tackle bullying directly.”

More information about The Truth About Bullying can be found here: <https://youthpotential.mykajabi.com>

In this issue of Concord, I ask the question:

Can Freemasonry Make Miracles happen?



Well, let's see what happened in Princes Risborough when a few local Freemasons reached out to support their local community supported by local Lodges.

This is in the words of Brother Alan Turner.

In 2011 Bucks County Council (BCC) announced they were closing most of their Adult Day Care Centres, including the centre in Princes Risborough. There was a strong public backlash and, in my then position as chairman of the Town Council, and after some fraught discussions, my proposal for a Social Enterprise to take over the centre was accepted by BCC.

I formed the Princes Risborough Centre Charity and we took over the centre in June 2012. The arrangement with BCC was that we had 2 years to raise £200K in order to purchase the facility from them. This was very hard work but we achieved this through a mixture of donations, fundraising activities and huge public support.

In December 2017, following a request from BCC, we took on the provision of adult day care in Bourne End on a lease arrangement. Up to this point the centre had been making a loss, but with a lot of hard work and commitment, I am really proud to say we have been able to make a success of this as well as our centre in Risborough.

The role the centres play offers vital care for some of the most vulnerable members of our communities whilst enabling their carers (sons, daughters, mothers, fathers, etc) respite in their daily lives.

The first few years were extremely challenging, but it really has been worth it all and Freemasonry really is working within the community.

We started from nothing and with the commitment of other Masons, the local communities and local Lodges we have grown, and now have 27 members of staff. The Charity is now managed by a board of 8 trustees.

I must pay special praise to my fellow Brother Matthew Walsh who joined me and became a Trustee like myself and put his financial acumen to good use!

Like a true Mason, when asked he took up the challenge and has been instrumental in establishing a sound, sustainable base and ensuring the long-term future of the Charity. Matthew is also the current chairman of Trustees, (a position that he and I seem to have been alternating between for some years now!). He has been a critical asset to the Charity.

Apart from the magnificent local community support and other organisations, we have also received substantial support from Freemasonry, with grants from:

- Carrington Lodge
- Princes Risborough Lodge
- Misbourne Lodge
- Province
- Denyside Bowling (made up of Masons)

Carrington Lodge has provided manpower through "Freemasonry in the Community" for small projects, such as painting the kitchen, gardening, garden furniture maintenance, etc.

Our proud moments were being recognised for outstanding service with numerous awards.

- Providing "Dignity in Care".
- National award for "Small business of the year".
- "The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service" received in 2019.

SUPPORTING THE COMMUNITY

Supporting and working in our local community opened up other areas of support for the local community, for example, The Risborough Basket. Whilst ostensibly operated by the Town Council the three Councillors driving the project through are also brethren of Carrington Lodge, namely Matthew Walsh (who conceived the project), David Knights and myself. We each managed key roles in setting the scheme up and seeing it through its different stages.

The scheme was designed to enable the

THE TWO CENTRES ARE KEY IN SUPPORTING THEIR LOCAL COMMUNITIES:

The Risborough Centre:

- Provides day care for elderly clients including dementia sufferers.
- Supports the frail and those who are lonely.
- Caters for younger clients with mental health issues and learning difficulties.

The Bourne End Centre

- Provides day care for elderly clients including dementia sufferers.
- We support the frail and those who are lonely
- Hopes to expand services to include younger clients as in Risborough.



Left to right = Bro David Knights Bro Matthew Walsh W Bro Alan Turner W Bro Tony Robinson APMG

local independent retailers to continue selling merchandise through an internet/ phone/free delivery service whilst premises were shut during lockdowns and during the first 4-month lockdown to provide a fresh fruit and veg free delivery service to those vulnerable families who were shielding/isolating and were struggling to get supermarket deliveries. The F&V service was hugely welcomed and received many plaudits from residents, with some 2,000 deliveries over the period.

As the Princes Centre was closed during the first lockdown the main hall was used as the "nerve centre" for Risborough Basket and all orders were dispatched from there. The online/delivery service has proved so successful that it has become a fully-fledged business survival aid to our local retailers and other towns, such as Henley, have adopted the concept on the basis of our success.

Other local charities, (which I am a trustee) have also been providing free fruit & veg parcels to several young families who have been struggling throughout the pandemic. These have been delivered free by Risborough Basket.

We end with a quote from Kim the centre manager

The Princes Centre has always been grateful for local community support, none more than from the Masons.

The Masons have been involved with the centre since we began in 2012 as a registered charity and have supported us in many projects. Their support has not only come in a monetary reward but physical support too. A group of masons has supported us with our gardens and decorating.

As manager, I have been invited to join the Masons on various celebrations and was amazed to hear of their support to many local organisations. We consider ourselves to be very lucky for their support.

