

CONCORD



A NEW FIXTURE FOR BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The new rugby styled Dagmar Lodge has its first Installation fixture in Winslow

page 27



6

FESTIVAL
FORTNIGHT
2022

40

FREEMASONRY
SUPPORTING
UKRAINE

50

A UNIQUE
CRICKETING
OPPORTUNITY

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CONCORD CONTENTS

3 Welcome from the
Provincial Grand Master

ROYAL ARCH

5 An update from the Grand
Superintendent of Bucks

FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT

6 List of Festival Events
8 15 Knocks
11 The Swimathon

WISDOM OF SOLOMON

12 Shape of the Lodge

PROVINCIAL NEWS

14 The Show Must Go On
15 25th Anniversary Celebration
for Grand Union Lodge
15 Friday 13th Lucky for
Wexham Park Chapter
16 Bucks Motorcycle Lodge
supports the Great
Warwickshire Rideout
16 Seer Green Ceremony
17 Old Pals Goes From
Strength to Strength
17 Wycombe Chapter
125th Birthday Celebrations
18 Marcellians Special
3rd Degree Ceremony
19 Marcellians Installation

Chilterns Lodge - A Very
Special Meeting



PAGE 20

21 Star Wars Passing Ceremony
21 Wraysbury Lodge Initiation
22 Living with Cerebral Palsy
23 Christmas Raffle for Local
Charities
23 3rd Degree at Temple Manor
Lodge
23 Denham Green Lodge
Celebrates 25 Years
24 Wendover Lodge Raises
the Roof
25 Craft Beer Appreciation
26 Novice Strongman
27 A New Fixture for
Buckinghamshire
28 Marlow Ladies are Back!
28 Manor of Swanburn Keep
it in the Family
29 Masonic Prostate Cancer
Screening Project
29 Slough Centre supports Home
Start at Easter
30 Hands Across the Seas visit
Bristol, Tuscany, Towcester
Racecourse and Champagne
32 Mayoral Inauguration
32 50 years of Service
Celebrations at Princes
Risborough Lodge
33 Bucks Motorcycle Lodge
Coming of Age
34 Great Reasons to Join the
Royal Arch
35 RAVC Events
36 Buckinghamshire
Superheroes
38 Supporting Dash at Easter
39 Salt of the Earth at Salt Hill
39 Heatherden Lodge Slough
Together Walk

FREEMASONRY SUPPORTING UKRAINE



Hughenden
Rally Round

PAGE 40

41 St Martins Lodge
Ukraine Appeal
42 100km Walk for Ukraine
42 Emergency Medical Supplies

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

44 Remaining in our Hearts
46 NHS Garden Rescue
47 Guided Tour of the
Mayor's Parlour
48 My Charity Journey

MEMBERSHIP & MARKETING

49 Continued Push for
New Members

SPORTS

50 A Unique Cricketing
Opportunity
51 Clay Pigeon Shooting in
aid of Dreamflight
51 Bucks Masonic Golf Society

Editorial Submissions
concord@buckspgl.org

Membership Officer
membership@buckspgl.org

Bucks Provincial
Communications Officer
comms@buckspgl.org

Editor
editor@buckspgl.org

Welcome

From the Provincial Grand Master

I hope you are all enjoying this wonderful summer and are now taking a well earned rest as we go into recess. Looking through this largest ever edition of Concord you can clearly see that we really did come **“Back with a Bang”** last September and have not rested on our laurels since. The BIG event on 12th September 2021, was amazing and a credit to all of you who took part. You would have thought that after BIG things would slow down but this has driven us on, and we have been doing double and triple ceremonies everywhere for many months to catch up. I urge you to continue to complete as many 2nd and 3rd Degrees as possible so that we can then introduce more new candidates.

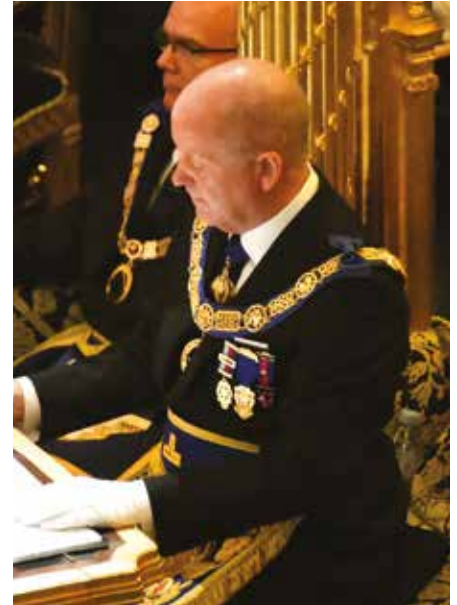
I have recently had the pleasure of conducting my youngest son David's 3rd Degree with some theatrical lighting which Gary Brodie and I have been instrumental in installing at Slough. Some very carefully orchestrated music from our Provincial organist, synchronised with lighting changes at the precise moments delivered a very theatrical performance which took the ceremony to a new level. This new lighting is now available for everyone to use and is being rolled out at Bletchley during August. I ask everyone to try to make each ceremony as impressive and special as it can be. I also had the great pleasure of installing my eldest son Jack into the chair of his Grandad Bryan's mother Lodge in March while he was still in the chair of the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge and he in turn has now Installed his close friend Giorgio Guarino as Master of the Motorcycle Lodge a few weeks ago. Jack has only been in Masonry for 7 years and I am very proud of them both as I am of so many of our young men doing outstanding work very early in their masonic life.

There is a wonderful line in a Pink Floyd song penned by Roger Waters, which says "Forward he cried from the rear and the front rank died". We are clearly not doing that here and you are all leading by example.

This has created **“A Real Buzz in Buckinghamshire”** which is now snowballing and creating many new additional membership applications generated directly from Lodges. This has not happened by accident, and people will always want to join an organisation where it is so clear that people are proud of what they are doing, having fun, and making a difference.

You have all done so much more than I could ever have asked for the 2021-22 Festival and you have again done so much more during our second Festival Fortnight. For my part I have conducted more Initiations than I ever thought possible in 7 days during the Festival Fortnight, with 30 scheduled this was a daunting prospect and then hopped in a Kayak to paddle 26 Miles down the Thames in 7.5 hours with Simon Williams, Matt Eaton and Jack Clark. The list of madness is long. So many of you did so many things and I thank Mark Duncan for the herculean effort he put in to drive this event.

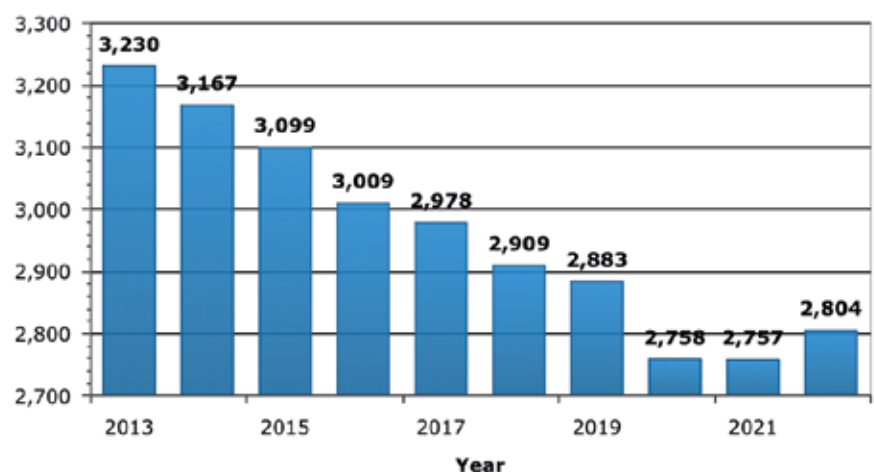
At the quarterly meeting of the Provincial Executive in January this year I presented a new Strategy and set some very demanding goals for the next 3 years, one of which was to increase membership from 2695 at our lowest point near the end of 2020, according to Adelphi, to 2800 by December 2022. I am delighted to tell you



that this goal has already been smashed and exceeded. Month on month our membership is now increasing thanks to all your efforts and in no small part due to all the crazy things you have been up to for the Festival Fortnight.

Other comparative membership organisations such as the Scouts and Round Table have also seen a similar decline in number over many years and in 2013 the Scouts started to reverse this trend by implementing a Pathway initiative and engaging with social media. UGLE have followed their example and we are among the most advanced Provinces in the country with the rollout of Pathway; Lodges are reaping the rewards in reduced resignations. With so many younger people conducting their lives through social media, Covid has been advantageous for us in some ways with people, previously isolating, now very keen to come out, socialise and meet new friends and we must now capitalise on this opportunity.

Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire Membership Craft - Members



When I took on this role at the end of 2017, I made membership our prime objective and it took nearly 3 years and a truly exceptional team to create a process that worked and, when combined with the great photos and articles that cover your efforts in social media, now delivers a sustained flow of new recruits. You can clearly see losses reducing in 2019 and the effects of covid in 2020. Please keep up your efforts to take photos, write articles and send them to Grae Laws our Communications Officer who will use them to generate even more interest in our activities and membership enquiries. With so many new recruits, in a few years when their friends start to come in, we will really start to see the magnitude of what we have started here.

The major component of our new Strategy is a new organisation structure which you can see below.

I would like to congratulate those who have received Provincial honours this year and thank you for your hard work

for both your Lodges and Province. I am looking forward to investing you all in Provincial Grand Lodge at Freemasons' Hall in London on the 24th October. This year we will be inviting our partners and families to attend, and they will be able to witness the pomp and ceremony of a Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Lodge meeting. This is also a great opportunity to bring along those who you think might be interested in joining. It will be an outstanding event in the spectacular Art Deco Grand Temple with its beautiful stained glass and marble.

Our Provincial meeting has historically been held on a Monday during the school holidays in October. With so many of our new members having young families I am pleased to announce today that we are changing the Provincial meeting date. From next year the Provincial Meeting will be held on the First Saturday in October and this will enable everyone to attend without taking time off work or cutting short their children's holidays.

I will also be asking all Lodges that meet on weekdays to meet no earlier than 6pm so that the new younger generation can attend without taking time off from work.

Sarah and I are looking forward to seeing you all at the Festival Finale Ball at the Double Tree Hotel in Milton Keynes on the 5th August 2022. This will be a magnificent no expense spared event to thank you all for your hard work for the Masonic Charitable Foundation over the last 5 years.

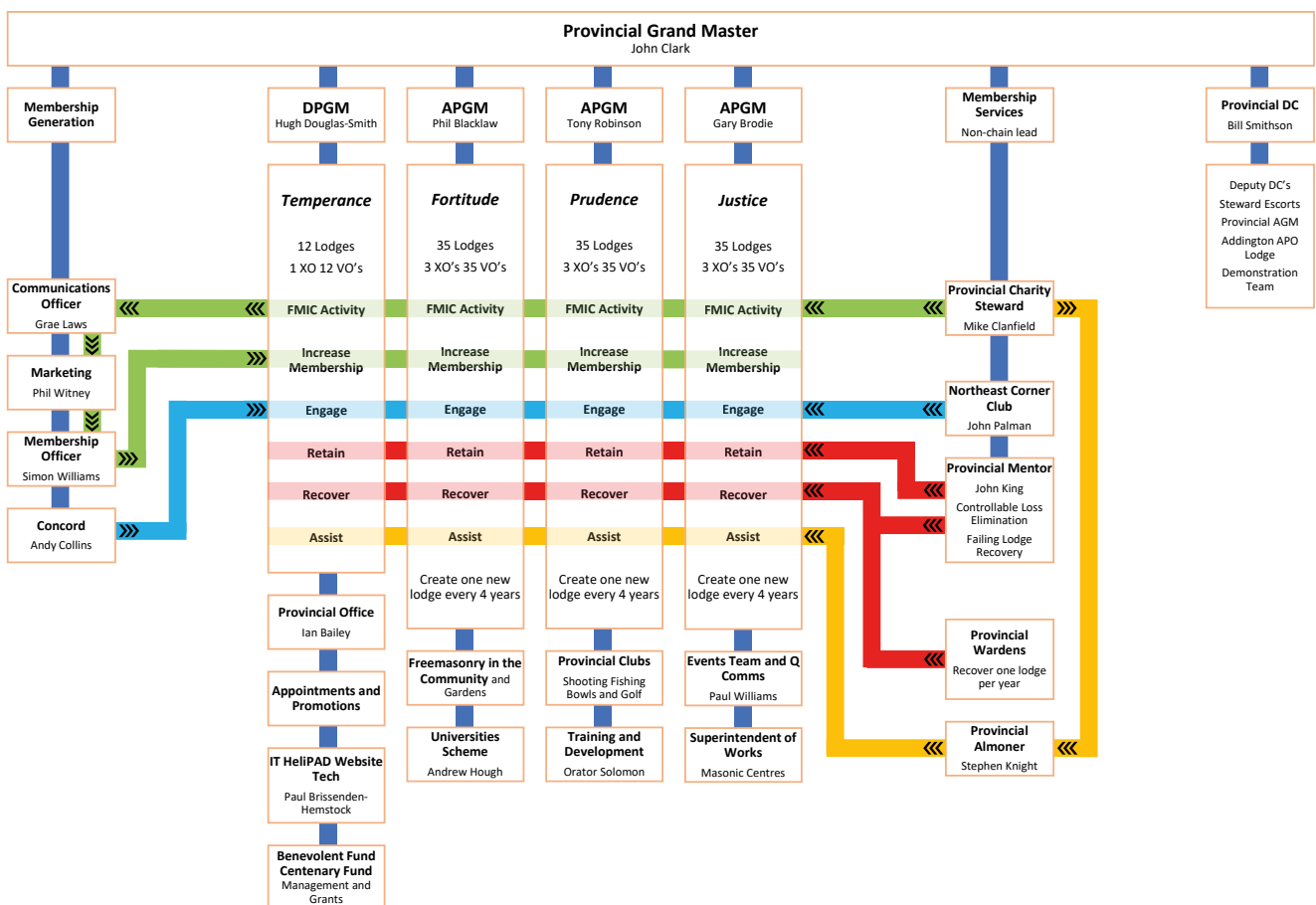
I hope you enjoy your summer and I thank you all for your support and I am looking forward to New Year's Day, as Mr Blacklaw says. The 1st September 2022. Can't wait to get started. I shall be doing five 3rd Degrees by the 1st October four of which will be in a single day and an Installation to kick off. What are you going to do?

John Clark

Provincial Grand Master

PS: WHATS NEXT??

Provincial Grand Lodge of Buckinghamshire Strategy 2022-23 Organisation and Operation Chart



Time For A New "Chapter" In Your Masonic Journey *There's Never Been A Better Time To Join The Royal Arch In Bucks.*

It is hard to believe that I have now been your Grand Superintendent for nearly two and a half years. How quickly the time has flown, but all of it enjoyable.

I thought I would take some time to reflect on what we have done, but more importantly, what we will be doing in the coming 12 months.

The most important thing we have instigated is the Provincial Challenge. I set the Challenge at our rearranged Provincial meeting on Sept 6th 2021. The Challenge is one you are all aware of, every member to introduce one new member to the Royal Arch in 3 years. It certainly is not complicated, but the big question is how successful has it been so far.

Since Sept 6, we have exalted 31 new companions, and we currently have 47 new members waiting in the wings. We also have had 45 joiners into Chapters. So I would like to say a massive thank you to everyone for starting this Challenge so positively, only another two and half years to go.

