

# CONCORD



## B.I.G. Success for Buckinghamshire Masons

New Year address from the Grand Master;  
On our return to freemasonry after Covid  
in September last year, *"The Province of  
Buckinghamshire brought over 100 people into  
the Craft on a single day at Freemasons Hall."*

13 MASONIC  
GLOBES  
EXPLAINED

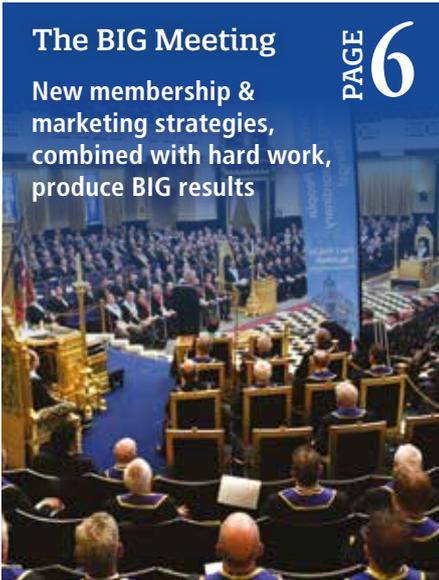
28 FURNITURE  
FOR THE  
NHS

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RUNNING

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# Welcome

## From the Provincial Grand Master

### Well, what a year it has been once again.

In 2020 your response to the Covid pandemic was magnificent and something we will be proud of for the rest of our lives. This desire to help others has continued throughout 2021. As you know these efforts, together with our new marketing and membership programmes which we started working on when I became Provincial Grand Master in 2017, and enabled by our information system HeliPAD, have delivered an additional 300 membership enquiries during this time over and above the number of applications to join we would normally receive.

Back in 2020 we demonstrated our new systems and processes to members of the UGLE marketing committee and I am delighted to say that they have now launched a similar programme of social media marketing which has delivered outstanding results.

There are some who will say that marketing in this way will bring in the wrong sort of people who might not share our values of decency and kindness to others. Indeed, I have heard this from some very senior masons. The catastrophic consequences of this tried and failed alternative, then limits admission to only our own relatively small circle of friends.

This new approach, pioneered by our team in Buckinghamshire, has captivated the interest of predominantly professional, enthusiastic, and kind individuals who are in the age group 25 to 40. This is an outstanding success which has never been delivered before.

On our B.I.G. Day in the Grand Temple on the 12th of September 2021 we initiated more new masons in a single day than has ever been undertaken in this country. This event captivated and inspired Lodges in our province to go forward again and initiations have been taking place everywhere in the last few months. In some Lodges there is a backlog of 9 or 10 ceremonies to get through. **At a recent meeting of Old Pals Lodge, 11 new initiates were in attendance, and they outnumbered everyone else.**

These are outstanding, unprecedented achievements and in 2022 we will go forward

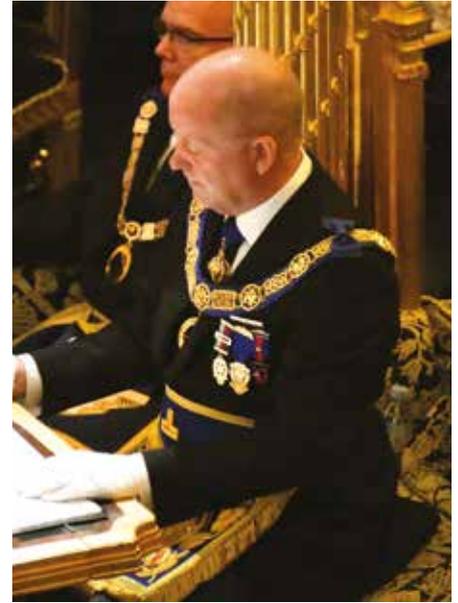
again with fresh ideas and great determination with our excellent team. I have asked John Keeble, our Past Grand Superintendent, with his background in training and development, to conduct a skills and aspirational survey in January to find the next outstanding team to take the province forward for the next five years.

We must not rest on our laurels, and we cannot ask the same individuals to operate at the level we have year after year. As you will have seen recently, exceptional individuals who have exceeded expectation in offices such as provincial Membership Officer, Mentor and Comms which have delivered results will be rewarded with significant promotions. I have been pleased to promote Simon Williams from Acting Steward to be our first Membership Officer, a role he has filled for 3 years before the official office was created. Grae Laws, after very successfully leading the Northeast Corner Club, is promoted to Communications Officer and John Palman will now replace Grae as NECC lead. Significant promotions have also been given to Francis McCabe and Damian Waite for their sustained effort in the provincial office over many years.

If you want to be part of this great future, then please complete the online survey when it comes out in January.

We are now in the final home run of our extended 2021 Festival for the Masonic Charitable Foundation. The MCF has done so much for people in need during the pandemic as well as keeping its normal operations running. As a response to Covid-19 they have dispersed great sums of money and have had reduced income and I ask you all to give one final push to do our very best to support them.

Preparations are well under way once again for a Festival Fortnight from 29th May to the 11th of June 2022 and we are asking all Lodges to rise to the challenge. For my part I shall be attempting to do as many initiations as possible in the first week for any Lodge that would like to take part up to 4 per day, anywhere in the province. The Deputy ProvGM will be delivering the Charge at each. I will then be taking part in a second canoe Marathon



on the Thames in the second week with the same team as before. This time we will invite individual Lodges to sponsor and buy a new boat and a member of that Lodge will then be entitled to take part in the challenge with us. We will donate all the boats to local canoeing groups as before. If you would like to take part in this or any event, please contact Mark Duncan who is running the Festival Fortnight.

On August 5th 2022 there will be a finale ball at the Double Tree at the MK Stadium which I hope all Lodges will attend and will feature film footage from all the events undertaken. Bill Smithson, our provincial DC, is taking the lead on this one and it will be a 'not to be missed' event even bigger than the last one.

I do hope that you have enjoyed your Christmas holidays and that you have been able to spend some time with your families and friends.

I think 2022 will be better than we ever hoped. With all the younger new members we will have our work cut out but let's not lose sight of the fact that new members are vulnerable. They will need your attention and support on a weekly basis until they establish their bond with their new group of friends. It will take them time to realise what a superb organisation they have joined. **Let's not take our eye off the ball.**

Brethren of Buckinghamshire, it seems that even after a global pandemic the resourceful, creative, and determined members of this province still enable us to come flying out of the other side. I consider it a privilege to be your Provincial Grand Master and I can assure you that my team and I will continue to work very hard on your behalf.

*John Clark*  
Provincial Grand Master

Welcome



# ANNUAL PGL MEETING...

*Freemasonry is boring ??... think again !!*

The last two years of Covid 19 has taught every one of us in some way or another that uncertainty has become the new normality. Whilst frightening to many, it also highlights our strength in adversity, something we have all witnessed by the good deeds we have continued to put into the community.

This autumn was unique for our Province, the return to meetings and B.I.G. announced the intention of Buckinghamshire to bounce back with a historic day at Freemasons' Hall.

The Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting followed six weeks later, with new challenges as the pandemic numbers began to grow. The normal invitation to Distinguished and Honoured guests was reconsidered and the decision was made to concentrate on those receiving honours. Seating plans were adjusted to accommodate safe practice and clear guidance provided to all those who would be attending.

Two years earlier wives, partners



and friends had joined us in the Grand Temple for the Investiture of Officers, Appointments and Promotions and later that evening six hundred people dined in the Connaught Rooms. Last year that six hundred became six!

*Image Above: Left to right front row...Mark Higson, David Harfield, Martin Woodford, Jesse Wells and Gary Woodgate. Back row.....Left to right...Chris Cunningham, Gary Strickland, Bill Smithson, Ryan Elliot, Tarek Qutteineh and Steve Adams.*



*The procession out.*

This year despite restricted numbers, the Grand Temple again hosted a day to remember for those being rewarded for their excellent service to the Province, their Lodges and the community around them. In the evening we were treated to a great meal with comfortable spacing at and between the tables, with the wonderful 'Elektra', a trio of Electric Violinists, completing a spectacular Festive Board by performing a range of compositions from classics to very topical James Bond themes.

A number of our brethren were taken ill with Covid days before this year's meeting and others chose to keep safe at home. We sincerely hope that those who have missed the last two years can join us all again next year, and meet with their own Lodges again in the coming months.

**Bill Smithson**, *ProvGDC*



*Banner bearers form up.*

# Welcome



The Grand Temple was buzzing.

## Buckinghamshire Freemasons coming together is a B.I.G. Success.

In June 2017, a decision was made in Buckinghamshire that would culminate in an historic event which took place on the 12th September 2021. Our then new Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro John Clark, decided to make membership the number one focus for the new administration. The rationale was that by focusing on membership, the other elements of the province such as a ritual, communications, marketing and mentoring would have to be in order too.

As such, the ProvGM set out to build a team of dedicated Buckinghamshire Freemasons, whose brief was simple - attract, recruit and retain members. It was decided that to attract young, enthusiastic candidates, the marketing and communications strategies had to reflect the behaviours of that group, while the membership and mentoring strategies should be standardised to ensure an optimal experience for all who used it.