As mentioned, the Support from the Masons began when we took over the centre, initially without their support we wouldn't be where we are today. The variety of work they assist with is beyond a simple 'thank you' but we are truly grateful for everything they have done for the centre and through their support we have made the centre a welcoming

asset and a sustainable service to our vulnerable people within our local communities.

One Brother has a vision, and with the support of other Brethren, Lodges and local charities bring the local community together. With everyone working together they save their local Centre and turn a failing project into a successful charity supporting their local community.

Freemasonry really can make miracles happen

If you know Members or Lodges in our Province who are doing work supporting their local community contact W Bro Eugene Matthias email- info@eugenematthias.com or call 07730 11111. We would like to highlight your work and say Thank You.

ADVERTISEMENT

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FOR THE
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It's coming home....

SUMMER 2021

Afternoon or Evening delight?
You choose!

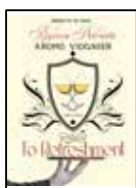
The weatherman predicts a deliciously warm Summer, something we all deserve along with our freedom from lockdown. ToRefreshment.com is inviting all Concord readers, their friends and families, to enjoy from a range of their specially chosen wines and drinks – all at specially reduced launch prices, so you can get more and enjoy more, as you soak up the sun. Whether from the comfort of your home, an alfresco picnic or a trip to the seaside or to loved one, take your pick and raise a glass. To Refreshment everyone!

STEP 1 – Go to ToRefreshment.com and choose your selection from any of the following drinks;



RESERVE SAINT MARC SAUVIGNON BLANC

A clean nose with notes of elderflower and gooseberry. Pleasant and refreshing on the palate with a spiciness and acidity and citrus tones.



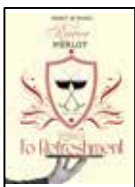
AROMO VIOGNIER

From the Maule Valley, Chile. An aromatic, full bodied and slightly savoury wine, with fresh peach and subtle floral notes.



RESERVE PORT LBV

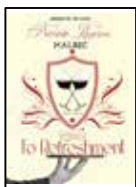
A Late Bottled Vintage with rich flavours, smooth, velvety and juicy. Deserve a treat? Described as dessert in a glass. Mmmmm!



RESERVE SAINT MARC MERLOT

Vegan & Vegetarian friendly
Deliciously fruity, with notes of thyme and pepper.

Made for any occasion.



AROMO RESERVE MALBEC

Contains 4x the antioxidants of Merlots and 2x of Cabernet Sauvignons. Made from a scrumptious, flavoursome blend of dark chocolate, fruit and cherries.



BLAYE COTE DE BORDEAUX

Filled with aromas of red and black fruits, wood and vanilla. Superb roundness and straightforward on the palate, with very smooth tannins. Perfect for fine dining.

To Refreshment

is proud to announce that it will give 10% of its profits to UK registered charities.



DENOMINAZIONE DI ORIGINE CONTROLLATA PROSECCO

Brilliant light straw colour, brightened by a delicate perlage, zesty with citrus fruit, flowery features and a light fresh finish. Prosecco is made from the Glera grape and made into sparkling wine using the Charmat sparkling method.

STEP 2 – Enter your discount code **SUMMER2021** with any purchase of 6 bottles or more and claim your free aerator.

***FREE AERATOR WITH EVERY CASE PURCHASED FOR ALL CUSTOMERS**

**One per customer*

STEP 3 – Organise a picnic, lunch, dinner, a party or an excursion and †enjoy feeling smug.
(† Feeling smug optional)

DRINK RESPONSIBLY WITH



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SHOOTING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

As Boris Johnson's road map out of lockdown continued, the rule of 6 being in place and not being able to eat indoors did not stop the determined group of clay shooters that turned up to shoot the Buckinghamshire Masonic C.P.S.A. Spring Charity Clay Shoot at Common Lays shooting ground (Oxfordshire) in aid of MARLOW OPPORTUNITY PLAYGROUP.

May 2021 it did not feel much like Spring as it was overcast and looked very much like rain. This arrived half way through proceedings but this did not dampen the spirits of those hardy bunch, or our A.P.G.M. Tony Robinson (our official photographer) who was out there taking photos regardless.

With a good turnout of 53 shooters for Berkshire, Buckinghamshire, East Kent, Essex, Hertfordshire, Lancashire (West), MetGL and Oxfordshire taking part the competition was high. The course being tough, the scores were lower than expected, with the top score being 76 out of 100 shot by Micheal Blackwell a.k.a. Tank, one of our non-masonic guest shooters. The top masonic shooter with 74 was John Perrin MetGL with Dave Brown also from MetGL runner up with a score of 7. The only



Micheal Blackwell (Tank) Guest High Gun and top score on the day.

other shooter in the 70's was John Hopcroft from Oxford. There were two lady shooters, Louise Jennings Hoole top score of 50 and Emily Damment with 45.