Having new members come into the Royal Arch is one thing; ensuring they understand that part of their journey and get the most out of their membership is vitally important. The RAVC club headed up by E Comp Nick Wilson is something the Province is immensely proud of, and working in conjunction with Craft's NECC is proving to be invaluable to new members of the Royal Arch. Regardless of your own Royal Arch experience, I would urge you all to get along to one of the many events this year. You will not be disappointed.

At a Craft meeting the other day, I was



asked, "when is the best time to join the Royal Arch" My answer was this, "when the time is right for you". I would encourage all master masons to talk to their Lodge Royal Arch Representatives or their proposer about when and where to join." Masonry is not a race, but this essential part of your masonic journey will help you understand more about yourself and Masonry in general.

Keep a look out later this year when we will announce details of the Buckinghamshire Royal Arch BIG Event which will be held in 2023. In 2023 we want to invite those members who were initiated in the Buckinghamshire BIG Craft event in Sept 21 to attend a meeting explaining the Royal Arch and asking if they would like to be part of an extraordinary BIG Royal Arch Day.

Companions, my executive and I are working hard to ensure that the Royal Arch is integral to every member's masonic journey. All I ask of you is this, talk to those brethren who are not in the Royal Arch and let them know your experience. I hope you find the stories of two newly exalted companions exciting and a fantastic advert of why everyone should join the Royal Arch.

Companions enjoy the well-earned summer break, and I look forward to seeing you in your Chapter and Lodges in this, the most progressive and exciting Province in the Country.

Graham Dearing

Most Excellent Grand Superintendent



PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE
Be part of something special
www.buckspgc.org



FESTIVAL FORTNIGHT 2022

As this magazine goes to press, Festival Fortnight 2022 is already well underway. There are more than 30 Lodges directly involved in organising events and currently there are pledges in place for just over £40000.

THE LIST OF EVENTS INCLUDES:

- The Laughing Apron - a night of Masonic comedy
- Tour the Province by bike in 15 knocks
- Towcester Sunday Lunch Greyhound event
- Executive Zip Wire in Wales
- The King Live at the Bell Hotel
- Pretty BIG initiations
- 30+ marathons
- Sponsored walks
- An airplane wing walk
- Abowls tournament
- Open River Swim in Devon
- Winslow Beer Festival & Classic car/bike show
- Three Peaks Challenge
- ProvGM's Thames paddle
- Swimathon
- afternoon tea at the Linslade Masonic centre
- a classic car/normal car treasure hunt
- Beat the Bookies - day at the races
- An exclusive Tour of the Tower of London
- Filipino cuisine and horse racing day
- A Night of Bollywood
- Indian dancing/drums etc
- 120 miles in 12 hours cycling challenges
- Tom Jones/Neil Diamond Tribute Night
- A summer Pig Roast
- Normans Grand Perambulations.

This list only scratches the surface of the imaginative ways in which our Lodges have embraced the challenge of closing off our Festival with great style and panache.

To stay abreast of what is going on near you please ask your secretary or visit our dedicated Festival Fortnight Facebook group here:

www.facebook.com/groups/BucksBigFestivalFortnight

Look out for more details in our next edition of Concord.





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**FESTIVAL
FORTNIGHT
2022**

15 KNOCKS ON 15 TEMPLE DOORS IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

FRIDAY, 27 MAY 2022.

It's finally here! 6.00am, and a buzz of anticipation is in the air as we start to gather in North Crawley.

W Bro Matt Jarvis and W Bro Jamie Robinson (2435) announce that their mountain bike wheels will be smoking all day and night! The mountain bike challenge brothers are joined on the first leg by Bro Geoff Baulk (5262), W Bro Simon Odell, and W Bro Mike Clanfield PGCS. The support crew of Bro Oscar Wilding (8175), W Bro Dave Heasman and W Bro Peter Marks (6371) are tucking into a hearty breakfast at the North Crawley Masonic Hall. The atmosphere is a heady mix of support from family members, camaraderie and ribbing that helps build the excitement for the start of an amazing 31-hour mountain bike challenge from the north to south of Buckinghamshire - 132 miles. By 0800 am Dave's Postman Pat van is packed to the gunnels with our grab bags, toolkits, masonic banners, as well as a mountain of food for Dave. Our provincial photographer, Bernard, was on hand to take the first photos of us looking fresh as daisies and ready for the off. W Bro Tim Long (2244) was the man of the moment in the kitchen with his masonic cooking team making bacon rolls and issuing cups of tea or coffee to set us up for the first leg of the challenge. With the first knock done at 0830 we head off across country to Bletchley Masonic Centre. We had such a great ride on the Milton Keynes red ways that we got to Bletchley half an hour early at 0930. W Bro Tony Cersell (9641) was there to meet us and presented us with a cheque for our efforts. Tony was the main organiser of both Rock Rides 1 (2010) & 2 (2014) that all Buckinghamshire Masons worked hard to



*Front: W Bro Robinson, Jarvis, Odell, Bro Holland and Baulk.
Rear: W Bro Heasman, Long, Marks.*



W Bro Odell, PGCS Clanfield, AsstProvGM Blacklaw, Bro Baulk, W Bro Robinson, Jarvis, Bro Holland.

support and raised over half a million pounds. I was honoured to be a road cycle rider on the first Rock Ride and head of logistics & motorbike support on the second, both as a non-mason. These amazing experiences became the inspiration for this little challenge on behalf of the Bucks Festival 2022.

It was at Bletchley that we were joined by AsstProvGM W Bro Phil Blacklaw and very quickly we were back on the red ways and heading north to Wolverton, arriving at 1140. It was just a quick front door photo only here and then a short ride to Stony Stratford



Top: W Bro Odell, Robinson Bro Holland, W Bro Cersell, PGCS Clanfield, Bro Baulk, W Bro Jarvis. Bottom: PGCS Clanfield, W Bro Jarvis, AsstProvGM Blacklaw, W Bro Robinson, Bro Holland

Masonic Hall for a well-earned rest and a cuppa. AsstProvGM Phil pouring the tea and keeping us hydrated. Ahead lay the long leg to Buckingham through the countryside and along part of the old Grand Union Canal route. We picked up Bro Ian Chalmers (8985) here who joined us for the ride and said goodbye to Phil and Mike as their heavy electric bikes wouldn't like the future terrain. Once again, our wheels were back on the countryside trails, contouring, and following the disused canal. At 1600, as we rolled into the Lodge, we were met by some of our families to cheer and support us as we knocked for the 5th time - only 10 more to go! In the old Bucks Hussars Officers mess room, now a Masonic Temple, we received a cheque from Grenville Lodge 1787 members. For me to be in this room as a Master Mason was very special as Rock Ride 1 ended here with a celebration at this Lodge.

We then set off to Winslow, speeding along the 12-mile cycle path we got up to 15 to 20 mph. On arrival at Eliot Hall we were met by W Bro Robin Galvin (6371) who presented us with a cheque from New Urban Lodge 6371 and enjoyed the wonderful hospitality provided by W Bro Philip Mendy (2435) and the Bell Hotel. It was here that we were joined on the ride by W Bro Mark Duncan (2450) who joined the Army in the same year as me and Oscar (1978/9).



W Bro Jarvis, Robinson, PGCS Clanfield, W Bro Munday, Bro Holland, Chalmers.

The next leg to Linslade Masonic Centre was the longest and most demanding so far. After overcoming the challenging terrain with the glorious clear blue skies and sunshine, we decided we deserved to stop for a soft drink at the Betsy Wynne and then on to the Carpenters Arms in Stewkley, where we had a Guinness and a packet of pork scratchings to help get us to the Linslade Lodge Door.



W Bro Wooley, Smith, Bro Holland.

As luck would have it, just before Linslade on high ground above Leighton Buzzard, I got the obligatory puncture!

After a quick replacement of an inner tube and short rest for the team we set off downhill for the last 15 mins to The Gables.



W Bro Duncan, Robinson, Jarvis.

Here there was a Lodge meeting in progress, but we were well received, fed, and watered and W Bro Jim Wolley (3014) presented us with a donation. We were all doing very well and feeling strong, on a mission with thoughts turning to getting through the night session without stopping. We left Linslade Lodge 8776 with the light starting to fade and we had a considerable off-road route to get to my Mother Lodge de Bohun 8175 in Aylesbury, our 7th knock. The off-road downhill part by Wingrave gave us a great rush of speed and deep concentration was needed to control our mountain bikes, as the ground was bumpy, dry and hard. The darkness was now closing in and lights were switched on on the bikes. We entered a field full of about 40 young calves and they did not

want us to pass, so we crossed quickly into the adjoining field, and in that field about 30 young bull calves decided they would charge us and not let us through either. We managed to get down this field a bit and then safely back on track again through a fence obstacle. We were already in high visibility jackets, and I took the decision to ride on the A road to speed into Aylesbury and avoid the dark countryside and more crazy young cows. We were working well as a team and looking forward to W Bro Peter Marks' very own Cod Father Shop fish and chips meal. At 2117 hrs we were knocking on the door of de Bohun 8175 Lodge where Bro Mark Turner and Bro Dennis Nave supported us gratefully.



W Bro Turner, Jarvis, Robinson, Duncan, Bro Chalmers, Wilding, W Bro Marks, Heasman.

It was dark when we left Ripon Street so safety and looking after each other became the number 1 priority. Dave and Peter were stood down after a great day of support to the riders and Oscar stepped into the long night shift support role. At 2150 hrs we were on our way to Little Kimble where we had been informed a birthday party was in full swing, but sadly not for us.



W Bro Jarvis, Bro Holland, W Bro Duncan, W Bro Robinson

We stopped for a team photo at the Rainbow structure at Stoke Mandeville Hospital that was created by one of the charities that the MCF support, The Florence Nightingale Hospice, who placed this here to make people smile and give hope - it certainly worked for us. We arrived at Stewart Hall, Little Kimble 9004 to music in the dark. At Little Kimble we were honoured to see another AsstProvGM W Bro Tony Robinson and W Bro Eugène Mathias, W Bro Paul Brissenden Hemstock and their late-night support crew.

Their wives were also in attendance. It was now 2250 hrs and very dark, but not cold at all. Bro Alan Downey provided tea and refreshments from the tailgate of his pickup which was outstanding service! Mark Duncan now left us after completing the 3 hardest cross-country legs so far, and we were now down to 3 riders, myself, Jamie, and Matt with Oscar in support - and its dark o'clock. The support, the encouragement and all the donations were lifting our spirits as we were over £2K at this point, pushing us on



W Bro Turner, Jarvis, Robinson, Duncan, Bro Chalmers, Wilding, W Bro Marks, Heasman.

to make it all the way to the end knock. We bade farewell to the sound of happy party music and went off into the darkness on the way to Thame. Disaster struck us immediately going up a slight incline when Matt's chain snapped. In the darkness and with only torch light Jamie got to work and fixed the chain. We set off again up the rest of the incline to the top of the hill knowing it was a straight run downhill and a lonely long flat dark road to Thame. Disaster struck again when the chain snapped for a second time. Jamie replaced the links in the chain in record time and then we were off, speeding to Thame with hardly a soul about. We stopped at a closed garage so Oscar could supply us with hot drink and feed us. We were in good spirits, only us on the road and we were now speeding into Thame. We arrived at Thame Masonic Hall at 0500 hrs to be greeted by W Bro Bill Smithson (8944) and AsstProvGM Tony Robinson in full Masonic dress, with their ladies supporting us with delicious home-made cake and cups of tea and coffee. In the Lodge room the knock was a special one, with W Bro Bill having prepared some great ritual especially for us.



After a short time, we bid them all a fond farewell and departed on the early morning stretch, navigating the Bledlow Ridge in the dead of night. Oscar drove behind us so that his vehicle lights illuminated the road ahead, keeping us safe. We took it easy and walked up Bledlow Ridge to save energy, but once on top Jamie became like Bradley Wiggins, we were moving along the top of the ridge to West Wycombe at 15 to 20 mph. West Wycombe was a great point to have a quick break at 0242 hrs. We had refreshments from Oscar, a change of clothes and a team chat about what was ahead of us - only 3 more knocks on Lodge doors. To get to Tylers Green there was also a little "heartbreak ridge" hill from the lowland, main street of High Wycombe. Still no one about we had the streets and paths to ourselves. We arrived at 0340 hrs and waiting for us at Tylers Green was W Bro Barry Sparks who we are ever grateful to for such sterling support in the small hours.

At Tylers Green this was the rest stop we did need. We had a cat nap and a quiet moment



W Bro Jarvis, Bro Holland, AsstProvGM Brodie, W Bro Robinson.

here. We walked around the hall and, like the 12 knocks before, very quickly it was time to get in the saddle and gingerly we rode down the steep hill and up the other side. As we headed to sunny Marlow, all of us were wishing the sun would continue to shine on us this St George's Day - and it did! The dawn chorus was glorious as we descended into Marlow. W Bro Paul Webb was waiting at Marlow Masonic Hall with his support team to feed us yet more cake and tea, and our ProvGM John Clark and his son W Bro Jack Clark (9926) came to see us and hear our mountain bike tales. The ProvGM also followed us for a while on his Iron Horse (Motorbike) when we left Marlow and Jack videoed us on our mountain bikes. Two more knocks and job done. The daylight and the sun lift you after getting through the dark night, but more importantly, the total support and fundraising kept us peddling and moving along. We were now close to £3k in donations. To get to Beaconsfield we followed

the Thames Path for a short while with lots of trails, paths, and a very steep hill before a straight run in to Beaconsfield Masonic Centre. At Wooburn Green we had another chain issue on Matt's bike, so we limped into Beaconsfield. Bro Richard Clayton (2816) and W Bro John Petre and their support crew were there cooking bacon rolls from the back of his pickup truck in the car park. Jamie made the command call to get a new chain from a local supplier for Matt's bike which had been playing up. We did not want to break up the 3 brothers iron man team. Out with the tools once again and within minutes were all good to ride again. We now had a new lease of life and knew we



W Bro Jarvis, Bro Holland, AsstProvGM Brodie, W Bro Robinson.

were going to make it as brothers for the charities. Dave and Peter appeared after a full night's sleep at home to continue with their support, so we sent them straight to Slough as we 3 cycled on to Denham Green (9636), the penultimate knock. It was quite an easy morning ride and enjoyable as the end was in sight.



W Bro Jarvis, Bro Holland, AsstProvGM Brodie, W Bro Robinson.

When we arrived there, we were met with happy, fantastic support and laughter from W Bro David Durn (9636) & W Bro Pete Gearing. The knock was completed, and we rested for a while in comfy chairs as we were now very close to Slough and our last knock. The WM of the Lodge also popped by and said hello and wished us continuous luck. So the final ride to Slough Masonic Centre got underway. We left at 1300 hrs, smiling and refreshed and enjoying the moment, reminiscing the highlights of our epic journey. Riding down the hill to the Masonic Centre and our final knock, a smile came to our faces when we rode past the main entrance and heard lots of shouts and applause. It was



W Bro Jarvis, Bro Holland, AsstProvGM Brodie, W Bro Robinson.

a great reception from our families, friends, bros, and with AsstProvGM Gary Brodie delivering our final knock on the Lodge door in his usual style.

The support crew waiting in Slough Masonic Centre was again second to none, just as we started 31 hours ago, we had bacon rolls and cups of tea to finish it all off in style. A festival badge presentation pinned to our chests from the ProvGM was a kind gesture and quite simply was worth the 3-month planning, reconnaissance, promotion, meeting new bros and actioning the plan together, as well as finally completing this Mountain Bike Festival challenge.