The DepProvGM, VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith, was challenged to produce a digital platform that would manage and track the membership enquiries for the Province, but also allow for streamlined processing of membership data, executive reporting and the appointment and promotions procedures. The Provincial Marketing Officer, W Bro Phil Whitney, and the Provincial Communications

Officer, W Bro Matt Perkins, were tasked to produce a marketing and communications strategy that brought the good works, camaraderie and mystery of Freemasonry to the attention of the public. By taking a single communications message across social media, the Website and the Provincial magazine, Concord, it ensured that no matter where someone encountered Buckinghamshire Freemasons, they were receiving the same content presented in the same way. The development of a new provincial logo and inclusion of the recommendations from the survey on attitudes to Freemasonry were also key parts of this sea change. The formation of a 'landing page' ([www.buckspgl.org/info](http://www.buckspgl.org/info)) meant that all communications would have a call to action and direct interested parties

to a contact form that linked directly with the membership team.

In January 2020 the Membership officer, Bro Simon Williams, implemented a structured and detailed membership pathway, including methodology to allocate enquiries to suitable Lodges based on geography and availability. Little did Simon know that, instead of assessing, vetting and allocating candidates to Lodges, he would soon have to keep them interested for 18 months during the first ever suspension of Freemasonry in 300 years!

The changes to the marketing and communications strategies soon started to yield results, with improved engagement across all platforms and, most encouragingly, with the number of people filling in the contact form increasing from 1-2 per week to 1-2 per day. This was naturally a cause for celebration, with many prospective candidates stating they were interested in Freemasonry after seeing the good works that we do, but also the friendships that are built by the fraternity. The hard work of the whole team was starting to pay off by February 2020.

Then in March 2020 disaster struck and Freemasonry was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Many of our brethren work in key worker roles and were at the front line of the COVID effort. Under the tireless leadership of the Provincial Executive, large numbers of Buckinghamshire Freemasons mobilised to provide urgent relief to those in need in the local communities.

#### Initiatives ensued such as:

- Donating tonnes of food to local food banks
- Providing hot meals to the elderly, vulnerable children and women's refuges
- Delivering PPE to NHS hospitals
- Delivering Pamper Packs and food to Carers
- Undertaking Marshalling Duties at NHS Vaccination Centres
- Providing Support within NHS Hospitals and Clinics.

These activities rightly attracted much attention on social media and in the local and national press. So, what was thought to be a disaster for our new recruitment initiative actually led to a further increase in the membership enquiries, with potential members seeing the benefits of our institution and wanting to join a community of like-minded people who want to bring good to their local communities. Membership enquiries went up, and the membership team set about creating a programme to engage these potential members and keep them interested until such a time as they could be initiated. This included zoom calls, family quiz evenings and virtual pub nights which proved very popular with all.

As the lockdown persisted, the membership enquiries mounted up. With over 200 candidates processed through Provincial channels plus Lodges own recruitment effort, over 300 candidates were awaiting initiation, with many having waited over a year to join because of the lockdowns.

Buckinghamshire now had a unique problem; What are we going to do with everyone? The Provincial Grand Master had a solution. He asked the Rulers to allow him to initiate as many of the candidates as possible in Freemasons' Hall and he was met with a great wave of support. The Grand Master gave a dispensation to meet on a Sunday as this was the only day of the week when



*Bucks hand gel.*

the whole of Freemasons' Hall would be available for use. In itself, this was historic as Freemasons cannot usually meet on a Sunday and the Buckinghamshire Initiations at Grand Lodge Day was born, affectionately known as B.I.G.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Bill Smithson assembled a team and the planning began with less than 12 weeks to go. A monumental effort from the membership and communications teams meant that engagement with the potential members was huge, with a final social barbecue being organised in order to push the number of candidates booked in to 103.



*PGM enters the Lodge escorted by the ProvGDC.*

## The Day Arrives

Sunday the 12th September 2021 was an historic day for Freemasonry. Freemasons' Hall played host to an unprecedented event for the Freemasons in Buckinghamshire.

Over 100 candidates had booked in to be initiated into Freemasonry in a single day.

The Grand Master, HRH Duke of Kent, had given a dispensation during the period to allow a meeting to take place on a Sunday.

The day started early for both Freemasons and the Candidates alike. As day broke, they boarded all sorts of transport to get to the event bright and early. All the temples were set up and the Provincial Grand Lodge was opened at 09:30 so that the officers from the 'lost year' of the pandemic had their opportunity to perform their roles in the Grand Temple. At 10:30 the formalities of the day began and the initiates were swiftly gathered in their respective Lodge rooms. Some Lodges were initiating 4, 5 or even 6 candidates and were calling off during the

day for refreshments. The day ran smoothly with a lovely lunchtime festive board in the Gallery Suite for those Lodges initiating in the morning sessions. After lunch, the Lodges continued to initiate their own candidates, with visitors there to increase the support for every Lodge.

## Entertainment During the Day and Night

During the day, the brethren were entertained by a harpist and a saxophonist.

The beautiful new Cafe in Freemasons Hall was ideal for the provision of much needed refreshment. It was also an ideal location for brethren and candidates from all over Buckinghamshire to meet and update each other on news.

At 15:30, everyone gathered in the Grand Temple for the main event of the day. Marcellians Lodge 4450 were initiating their candidate in the Grand Temple, with 619 masons staying all day to witness it, and the Provincial Grand Master in the Chair!

It was a flawless ceremony with the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies acting as Junior Deacon. Once the newly installed candidate retired from the Lodge, 88 of the new initiates who had stayed to

the very end, took to the floor to receive the Charge on Initiation with their new Brothers. The sight of nearly 90 entered apprentices on the floor of Grand Lodge was an unforgettable experience.

The charge was given in spectacular fashion by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith. There was then a most enlightening demonstration of the First Degree Tracing board before the Lodge was closed. Before the processions out, singer Jenny Ball serenaded the crowd from the balcony of the Grand Temple.

The evening meal, known as a Festive Board to masons, took place both in the Vestibule and the Gallery Suites and the exquisite food, wine and entertainment made for a most enjoyable day.

In summary, the B.I.G Day was one that will stay in the memory of all that attended. Especially the newly-made freemasons, who are now members of a very special group, as an event like this is unlikely to ever happen again. And of course, we still have 150 candidates to initiate, not to mention the second and third degree ceremonies to do. Perhaps another BIG 3rd event is in order?...

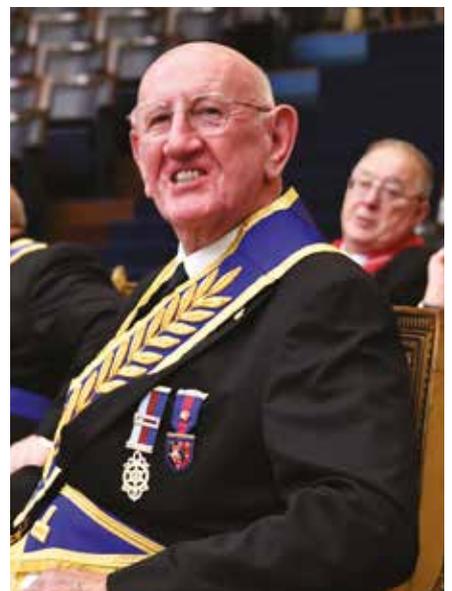
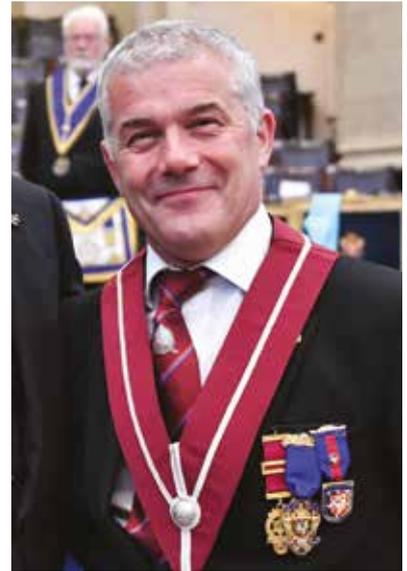
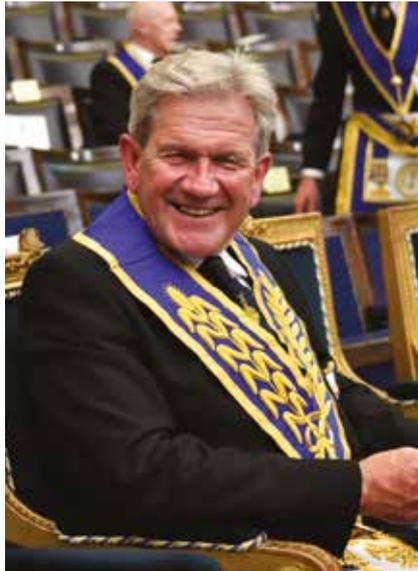
## Reflections of B.I.G. by Jose Bueno

*Everyone I met was friendly and welcoming, the building was magnificent and decorated with inspiring messages in the main hall. In view of needing to initiate a lot of candidates, obviously time was at a premium but everything was handled in a timely manner. I more or less knew what was going to happen at the initiation but when blindfolded I was manoeuvred and had instructions clearly conveyed in my ear. When the blindfold was removed, I had the ceremony explained, the reasons for the various ceremonial activities and the oaths. When finished I then took my place in the main hall, I was elated it was all over and a new chapter was beginning.*

*I am proud to be part of an organisation that has such noble tradition and purposeful for the cause of good.*



Opening the Lodge.