There was also a pool shoot over 10 clays, with two shooters both managing 10/10, so Marc Price MetGL and Bernie Connolly East Kent shared the prize having a bottle of bubbly each.

The day started as normal with bacon rolls and coffee, followed by a short talk from Roger Gills, before the 11 groups of five shooters headed out on to the course. On finishing the shoot all headed to the Common Lays Farm House Pub/Hotel bar for a drink and meal (eaten outside under cover) of baked potatoes and chilli or drunken pig cooked by pub landlady Ally (thanks Ally that was great).

The raffle prizes were drawn by Emily Damment (editor Clay Shooter Magazine) all the prizes being the normal masonic raffle prizes of Wine etc.

V.W.Bro Brian Saidman MetGL addressed the group explaining the addition of an extra trophy that was to



Emily Damment Lady Runner up with Tony Robinson.

be shot for between Buckinghamshire Province and MetGL each year. Roger Gills then announced the result that Met GL had won with a score of 278/400 to Bucks score of 233/400. The winning team received the new trophy and then the main prizes were presented to the winners by A.P.G.M. Tony Robinson who finished by thanking everyone for attended and those who organised and set up the shoot.



Dave Brown MetGL Masonic Runner up.

Sports



John Perrin MetGL, Masonic High Gun.



Bernie Connoly and Marc Price pool shoot winners.



Shooters from MetGL and West Lanc's enjoy the food together.



Alan Goff and Adam Bernstein Bucks enjoy a pint.

TROPHIES

Masonic High Gun

- John Perrin MetGL 74

Masonic Runner up

- Dave Brown MetGL 71

Guest High Gun

- Micheal Blackwell 76

Guest Runner up

- Paul Wisbey 69

Lady High Gun

- Louise Jennings Hoole 50

Lady Runner up

- Emily Damment 45

Pool Shoot

- Marc Price MetGL 10/10
- Bernie Connoly East Kent 10/10

Dave Hollis thanked all who attended and wished them a safe journey home.

Team Events for the Diary

HOME COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP. 14th August 2021

Teams from Home County Provinces, Ladies, Guests etc. Northall Clay Shooting Club. SUSSEX.

THAMES VALLEY TROPHY 21st August 2021.

Teams from Berks, Bucks and Oxford. All guests welcome. Oxford Gun Comp. OXFORD.

NATIONAL MASONIC CLAY SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP 18th September 2021

All Masons and Provincial teams, Ladies, Juniors Veterans Guests etc.

Barbury Shooting School. Swindon Wiltshire

2ND INTERNATIONAL MASONIC CLAY SHOOTING CHAMPIONSHIP 16th October 2021

All Masons

The National Shooting Centre, Falkirk, SCOTLAND.



Buckinghamshire Masonic Golf Society

The Buckinghamshire Masonic Golfing Society got off to a good start for the season, as soon as the Government's lockdown lifting allowed.

A thoroughly good day was had by all who attended, and it was nice to get back to some semblance of competitive golf. The weather on the day thoroughly exceeded expectations, so the Secretary's prayers must have been answered.

The first Competition of the year was the Interlodge Shield which was played for

on the 18th May at Wycombe Heights Golf Centre, High Wycombe. Eight pairs of golfers played in the competition and it was eventually won admirably, but on countback, by Paul Smith and Tony Richards representing Buckinghamshire Motor Cycle Lodge. Second place was taken by the Society Captain Robin Knock and Andy Sutton representing Hall Barn Lodge. One notable on course incident was the fact that Robin Knock ran over his playing partner with the Golf Buggy. Luckily the only thing hurt was Robin's pride, although he had to endure quite a lot of ribbing from other Society members. Following the golf, the brethren shared a social meal, and

a drink or two, at the 19th Hole. The next outing is at Whipsnade Golf Club on the 24th June 21, when the Society Members will play for the Founders Trophy.



Image from left: Paul Smith, Robin Knock (Captain), Tony Richards.

If any Buckinghamshire Masons would wish to join this happy band of very mixed standard golfers then please contact Tony Martin at ama15346@aol.com, and a very friendly welcome will be extended.

FOUNDERS TROPHY



Club President W Bro Mike Powell, left, with Bro Stuart McCurry

The Bucks Masonic Golf Society held its annual golf tournament for the "Founders Trophy", on the 24th June at Whipnade Golf Club. As usual the Secretary arranged for the rain to stay away, and a good day of golf was had by all.

The course proved a challenge for a few of the members, with the honours and first place being achieved by W.Bro Stuart McCurry. He was presented with the cup by the Club President W Bro Mike Powell.

The next outing will be at Harleyford Golf Club on the 15th July 2021, when we will be playing for the "Derek Trice Memorial Trophy".



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