RW Bro John Clark with Bro William Holland (above) and W Bro Jamie Robinson (right)

Our Stats

DISTANCE 133.18 MILES

MOVING TIME 15.36 HOURS

MAX SPEED 34.7 MPH

AVERAGE SPEED 8.5 MPH

ELEVATION GAIN 4,993 FT

End Note from Bro Bill Holland (8175):

The fund-raising stands at over £3650.00 in donations.

www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/dutch-holland8175

The support from Buckinghamshire Masons, from EAs all the way to the ProvGM, for this event has been outstanding. You should all pat yourself on the back and keep doing what you do; supporting brothers in any way possible and donating to charities, like only you know how to. A special final note to W Bros Jamie and Matt - what a pleasure to ride with you through Buckinghamshire. Proud to Be a BUCKS MASON

Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum



**FESTIVAL
FORTNIGHT
2022**



The Swimathon!

An article by Bro David Clark



Awards ceremony (left to right): Giorgio Guarino, Peter Thomas, Phil Witney, Paul Williams, Charlie Bitowt, Kevin Shepherd, Mark Duncan, Matt Perkins, Danny Peacock, Javaid Iqbal, Steve Perry, Hugh Douglas-Smith, David Clark, Jack Clark

On Thursday 19th May 13 swimmers travelled to Princes Risborough Leisure Centre to take on the challenge of swimming 305 lengths between a team of four people, of which there were three teams. Each swimmer was to complete 77 lengths or just under 2km each. All in support of the Festival Fortnight.



Poolside supporters (left to right): John Clark, Eraldo Guarino, Maria Guarino, Sarah Clark

They were assisted by several supporters, among which was the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro John Clark and his wife Sarah, who had also sponsored the event, paying for both the pool for the swim and the breakfast following. After the swim an awards ceremony was held near the centre. Festival fortnight pins were handed to each of the swimmers and awards were given for the first finishers, they were: Charlie Bitowt closely followed by Phil Witney and Matt Perkins, all finishing 2km in under 40 minutes. After this the group had a much needed and well-earned breakfast in The

Chilterns Café in Princes Risborough. I am very proud to announce this event has raised £6214.36 including gift aid for the MCF and for the festival. I would like to thank each of the swimmers for taking the time and travelling in the early hours of the morning to complete the challenge and for raising as much as they have. I would also like to thank John and Sarah Clark for sponsoring the whole event. This is the first event I have organised; I think this should encourage young masons to jump in and organise similar events to help make Lodges stand out in the Province and attract new members.



Outside the leisure centre (left to right): Peter Thomas, Steve Perry, Jack Clark, Charlie Bitowt, Kevin Shepherd, Mark Duncan, Paul Williams, Hugh Douglas-Smith, Matt Perkins, David Clark, Danny Peacock, Phil Witney, Giorgio Guarino.



The Shape of the Lodge

Looking to the West

The Lodge is a symbolic representation of King Solomon's Temple. This is presented by means of a symbolic progression by the Candidate through the three courts of King Solomon's Temple where he learns the lessons of each before learning the true significance of his journey.

The Black-and-white chequered floors have been used in temples since the time of Ancient Greece. As well as being simply decorative, the Mosaic Pavement in a Freemasons Lodge has a special meaning. It is one of the most widely recognised Masonic symbols and is the area on which Initiations occur, and it is 'emblematic of human life chequered with good and evil'.

When thinking of the idea of duality and the concepts of good and evil represented by black and white, its symbolism is deep, and it demonstrates the concept of duality and balance. Balance is important in a Mason's life, so the Mosaic Pavement could be interpreted as meaning that balance provides the foundation of Masonic growth. By maintaining our balance, we can stand upright before God and our fellow men. The concept of Justice is also represented by a figure holding a pair of scales which is balanced, and justice is described as the foundation of civil society in the First- Degree of Freemasonry.

The chequered floor of the Lodge denotes the dual quality of everything connected with life

and the physical grounding of human nature. 'The web of our life is a mingled yarn, good and ill together' wrote William Shakespeare in 'All's Well That Ends Well'. What is good for one person may be bad for another, what is right at one moment may be wrong the next and we can be intellectually exalted one day and depressed and benighted the next. The dualism of these opposites governs us until we learn and advance to a condition beyond this up-and-down existence.

The floor of the Lodge can also be viewed as representing the Earth and the material world, in contrast with the ceiling, which represent the heavens and the spiritual realm, 'a celestial canopy of diverse colours, even the heavens'. They are opposite poles, one earthly and sensuous, the other ethereal, tenuous and invisible.

The Mosaic Pavement is given prominence among the other Lodge Furniture because

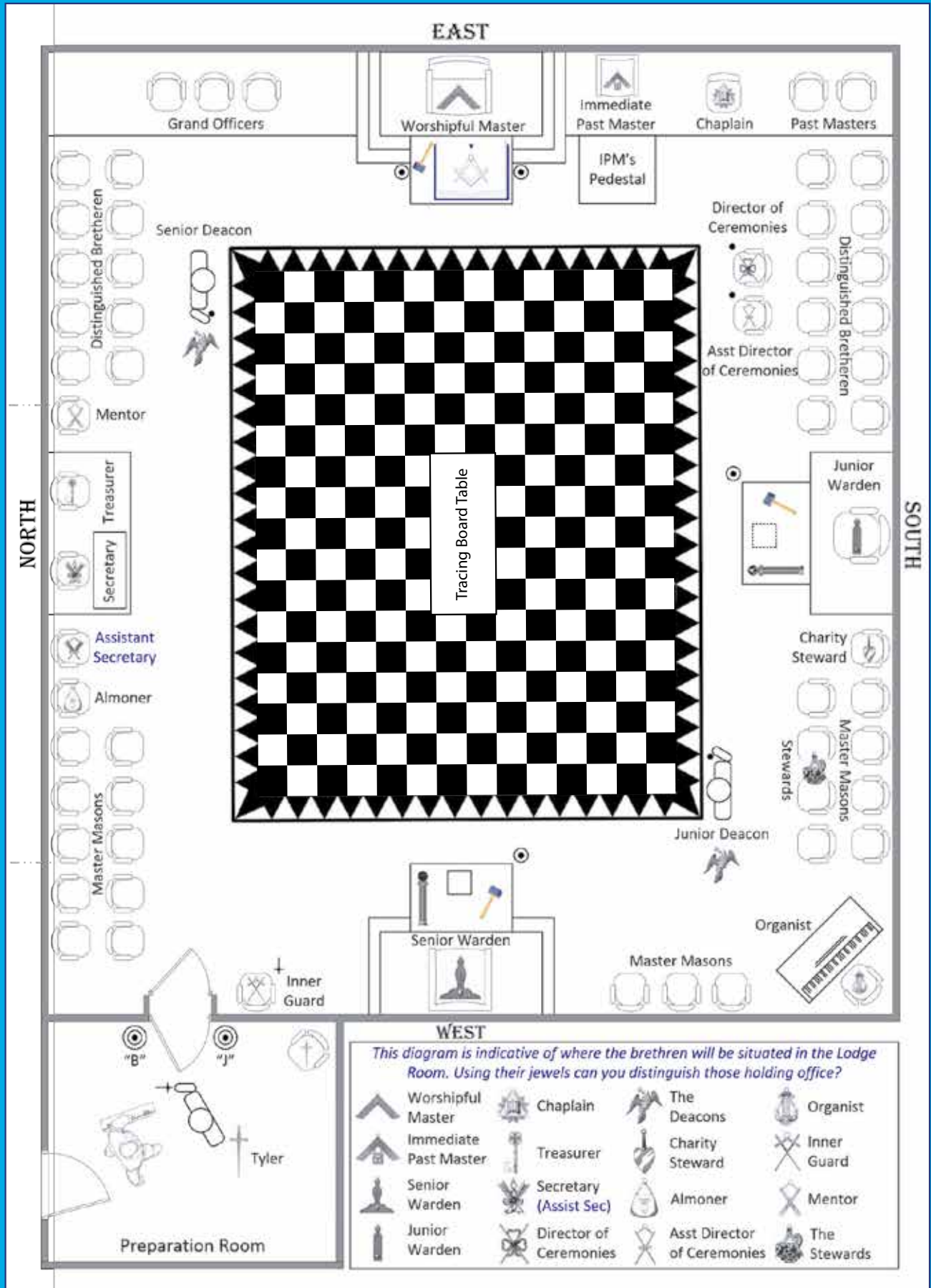
every Freemason should be the High Priest of his own personal temple, to make it a place where he and God can meet. In this dualistic world, every individual, Mason or non-Mason, walks on the mosaic pavement of mingled good and evil, and so it is a symbol of an elementary philosophical truth common to us all.

It is easy for the symbolism of the mosaic pavement to be lost in the flood of information with which new Entered Apprentices are bombarded after their initiation. A deeper examination of this symbolism shows that it demonstrates the ideals at the foundation of our individual growth as Freemasons, our fraternity, and even all of human society. Living in balance makes us healthy, happy and just. If our feet are well balanced, both literally and figuratively, we are able to serve our fraternity better.



Looking to the East

Typical Layout of a Lodge Room





The Show Must Go On!

After numerous postponements over the previous two years, David & Sylvia Briant's Showbiz Extravaganza finally returned to Bradmoor Farm on Saturday 5th of March.

Long-time masonic benefactor and sponsor, David left no stone unturned in the delivery of a fantastic evening. However, Covid is not discretionary on who it affects and David fell foul of the cruel virus in the days leading up to the event, to the extent he could not attend as host. On the day, our Provincial Grand Master RW Bro John Clark was forced into the same predicament, alongside a further 14 guests. As Freemasons we know only too well to expect surprise, adapt for change and push forward. As his office suggests, VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith deputised for RW Bro John Clark, and W Bro Bill Smithson stepped in to represent David Briant.

Despite the disappointment of absentees "The Showbiz" was a tremendous success and a testament to the hard work and preparation of the organisers. From guitarist and singer at the reception drinks, to Violinists between courses, Dancers of the World during Desserts and a Circus Act to headline the event, the night was a full to brimming spectacle, finishing with an award winning DJ.

The amazing Raffle made an incredible £2500 as part of the huge sum raised for Provincial Funds, leaving Bucks PGL extremely grateful again to David and Sylvia for their consistent and unbending support.



25th Anniversary Celebration



L to R - Philip Blacklaw AsstProvGM, Peter Grimes PPSGW Worshipful Master, Mrs Catherine Grimes, Graham Dearing Most Excellent Grand Superintendent

Grand Union Lodge 9641 celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Eliot Hall, Winslow on Saturday 9th April 2022.

Members of the Lodge were in attendance with their wives and partners and were joined by several non-masons who were interested to hear the History of the Lodge over the past 25 years.

The Provincial Executive was represented by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Worshipful Brother Philip Blacklaw PSGD and the Holy Royal Arch by the Provincial Grand Superintendent Most Excellent Companion Graham Dearing as well as Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W Bro Mike Stimson.

The Lodge was also delighted with the attendance of several Freemasons who attended at the Consecration Meeting held at Stafford Cripps Hall, Cranfield Institute of Technology on 2nd April 1997 25 years earlier, W. Bro Ron Everett PAGDC, W. Bro David Sawyer PJGD, W. Bro Stan Green PJGD, and W. Bro John Noakes PPSGW.

There were a total of 75 people in attendance who were welcomed by Worshipful Master Peter Grimes PPSGW. A series of short presentations followed during which the activities of the Lodge over the past 25 years were explained. These presentations included:

- The layout of the Lodge Room and the responsibilities of the Officers.
- The procedure leading to Consecration and the address by the then ProvGM RW Bro. Eric Deung.
- The design and purpose of the Lodge Banner.
- In Time of Need; an explanation of the tragedies faced by some Lodge Members and support provided to them.
- In the Cause of Charity: support for our Community, Medical Detection Dogs and the Rockride event.

The programme was concluded by Charity Steward W. Bro Neil Gibbard who presented a cheque for £1,000 to the Assistant Provincial Grand Master towards the 2022 Festival Appeal. The AsstProvGM thanked the Lodge and gave a brief explanation to the audience of the support provided from Masonic donations to charities, both Masonic and non-Masonic, locally, nationally and internationally. He referred to the current level of donations made by United Grand Lodge of England in support of humanitarian aid to Ukraine in the sum of £500,000.

Following the meeting the audience retired to the Bell Hotel for a sumptuous luncheon at which each received a copy of the Lodge History book, which brought to conclusion a most memorable day in the short life of Grand Union Lodge 9641.

Friday the 13th Lucky for Wexham Park Chapter



MEGS Graham Dearing, H Russell Janes, MEZ Gerald Lawton, J John Stribling, IPZ Tejwant Sekhon

On Friday the 13th of May, Wexham Park Chapter held their 119th Installation Convocation at the Slough Masonic Centre. Friday the 13th proved to be lucky for the members of Wexham Park Chapter, with an Official visit from our most popular Grand Superintendent E Comp Graham Peter Dearing bringing his warmth and good humour to the Convocation. Wexham Park had the pleasure of installing for the first time two companions into the Chairs of First Principal and Second Principal, with E Comp Gerald Lawton Installed as First Principal in a very well worked ceremony by the Installing MEZ E Comp Tejwant Sekhon and E Comp Russell Janes Installed as Second Principal by the Installing H, E Comp Gerald Lawton in a ceremony delivered to the highest standard. Well done Tejwant and Gerald! To complete the installation of the Principals E Comp Russell Janes inducted "Old Boy" E Comp John Stribling in to the chair of J, in a warm and well delivered and appreciated ceremony.

The Chapter are now on a road to a bright future and a lot of thanks go to the Chapter's new hard-working Scribe E, E Comp Paul Lear. Thank you Paul, we all appreciate your outstanding work! At the close of the meeting, the companions dined together, good food and wine, much enjoyment, a very happy masonic occasion.

At the Chapter's next meeting on the 11th November 2022, there is to be an Exaltation and a unique ceremony of the accepting of a Charter of Confirmation. Don't miss out, come along you will be very welcomed!

Bucks Motorcycle Lodge supports Great Warwickshire Provincial Rideout



In early April AsstProvGM Gary Brodie and several fellow members

of the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge and Shires Chapter Widows Sons welcomed W Bro David Greenwood AsstProvGM for Warwickshire on his arrival at Beaconsfield Masonic Centre. This was the completion of one leg of the Great Warwickshire Provincial Ride out in aid of their 2023 Festival.

W Bro Gary congratulated W Bro David on his tremendous effort and presented him with a £500 cheque towards his total, together with some ephemera from Bucks Motorcycle Lodge. Martin Ward then presented a cheque for £100 from the Widows Sons. In return W Bro David presented a lovely mounted and engraved piston to Bucks Motorcycle Lodge.

Presentations over and coffee consumed it was off to Bedfordshire on the next leg with an escort from the Bucks riders.

- *Pictured above are Mick Shoard, David Greenwood (Warks) Gary Brodie (Bucks), Martin Ward and Herbie Waser.*



Rt W Bro John Clark, Bro Jevgeni Ivaniskin, W Bro Paul Townsend, VW Bro Robert Wharton and W Bro Barry Sparks

Seer Green Ceremony

It all started in September as the B.I.G. EVENT at Great Queen Street and ended up as a Mammoth Event on St George's Day, 23rd April, in Beaconsfield.