**The pace of the day was a Hundred Smiles a Minute!**

# Grand Superintendent Address

## Companions

**Whilst we are still living in challenging times, it is good to know that Chapters are meeting again and enjoying the companionship of the Royal Arch. It is also great to hear of the number of new Exaltees finally able to join Buckinghamshire Chapters. I want to welcome every new member to our ranks and look forward to seeing you in your new regalia and continuing your masonic journey..**

Since September 21, we have started to get back to some normality, albeit cautiously. We cannot pretend that Covid has stopped or that we are all immune to the effects of this horrible virus. Having gone down with it myself, I would not recommend it to anyone.

### Simple things I would ask all Chapters to do when meeting.

1. Ask for everyone to take a test before attending.
2. Say to all companions if they are feeling unwell, please do not attend.
3. Politely request that any member who is not fully vaccinated does not attend until they are.
4. Ensure there is space between seats during the meeting and at the Festive board to allow for social distancing
5. Encourage those who would like to wear masks to do so.
6. Ensure there are Hand Sanitisers available and that they are used.

I am sure many of you are already doing all of many of the above. However, I make no apology for repeating these suggestions due to the importance of keeping everyone safe.

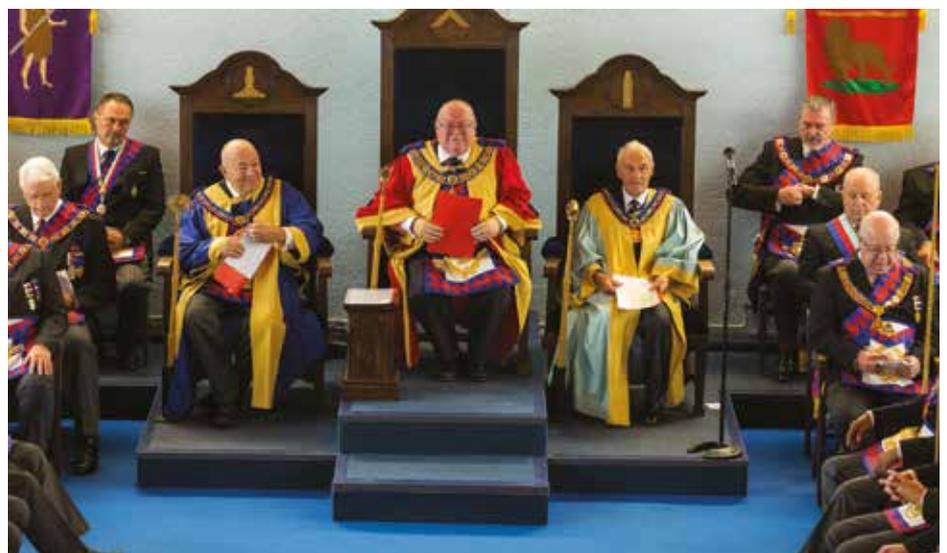
Getting back to Chapters has been fun; we are all rusty with the ceremonial and ritual, as I proved at our Provincial Convocation. However, the joy of getting back to the beauty of the Royal Arch has reminded me and so many others how important and special the Royal Arch is.

The amazing BIG event had brought many new members to Buckinghamshire Freemasonry, and I know in time they will all be excellent candidates to continue their masonic journey by joining the Royal Arch. I use the words in time, as I do not want to rush people into joining our ranks. Joining the Royal Arch is a special part of Masonic life, and candidates need to be ready to continue the next part of their Masonic Journey at the right time.

**For those who were at the Provincial Convocation, you heard me announce the PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE.** Every member of the Royal Arch in Buckinghamshire to introduce a new member to a Bucks



Chapter in the next three years. It cannot be accused of being too complicated. We want to ensure that all Craft Masons get an opportunity to continue their personal masonic journey and develop a better understanding and knowledge of Freemasonry. All Royal Arch companions will have received an email from me with details of how to register the completion of your challenge. It could not be easier; simply email E Comp Stephen Knight at [stephen.knight@6094.co.uk](mailto:stephen.knight@6094.co.uk), with your name, your candidates name and the name of the Chapter they will be joining. This allows us to keep a record



# COMING SOON “NEW DC ON THE BLOCK”

**Companions, the amazing Provincial DC for the Royal Arch, E Comp Ray Harrison, has decided that, due to work and moving out of the area, the time was right for him to stand down from his role.**

I have reluctantly accepted and Ray will stand down at our March 22 convocation. There is plenty of time to be able to praise Ray for his work and enthusiasm over the past 4 years he has held that office, and I fully intend to do just that over the next four months that he is in office.

To find someone to replace Ray was never going to be an easy task. I am therefore delighted to say that E Comp Paul Bird has accepted my offer of taking this office. E Comp Paul has a distinguished masonic career both in the Craft and the Royal Arch, and is a past acting Director of Ceremonies for the Craft in Buckinghamshire, a role he carried out with distinction and setting standards which are still followed to this day.



**E Comp Ray Harrison**  
Provincial DC



**E Comp Paul Bird**  
Provincial DC March 22

His experience and ‘can do’ attitude will not only fill the gap left by Ray, but I have no doubt he will bring his own style to the role and be a true asset to myself and Buckinghamshire Royal Arch in general. I am sure we will all want to wish Paul well in his new appointment.

*Graham Dearing*

**Grand Superintendent**

of how the challenge is going. I do want to say that you don't have to limit it to one candidate.

Encouraging new members is a role for everyone, not just a few. So please take up this challenge and encourage more brethren to come and enjoy the beauty of the Royal Arch and the enjoyment and fun we have in Bucks.

**"THE BIGGER THE CHALLENGE, THE BIGGER THE OPPORTUNITY"**

We have about 2000 Craft Masons in Buckinghamshire who could join the Royal Arch, so the opportunity is there. Let's not leave it to a few. I, for one, already have two prospective candidates who are ready to expand their masonic knowledge.

For any Craft mason who is reading this

who would like to know more about the Royal Arch, you can either ask your Lodge's Royal Arch Rep or Secretary or **visit our new website at [www.Buckspgc.org](http://www.Buckspgc.org)** for further details. Come and be part of something special

**If you would like a reason why you would want to be of this Challenge it is this:-**

*“There is no challenge more challenging than the challenge to improve yourself.”*

Companions, we have a fantastic Masonic Province in Buckinghamshire. It is a Province which is willing to try new things, to make a difference, to make things happen. The Royal Arch in

Bucks cannot sit by and watch the Craft carry out some amazing things. The BIG event, Festival Fortnights, themed Lodges, every Lodge meeting being an event and not just a meeting. There is so much to be proud of being a Bucks Mason, what we all need to be is a Bucks Royal Arch Mason.

I am keen that every meeting we have in the Province is an event, let us make them special not just for your members and exaltees

I look forward to seeing everyone as I get around the Province. Let us make 2022 a year which we will look back on with pride at what we have all achieved and continue to promote and enjoy our Royal Arch Masonry.

*Graham Dearing*

**Grand Superintendent**

# Provincial Convocation held at Sindlesham on 6th September 2021

On September 6th the Buckinghamshire Royal Arch finally held an annual convocation. Whilst Covid has meant we could not meet for nearly 30 months it had not dampened

the companion's enthusiasm for attending this excellent meeting.

Excellent Companion Graham Dearing, our Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, solemnly opened Provincial Grand Chapter, but still managed to raise a smile from everyone, proving that we are still all a little ring rusty.

The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Graham Dearing, welcomed all the companions to our rescheduled annual convocation and reminded the companions of the challenging circumstances that we have all been through due to the pandemic. He emphasised that we are still not out of the pandemic and must all ensure we remain vigilant. Extra space was made available for all companions in the temple and dining area to allow for social distancing. Also, some very fetching limited edition hand sanitisers were made available to everyone attending.

After the formal welcoming of our guests, the M. E. Grand Superintendent then appointed and invested his officers for the ensuing year.

The M. E. Grand Superintendent then addressed the Companions. He was mindful that there is always speculation about the length of this address, but he assured everyone it would not exceed that of his predecessor, who still holds the record. In his speech, he spoke of the Royal Arch's challenges over the past 18 months. It included the impact that it has had on attendees at meetings and membership in



general. He spoke of the need to be mindful of those companions who did not want to attend chapter meetings and urged all chapters to keep everyone fully engaged.

He also announced the introduction of the New Provincial Challenge. In short, every member to introduce a new exalte into the Royal Arch in the next three years. The challenge was received very enthusiastically by those attending the meeting and caused much discussion from our guests at the Festive Board. It is good to know that Bucks is a Province that wants to make things happen rather than let events happen. I am sure we will all hear much more of the Challenge over the coming months.

At the end of the meeting, I, as Provincial Scribe E, announced that the next Annual Convocation would be held on Monday March 28th 2022 at the Berkshire Masonic Centre, Sindlesham, subject to obtaining the necessary Dispensations.

Over 240 companions dined at Sindlesham and enjoyed the companionship of the Festive Board. The response from our visitors has been that the meeting was a huge success and Buckinghamshire is a Province which truly enjoys its Royal Arch Masonry. Every guest attending wanted to know when they could book to come again. The bookings for our 2022 convocation will be out soon, make sure you get your booking in early as we know it will be a sell-out.

**E Comp Mel Shah**  
*Provincial Scribe Ezra*

## Make every chapter meeting a special event. Five Points Chapter do.

On Saturday 25th September, Five Points Chapter held a regular meeting of the Chapter at Beaconsfield Masonic Centre.

The meeting was a celebration after a long period of time when the Chapter could not meet in strength due to the covid pandemic. To celebrate in style Five Points had two candidates for Exaltation along with Bowen Chapter presenting Buckinghamshire's Altar of Companionship!