Bro Jevgeni Ivaniskin, who was one of the candidates who were initiated at the BIG Event at Great Queens Street on Sunday 12th September, completed his 3rd degree on St. George's Day at Seer Green Lodge No. 9055 at The Beaconsfield Centre.

Bro Jengensi, who is known to the brethren as Bro Jack was initiated by Past Master, W Bro Paul Townsend, who stood in for the Worshipful Master who was unable to make the train journey on a Sunday from the Lake District. It was already W Bro Paul Townsend's 2nd installation of the day, as he stood in for the Worshipful Master from Chenies Lodge, No. 9127, as their Master had Covid!

Bro Jack, who is Estonian, had a memorable 3rd degree ceremony which was supported by brethren from a number of different Lodges. The Worshipful Master, Group Captain Rob Caddick, who undertook the questions to Bro Jack before the ceremony, then offered the gavel to the ProvGM who continued through until W Bro David Adams, of Five Points Lodge, delivered the Traditional History.

The day had started with Five Points Lodge, No. 8197, having a breakfast meeting at the Centre and then initiating a new candidate. They then closed their Lodge and came into the afternoon meeting at Seer Green Lodge. Afterwards both Lodges joined together to have the Festive Board. Bro Jack was delighted to see that brethren from several other Lodges had supported him that day.

The ceremony was supported by the ProvGM and the Past Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Robert Wharton and W Bro Barry Sparks. It was truly a memorable day.

Old Pals Goes from Strength to Strength!

On Thursday 28th April 2022, Old Paludians Lodge celebrated the successful end to its year of rebirth by installing the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro John Clark, as Worshipful Master.

Members and guests enjoyed an Indian fine dining experience cooked by local expert chefs to crown an excellent evening which was attended by forty-three members and guests. The newly installed Worshipful Master, fresh from being serenaded with the Masters' Song by the newly formed "Old Paludians Male Voice Choir", commented on how proud he was of the transformation that had taken place in the Lodge. He thanked members both old and new for their arduous work in making both the Lodge and the evening a success.

During the darkest days of the pandemic, Old Paludians had faced the prospect of handing in its warrant and closing for good, when four determined members of the



Pictured in the front row are some of Old Pals recent initiates and re-joining members: Bro Sudhir Tapase, Bro Rangu Iyer, W Bro Bharat Mittal, Bro Jason McGowan, and the rest of Old Paludians' members and guests.

Lodge expressed their desire to step in. With the help of the Provincial Grand Master, they set about saving and rejuvenating the Lodge. W Bros Waljinder Chahal, Kesar Sadhra, Gurdip Hear and Gary Woodgate stepped up to take on the roles of Secretary, DC, Treasurer and Worshipful Master, respectively. Keen to provide experience and coaching to the new team, the ProvGM enlisted the support of RW Bro Ray Reed, W Bros Neil Robertson, Tim Anders, and Bro Simon Williams to round out the team. In less than a year, Old Pals has become

a vibrant and exciting place to be, and is home to re-joined members, Master Masons, Fellowcrafts and Entered Apprentices.

The Lodge looks to progress its recent success by continuing to build upon the theme of Indian fine dining and already has a waiting list of joining members.

If you would like to become a part of this unique and exciting Lodge, please contact the Secretary at wal.chahal@hotmail.com

HAPPY BIRTHDAY WYCOMBE CHAPTER 125 YEARS OLD

Wycombe Chapter, MEGS, Provincial Team and Visitors 125 Years of Excellence.

On Tuesday 10th May 2022, Wycombe Chapter celebrated its 125 year anniversary and what a celebration it was. Nearly 50 companions filled the Marlow Centre and enjoyed all the best that the Royal Arch has to offer.

The Chapter's Principals, led by E.Comp Paul Townsend, MEZ, opened the Chapter and were then delighted to welcome the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Graham Dearing, accompanied by twenty Provincial Grand Officers.

The celebrations continued with a very informative talk by E.Comp Keith Tallon, SLGCR, entitled 'Evolution of the Royal Arch Ritual' which was well received by all present.

The Traditional Version of the Symbolical Lecture was delivered by EComp John Winter PPGSoj, SLGCR, in perfect style.

A very enjoyable history of 'Wycombe Chapter 1501' - Consecrated 9th July 1896, was presented by the Chapter's First Principal, E.Comp Paul Townsend, PPGSN, and the Chapter Scribe E, E.Comp Jim May ProvGJan.

There followed a very enjoyable festive board with plenty of good humour and chatter between all the Companions present. The MEGS led all the



Companions in wishing the Chapter well for the future and all look forward to the next 125 years of this fantastic Chapter.

3RD DEGREE

On the 25th February, Marcellians Lodge performed a special ceremony for a special candidate.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro John Clark, performed an excellent ceremony to make his son, David, a Master Mason. It was made even more special as David's brother, Jack, also played a key part in the ceremony.



Clark family trio



Bro David becomes a Master Mason

Attended by over 50 members and visitors, the ceremony was performed to John's usual exacting standards and the atmosphere in the meeting was exceptional, including some theatrical lighting which added to the evening.

The meal afterwards was a Burns Supper with abundant haggis, neeps

and tatties for all. The address to the haggis was given by AsstProvGM, Gary Brodie, and some excellent a Capella singing was provided by the Buckinghamshire Grand Superintendent, Graham Dearing. It was a superb meeting and good fun was had by all. Congratulations Brother David.



Marcellians Lodge



On Friday 25th March the Provincial Grand Master W Bro John Clark, joined his two sons, Jack and David, at Marcellians Lodge for a meeting filled with great sentiment.

John saw his son Jack become the Worshipful Master, following in the footsteps of his own father, Bryan Clark, and his Godfather Noel Mortimer, whom were best pals throughout their lives.

Jack, being the third generation to take the Chair of King Solomon at this Lodge, installed his Officers with great aplomb. The significance of this event was not lost on anyone in attendance.

During the Installation Meeting, Jack was joined by his brother, David, who having only recently been made a Master Mason, presented a perfect set of Working Tools in each of the three degrees. He delivered this in one go,



Left to Right: RW Bro John Clark ProvGM, W Bro Jack Clark WM, Bro David Clark.



Bro Giorgio Guarino (learning how to operate a mobile phone), W Bro Jack Clark

seemingly without taking a single breath in between each set of tools! Truly inspirational stuff for Master Masons everywhere. After the meeting, the 70 attendees enjoyed a 7-course meal with wine pairings,

in the exquisite setting of Horwood House in North Buckinghamshire. Entertainment was provided by a Flamenco group and other local entertainers. The evening ended with Sambucas and dancing.



Chilterns Lodge – a very special meeting

We had a special emergency meeting on the 21st May 2022 to raise our Worshipful Master's son (Bro Martin Morris) to the Third Degree.

As lovely as it is to raise another brother, it was also bitter sweet. The meeting was brought forward as our Worshipful Master (W Bro John Morris) has been given a horrible prognosis, and an estimated amount of time to remain with us, but we at Chilterns Lodge got the job done!

We also took the opportunity of holding this meeting to do a few other things; we invited our family members, friends and possible future candidates to sit with us in the Temple and listen to an informative talk given by W Bro Stuart McCurry (PGSuptWks), who described our early beginnings as Freemasons and our future as Freemasons. However, the key element was family, as our Lodge holds this very dear, even more so with our recent news.

As well as the talk, we had some cheques to give out to Lodge charities - PACE and South Central Ambulance Service. This also gave the opportunity for the two charities to speak to all in the Temple about what they do as a charity and where our donations will go.

After this eventful meeting, talk and presentation, it was all topped off with a superb white table and raffle.



PACE and Air Ambulance revies their cheques from the WM



Father and Son

STAR WARS DAY PASSING CEREMONY

On Star Wars Day (4th May) Haddenham Lodge 8944 carried out a Passing Ceremony for Bro Ryan Hanrahan, who was initiated at Great Queen Street on the B.I.G. day last September.

The ceremony was carried out by the Worshipful Master, WBro Lloyd Davies, ably assisted by his officers, with accuracy, sincerity and feeling.

Despite being hit by a string of absentees due to unavoidable commitments, illness and Covid cases, various members stepped up and happily filled the necessary offices, at extremely short notice, as if they'd rehearsed the role asked of them for several weeks!

The unusual aspect of the meeting was that the Lodge was honoured with the presence of eight Grand Officers, as well as the Visiting Officer, W Bro Lloyd Harrison ProvDepGDC carrying out his Official Visit of the year.

The eight Grand Officers included two Honorary members of the Lodge: RW Bro David Williamson PAGM and W Bro Barry Sparks PAGDC. There were two visitors: W Bro Phil Blacklaw AsstProvGM and Peter Waterson PAGChap. Also in attendance were the four Grand Officers who are members



The six GO's, the VO, and WM of Haddenham Lodge: L-R W Bro Lloyd Harrison ProvDepGDC, W Bro Bill Smithson AGDC, W Bro Alan Watkins PAGDC, W Bro David Williamson PAGM, W Bro Lloyd Davies WM, W Bro Tony Robinson PSGD AsstProvGM, Barry Sparks PAGDC, W Bro Geoff Smith PAGDC

of the Lodge: W Bro Tony Robinson PSGD AsstProvGM, W Bro Alan Watkins PAGDC, W Bro Geoff Smith PAGDC and our newly promoted W Bro Bill Smithson AGDC.

The Festive Board was a most convivial meal with several anecdotes being elicited from the Honoured Guests and members.

The PAGM remarked to Bro Hanrahan that he

was indeed lucky to belong to such a happy and vibrant Lodge and hoped that he enjoyed many years in Freemasonry.

Haddenham Lodge meets at the Thame Masonic Centre and is always happy to receive guests and visitors at any of their meetings.

Wraysbury Lodge Meeting Initiation



Bro Milos Petrovich, WM W Bro Mike Warr, Guest Bro Raffaele Bartoli



John Murphy (SD), Gary Brodie (AsstProvGM), Milos Petrovich, Mike Warr (WM), Raffaele Bartoli (Milos' Guest), Matthew Eaton and, Paul Holdship (JD).

At the recent Wraysbury Lodge Meeting, Wednesday 11th May, another candidate from the membership team was initiated into the Lodge. Bro Milos Petrovich was Initiated into the Lodge by W Bro Phillip Manning who assisted the Worshipful Master with the Ceremony. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Paul Holdship, who was also the Junior Deacon. The charge after Initiation was delivered by W Bro Dean Coleman of Sunnymeads Lodge. Afterwards the Brethren enjoyed a wonderful festive board. With the final piece of the puzzle being completed, Bro Milos' guest, Bro Raffaele Bartoli, asked if he could become a joining member.

My Time in Masonry - Living with Cerebral Palsy

I joined Masonry in the year 2000 as the first person under 21 to join the Lodge. I was granted a special dispensation enabling me to join. My father had recently died and it was accepted that he had always wanted me to join his Lodge.

I originally joined Freemasonry in the Province of Bristol and went up to the Ram Degree before I left in 2009. Over the last 12 years for one reason or another I have moved through different provinces a number of times. I have held office in the Lodge going from Steward up to Junior Warden at my last Lodge which I had to leave due to personal circumstances.

I am physically disabled and have been since birth as a result of cerebral palsy.

Cerebral palsy is a disability that is caused by brain damage which occurs immediately prior to, during or after birth. It is not an illness and it does not get worse but there is no cure. Any treatment is designed to enable the person to first achieve, and then maintain their potential whether that be to achieve independence or to be able to walk, dress themselves or speak using a computer. It is all to do with achieving the best possible quality of life for that individual. It is a disability that one lives with for their whole life.

In most cases cerebral palsy happens at or during birth however it can happen at any time, for example, if a person was in a car crash and suffered an oxygen lack which caused brain damage then they may be left with cerebral palsy.

Cerebral palsy can leave a person totally physically dependent and unable to move themselves, with speech, sight and hearing deficiencies, or with only slight learning disorders and of course, with any level of disability in between these two extremes.

I am relatively lucky in

that I am able to do most things for myself. I need help with putting on my socks and shoes, and of course my dinner suit for when I attend meetings. I need a stick to walk with because of a lack of balance. I have difficulty carrying things, for example a plate on a tray. I do have some learning disabilities as well as physical ones but I have learned to get on with life and make the most of my abilities.

I know that Masonry can be defined as an organisation that has a wealth of knowledge, experience and interests about life that it would be difficult to find anywhere else. I believe that freemasonry does a lot of good for the public, and the local community but the public are not always aware of this. This is an important part of its work and I would like to see it continue to do this for many years into the future

In my very short time as a member of Robert Thorne Lodge I learned a lot about Masonry and I found that every ceremony is different. As a person of disability, I found that some of the ceremonies have their difficulties but want to say that the members of Robert Thorne Lodge in Bristol did their very best to help me and I thank them for their support. Although it was challenging, I would not like to see any Lodge changing any part of the ceremony as it would take the meaning of it away from the event however, there might sometimes be a need to adapt and for the Lodge to do its best to help, as the Lodge did in my case.

It has certainly been a challenge being an officer of the Lodges I have been a member of and I am looking forward to my greatest challenge of all which is, of course, taking the Chair of the Lodge. My only other biggest challenge to date was when I took part in Ten Tors (expedition across Dartmoor) at school 28 years ago. I feel sure that I will achieve being Master as I have most other challenges in my life. I like to serve my local community. In fact, at several points of my life in the last 20 years or so I have wanted to run for President of the United States, something I now know I will not be able to do (I was born in the United States).

Throughout my Masonic career I always held the thought that Freemasonry is a body with a number of areas of interest where you learn something new every time you visit to which I

have done a lot of over the years.

Looking forward I have now joined Five Points Lodge in the Province of Buckinghamshire. I have enjoyed it and continue to do so. Due to lockdown, I have not been able to carry out any duties in the Lodge but I feel sure that when the new normal comes, I will be able to play my part and Five Points Lodge members will support me in doing so.

With regards to my disability I think it is important for me to focus on what I have achieved. I face many challenges both within Freemasonry and outside of Masonry but I have always been able to achieve what I have tried to set out to and although my disability has let me down a few times, I continue to try and move forward.

Outside of Masonry I am involved in the Hertfordshire community where I live, in a number of different charities and organisations. I am a lay assessor for the university of Hertfordshire and other charities such as HACRO to name a few. I have found that working together and having a disability cannot be a ban to life.

The point I am trying to make is just because you have a disability does not mean that life must stop and that people with disabilities can and do go on to achieve great things in life just like anyone else can if you put your mind to it.

I am looking forward to many happy years in Five Points Lodge and hope that I will be able to play an active role in the Lodge and in the near future will go on to take the Chair, at long last after 24 years! I am confident that the brethren will support me in anyway needed to help me achieve the Master's chair. I have enjoyed writing this letter I hope my experiences and the help I received from my Lodges and Chapter will encourage other Lodges to enable people with disabilities to join our Brotherhood. *By Sean Bolton*

The Provincial Grand Master will be conducting Sean's Installation in Five Points on Saturday the 10th September at Beaconsfield - anyone wishing to attend will be welcome. This will also be a full Provincial team visit and should be a very memorable accession.





Marlow Centre Chairman, Paul Webb, making the donation to Jane Gibbons.

CHRISTMAS RAFFLE FOR LOCAL CHARITIES

The Marlow Masonic Centre once again held its Annual Christmas Raffle for local Charities.