The two candidates were Matthew Johns and David Enright, both members of Enright Lodge meeting in London.

The meeting started with a delegation from Bowen Chapter escorting the Altar of Companionship and presenting it to MEZ Dave Adams. It was good to see again the interaction between the Chapters after the enforced delay from the pandemic.

MEZ led the Exaltation of Matthew and David in a warm well worked ceremony, the highlight was the work of the Principal Sojourner Norman Birkitt, well done Norman.

The meeting was followed by very enjoyable festive board, a wonderful enjoyable meeting.

Five Points Chapter are a welcoming, warm and friendly Chapter growing in membership and a great success. Be part of something special at your Chapter.



*Five Points Chapter and members of Bowen Chapter with the Altar.*

# Terrestrial and Celestial Globes

A pair of globes, each surmounting a column, are a central part of the symbolism Masons use to decorate their Lodges. The celestial globe is symbolically seen as the spiritual part of human nature and the terrestrial globe the material side.

In the past, a Lodge would usually have two six-foot columns, with nine or twelve-inch diameter globes, with smaller versions on the Wardens' columns. Usually, one column will have a simple Ionic or Doric capital and the other a Corinthian one. Such globes, either in miniature or full size, were sometimes painted showing the continents on the terrestrial world globe and the stars on the celestial globe.

Contemplating these bodies, we are inspired to encourage the study of Astronomy, Geography, and Navigation and their associated arts. They also denote the universality of Freemasonry, teaching us that a Freemason's charity should be equally as extensive.



**The terrestrial globe** displays the entire surface of the earth. All nations are represented, with none given any unnatural emphasis, unlike some other globes. Thus

symbolically including the entire population of the earth all on the same level.

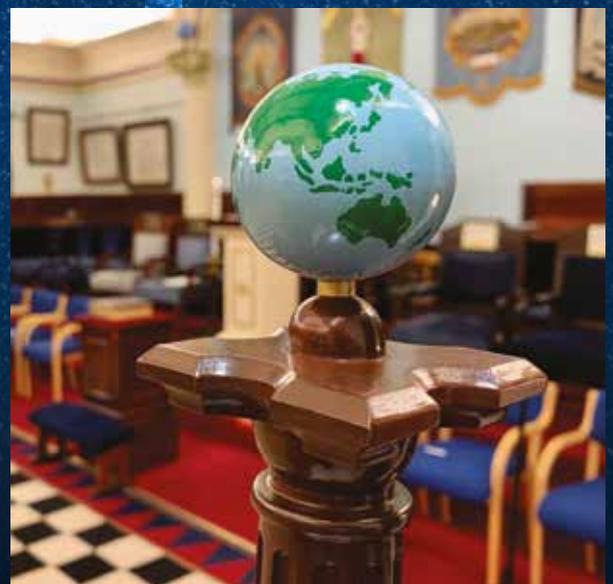


**The celestial globe** displays the stars in the heavens which are numerous. Every person possesses a unique combination of religious, social, political and

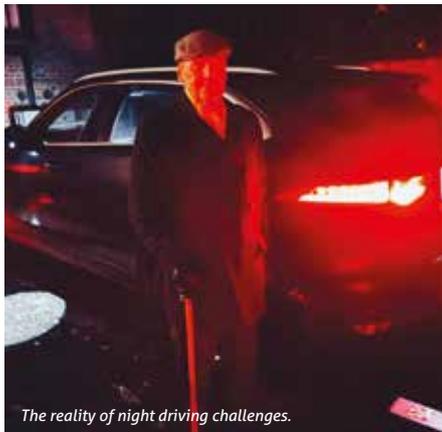
racial characteristics, and such individuals are as numerous as the stars that one can see.

Contrary to popular belief, the celestial and terrestrial globes were not present on the two columns which adorned the porchway to King Solomon's Temple. How could they be, given that at that time people believed the earth to be flat! It is likely they were originally 'bowl shaped' as the Hebrew

word 'Goolot' (plural), or 'Goolah' (singular) means globes, bowls or vessels, and were confused in translation. An Apron circa 1810 shows the two pillars topped by bowls and not spheres. The suggestion is that what we see now is 'artistic license'.



# GIVING FREEMASONRY A LIFT



*The reality of night driving challenges.*

**On a clear and golden autumnal afternoon, W Bro Norman Hide and I set off for Windsor End Lodge in Beaconsfield. Norman completed 51 years in Freemasonry this year. He doesn't like driving, but he does like Freemasonry and, of course, tea and cake.**

This was his first visit to a Lodge meeting since lockdown began in March 2020. It was going to be a special night, with a new Initiate coming into the Craft, and a Festive Board featuring Firing Glass races, both of which had tempted Norman to come along. His own Lodge meets in a smaller temple, and as Norman is understandably cautious, he has not yet visited his own Lodge.

The ceremony went very well, with some great ritualists ushering Bro Tony Gill into the Craft. Before dinner there was a chance for Norman to catch up with the Provincial Almoner W.Bro. Stephen Knight. At ninety-five years young, Norman is still mindful of the needs of others, and visiting gave him the opportunity to speak with Stephen about some who



*W Bro Stephen Knight W Bro Norman Hide.*



*W Bro Norman with celebration balloons.*

needed assistance. The Worshipful Master and other Brethren then spent some time with Norman, and they all welcomed Bro Tony into Freemasonry.

At the Festive Board a splendid meal was served, followed by a great round of Firing Glass races, resulting in delighted Brethren. It was good to see so many people enjoying themselves, with gales of laughter and broad smiles throughout the room. Far too soon it was time to head back and as Norman wrapped up for the journey, we put the heating and demister on full, and retraced our steps. After passing through Aylesbury, we once more found ourselves in the country lanes leading to Winslow. This time the sun, present on our outward journey, had been replaced by billowing clouds of intermittent mist, grasping and releasing the car as we rose and fell through the hills and hollows of the lanes. This was not pleasant, and Norman was even more thankful that he was not driving. Safely home, I wished Norman goodnight, and promised to visit the Lodges and Tea Rooms of the Province with him again soon.

There are many "Normans" in our Province who find driving daunting and unpleasant,



*W Bro Norman Hide, Bro Anthony Gill (Initiate) and W Bro Stephen Knight.*

especially during the darker evenings. They may be waiting for a chance to get back to their Lodges. I keep a list of PIPs (permanently invited passengers), whom I regularly call and offer to take to and from meetings. Wouldn't it be a great if every Lodge compiled its own list of PIPs and created a carpool for those who are still missing their Freemasonry?

I am sure you will receive their heartfelt thanks and, who knows, they may even get cake.

**John King**  
*Provincial Grand Mentor*  
[mentor@buckspgl.org](mailto:mentor@buckspgl.org)



Dennis Nave; Adrian Brie; Zosimo Mendoza; Jovita Mistica; Randolph Albuero; Hugh Douglas-Smith; Tomas Sartorio; Greg Gonzales; Ricson Angue; Ceferino Ceriales.

## VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith visits de Bohun Lodge

### *B.I.G. candidate progresses*

**In the preparation for B.I.G. I offered to assist with any of the ceremonies where I wasn't already committed to my own Lodges. Needless to say the gauntlet was almost instantly thrown down by de Bohun Lodge 8175 who needed a Tyler for their morning session.**

At the appointed time I was introduced to Mr Randolph Albuero who was about to become the newest Initiate of de Bohun Lodge. I am not sure what his first impression was when meeting the Tyler for the first time, given I was wearing the Deputy Provincial Grand Master's chain, it must have been rather imposing! Later in the day I presented the Charge after Initiation to the candidates of the day, including Bro Randolph.

Last night I was able to visit de Bohun Lodge where Bro Randolph was being Passed and I had the privilege of delivering the explanation of the second degree tracing board. It was also an opportunity to meet and get to know some of Bro Randolph's colleagues.

He works at Stoke Mandeville hospital and is part of a continuing line of Initiates which started some five or so years ago with Bro Greg Gonzales (Senior Warden). There is now a community of Filipino brethren who have become members of de Bohun, New Urban and Aylesbury Lodges. Being spread across three lodges also encourages visiting between them and this was all evidenced at Randolph's Passing with a full house there to support him.

I look forward to seeing this group grow, Bro Greg & others have started the Filipino Philippian Society in Aylesbury where he serves as President and Bro Randolph is their secretary. All three of the Lodges are thriving as a result and there are further Initiates on the horizon.



## MEMORABLE MOMENTS OF MOTORCYCLING, MASONRY & MAYHEM WITH THE BMCL

Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge has continued its now firmly established traditions since the resumption of meetings in September.

On Saturday 4th September the Lodge travelled to Diss Masonic Centre in Norfolk for one of their 'ride out' meetings. They received a very warm welcome from their hosts who included the Provincial Grand Master of Norfolk together with his Deputy Provincial Grand Master and Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Kevin (Third Man) Ansell was raised to the third degree in a very fine ceremony. The Lodge welcomed a new joining member, Vincent Peacock, and at the festive board which followed. Much fun was had by all present with the Norfolk ProvGM presenting the Lodge with



the book 'Larn to talk Narfok' in the hope that they will be able to understand us should we return!

At the Provincial Big Event at Great Queen Street on 12th September the Lodge Initiated three new members, Alastair (Doof Doof) Weir, Matthew Reed and Matthew Stannett, at what was a hugely successful and memorable day.