The raffle was drawn at a social evening at the Masonic Centre, in December, where an excellent free buffet was provided by the Centre Committee for all those members and their guests who attended. Unfortunately, due to the Covid pandemic, the numbers of attendees were on the low side, but a good time was had by all that were there.

The raffle raised a significant sum for Charity, and the Marlow Centre Committee were able to make a donation of £1,000 to the Marlow Opportunity Playgroup, which provides a happy and caring environment for children with disabilities, where they can learn through play in a secure setting with experienced staff.

Third degree

At a regular meeting of Temple Manor Lodge on Tuesday 18th May Chris Anders was raised to the Third Degree in an excellent ceremony performed by his brother Tim with the PDepProvGM, Robert Wharton, acting as Senior Deacon. At the same meeting AsstProvGM Gary Brodie presented David Pitwell with his 50th Year in Freemasonry certificate and a commemorative whisky glass from the Lodge. After this, much to David's surprise, the AsstProvGM promoted



AsstProvGM Gary Brodie presents W Bro David Pitwell with his new rank badges and collar jewel.

him in the field to the rank of PPSGW, a well-deserved honour for this fine Mason. In all a memorable meeting, much enjoyed by the large number present.



Left to Right: W.Bro's Stan Pullin, Barry Searle, Terry Porter, Geoff Warde, Tony Robinson (AsstProvGM), Mark Gill (WM), David Booker, John Tindale and Pat Gaffney. All our founders apart from Tony and Mark!

Denham Green Lodge celebrates 25 years

39 Members and guests of Denham Green Lodge 9636 enjoyed a celebratory meeting to mark the 25th anniversary of the Lodge's consecration.

The meeting was attended by W Bro Tony Robinson, AsstProvGM escorted by W Bro Steve Pratt at Denham Garden Village on Monday 14th March 2022 followed by a six-course meal replicating the original meal served at the consecration. Everyone was

certainly suitably replete.

A most enjoyable meeting which welcomed 7 of the original founders attending with some taking office and providing the deputation to welcome Tony Robinson into the Lodge which also included a double passing ceremony for Bro Adam Shields and Bro Adam Daley.

A delightful and memorable evening for all.



Wendover Lodge Raises the Roof!

On Tuesday the 18 January, Aylesbury Masonic Hall played host to a sell-out crowd for a third degree ceremony for Wendover Lodge. This was a truly unique event for many reasons.

Bro Mark McKeown was made a Master Mason in the Lodge, which was attended by over 70 members and visitors, including a full team visit from the Acting Provincial Officers. The entire ceremony was performed by W Bro Neville Joseph, a rare accomplishment in itself, but more impressive when considered that he was word perfect, needed no prompting and is 85 years old!

This amazing meeting was followed by a Burn's Supper for the festive board, where much fun and whisky was had. The address to the haggis was given by W Bro Gary Brodie, one of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. The evening was further topped off by raising over £400 for local charities.

An excellent evening was had by all. Congratulations to Mark for reaching the third degree and well done Neville for the outstanding ceremony!



W Bro Gary Brodie performing the address to the haggis.



Craft Beer Appreciation and Hughenden Lodge



AT OUR INSTALLATION MEETING THIS COMING OCTOBER, HUGHENDEN LODGE NO. 6308 ARE EXCITED TO BE INTRODUCING A THEME OF CRAFT BEER APPRECIATION TO THE LODGE. WE MEET AT THE MARLOW CENTRE ON THE SECOND FRIDAY OF OCTOBER, NOVEMBER, JANUARY, FEBRUARY AND MARCH.

WHAT IS CRAFT BEER?

According to the Oxford dictionary; Craft Beer is a beer made in a traditional or non-mechanised way by a small brewery allowing for a far greater amount of experimentation and innovation in terms of styles and flavours.

Craft Beer emphasises creativity and unique tastes over how much yeast lies in the bottom of the bottle or cask. Many craft beers have other flavours infused into them, including fruits and even chocolate but there are also traditional ales made by these smaller brewers who are perhaps using innovative techniques.

Real ale is the name coined by the Campaign for Real Ale (CAMRA) for, *"Beer brewed from traditional ingredients, matured by secondary fermentation in the container from which it is dispensed, and served without the use of extraneous carbon dioxide"*. Here at Hughenden we appreciate both Craft Beer and Real Ale.

WHY 'THEME' A MASONIC LODGE?

Many new Lodges have been formed with a theme and here in Buckinghamshire we have several such Lodges, whilst other established Lodges have taken on a theme. These interests cover topics such as classic cars, motorcycles, camping and caravanning, outdoor pursuits and even an emergency services Lodge. Like any other Lodge the members are all Freemasons first but share a common interest making the Lodge more vibrant and rewarding to members and their partners.

Our Craft Beer appreciation theme is a fairly new initiative as many of our members have this as a common interest. We have members who are keen home brewers and one whose grandfather was a licensee in High Wycombe. At least seven of our past members have also been licensees in the area. The inception of Hughenden Lodge happened at The White Hart in High Wycombe in 1946.

During the pandemic a group of Freemasons set up the Masonic Craft Beer Society (MCBS) and held regular Zoom tasting sessions. There are now in excess of 2500 members worldwide with presence on both the internet and Facebook. Members give their thoughts about different beers and how they have enjoyed them. Several of the Hughenden members are also members of MCBS. MCBS has moved forward with Horus Lodge 3155, who meet in Great Queen Street, making it their official Lodge and will hold beer tastings at their Festive Board.

Hughenden will have social events for members and their family and friends with visits to breweries and beer festivals. We will also arrange visits to other Lodges throughout the country with a craft beer theme.

This summer members are attending Beer Festivals at Marlow (27th May), Winslow (4th June) and the Great British Beer Festival at Earls Court (4th August). More details can be found on our website hughendenlodge.org.uk or email craftbeer@hughendenlodge.org.uk to be added to our mailing list. We also post on Facebook



groups - 'Concord' and 'Crafty Visitor'.

Our October meeting will be quite special though as W Bro Marc McLaughlin, who is remaining as WM, is hoping to brew a special beer as a take-away. Friends of Marc will know he takes his wine and beer very seriously and now has his own mini micro brewery. His first brew has been an American Pale Ale – can't wait to see and taste what he brews for October. ☒

However, even if you aren't into Craft Beer, Hughenden is a great Lodge to join or visit as we pride ourselves on good ritual and hospitality.

If you wish to join Hughenden Lodge, or just come along as a visitor, contact us on the email above or fill in the form on our website.



Novice Strongman

On 24th April Bro Andrew Smith, of Pegasus Lodge 5637, entered his first ever Strongman Competition, hosted by Paddy Haynes, Britain's Strongest Man 2021 U120Kgs on his father's farm just outside Banbury.

ff The first event was 80kg Log, maximum amount of reps in 60 seconds, I was aiming for 3 as I hadn't managed to train on a log in the run up to the event. The adrenaline and nervous energy meant that I managed 6 reps and came joint 5th which was a great start to the day.

The second event was a farmers walk followed by a hay bale push, the farmers walk was 90kg per hand carried over 15m, then pushing the hay bale back 15m. I was surprised yet again in this event as it went really well with very little practice, although the hay bale did end up trying to skew off track. I completed this in 13.72 seconds placing me 5th.

The third event was my favourite, axle deadlift. This was done in a ladder style, where the bar was loaded and you had to nominate your 3 lifts. I opted to start on 200kg. My second lift was 230kg and my final lift was 245kg, a PB for me. This also got me 5th place, the person who won opened on 250kg, and finished on 300kg.

The fourth event was a tractor pull. Having only ever done this once before I was nervous, but managed to concentrate on the technique. I managed to get low and pull it with relative ease. I placed 2nd in this event with a time of 13.5 seconds, the top 3 were split by 1 second, 4th place was a second behind us.

The final event was called the farmers tipple, which we found out on the day was a loading race with kegs ranging in weight from 30kg to 120kg. This race was head to head and the kegs needed to be loaded onto a trailer that was about 4ft high. I went head to head with my mentor, the man who inspired me to try out in Strongman.

We had 60 seconds to load the trailer. It was great event and the best man won. Pete loaded 400kg, while I loaded 350kg. This put me in 6th place for this event.

With the overall points gained throughout the events of the day, I was shocked to find out I came 3rd, with 65 points. Pete, my mentor, came 2nd with 66 points, the winner had 79 points. Fourth place had 61.5 points. This was the first competition for both of us and we were very happy with the results.

The strongman community is really supportive and was a great family day out. I would strongly suggest watching an event like this in the future if you ever get the chance. I will be continuing my training and hopefully entering some more competitions during the summer.



1 - Log rep challenge; 2- The Farmer's Tipple; 3 - left to right - The Winners' podium - Andrew, Jordan Trafford, Pete Way; 4 - Andrew with Jamie Ford; 5 - left to right - a family day - Andrew with his son, Maxwell and wife, Nadine



A new fixture for Buckinghamshire

On Saturday 2nd April, at 10:30am, there was a new fixture in the Province of Buckinghamshire.

The newly themed and relocated Dagmar Lodge was having its first Installation Fixture in Winslow.

W Bro Andrew Curtis, the current Worshipful Master and one of two 'Dagmar Originals' present on the day, 'scrummed down' and inducted W Bro James Blackhurst into the chair of King Solomon. Joining him on the front row were his two new wardens, and a united team of forwards and backs to support the Lodge during the coming year. The new rugby styled Lodge was also showing off some of the new Lodge furniture which included the rugby post banner holder, its personalised Lodge rugby ball, corner flags and not to mention the newly themed fire at the festive board - you will have to visit to find out more!

Dagmar were honoured to receive W Bro Gary Brodie, our AsstProvGM, as the

provincial representative, and he was only too happy to step in as our 'scrum half' for the meeting after entering the Temple to the "Flower of Scotland". Dagmar Lodge is part of W Bro Gary's new 'Justice Group' and we look forward to working closely together as a team, 'driving forward' and growing the Lodge for the future. We will certainly welcome Gary back to join us for the next England Scotland Calcutta Cup rugby fixture – surely it can't be three in a row which you confidently predicted!! The aim of the new Buckinghamshire Rugby Lodge is to bring together both current and former Rugby players, or those who have a love for the game, in a fun and friendly Lodge whilst also promoting the game of rugby and supporting local charities and clubs. So far, all of our home fixtures have been held when an international fixture has taken place to allow members and friends to gather and enjoy the fixture



Installation Scrum (Top) and Installation Team.

in the bar after the masonic business. We already have a full season of fixtures including initiations, passings and raisings as well hoping to have some 'away fixtures' by visiting other rugby Lodges representing the Province. So, if you fancy a 'run out' and you are interested in joining or visiting the Lodge and experiencing some of the festivities the new rugby Lodge has to offer, contact the secretary Rob Fisher on rob@allsaints.agency who would be only too happy to get you on the next team sheet and explain more.

Marlow Ladies are back!

Come and join us!

After all the trials and tribulations of Covid we are back enjoying our events again. In October we held our AGM and then had an excellent fish and chip supper. As guests were invited, our husbands/partners/friends could join us and it was so nice to have a really sociable evening again.

December saw us enjoying a wonderful Christmas Lunch at Harleyford Golf Club. Lovely meal, great service, an excellent charity raffle and lots of good company.

January is often quite a flat month, but not for us. Quiz Night! What a great fun evening and most of us could answer quite a lot of the questions! Nothing too highbrow.

We have had a couple of excellent speaker evenings and have some trips planned. Eltham Palace, Sudeley Castle and Bletchley Park and in between, our Charity Summer Lunch in June. Last summer we had an afternoon tea at our regular meeting place at Liston Hall as a first event after lockdown. It was really lovely to be together again. As it was so successful we are going to repeat this member only event this August. Quite a full programme.



Afternoon Tea.

We would love more members as, like many groups, the last year has taken its toll on numbers. We enjoy really good friendship and it is a great way for us to get together and be involved in a purely social way. All our events are open to guests so husbands, partners and friends are always very welcome.

If you would like to know more about us then please contact our Chairperson, Christine Dyckes 01494814991 christinedyckes76@gmail.com or our Secretary, Trudy Weller 01844237217 tweller34@gmail.com



Bro Nick Carter (Uncle), Magiovinivm Lodge; W Bro Jonathan Blackhurst (Uncle), Pathfinders Lodge Met; W Bro James Blackhurst (Dad), Manor of Swanburn; Bro Jake Blackhurst, Manor of Swanburn; W Bro Ron Blackhurst (Grandad), Sir Isaac Newton Lodge Somerset.

Manor of Swanburn keeping it in the family

On Friday 25th February, Manor of Swanburn Lodge in Bletchley, held a double celebration. Firstly W Bro James Blackhurst had the honour of initiating his son, Bro Jake Blackhurst into Freemasonry. A well supported and lively Lodge saw some emotional but sincere workings with a number of members being involved in delivering parts of the ceremony – building on an already impressive number of Lewis's within the Lodge. Jake was lucky enough to have his grandad and uncles present, with his other grandad surely watching from above!

The Lodge was also honoured to be able to deliver a surprise presentation of his 50 year certificate to W Bro Philip Parker, having only just recovered from delivering the Charge after Initiation! The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Tony Robinson, delivered an impressive background to Philip's personal and masonic career – one that not only spans this province but the UK and various Orders in general. Having been initiated by his father 50 years ago, there was certainly a feeling of completeness and Philip was truly humbled and thanked all the brethren for being part of his journey.



Phil and Jake with AsstProvGMs who were present on the evening.



W Bro Phillip Parker on his 50th year certificate with Jake.

A truly merry and enjoyable festive board followed completing a historic night for the Lodge and its members.

PSA Testing and the Masonic Prostate Cancer Screening Project in our Province



PSA Testing at the Slough Centre

On Sunday 13th March some 100 Masons and friends attended the Slough Masonic Centre for their free PSA Test.

The cost of the tests was funded by the Province but many of those being tested made a charitable donation.

The tests were booked on-line and managed by the Graham Fulford Charity Trust and the phlebotomists, led by Wendy, had a busy morning. The results to the tests were

available, online, the following morning and graded into three 'traffic light' categories. Those with red level (raised PSA) being advised to seek further advise from their GP.

All those attending were given an introductory talk, by Chris Booth, about the relevancy of these levels in association with the 'CHAPS & tackle' Masonic Prostate Cancer Screening Project. I am very pleased to say that almost everyone signed up for the project.



Even in this enlightened age, men are still reluctant to talk about prostate cancer but after the tests were taken many remained and enjoyed light refreshments whilst discussing the mornings events.

Further information can be found at:
www.psatests.org.uk
www.chaps.uk.com

Slough Centre supports Home-Start at Easter



At Slough Centre, on 6th April, Home-Start Slough received a donation of 100 chocolate Easter Eggs for distribution to underprivileged children in the Slough area. The eggs were supplied by members at Slough Centre.

Pictured are AsstProvGM Gary Brodie and Gary Mason, Chairman of Slough Centre, presenting the eggs to Alison Bowers, Office Co-ordinator for Home-Start Slough with Kerry Kipping and Maria Hirst also from Home-Start together with Rachael Palmer of A. Spicer and Sons who are huge supporters of Home-Start.