The next regular meeting of the Lodge on Saturday 2nd October was another 'ride out', this time to Bognor Regis in Suffolk where we once again were received by

the Provincial Grand Master of the Province. Yet another memorable meeting was followed by an excellent festive board. The heavens opened for the ride home and apparently Paul (Monty) Lear's new waterproofs are not waterproof.

On Sunday 17th October the Lodge had a social ride out to the Triumph Motorcycle Museum at Hinckley, Leicestershire where the members had the opportunity to view the magnificent display of British bikes and wish that they owned a Harley.

All of the above were arranged by our Fahrmeister, Herbie Waser, who continues to work extremely hard to see that the Lodge continues to enjoy successful events all over the country. We are very grateful for his efforts.



Gary Brodie, W Bro Michael Gooderson, RW Bro Stephen Allen, Kevin Ansell, John Clark, W Bro Richard Butler, Robert Wharton.

If you are a biker or if you just have an interest in motorbikes and you would like to visit our Lodge you can be sure you will be warmly received and that you will witness something quite different. Who knows you might even wish to join us .

Please contact Gary (Back to Front) Brodie on:

Mobile: 07919 994444

Email: [motorcycle@buckspgl.org](mailto:motorcycle@buckspgl.org)

# In Memory of John Angus



Unfortunately the Lodge recently learned of the passing to the Grand Lodge above of one of its founders and treasured member, John Angus. John's Craft Mother Lodge was Concordia but he also was a keen Bucks Motorcycle lodge member with the road name "2 Fags".

He will be remembered as a raconteur, excellent ritualist, Rugby player & referee, Leg Wrestler, Husband to Lisa, Father to William & Lucy, Grandfather, honest, Loyal.

**He will be sorely missed by his Brothers and friends. God bless 2 Fags, BRRRRM-BRRRRM!**



*United with our Brothers From Scotland.*

## Widows Sons & Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge Big Ride

The Widows Sons Shires Chapter, which has many members from the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge including their current President Peter (39 steps) Parsons and Immediate Past President Mick (Gadget) Shoard, recently took part in the Big Ride 2021. This was a charity fund raising ride in aid of Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

The ride itself was a hugely testing one, covering over 1700 miles in just four days. The group assembled at Membury Services and set off for South Wales, through the Cambrian Mountains and up into Cheshire. Then it was up through Lancashire and Cumbria, crossing the Scottish border into Dumfries and Galloway, stopping at Moffat for a cup of tea. Then it was along the Edinburgh by-pass over the Forth and up into Perthshire on through the Cairngorms, Elgin, Balmoral and Speyside, passing many distilleries - without sampling! From there it was up to John O' Groats where a piper and Scottish Widows Sons were assembled to welcome them. It was then a long ride south to home with rain almost the whole way.

39 Steps would like to thank all the riders who undertook this arduous ride, but all



*Peter Parsons, Brian Neighbour, Kevin Ansell, Colin O'Dell, Herbie Wasser, Paul Lear.*

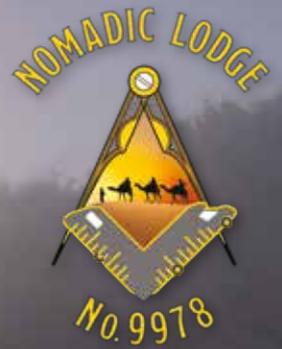
those taking part said they would not have missed it. They would, in turn, like to thank the organisers and the other Widows Sons chapters who supported them on various legs of their journey.

The total monies raised amounted to the magnificent sum of £6,830 which has been duly presented to Thames Valley Air Ambulance.

**Great job guys!**



*The Widows Sons arrive.*



## NOMADIC LODGE INSTALLATION OCTOBER 2021

In true Nomadic tradition, a group of members (now commonly, and humorously, known as 'the shed-draggers') camped out in a field in Little Horwood on the eve of the Lodges Installation meeting. Others, not to be named, slept soundly in a four-poster bed!

Members of the Nomadic Lodge have enjoyed a number of 'away meeting gatherings' including two at Stoke Bruerne, Northamptonshire, where Ian Strong was Initiated in the Boat Inn and one at Greenhills Leisure Park in Oxfordshire. Here we celebrated with a Nomadic Cake baked by Wendy Jarvis. By the very nature of camping, these gatherings were attended by members, wives, partners, families, prospective members and .... all the family dogs.

During the year we had motorhomes, caravans, collapsible caravan and trailer tent but no tents. So, to make sure that every type of camping unit had been represented during the year, the Master Elect, Tony Robinson,

on the eve of his Installation, slept in his tent along side the caravanners.

A most enjoyable Installation Meeting took place in the Eliot Hall, Winslow, and this followed by the usual White Table Festive Board. However, on this occasion it was indoors and a most enjoyable carvery at the Bell Hotel.

Future plans include an Initiation in Cornwall and a Passing, under canvas, next season.





## INSTALLATION – AT LAST!

On Friday 3rd September, 2021, Bucks Masters Lodge was at last able to hold its Installation meeting, when RW Bro John Clark, ProvGM was installed in the Chair. It was a thoroughly enjoyable meeting, the ceremony conducted to a high standard and everybody then enjoyed a convivial Festive Board.

Fewer Brethren were invited to attend the meeting so as to take account of potential risks to health and wellbeing due to COVID-19. Face masks were worn and everyone was given a [Provincial] bottle of hand sanitiser to use.

The next meeting of the Lodge will be held on Friday 18th February 2022 in Beaconsfield.



## WEXHAM PARK CHAPTER BACK FROM COVID WITH A BANG.

Although Wexham are the smallest parish in the Hundred of Stoke, just 748 acres, Wexham Park Chapter came back after two years of not being able to hold a meeting with a very enjoyable convocation on Friday 12th November held at the Masonic Centre Slough.

Wrexham Park Chapter are planning some very special meetings for the future all of which are not to be missed.

*"Watch this space"* As our Grand Superintendent said on the night *"This is an exciting Chapter with a great history, great members and a great future"* The next meeting is on Friday 11th February 2022, it will be something not to be missed, including some ritual never before seen in Buckinghamshire.

**Book your place now with its new Scribe E, E Comp Paul Lear.**

## Promotions in the Field

**Fresh out of the Provincial Meeting in October, there have been a few very pleasant surprises at Lodge meetings for those who work behind the scenes.**

Firstly, at the Installation meeting of Slough Daylight Lodge 9699, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith, acting under the direction of the Provincial Grand Master recognised two of those 'unsung heroes'.

VW Bro Hugh reported that for the last three years two brethren have worked behind the scenes in the Provincial Office assisting the Secretariat. One has ensured that the organisation of active officers attending official visits at Lodges are kept informed and in turn the Lodges they are visiting know who is attending. A challenge given the size that some of the deputations can reach especially when over the last few months the number of emergency meetings has exploded. The other has taken charge of the Information Technology within the Office, configuring those back end systems on which we have come to rely and providing expert advice and support to everyone who uses it.



Bro Simon Williams receives his promotion from the DepProvPGM.



W Bro Damian Waite, VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith, W Bro Francis McCabe.

After an introduction detailing the additional history of these two brothers, VW Bro Hugh finally revealed them as W Bro Francis McCabe of Bretham Lodge 4980 as well as Lily Lodge of Richmond 820 and a founder of the Buckinghamshire Motorcycle Lodge 9926. W Bro Francis was appointed as an Acting ProvSGD in 2013 and then promoted to PPGSwdB in 2018. On Saturday, his tremendous efforts and assistance were rewarded with an immediate promotion to PPJGW.

W Bro Damian Waite, hailing from his native New Zealand, has been a Buckinghamshire mason for 15 years. A member of Herschel Lodge 1894 and a key player in the establishment of the Provincial Active Officers Lodge, Addington 2683. He was awarded a first appointment as Acting Prov AGDC in 2018, and today was promoted to PPGSuptWks.

To their obvious surprise and to the delight of a full temple of brethren who were rapturous in their applause, Francis and Damian were congratulated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. It has been an ongoing theme that the current Executive recognise and reward those who are delivering results in the operation of the Province to the enjoyment and benefit of all members.

It seemed as if the applause of these two completely unexpected promotions in the field were still echoing around the walls of the Slough centre on Monday, when the temple was again filled close to capacity by the Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge 9222. And as if Saturday had not been sufficient, in front of a sea of red aprons, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master again called out one of the newly appointed Provincial Grand Stewards and on the direction of the Provincial Grand Master carried out a further promotion in the field.

By way of introduction, VW Bro Hugh explained that the background to this appointment made history in so many ways. As a Province, two years ago, Buckinghamshire typically received between 10 and 15 enquiries from potential Initiates through the website. These resulted in a few new members here and there but not enough to reverse the overall membership decline freemasonry had been experiencing. At the beginning of 2020, a new and very enthusiastic Brother, Simon Williams, who had only been Raised three years earlier was asked to take over the Provincial Membership Enquiry team. This coupled with a new strategy, which included Facebook advertising, was put in place and went live on the 9th March 2020.

Enquiries jumped immediately with an incredible total of 98 in the remainder of

March. In April this figure increased to 133 and has continued through to today.

However, at the same time the world was becoming aware of Covid and just as these enquiries came in, the country locked down and Freemasonry was temporarily suspended. Faced now with the challenge of not just contacting and interviewing these contacts, they had to be kept interested until such time as meetings could resume. Bro Simon assembled a team and led the way in developing and implementing a process which culminated in history being made on the 12th of September when more than 100 of these enquirers were booked into Lodges at Great Queen Street for the big day of Initiations.

What exemplifies this effort all the more is the sheer quantity of work undertaken. Since March 2020, there have been in excess of 1000 enquiries with more than 200 potential candidates passed to Lodges. Buckinghamshire has established itself as the leading Province in the country for addressing membership.

In recognition of all of this work, at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in October, Bro Simon was rewarded with the rank of Provincial Grand Steward, his apron was rosetted as he has only recently been invested as JW in Iver Lodge and as such is yet to reach the Chair. Two weeks after the Provincial Meeting, Bro Simon made history again with a promotion in the field to being the first Acting Provincial Grand Membership officer, a new appointment which has now been filled by the brother who has set the standard for Freemasonry and demonstrated that this wonderful fraternity really does have a future in the modern world.

To the undoubted amusement of all who were present, VW Bro. Hugh also pointed out that whilst Bro. Simon would be entitled to wear his coveted red apron forever, when on Stewards' duty, he has also made history in the Province for being the shortest serving Provincial Grand Steward we have ever had; just 14 days.

To Francis, Damian and Simon, you have demonstrated huge commitment and dedication to ensuring the continued enjoyment of all our members and it is hoped that you will enjoy your new preferments and the recognition that they bring whilst you continue your efforts. I am confident that as these surprise appointments occur, our members can be sure that work to support the Province and its work does not go unnoticed.

## Lodge of Remembrance & Sorrow



**November being a month of reflection of the service and sacrifice given by so many, Beaconsfield Lodge (2849), led by the WM (W Bro Ivor Horrocks), on the 17th of November at the Slough Masonic Centre, devoted a meeting to honour and remember 10 brethren who had most shaped and directed the Lodge over the last 40 years, which due to COVID restrictions meant the lodge were unable to remember as it would wish to earlier.**

To give a flavour of their significant contributions to the Lodge, W Bro Bob Sanders, a 3rd generation member of his family, was DC for 27 years and was the Centenary Master. W Bro Stan Brooker was for many years the Lodge Secretary, as was W Bro Carlos de Castella as

Treasurer, W Bro John Boughton as Charity Steward, and W Bro Alf Rackliff who was ADC taking over from W Bro Bob Sanders when he became WM, serving as DC for a number of years subsequently.

Many of those remembered, in addition to their service to the Craft being recognised both in Buckinghamshire and other Provinces, also had very distinguished Masonic careers in Royal Arch and other side orders achieving Grand Rank, in recognition of their contributions.

The meeting was honoured by the presence of 3 Grand Officers, one of whom (W Bro Neville Joseph PAGDC) gave a truly outstanding and memorable "grave address" before the regalia was perambulated from the Lodge. All of the brethren of Beaconsfield Lodge in attendance participated in the ceremony, which was well received by the guests who were able to join and support us.

Rank	Forename	Surname	Bucks Craft Rank	Eulogy given by:
W Bro	John	Boughton	PPGReg	W Bro Ivor Horrocks
W Bro	Stanley	Brooker	PPJGW	Bro Dave Harfield
W Bro	George	Burton	PPJGW	Bro Simon Gomes
Bro	Stuart	Chester		W Bro Rick Jones
Bro	Alfred	Collett	PPGPurs	Bro John Lively
W Bro	(Jose) Carlos	de Castella	PPSGW	Bro Ed McCudden
W Bro	Kevin	Harfield	WM	W Bro Ashley Dart
W Bro	Alfred	Rackliff	PPSGW	Bro Raj Basra
W Bro	Robert	Sanders	PPSGW	W Bro Derek Peters
W Bro	Anthony	Stonehouse	PPGSuptWks	W Bro Keith Slater

## Armed Forces Covenant



DepProvGM and Major Spencer sign the Covenant witnessed by the brethren, their partners and members of the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards.

### On Friday 26th November the Province marked its commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant at The Household Division Lodge.

The covenant was signed by Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Hugh Douglas-Smith on behalf of Buckinghamshire Freemasons and Major Spencer Jones of the Coldstream Guards on behalf of the Ministry of Defence. The signed Covenant will be displayed on the Secretary's desk at future meetings of the Lodge.

The Armed Forces Covenant is not a charitable organisation. It is a promise from the Nation to those who serve or who have served, and their families, which says we will do all we can to ensure they are treated fairly and are not disadvantaged in their day-to-day lives. Friends, wives and partners were invited into the Temple to witness the signing, before joining 60 people for dinner at the white table festive board where we enjoyed a musical performance by the Pipes and Drums of the 1st Battalion Irish Guards, based at the Mons Barracks in Aldershot.

The meeting also featured an excellent 3rd degree raising ceremony complete with excellent renditions of the Tracing Board, 3rd Degree Working Tools and the Walking Charge. To complete the evening, The Household Division Lodge was also accepted into the Military Circuit of Lodges.

The Lodge supports two charities:

**The Household Cavalry Foundation**  
[www.hcavfoundation.org](http://www.hcavfoundation.org)

**Blue Acre Horse Rescue**  
[www.blueacrerescue.co.uk](http://www.blueacrerescue.co.uk)

## The Fenny Stratford Lodge 8985



From the left: W Bro Lou Jacquest-Amey (Lodge Mentor), W Bro Matt Perkins, Bro Geoff Twiselton (EA), Bro Ian Chalmers (EA), Bro John Goss (EA), Bro Kulvinder Reyatt (EA), Bro Luke Sanders (Membership Officer), W Bro Kevin Lloyd-Davies (WM), Bro Jordan Catell (EA).

At its November meeting, The Fenny Stratford Lodge 8985 in the Province of Buckinghamshire, was honoured by the visit of W Bro Matt Perkins ProvJGW, Provincial Communications Officer, Buckinghamshire. At this meeting, we initiated Bro John Goss, the third candidate to be Initiated into Fenny Stratford Lodge since we resumed our

meetings in September. Like many other Lodges Fenny Stratford has a lot of work planned for the season ahead. We are building on the enthusiasm and energy of the younger members and the experience and guidance of the more experienced Brethren.

The picture shows the happy Brethren after the Festive Board, with 5 EAs.



## Roy Newick 50

W Bro Roy Newrick of Wraysbury Lodge No 8689 was presented with his 50 Year Certificate by W Bro Gary Brodie AsstProvGM. Roy was absolutely delighted with his presentation by Gary, who did it in a 'This Is Your Life' style, and all from memory!

The presentation was watched by almost 50 Brethren, family and friends and afterwards 70 guests enjoyed a bumper feast with fun and laughter to round off an evening that Roy said he would never forget. The Lodge also raised £400 for the Festival on the night, which was presented to the AsstProvGM.





W Bro. David Winterburn observing a 7.62 Winchester style repeating rifle in the shooting line.

## GOLDEN FLEECE COUNTRY PURSUITS LODGE, NO. 4739 GOES SHOOTING AT BISLEY

In 2019, Golden Fleece Lodge changed its name to Golden Fleece Country Pursuits Lodge No. 4739 in a bid to become the Buckinghamshire Province's premier country sports Lodge.



Robin shooting a .22 Automatic pistol with long barrel and stock.

A number of our members are fishermen or shooters, and it was hoped that this change might attract other Masons or Non masons who have similar interests.

A number of shoots were planned for 2020 then COVID-19 came along and altered the playing field. However, the Lodge is beginning its activities again and took the opportunity to shoot at the Bisley Shooting Ground which was sponsoring an open day for the club members to invite guests to try some target shooting.

Sunday the 23rd August saw three intrepid Brethren from the Lodge, W Bros Andrew Campbell, Robin Galvin and David Winterburn travel down to Bisley to undertake this first shooting activity on what was a nice sunny, but very windy day. Andrew and David are both shooters; Andrew excels at shotgun, full-bore, small-bore and pistol; David at shotgun.

After booking in, the shooting commenced on the small-bore range with a Ruger 10-22 Rifle (.22 Calibre), followed by a .22 long barrel Automatic pistol with stock. After lunch we went to the 300m range and following a brief safety induction by the Bisley Range Control Officer we shot a .308 (7.62mm) full-bore, match rifle, which Andrew had used when shooting for England.

Andrew has shot for over 50 years and is a very competent and established shot. He has



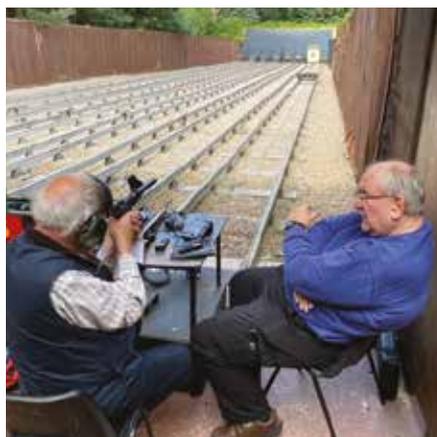
Robin shooting Andrews .308 Match Rifle on the 300 yard range.

represented England many times and has competed internationally all over the world winning many championships for his Country. His is Past Master and Chaplain of his Mother Lodge, Look Forward No. 9305 which is based at Bisley where he regularly attends combined shoots and Lodge meetings.

David has been a shooter since his teens and, over the years has shot full-bore, small-bore, air-rifle and shotguns. He also served in the Royal Artillery, but their guns were much bigger, around 5.5 inches and that's a whole other story.