Alison Bowers said *"A massive thank you to the Masons of Slough for this wonderful donation, the eggs will make a huge difference to local children who would never otherwise receive an Easter Egg."*

HATS in Bristol

On 7 May a team of 20 brethren made a return Hands Across The Seas (HATS) visit, in conjunction with the North East Corner Club, to the Bristol masonic centre as guests of Canynges Lodge who were passing one of their members in the traditional 18th century manner. HATS being Bucks based, most of the team was drawn from our province but we also had 2 members from Metropolitan and 2 from Exeter Lodges.



On arrival we were treated to tea and biscuits and given a very interesting talk on the history of Bristol Freemasonry, the centre and Canynges Lodge by W. Bro George Henderson who then continued with a guided tour of the centre prior to the meeting. Apart from HATS, the meeting was well attended and we were lucky enough to be in the main temple. As ever, the



ceremony was excellent, with the Worshipful Master, in particular, delivering ritual of the highest standard. The festive board, or 'After Meeting'

as it is referred to there, in the picturesque Georgian No. 1 dining room, was equally enjoyable with good food, wine and the best of company.

Images from Top: Father and Son enjoy the proceedings; WM W Bro Simon Vardakis addresses the Festive Board.

Tuscany 19 – 26 April, 2022

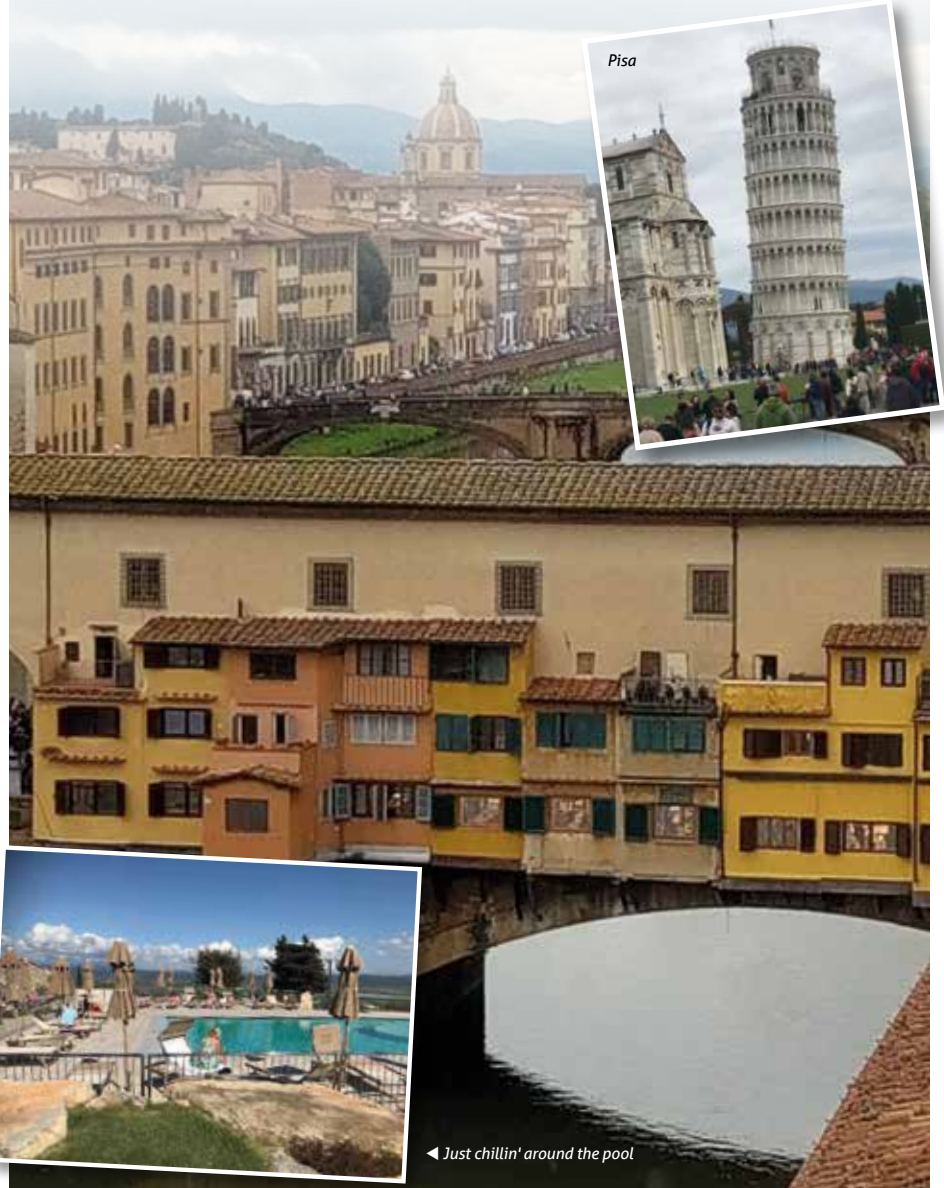
This was the Hands Across the Seas (HATS) visit that very nearly didn't happen. Three days before we flew out BA cancelled our return flight. Being the Easter weekend we couldn't contact BA to confirm an alternative flight until after we had boarded the outward flight, but 35 of the 39 masons, wives, partners and friends booked on the trip took the chance and were well rewarded by what we saw and did.

We'd totally booked-out the Castello Bonaria hotel and spa, converted from an 19th century castle, set in the Tuscan hills overlooking the countryside with the Mediterranean and Elba beyond.

Whilst away, we visited Pisa and saw the leaning tower, cathedral and medieval old town, the picturesque coastal town and market of Piombino, where we gazed across to Elba, before a day trip to Florence with guides, as well as enjoying a wine-tasting at the Monte Solaio vineyard, plus so much more.

Although HATS members are drawn mainly from Bucks, the party included brethren from Middlesex and London, thus fulfilling the HATS objective of bringing masons together to broaden masonic contacts and promote a new strand of masonry which also enables wives etc to be involved.

The Ponte Vecchio, Florence



For more information on HATS and/or to get on the circulation list, go to www.h-a-t-s.uk/ and click on the Register button.



▲ Martin Vandermeulin and Terry Brown assessing the comparative merits of beer and tea.

Vincent Leiu, Teresa Wing, Gianluca the chef, Marc McLaughlin and Linda Bellman in Piombino old town. ▼



▲ Departure time from Castello Bonaria



▲ Somehow we all gravitated to the street with the bars in Piombino



Vincent Leiu reaching for yet another bottle at the visit to the winery ▶

HATS Towcester Racecourse Event was a Winner



John and Lisa York who sponsored a race with the owner of the winning dog

After the Hands Across the Seas (HATS) J2B sponsored cycle ride from John O'Groats to Buckinghamshire was cancelled due to Covid, it was decided that another event to donate to the Festival was needed. The solution decided on was held on 15 May when HATS members and their guests enjoyed a Sunday lunch and an afternoon of greyhound racing in the Empress Suite at Towcester Racecourse.

With the weather a little changeable, punters had both their own bookie and the Tote to place those winning bets and a long balcony or screens to watch the races. The event was oversubscribed with 130 attending who, along with sponsorship of 4 races, raised £4,175.

Champagne Trip left a Great Taste in the Mouth

Just two and a half hours across the channel, the latest HATS trip to Epernay at the heart of the Champagne region meant another great weekend tasting some of the best champagnes France has to offer. Surrounded by miles upon miles of vines, Epernay also boasts many, many opportunities for tastings, be they the Champagne houses or wine shops throughout the town, or visiting one or more of the many vineyards that surround the town. From knowledge gained from previous trips no time was wasted in heading for the best spots, several offering samples with

experts on hand, often and best of all, for free. Just by chance, a Belgian beer festival coincided with the visit which also deserved a visit. And to finish off the day, there was no shortage of restaurants to choose from.



Tony Dyckes, Denise Springer, Martin and Teresa Wing, Christine Dyckes, Marie and Peter Moody, and Webster Springer taking the business of assessing champagne in the sunshine seriously.



Martin Wing in full support of the message

MAYORAL INAUGURATION

On Friday 27th May Assistant Provincial Grand Master Gary Brodie represented the Province at the Inauguration of the new Mayor of Aylesbury, Councillor Tim Dixon.

The Mayor thanked Gary for Buckinghamshire Freemasonry's efforts in the local community, with many of the charities present having been assisted by the Province. Gary assured the Mayor that our efforts will continue and wished him a happy and successful year. The event had a further Bucks Masonic connection when Tom Spurrier, a long-standing member of Ferdinand de Rothschild Lodge, received a special award from the Mayor having stood down as the Mayor's Mace Bearer after 20 years of service. Tom was presented with a certificate and a beautiful commemorative pin.



Gary Brodie congratulates the new Mayor Councillor Tim Dixon.



Gary Brodie congratulates Tom Spurrier on his special award.



W Bro Ewan Gordon, PGOlator (acting SW) Tony Robinson AsstProvGM, W Bro Keith Jarvis PPGSuptWorks (WM) and W Bro Ken Holmes PPGD (acting JW).

Princes Risborough Lodge No 5203

Meeting held on 2nd April 2022

On 2nd April 2022, Princes Risborough Lodge had occasion to celebrate 50 years of service by its Worshipful Master, W Bro Keith Jarvis, PPGSupt Works.

W Bro Keith was initiated into Maidenhead Lodge on 8th May 1972, and joined Princes Risborough Lodge in December 1981, serving the Lodge as Master on three separate occasions. We were honoured to be joined on this occasion by the AsstProvGM, W Bro Tony Robinson,



W Bro Keith Jarvis (WM) together with W Bro Mark Duncan



Tony Robinson AsstProvGM resplendent in camping gear together with the WM.

who arrived complete with rucksack, sleeping bag and walking stick, after coming directly from a meeting of the Nomadic Lodge, of which Keith is a founding member. Keith was presented with his framed certificate by the AsstProvGM, and a pair of engraved whiskey glasses by the Lodge, which he assured the Lodge would be put to good use.

Also attending was W Bro Mark Duncan, the Chairman of Prebendal Close Housing Committee, who attended to Lodge to thank them for their recent donation of £1000.

A good night was had by all.



Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge

COMING OF AGE INSTALLATION MEETING

On Saturday 2nd July, Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge 9926 together with a huge number of visitors enjoyed a memorable Installation meeting at Slough Masonic Centre.

At the meeting, W Bro Jack Clark (SPLINTER) installed his great friend Bro Giorgio Guarino (AWOL) into the chair in an exemplary ceremony. The whole morning was great fun with the usual Bike Lodge nuances combined with superb ritual. The 'buzz' continued at the festive board where the brethren enjoyed a full English breakfast and Danish pastries.



ABOUT THE LODGE

The Provincial Executive has always believed that specialisation Lodges are the way forward and after some pressure from enthusiastic masons decided to go forward with the plan to open a motorcycle Lodge. The consecration ceremony took place at the Sindlesham Masonic Centre on Monday 4th of July 2016. Nearly 250 Freemasons from many Provinces. saw the then Provincial Grand Master of Buckinghamshire, Gordon Robertson, conduct the consecration ceremony with the assistance of his officers of the year. This was followed by the installation of the first Master of the Lodge, John Clark, by the Buckinghamshire DepProvGM, Robert Wharton. The day's ceremony concluded with a fine Festive Board of Mackerel Pâté, Pork in Cider, Vegetables, Cheese and Biscuits, which was enjoyed by all those present. Everyone in attendance wished this new Buckinghamshire Lodge, its Master, and its members the very best for their future meetings, both at home and 'on the road'.

THE EARLY YEARS

Prior to the consecration of the Lodge, Jack and Giorgio, two younger masons, were instrumental in organising several very successful ride-out meetings with 10 or 11 bikes taking part in each. The current Fahrmeister (Ride-Master) is W Bro. Herbie Waser. Sincere thanks also go to John Holsman, Tony Carter and Gary Brodie for the huge effort they have put into this endeavour



over these crucial early years and to all the founders, joiners and future initiates for their outstanding support.

The Lodge meets on Saturday mornings, with breakfast as their Festive Board, and although they reside at Slough Masonic Centre, it was intended that the programme would be varied with dispensations being sought for some very unusual and interesting ride-out meetings. They also attend other motorcycle Lodges in other Provinces where possible. The Lodge welcomes visitors, even if they don't own a motorbike.

About the Lodge banner and logo
The Lodge is currently commissioning an embroiderer to create their first banner incorporating its own logo that features a motorbike. The bike belongs to John Clark; it is a 1973 Kawasaki Z1. The gavels that are used in meetings are pistons, the working tools are held in a "Snap-on" toolbox and the Alms collection is often made using Crash Helmets.

IF YOU ARE A MASTER MASON HERE ARE TWO GREAT REASONS TO JOIN THE ROYAL ARCH

"It was fantastic! It was more than I could have imagined"

"I proudly celebrated ten years in the craft recently and over those years I have been encouraged, advised, cajoled and sometimes just told... isn't it time you joined Chapter?"

Well, not really knowing what it was, other than "the next step in Freemasonry" I wasn't overly concerned about missing out. I was loving my masonic journey, my new brothers, the work we did for our community, the kinship... maybe I wasn't ready for "the next step".

Following a really supportive chat with a number of chapter companions I took the plunge and was proposed to Hampden Chapter in Aylesbury. My proposer and seconder could not have been more thrilled about this next step I was taking. Their eulogising started immediately. You wait, they said, it's so good, it all makes sense, the ceremony is brilliant, chapter is

different, more relaxed... it went on. And then the evening arrived and I was duly exalted in to The Royal Arch alongside my friend and Brother Rob Pulford in what was the first double ceremony carried out by Hampden Chapter.

Now here begins a tale of utter confusion and a little bewilderment. It didn't turn out to be just the next step in Freemasonry it was an altogether more dynamic experience than I could ever have imagined, more spiritual, more involved, more enlightened almost. I came away from the evening wondering why I had never been told what it was truly all about before, why I had never been told tales of the wonderful story that would unfold. It was fantastic! It was more than I could have imagined... to be fair I was clearly undersold the "next step in Freemasonry".

Since my exaltation I have pondered why this is, why nobody took the time to tell me how

good it would really be and I think after a little time I finally understand. It's a bit like an amazing magic trick, if you knew how it worked and what went on behind the mystery it would lose all its sparkle, all its thrill... all of its magic.

I can't tell a brother when they will be ready for chapter, I can't really explain the feelings I experienced, but I can tell them that it is worth every minute that they spend talking to those who have already joined and what it meant to them to take "the next step". I am so glad I have now and can look forward to enjoying many more years on this journey with the fantastic new companions I will share it with."

Scott Buckle



"Wow, what a ceremony."

"As the Bletchley Centre Catering Manager, I hosted a Saturday morning meeting at the Bletchley Centre for the Royal Arch.

I had been given a business card with the letters RAVC by my Claydon Lodge N° 9178 Royal Arch Representative, which instantly piqued my interest. However, it also left me with more questions than answers. What is the Royal Arch or Chapter, as I had more commonly heard it called in the past? And what is the RAVC?

Unfortunately, after many questions directed at many Brethren and many of the same type of dreary responses, "well, you have to join because it's what you should do" or the old favourite "it's the only way you'll progress in freemasonry". It almost put me off. However, I decided to have a bit of blind faith; it can't have over 1000 members in Bucks if that's the only reason people join. I decided I would make

up my mind and find out more details. Once I discovered that it is part of my masonic journey and will add to my own masonic enjoyment, I went about looking for a Chapter that didn't clash with my work, Masonic or Social commitments. So with a bit of help from friends, I found Hampden Chapter 6483 at the Aylesbury Masonic Centre. Even though I didn't know anyone at the Aylesbury Masonic Centre, it didn't deter me. I thought it would be an excellent opportunity to meet new people and friends (or Companions I now know we are called).