**If you are interested in fishing, shooting and other country sports and want to be actively involved in these sports we would love to hear from you.**

**In the first instance please contact the Secretary, W Bro. Robin Galvin on [secretary4739@gmail.com](mailto:secretary4739@gmail.com). Likewise, if you would just like to visit us you will receive a warm welcome.**



Robin receiving some much needed tuition from W Bro Andrew at 50 yards. Seems a lot further away than that!

# BUCKINGHAMSHIRE SUPERHEROES

It is quite interesting how we come across our Superheroes. This time it was a passing conversation in the bar at the Bletchley Masonic Centre.

I was talking about our last Superheroes, when a comment was made, "You need to talk to a Brother who was out there on the front line attending medical emergencies, saving lives and doing this for free".

His name is Steve Acton who is a member Saxon Lodge 9735.

So, I arranged to meet up at the Bell Hotel in Winslow.

**SUPERHERO: STEVE ACTON**  
COMMUNITY FIRST RESPONDER  
(WINSLOW)



## Why did you become a Freemason?

In March 2009 I responded to a medical incident at a place called Eliot Hall which I had never heard about. I was told someone would meet me at Lloyds Bank because they said I would never find the Hall. Even though I had lived in Winslow for 25 years I did not know of Elliott Hall.

There was a strange man dressed in Black waiting at the bank, he escorted me to the Hall down a side path to a door in the wall.

It was later that I found out this was a Masonic Lodge. This was to be the start in my journey into Freemasonry. Sometime later I met up with a good friend Bob Hodge, who said he saw me that night but I did not know he was a Freemason. It was Bob who introduced me to Freemasonry and I was Initiated in July 2009.

## What is First Responders about?

Communities First Responder (CFR) are all volunteers who live and work within their local communities. They are trained by South Central Ambulance Services to respond to life threatening medical emergencies.

Types of Incidents CFR are trained to attend are cardiac arrests, breathing difficulties, chest pains, diabetic emergencies, trauma, burns.

I have been a CFR since 2007.

## Why did you become a CFR?

I had always been involved with the Fire or Ambulance services since I was 18 years old. Becoming a First Responder allowed me to get involved with and support my local community.

## How does it support the community?

CFR are the first people on the scene of medical emergencies, because they live in their communities. They tend to get on site prior to the arrival of the ambulance. Due to the training that they have had they can start treatment, which in cardiac arrest saves lives.



## Has your lodge supported this project?

Predominantly most CFR use their own cars. On one occasion when I was having a coffee in the Bell Hotel with a couple of Brethren from Eliot Hall they asked, 'could the Freemasons help and would a Community Response Vehicle help you?'. All I could do was sit there with a big smile on my face - I said yes!



All the lodges and side degrees from Eliot & Yeomanry Halls were contacted to see if they would help. Everyone stepped up to the mark and contributed with generous donations and this was price matched with the BMCF.

In April 2015 we were presented with the First Responder Vehicle. It was even liveried with the Province of Buckinghamshire logo.

This vehicle was so successful as it was responding to medical emergencies daily and helping so many people in the local community. Most importantly saving the lives of those who were suffering a cardiac arrest.



The Province of Buckinghamshire, having heard of the number of incidents that the vehicle was responding to, decided to buy another two vehicles in 2017.

In 2018 the Lodges at Eliot Hall again stepped up to the plate and supported the purchase of a replacement and the 2015 vehicle went to support another first responder scheme.

## What about COVID?

CFR's were on the front line when COVID struck, from March 2020 to July 2021. I was on call for 412 days and the vehicle responded to 929 callouts, which included 395 breathing difficulties plus 46 cardiac arrests.

## Can you give me an example of a call out?

Only the other day a lovely lady fell over. I was called to this incident but could not get in because she had fallen behind the front door, but she was fine.

So next I had to call fire brigade because they had permission to gain entry. Having gained entry, I checked her over and got her into her front room.

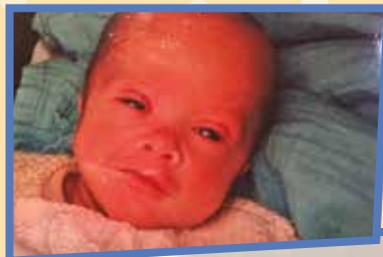
I asked if there was anything else, she said "can I have a cup of tea and a bit of toast?"

As I was leaving she really made me smile when she said, "It's just as well that the firemen were here as I did not know my house was on fire".

But the one I will always remember is probably my best life saved to date. I was called to Lloyds Bank to a baby not breathing and in respiratory arrest.

I went to the room where Zac was being held by a very distraught mum with grandad looking on. Zac was blue so I took him off mum and gave rescue breaths and on the fourth breath in he started to respond. He was blue lighted to hospital.

I received a lovely box of chocolates from his mum a week later after she found out where I lived. I have a photo taken with Zac every year at Winslow show.



*Thank you for all your help on Friday Zachary is now at home resuming his normal pattern of feeding and sleeping.  
Thank you again.  
Love Sarah, Gareth and of course  
xx Zachary*



## If any brother would like to become a CFR what should they do?

The ambulance service is always looking for CFR to support their local community.

Currently, support is needed in High Wycombe, Aylesbury, Milton Keynes, Olney, Newport Pagnell, Chesham, Denham and the Chalfonts. I am a coordinator looking after 8 CFRs within this area.



If you would like more information on CFR's, email: [cfr@scas.nhs.uk](mailto:cfr@scas.nhs.uk)

I would like to thank the Province of Buckinghamshire for all the support they have given to community First Responders within Buckinghamshire for the vehicles and equipment they have given us.

We would like to acknowledge all First Responders around our Province with the Superhero badge. If you are a First Responder or know of a Brother who is a First Responder please email Eugene Matthias using the email below.

We are always looking for Brothers who are doing amazing work within their community or supporting a charity. If you know of one, please email  
WBro Eugene Matthias –  
[info@themagicclub.com](mailto:info@themagicclub.com).

# The Journey

## LODGE OF CONCORDE

When I was asked to join Lodge of Concorde and to assist in making it an 'Aviation Interest' Lodge, little did I know just how far we would be able to push the envelope and do things a little differently. Concorde has a long association with Concorde the aircraft and so theming it around aviation seemed a logical step.

Taking inspiration from other themed Lodges, the cuffs worn by the Master and Wardens were replaced with black versions having gold braid to signify the Captain, Senior and First Officers. Some recorded announcements were created to be played at the Lodge which further set the atmosphere and demonstrated there was a theme.

Then, as the lockdown eased, the Lodge Initiated four new candidates at B.I.G. and preparations were started for my Installation. I had thought for a long time that conducting the meeting on board an aircraft would seem fitting, even though a logistical nightmare, but the idea was born. Discussions took place, research was carried out and through a contact of Phil Witney, the idea of using an aircraft filmset seemed like the perfect solution.

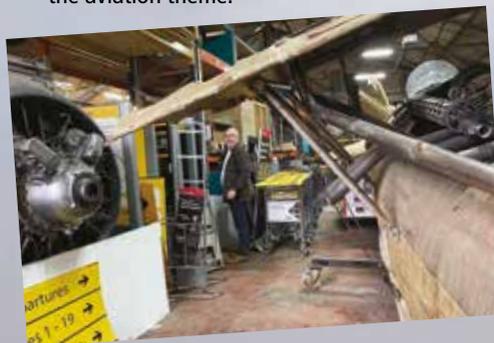
As the meeting approached and preparations got underway the reality, and in many ways the impossibility of the idea, started to come to the fore. Aircraft traditionally have seats laid out in rows which make it almost impossible to conduct a Lodge meeting with floor working. An alternative of using a cargo plane set with an empty cargo area and fold down seats along either side of the fuselage was promising, but the reality of a mid-December meeting in a hanger with no heating was not practical.

By this time, my enthusiasm to get lots of visitors to the meeting that had been promising the concept of a 'meeting on a plane', it was hard to roll back from the expectation that had been set. So with a bit of brainstorming the concept of holding a standard meeting in a temple, but dining on a mock-up of an aircraft started to take shape.

Lodge of Concorde meets at Beaconsfield, but the tall ceilings of the dining room and shape of the rooms did not really lend themselves to what was planned so a dispensation was arranged to move the installation meeting to the Slough Centre. Here the large dining room offered a near perfect environment and props were chosen, plans concocted and invites sent out.

Lee, the caterer at Slough was approached and immediately jumped in with full enthusiasm and great ideas of how to further theme the dining. The plan was to arrange the dining room into an aircraft setting with a centre aisle and everyone seated in rows. The waitresses would dress up and serve from trollies with the meals put on trays. Suddenly things were starting to look plausible.

With enormous assistance from Phil Witney and his very accommodating friend at Shoot Aviation, it was arranged for side panels from the inside of a passenger jet to be borrowed to line the dining room walls. Some photography and large printing provided images of the backs of seats with the airline fold down tray and headrest video screen to further enhance the effect of the aviation theme.



Word started to spread and the anticipation heightened by arranging for boarding cards to be sent to everyone attending the day before the meeting. In true airline fashion, although completely unplanned at the last minute the meeting had to be delayed by 24 hours to accommodate myself as Master Elect testing positive for Covid and only emerging from forced isolation the day after the original meeting date.



▲ Boarding card issued to each member of visitor attending.

On the day, an early start to collect the necessary props from the airfield and then set about building the 'set' in the dining room. The bar was transformed into a departure lounge with signage which seems to originate from a host of international airports and sporting very much a, last millennium retro look. There was even a carry on bag size gauge to ensure no grand officer tried to get in with an oversized regalia case, and of course, just as you see at real airports, there were a few who tried!