As it turned out, I already knew some of the members very well; many more chats later, I found out the Chapter understood that I had only just been made JW in Claydon Lodge N°9178 and didn't want to rush into learning anything new. However, I wanted to continue my masonic journey and find out what was next.

But the biggest surprise of all was my good friend and Brother Scott Buckle

had enquired to join at the same time; even more of a surprise to find out we would be having the first double Exaltation in the Chapter's history.

I know I can't say anymore, But!... Wow! what a Ceremony we had, talk about spiritual enlightenment. So much so that I jumped at the chance to watch an Exaltation 2 days later. I am delighted I took the next step in my Masonic journey. I would recommend it to every Master Mason who wants to learn more about themselves and masonry. I have now found out what the RAVC card was and have joined the Royal Arch Vision Club to help me understand my new masonic journey. I can't wait to find out more."

Rob Pulford





RAVC

The Royal Arch Vision Club are pleased to announce a series of events where members can see incredible things!

EVENTS 2022/23

7th July

Altar of Companionship and "12 Tribes continuation" at Sunnymeads Chapter.

17th September

Learning ritual with Mike Southon and Paul Bird at Aylesbury Centre.

22nd October

Stephens Lodge joint RAVC / NECC event on "why join a Royal Arch Chapter?"
This meeting is for Master Masons only and will take place in a Craft Lodge.

9th November

Visit to Supreme Grand Chapter.

11th November

Altar of Companionship at Wexham Park Chapter.

9th December

Curry Night in High Wycombe.

10th December

Curry Night in Milton Keynes.

28th February

Altar of Companionship at Hall Barn Chapter

More dates
to follow.
Watch
this space.

Please book in here: ravc@buckspgl.org

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SUPERHEROES



**IN THIS ISSUE OF
CONCORD, WE ASK:**

*Can Freemasonry and
entertainment come
together to support
local communities?*

**TODAY WE ARE INTERVIEWING
W BRO PAUL FRENCH TO SEE
HOW ENTERTAINMENT
CAN DO THAT.**



What do you do for a living?

I qualified as a Visual Technician, or maybe this job is better known to many as a window cleaner, in my local village of Winslow.

How did you become a singer?

It all started by chance in a residential home, where I used to clean their windows. My daughter had just bought a karaoke machine for herself. I was telling the home about it and before I knew it, they had asked if I could bring it along and have an evening singsong. I said OK, turned up and to get things going I sang a few songs.



Paul with W Bro Kevin Taylor.

That was it, before I knew it, they said don't stop, and I ended up singing right through the evening. No sooner had I finished they asked me if I would go back the following week and do another singsong. Since then, I have never looked back, that was the start of my singing career, which I have really enjoyed. However, I must say I do still clean their windows.

How did you find Freemasonry?

I had for quite some time met a local Freemason who use to go to the Royal British Legion club in Winslow. My partner Jo's father became a Freemason, and this sparked my interest. He invited us to a ladies festival and we had a great time. I was introduced to Lodge members and was impressed with what they said about Freemasonry.

It was the history aspect of Masonry that sparked my interest. It sounded exciting and the fact that I saw them supporting charity, something I have

done for many years, I suppose made my mind up. Nine months later on 27th April 2005 I was initiated into Wineslai Lodge No 2435.

Freemasonry in the Community was launched by RW Bro Ray Reed and the Lodge secretary asked if I would look at supporting it; '...it will be right up your street' -and yes it certainly was!

I started getting involved in my local community with the Provincial iHelp competition which was a Freemasonry in the Community project. It was a competition which demonstrated the positive side of young people in today's society and showed how they were supporting their local community and I got involved supporting the local Scout troop.

After that I then got involved in the development of the Armistice Sunday Lunch with other Brethren and Lodges. This has been an amazing success and has now been running for 14 years and is now hosted by the Bell Hotel in Winslow.

The cost of this is funded completely by the local Lodges and the Province of Buckinghamshire.

COVID was a hard time for all, but I wanted to see what I could do alongside the Province in supplying dinners to carers in the local area that had been made by the Bell Hotel. So, I supported this and was so proud to receive a commendation from the Grand Master.

Why do you support charity?

Supporting charity has always been very close to my heart. I have been supporting charities for over 20 years and since becoming a Freemason I now do this under the banner of Freemasonry in the Community.

Over the years I have developed a network of entertainers, including a toastmaster, and with their support we have helped raise funds not only for Lodges, but also charities and the local community. One of the pictures shows me together with members from Chelsea Lodge.

I have heard you go above and beyond when raising funds, can you give me an example?

Well, one of the funniest examples was when I was asked to support the REA Trust. I ended up standing outside Tesco with my daughter's Karaoke set. As people were walking past, I was taking requests for songs from members of the public who would make a donation. We raised a lot of money doing this. I then went onto support their fundraising ball with a show which included other entertainers.

How involved are you in your Lodge?

I am the Charity Steward of Verney Lodge 8848 & Wineslai Lodge 2435. One lovely fundraising event I enjoyed arranging was in Winslow. I planned a Christmas carol singing night in the local square. So many of the locals got involved, it was a lot of fun.



Paul French arranged 'The Laughing Apron' (a comedy store evening) to kick off the Festival Fortnight at the Bell Hotel in Winslow. It was a complete sell-out. In the picture we see Paul receiving his Superhero badge and certificate from Phil Blacklaw just before the show.

How do you support Lodges?

There are so many ways I offer support, from Ladies' festival to Master's lunches and Lodge charity evenings to supporting Masters' individual charities.

How important is supporting your community?

Supporting my community isn't just what I do, it is a passion, a way of being able to give back and support other people. Moving forward I have added another string to my bow and became a community Fire Fighter.

What is your proudest moment to date?

My proudest moment was becoming a Freemason and getting involved with

like-minded people. Brothers who want to support charities and their community. It was the best thing I have done to date which I am very proud of. And the person I am most proud of is Jo, my partner, because she has supported me all the way through my journey in Freemasonry and has always there by my side whenever I have an event.

Thank you, Paul.



SEE WHAT THEY SAY

W Bro Martin Lucas

– Ladies Festival

My Ladies Festival was looming and I wanted this to be a special night to really thank my wife for all the support she had given me, the brethren and their wives too.

I decided to get some entertainment for the evening, so I asked Paul French what could he do. He arranged a variety evening which included members from a showbusiness Lodge and a disco. The whole evening was just amazing, a night the Lodge will remember for a long time to come.





W Bro Tim L'Angellier gets his hands on the eggs!



W Bro Mally Baxter with Bonita Line from DASH

the dash charity
01753 549865
www.thedashcharity.org.uk
@TheDashCharity /TheDashCharity
Charity No. 1127136



Supporting Dash at Easter

As we moved from Winter to Spring this year, lots of things were actively happening in our lives. For instance, the easing of the recent pandemic allowing business to re-activate, schools fully active, huge hikes in household bills and raw materials etc etc. A unique time for most people for sure.

Of course, at the DASH Charity (Domestic Abuse Stops Here), which Industria Lodge actively supports, things continued as they had for the previous months. Whilst we had witnessed massive change, domestic abuse routinely continues, whatever the climate. In fact, because of difficulties brought about by the pandemic, mental health issues grew, making the lives of the children and families registered with the DASH

Charity very difficult. This in turn put their wonderful volunteers under lots more pressure.

At Industria, we thought that we could provide some light and glee to the children by asking our members to donate whatever they could afford for us to buy a huge selection of Easter Eggs. Once the funds had been received Tim L'Angellier and myself visited the local Tesco and we started shopping! We had collected enough for around 80 eggs which we then passed over to Bonita Line, a DASH volunteer, who packed them into her car and drove off smiling. She later said that they had organised Easter Egg hunts for the children who loved the challenge of hunting down chocolate!

Here's to next year when I expect we will do the same.

Dear Mally and all at the Masuil Slough Lodge,
Thank you for your kind donation of Easter Eggs for all our clients staying at our refuge. Your generosity makes a huge difference to those experiencing domestic abuse.
An Easter egg hunt was enjoyed in the garden with the children. Thank you for helping make special memories during a difficult time.
From Bonita + all of at Dash.



Salt of the Earth at Salt Hill

Bro Preston Brooker, who was initiated into Freemasonry at the B.I.G. Event at Gt. Queen Street on 12th September 2021, has been organising members of Heatherden Lodge, and several other Lodges that meet at Slough Masonic Centre, for a Freemasonry in the Community initiative at Salt Hill Park Vaccination Centre, in Slough.



Bro Preston Brooker

The volunteers have given up their time through December 2021 and January 2022 to assist Slough Borough Council and the NHS. Members with their wives and partners have been assisting the NHS with a range of duties, including car parking, queue marshalling and patient monitoring at the centre.

Bro Brooker himself has been awarded a certificate of recognition for his personal achievement of over 100 hours volunteering at the centre.

Heatherden Lodge will continue to seek opportunities in the local community and any brother wishing to volunteer can email heatherden7345@hotmail.co.uk to declare their interest.



4 of the Heatherden team (l to r) Martin Wing, Ann and Tony Ell and Preston Brooker.

Heatherden Lodge Supporting Slough Together Walk

Having embraced the Pathway and developed its 5-year plan, Heatherden Lodge has embarked on a continuing programme of Freemasonry in the Community activities, the latest of which led to the members and wives supporting Slough Rotary Club in their annual Slough Together Walk.

Heatherden used to provide stewards several years ago, so when the request was received it was an opportunity too good to be missed to work together again with the Rotarians. Although the numbers of walkers was down on pre-Covid years, it remains an invaluable way for small local charities and youth organisations to boost funds through sponsorship as well as getting whole families out in the fresh air on a sunny Bank Holiday weekend.



Hughenden rally round for Ukraine

I have known Andy Stanymyr, who lives in High Wycombe and is a member of East Sheen Lodge that meet at Mark Masons Hall, since I became a Mason back in 2005.

He is George Rackstraw's nephew and often visits Hughenden Lodge. His father was Ukrainian and he is married to a Ukrainian, Iryna. He still has family in Ukraine and Iryna's nephew, who is training to be a priest still lives in her family home. In early March he posted on Facebook that they were organising collections of food, sanitary goods, basic medicines and anything else

that would be useful to send out to Ukraine – the first shipment went on 6th March and another on the 13th. I suggested to Marc McLaughlin, our WM, that we should send a donation from Hughenden but would need his authority for this to be done as it couldn't be voted on in open Lodge. Marc agreed to this and I emailed the members to say what we proposed and a positive response was unanimous.

My suggestion was to donate £500 to the British Red Cross Ukraine appeal as we felt that they could make use of a donation and would have a quicker and more relevant impact than the time taken to collect, sort and send actual items. I also asked the Brethren if any one wished to make a further donation

it would be gratefully received and I was overwhelmed by the response with a further £1100 being collected. As our Benevolent Fund is a registered charity and I claim gift aid from HMRC on donations made I was able to top up that £1600 by a further £400.

I contacted British Red Cross to find out how to pay the donation and was sent their bank details to do a transfer and immediately sent the money. I received a short email within a few minutes thanking us for the donation and subsequently a letter from them. It was great to be helping such an important cause.

W Bro Les Hampson PPSGD
*Charity Steward, Hughenden Lodge
No 6308*



UK Office
 44 Moorfields
 London EC2Y 9AL
 Tel 0344 871 1111
 Fax 020 7562 2000
 redcross.org.uk

Hughenden Lodge Benevolent Fund
 Beech Tree House
 Evesham Road
 BROADWAY
 Worcestershire
 WR12 7PA

09 March 2022

Dear Trustees of the Hughenden Lodge Benevolent Fund,

On behalf of the British Red Cross and the people who your kindness will directly reach, I would like to thank you for your generous donation of £2,000 towards our Ukraine Crisis Appeal. Your support will make a crucial difference in enabling Red Cross teams to provide critical assistance to those impacted by this crisis. Your donation will support the Ukraine Red Cross Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross – who are highly specialised in emergency response within conflict situations – to urgently scale up their response and provide humanitarian support. **Thank you.**

Right now, there is a Red Cross society working in every country which borders with Ukraine, providing essential aid to people who have fled their homes with nothing other than what they can carry on their backs. The Ukraine Red Cross is also working in country and have supported over 8,000 people who are sheltering in metro stations. Essential aid includes first aid, warm clothes, food and water, and psychosocial support. The International Committee of the Red Cross has been present in Ukraine for eight years. In response to this urgent humanitarian need they have set up water points, delivered water to villages and hospitals, and worked to repair water infrastructure where supplies have been disrupted. They have also delivered emergency aid including jerry cans, first aid and war-wounded kits.

More than a million people have left Ukraine. As they find themselves displaced in foreign countries, they will need help for much longer than having their immediate needs met. We will be working closely with our partners across neighbouring countries to help support refugees with cash assistance, so that families can buy what they need locally with dignity. Francis from Nigeria and Frank from Cameroon have been studying in Ukraine. They crossed the border into Hungary with family, to escape the conflict. They shared with us: **"The Red Cross has been very generous, they offered us food and tea, and helped make food for the baby."**

This is one of our largest humanitarian responses in recent years. As ever, we are working neutrally, impartially, and independently to provide support to the most vulnerable, and as this crisis intensifies, we will continue to keep this at the forefront of our work. The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement will advocate for all parties to respect international humanitarian law, protect civilians, and ensure that essential services are not disrupted.

Thank you for standing with us, and for supporting all those effected by this crisis at this time of extraordinary humanitarian need. If you have any questions at all about our response, please don't hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes,

Josie Proud
 Trusts and Foundations Fundraiser
 josephinewardproud@redcross.org.uk (07306051995)





My name is Nicholas Hills Sands-Potter and I am soon to be the secretary of St Martins Lodge.

The following is something that myself and a member of the Lodge have arranged, supporting the United Grand Lodge of Ukraine in giving aid to the refugees of Ukraine, which is being organised and delivered by the United Grand Lodge of Poland.

The Lublin city of Poland is near the border with Ukraine and operates a centre like our own. It is where most of the support is being organised and where St Martins has sent £485 (from Raffle/Masters wish) to buy items, medicines, food etc for fleeing Masons, Masonic families, refugees, Mason's housing/ accommodating refugees and local centres doing the same.

I have stretched out a hand to those in need and hope to build a link between the Lodges and the centres of Bletchley and Lublin in Poland to show what Masonry can be about, and ask if any Lodge can put forward money either directly to the Lublin Centre or to St Martins and we will send together, highlighting the support everyone has given.

I am doing a personal challenge to try and raise money outside of anything our Lodges can do via Just Giving linked to the relief chest, so any support in raising funds would be fantastic.

*Sincerely and Fraternally
Nick*

At our recent rehearsal Brother Krzysztof (Kris) Kmita proposed an idea to directly help brethren in Ukraine that will be affected with the ongoing War. It was noted that UGLE and the Province was helping via the Red Cross Appeal but that the brethren of St Martins could be direct help to the Brethren of Ukraine. This

discussion was extended by Kris to look at the brothers in Poland who, being on the border with Ukraine, were helping to raise money, support masons, families and other refugees in various ways including accommodation, food and medical care.

W Bro Nicholas Hills Sands-Potter attempted contact to see what could be done via the United Grand Lodge of Poland and United Grand Lodge of Ukraine websites as well as emailing our Provincial Grand Secretary.

The first to reply was from WBro Fatih Sahid, the Grand Secretary of Ukraine. He was extremely happy about the contact being made and thanked us fraternally and with brotherly hugs for our offer of support. He explained that within Ukraine itself money or items would be inaccessible, but they are working with the Polish Masons to provide humanitarian support to Brethren, families and refugees close to the Lublin Lodge (close to the Ukrainian border). From here I was introduced to W Bro Tomasz Stefanczyk who is supporting the



cause as a Polish Mason.

After discussions in a newly made WhatsApp group, having myself, Nicholas Hills Sands-Potter and Krzysztof Kmita, Fatih Sahin the Grand Secretary of the Grand Lodge of Ukraine, Anatoliy Dymchuk the Most Worshipful Grand Master of Ukraine and Tomasz Stefanczyk Deputy Grand Master of Poland and a Worshipful Brother of Lublin Lodge, letters were sent out explaining how things can be done. The brethren of St Martins Lodge at our last meeting were fully behind the support to our Brethren in Ukraine and by Brothers in Poland and as such the raffle for that evening (£235) plus £250 from the Lodge which was unanimously agreed upon to send directly to the Lublin Lodge who are housing, supporting and feeding both masonic and non-masonic refugees that are coming over the border. We want to share this information to a wider group, to attempt to increase the monies we or other Lodges are able to send and to help in these dire times.

**To Support the appeal visit:
www.justgiving.com/fundraising/ukrainepolandappeal**



The Walk

W Bro Nicholas Hills Sands-Potter

W Bro Nicholas Hills Sands-Potter of St Martins Lodge 2812 in Buckingham has raised funds for the Ukraine appeal by walking 100km in under 24 hours!

W Bro Nick has been in contact with the Grand Master of Poland and Grand Secretary of Ukraine where he has been able to organise sending financial support to the brethren in the Lublin Lodge in Poland, which borders with Ukraine, who are best able to use those funds to help the refugees fleeing the conflict.

W Bro Nick raised over £2,000 by his feat which took over 16 hours to complete, starting at midnight on the 4th of April and finishing at 16:35! The money raised has gone directly to help the refugees

for getting food and water, accommodation, transportation, medication and even buying materials to go into Ukraine to making body armour to keep the civilians safe while escaping the atrocities.

W Bro Nick, along with St Martins newest initiate, Bro Kryzstof (Kris) Kmita, have also produced Square and Compass Lapel Pins which they are selling alongside raffle tickets at the meetings they are able to attend to also help get money to these people. Please visit the St Martins Facebook page to learn more about the Ukraine appeal, how you can buy the Lapel Pins for yourself or a larger quantity to sell for your Lodge, or advice on how you can support our fellow masons in Ukraine and Poland in helping the refugees.

Emergency Field Medical Supplies

The AsstProvGM

W Bro Philip

Blacklaw,

accompanied

by W Bro Peter

Marks (New

Urban Lodge 6371), collecting a

large consignment of emergency

field medical supplies from the

Rainbow Pharmacy at Milton Keynes

which was destined for a civilian

hospital on the Ukrainian Polish

border. Once at the destination,

local brave volunteer medics will

cross the dangerous treacherous

border into the Ukraine. They

will assist those in need of urgent

medical assistance with the items

donated by Buckinghamshire

Freemasons.

W Bro Peter is extremely grateful

to W Bro Phillip for all his efforts

in providing funding on behalf of

Bucks Province.



AsstProvGM W Bro Philip Blacklaw with Peter Marks



Remaining in our Hearts!

Valentines Day this year was again a perfect time to remind the Doctors and Nurses at Stoke Mandeville Hospital that they remain always in our hearts. On February 14th, 250 Chocolate Valentines Hearts and Valentines Cards were shared throughout the wards of Buckinghamshire's world famous hospital.

Organised by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Bill Smithson noted how amazing it is that a present that costs so little in monetary terms can be appreciated and mean so much to the recipients. Paula Tompkins, who assisted distributing the Hearts, added that some of the Doctors were very grateful for the reminder, as they had forgotten the date and could now go home armed with chocolate to their wives and partners.





Windsor End NHS Garden Rescue



W.Bro. Darren Mantell, PProvJGW, W.Bro. Phil Goddard, W.Bro. Martin Woodford, PProvGStwd, Mrs. Leslie Mantell, Mrs. Irina Woodford, Mr. Aaron Jones. Also, W.Bro. Steve Roberts (out of shot).

Seen Garden Rescue on the telly? Well, our very own Windsor End Lodge, no. 9361 answered the call for help from the NHS Priory Surgery in High Wycombe and deployed a crack team, unqualified in gardening but eminently qualified in enthusiasm, to transform the sadly neglected garden surroundings of the patients' car park into a space to bring a summertime welcome, raising cash for the Festival Fortnight in the process.

Everyone coming to the doctor has something to worry about. Cared for surroundings bring a first note of reassurance to anxious patients. But, although important, tending to the garden is one of those things that never quite makes it to the top of the 'urgent – to do' list when there are so many competing priorities. The surgery had experienced



difficulties with securing the services of a reliable gardener. After hearing of the frustrations, the Windsor End hit squad was happy to step in, wielding trowels, a spade or two, and the ultimate weapon – a hedge trimmer.

"You did a blooming good job" laughed a source at the surgery, who has aspirations to join the comedy circuit. (Let's hope he sticks to medicine! -ed.)



Mr. Aaron Jones clearing leaves.



W Bros Peter Thomos , David Dyson, Nick Clark, Cllr Anders Christensen (Mayor) Rod Shepard , Steve Perry & Peter Marks.

GUIDED TOUR OF THE MAYOR'S PARLOUR

A group of charity representatives from Buckinghamshire Freemasons were invited by Cllr Anders Christensen, the Town Mayor of Aylesbury, to an informative guided tour of the mayor's parlour at the town hall.

At a recent cheque presentation evening at the Holiday Inn, the Mayor received a generous donation for his chosen charity by the "Masonic Charitable Foundation" Cllr Christensen said, "it was a privilege and an honour to have been elected in 2021 to the



The Mayor holding the Olympic torch.

prestigious office of town mayor to represent the historical County town and the wonderful people of Aylesbury". Having moved to the town 20 years ago, he continues to be amazed and delighted by the people of this town that he meets.

The deputy mayor is Cllr Tim Dixon and both have hosted so many great public events; coming out of lockdown has had its challenges, especially with local community charities, which the council is keen to promote.

He concluded by thanking the Freemasons for their generosity within the towns of Buckinghamshire.



W Bro Dyson with the Mayor holding the Olympic torch.

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My Charity Journey within Freemasonry

by WBro Waljinder Chahal PPAGDC.

On Thursday 4th Dec 2008 at 6.08pm in the body of a Lodge, properly assembled, I was inducted into Freemasonry.

The Awakening

December 2008, I was invited to help serve hot food at the Slough Homeless Our Concern (SHOC) shelter. Considering my new commitment to freemasonry and charity, I decided to go and see if this sort of charity support suited me. Unaware of what to expect, I went along with little expectation. On arrival I was shown around hall and then left to my own devices. I somehow gravitated towards soup duties and started ladling veg soup for a homeless guest. In general, I tried to keep my head down to avoid eye contact with the guests, unsure of what to say if spoken to. After what seemed like an age, but must have been less than half an hour, I became more comfortable and started to smile and relax. It was then that the blood drained from my body as I recognised the person standing in front of me. I had a flash back to my school days and the playing fields where we had spent many afternoons playing marbles and now he stood in front of me, dishevelled, unkempt and dejected, not able

to recognise me. I watched, dazed, as he took his food and sat down in the communal area to eat. I later found out that he had been coming to the shelter for about 6 months. His story was a common one. Through substance abuse he had lost his job, his family and his home, he was on the streets, sleeping in doorways and under archways. But for the grace of God it could have been any one of us.

My Charity Journey

From then I made a commitment in my heart to support SHOC with their cause of taking a homeless person, feeding them, working to get them clean of substance use, into housing, into jobs, back into society and onto the sweet journey of life. Over the past 13 years my family and I have provided meals for 50- 60 clients 3 times a year. I have annually raised funds for sleeping bags, without which we would lose 3-4 people over the winter months, and provided other necessities as my finances and fund raising has allowed.

Why SHOC

SHOC takes broken individuals at their lowest ebb and helps to rebuild their self-worth and dignity. What greater gift can you give another soul, than returning their self-worth? This charity has also given back to me. For 3 years, while my children were in their formative years, we would go every Saturday morning to SHOC to serve teas and coffees, to wash dishes and listen to the stories. This taught my children and I the value of what we have. It developed empathy, compassion and humility, qualities that have become ingrained into our being.

SHOC & Covid

During the Covid period, Buckinghamshire freemasons were able to prepare and package 50 – 60 meals per day that were



W Bro Waljinder Chahal.

delivered by the SHOC team to the isolating guests. As the restrictions eased, I was able to secure and provide masks, gels, hats, gloves, socks, and other necessities to allow the guests to return to some sort of normality, whilst staying safe.



WBro Darren Morris (deceased), W Bro Waljinder Chahal, Davinder Chahal – Wal's youngest son.



Mandy McGuire SHOC Centre Manager.



The Big Day – Big Idea

On two occasions pre-Covid, I fund raised by sleeping out overnight, in the middle of winter, with nothing but a sleeping bag and cardboard boxes to deflect the cold and rain. This experience gave me an insight into the impact on our bodies of the extreme cold and wet weather. A good sleeping bag was my saviour on those nights. I couldn't imagine having to do this day in day out; it would be soul destroying. After that experience I vowed that if finances allowed, my family and I would donate at least 10 good quality Winter Sleeping bags every November for SHOC to distribute to those in need.

Talking to SHOC in November 2021, I discovered they only had one second hand sleeping bag in stock.

IDEA. Could I raise funds to purchase 100 sleeping bags to match 'The Big Day' Special occasion. A sleeping bag to represent each of the 100 new initiates, initiated into Freemasonry on the 12th of September 2021. I reached out to the Old Pals Lodge members and the Buckinghamshire Provincial Charity Team. There was a glimmer of hope.

PLAN. I asked my fellow Brethren and family to pledge

to buy 25 sleeping bags. I asked the Old Pals Lodge to match this with 25 sleeping bags and then the Province to match this with 50 sleeping bags.

EXECUTION. I was able to add a 'black Friday' deal onto first time buyer discounts and was able to purchase not only the 100 sleeping bags with the pledged money but also 10 two-person tents.

DELIVERY. At the December meeting of the Old Pals Lodge, supported by VW Bro Hugh Douglas Smith and W Bro Gary Woodgate, Worshipful Master of Old Pals Lodge, we presented the 100 sleeping bags and 10 tents to Mandy McGuire, SHOC Day Centre Manager, and one of her colleagues. Thankfully the Big Idea had been delivered.



VW Bro Hugh Douglas Smith, Mandy McGuire, W Bro Waljinder Chahal and W Bro Gary Woodgate (WM of Old Pals at the time) with 100 sleeping bags, 10 tents and food items (Also above).

CONTINUED PUSH

As many of you will know, the membership team have worked incredibly hard over the last couple of years, enabling events such as The Big Day to take place. We have many initiations planned for the festival fortnight and have passed over many other candidates to Lodges over this period. All the hard work has produced fantastic results which sees Buckinghamshire being number one within UGLE for new members.

However, this is not the time to rest on our laurels and revel in past success, in our Provincial Grand Master's strategy plan he has set targets for the next few years to help ensure that the Buckinghamshire's future is a bright one.

The Marketing Team, Membership Team and Communications Team continue to work closely together to keep the new candidate enquires coming in. The communications team have produced a great new updated enquiry page and this, along with the hard work from the Marketing Team has resulted in an increased number of enquires.

The summer break is drawing closer but the membership team will continue to push throughout the summer to attract new members for Lodges. We would ask that you work with us to help getting the new candidates on board as quickly as possible, remembering that Emergency Meeting can and should be used where needed.

We are always looking for people to help with the membership teams efforts, if you think this is something you maybe suited to and would enjoy, please contact at provmo@buckspgl.org

Simon Williams

Provincial Grand
Membership Officer



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ARE YOU INTERESTED?

Email seanrichardboardman@gmail.com

Text "cricket" and message to 07976 831954





BUCKINGHAMSHIRE MASONIC CLAY PIGEON SHOOTING

Tittershall Lodge, Kingswood, was the first venue this year for the first charity shoot which was in aid of DREAMFLIGHT, a charity that brings some FUN and JOY into the lives of children whose illnesses have brought them pain, distress, and disruption, by taking them on a holiday of a lifetime.

Once again Dave and Roger managed to book the shoot on 14th May 2022 one of the sunniest and hottest days so far this year how lucky was that, although the number of shooters was lower than hoped, only 30 shooting, and one guest watching (David Winterburn's new wife).

There were 12 Bucks Mason's 1 from Shropshire, 2 from Monmouth and one from Liverpool, as well as three Lady shooters there were 10 non-masonic shooters.

Everyone enjoyed the shoot, and the Burger and salad at the end. A raffle was held with one prize of a shooting lesson donated by Rosie Dyer Shotgun Coaching, and a free shoot was donated by Tittershall Lodge who also donated 250 cartridges. There were the normal Masonic raffle donations (bottles). The raffle raised £220.00.

With the £220 from the raffle, plus the money from the shoot, and other donations, Buckinghamshire Masonic C.P.S.A. will present DREAMFLIGHT charity with a cheque for £500.00.

THE TROPHIES WERE PRESENTED BY DAVE HOLLIS

Masonic High Gun Kevin Phillips, Monmouth	83
Masonic runner up Ian Turner, West Lanc's	79
Non-masonic High Gun Steve Garret	88
<i>Highest score on the day.</i>	
Non-masonic runner up Alan Newell	72
Ladies High Gun Louise Jennings-Hoole	78
Ladies runner up Gaynor Garret	63

- For information on Bucks Masonic Clay Shooting and further charity shoots contact Roger Gills on 01628 522878 or 07711 088462 rjg@bodger51.plus.com
- For more information on shooting lessons contact Rosie Dyer, Shotgun Coaching on 07859 348480 rosieshotcoach@btinternet.com / rosie.dyer@btinternet.com



Kevin Phillips, Masonic High Gun



Steve Garret, Non Masonic High Gun



Louise Jennings-Hoole, Ladies High Gun



Lady runner up Gaynor Garret being watched by Steve Garret, the non masonic winner and overall High Gun.

The Bucks Masonic Golf Society



Captain W Bro Robin Knock presenting the trophy to W Bro Tony Martin and W Bro Nigel Gough



The Bucks Masonic Golf Society's latest Competition Day was held on the 19th May 2022, when we played for the Inter-Lodge Pairs Shield, at Richings Park Golf Club.

The day was perfect for Golf, sunny, no wind, and a course in glorious condition, followed by a nice meal, and a libation.

The day was won by W Bro Tony Martin and W Bro Nigel Gough representing Entente Cordiale Lodge. As can be seen in the photo they received the shield from our Captain W Bro Robin Knock.

The next Society Golf Day will be for the "Founders Trophy", and will be held on the 23rd June 2022 at Aylesbury Vale Golf Club.

For all you Masonic Golfers out there, whether you have a high or low handicap, if any Brother wishes to join the Bucks Masonic Golf Society, or even come and play as a guest, then please get in touch with Tony Martin by email at ama15346@aol.com. The membership is only £20 per year and Society Golf Day costs are always kept below £60.00.

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