◀ Selecting the airport signs and props for the night.



▲ Checking of carry on baggage was strictly enforced. Even the bar area became a departure lounge for the night. ▼



The build of the room took most of the day with assistance from Phil Witney and Gary Brodie, as the afternoon progressed and the deadline for completion approached, things were really starting to take shape.



▲ The build of the dining room.

With just an hour or so to go before the meeting, the dining room had been completely transformed.

▼ Super wide angle view of the room, note the window blinds down ready for take off.



To further enhance the effect, after the meeting, when the doors were opened and dinner was called, the lights were dimmed as is normal practise for a night time departure. The blue LED ceiling lights providing just the right ambience even if the dim light made it at times difficult to find the right seat!



▲ Passengers were even trusted with metal cutlery in complete disregard for passenger security and safety.

After a relatively smooth take off, permission was granted for the window blinds to be raised and some of those well-wishers who had originally not been able to attend were seen on the outside of the aircraft in vain attempts to get in.



▲ The view out of the cockpit windows was projected onto the wall above the heads of the Captain and Co Pilot.



◀ The new Worshipful Master with the airline staff.



▼ Ready for take off, we just need passengers

As the brethren took their seats and the first course was delivered by trolley and on trays, the celebration started to get into full swing.



▲ Looks like the ProvGSec was enjoying the onboard bar facilities.

The whole evening was made all the more memorable and enjoyable by the complete involvement of the staff at Slough Centre. The waitresses rose to the occasion dressing up as Stewardesses and quickly getting to grips with serving a group of cramped brethren from a rickety trolley.

Finally, a huge thank you to both the members of Lodge of Concorde for indulging me in this mad idea, to the many visitors who came and shared the experience with us and to Lee and his staff for delivering it all on the night. You all made it a very special Installation for me and one I will never forget.

If you are interested in aviation, or just fancy a Lodge that is offering something different, please consider visiting us or better still, joining us. We have a full calendar of work for the next couple of years as we Pass and Raise new initiates, but we need some experienced officers who would be able to take some of the progressive roles whilst our newer brethren find their wings. Please email [aviation@buckspgl.org](mailto:aviation@buckspgl.org) and get in touch.

## Garden furniture donated to local hospital



Amersham Hospital.



Marlow Health Clinic.

As part of the tremendous support being given to our NHS hospitals around the Province, W Bros Eddie Irwin, Tony Carter and Keith Ward, on behalf of the Marlow Centre Freemasonry in the Community group, procured two picnic tables and two garden benches for the respective sites. Tony treated the furniture for immediate use and a team then delivered them all in one day to Amersham, High Wycombe and Marlow hospitals during the 'Thank the NHS Rainbow' period and in time to be enjoyed during the summer months.

A fund-raising evening was then organised in the Marlow Masonic Centre by W Bro Steve Jones of Stokenchurch Lodge 7438 and Eddie Irwin. A first-class entertainment show was provided on the night by Bro Steve Barker of Neeld Lodge 3720 who does an Elvis and Buddy Holly tribute act. A great show was enjoyed by everyone attending. The event raised £850.00 which will be for a Mural at Wycombe Hospital in 2022 as a further thank you to the NHS.

All of the above was on behalf of Buckinghamshire Freemasons and a huge vote of thanks was received by AsstProvGM W Bro Tony Robinson on behalf of the brethren.



Brother Steve Barker entertains the party.



High Wycombe Hospital.

## Toys and Gifts for Needy Children in Buckinghamshire

**Marlow Masonic Centre Committee resurrected their 'Toys and Gifts for Needy Children in Buckinghamshire' this year following a missed year due to the Covid pandemic.**

This year it was decided to donate the Gifts to "Inspire Bucks". The Inspire Bucks Christmas gift appeal works closely with Buckinghamshire Council's social care teams to ensure gifts get to the right families, and that no one is left out.

The Inspire Bucks Appeal makes a huge difference to the hundreds of children that the Bucks County Council works directly with through Social Services. In addition the appeal will brighten Christmas for the wider group of children whose families have been in difficulties in the past year. It is inspiring to be able to give care and gifts through the enthusiastic and generous work of this Charity.

Details of the appeal were formally circulated to all Lodges and Chapters who meet at the Marlow Masonic Centre, and to many other individual masons and their partners, and a collection point was allocated and set up within the dining room.

Tony Martin contacted Lodge secretaries, Masonic Societies and individuals and played on their charitable nature and requested that they confined "Scrooge" to the pages of history. Gifts duly arrived from many Lodges, Chapters and individuals.

Tony Martin subsequently met with one of the Trustees of the appeal, Clive Wayland and handed over a very packed car-full of gifts. Clive expressed the grateful thanks from himself and his colleagues for the donations, and said that they would make a huge difference to the children and young people that they work with. Sincere thanks go to all those who contributed.



W Bro Tony Martin and Clive Wayland.



*AsstProvGM Phil Blacklaw before the ride started.*

## Buckinghamshire Freemasons Support a Well Deserved Post COVID Adventure

**Buckinghamshire Freemasons were proud to help Southcourt and Walton Court Community Project recently by funding days out for children living in areas of social exclusion.**

The project does excellent work and provides Go Play Holiday Club for children aged between 4 and 12 years old, helping many families who are living off a low income. As part of their work, they organise off site trips, which are very popular and give children the chance to have experiences that would normally be impossible for them.



Due to the restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic, a single trip to Gulliver's World was organised, and the £1250 cost was covered by Buckinghamshire Freemasons, through the BMCF charity. Of course, the assistant head of the Buckinghamshire Freemasons, Phil Blacklaw, along with Andrew Hough (who manages the BMCF) were on hand to support the day and enjoy the rides (although they may not have known exactly what they were getting themselves in to!)

When asked if the trip had been beneficial to the children, Kirsten Braybrook (from the project) replied "Yes! I think a lot of the children challenged themselves to take on rides they were not sure about. Some of the children in my group also

developed their social skills by talking to the Bucks Freemasons and also asked lots of questions to the staff supervising the rides. Some children had never been on a coach before which to a child is quite an exciting experience."

A good day was had by all and we look forward to supporting more community projects in the future.

*AsstProvGM Phil Blacklaw wishing he'd never got on the ride.*



# 3 million Teddies for Loving Care!



Lou and Health Assistant Claire Norton at Milton Keynes University Children's A & E Dept during the 2nd Lockdown.

**The Masonic charity 'Teddies for Loving Care' (TLC), has recently donated its 3 millionth teddy bear. UGLE CEO Dr David Staples, a clinician at Peterborough Hospital, personally delivered the 3 millionth teddy bear to mark this tremendous milestone.**

Buckinghamshire, although a relatively small province, has helped enormously with around 40,000 teddies being donated to Children's A&E departments throughout the Province since the programme began.

Buckinghamshire TLC coordinator Lou Amey of Fenny Stratford Lodge, and Andrew Mais of Cestreham Lodge, continued to deliver these lovely teddy bears throughout the Pandemic lockdowns to all 6 Children's Hospitals in the Province, ensuring our sick and



Lou and Andrew at the Aylesbury Centre.

poorly children each got one of these lovely teddy bears when in Hospital. On behalf of Bucks TLC, Lou is very grateful to every Lodge, and indeed every Freemason in Bucks, for the continuous and generous funding and support of this wonderful heartfelt programme.



For more information visit [teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk](http://teddiesforlovingcare.org.uk)



Jean & Tony Robinson with Andrew Hough & granddaughter, Ruby Inns.



Arch construction.

## Florence Nightingale's Rainbow Arch structure at Stoke Mandeville Hospital *"Almost at the end of the rainbow!"*

The Florence Nightingale Hospice, situated in Stoke Mandeville Hospital, now has a giant "Thank You Rainbow" structure erected on the roundabout by Entrance No.4, just opposite the ambulance station.



Taking shape



*The Rainbow fully in place.*

The Province and individual members of the Province are listed on the board showing the main sponsors.

In mid-August, Andrew Hough PProvSGW, accompanied by his granddaughter, along with AsstProvGM Tony Robinson and his wife Jean, attended the placing of the first arch and subsequent whole arch construction. We were made welcome by Bonnie Doe, Marketing & Communications Manager and Liza Brissenden-Hemstock (wife of our well known PProvGW).

The construction took a full day but each piece was carefully manoeuvred into position and secured until the full metal gantry was complete.

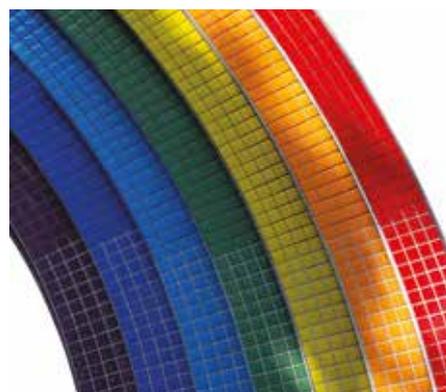
The following week, Philip and Isobel Blacklaw, along with

Lee Buckingham, attended a presentation by the Florence Nightingale nursing staff on how they work with families affected by cancer. There were some extremely moving presentations based on truly personal experiences.

Later in mid-September Andrew, Jean and Tony attended a 'drop in' morning to see the progress and were pleasantly surprised to see the Rainbow Arch almost completely tiled. The tiles are available for individual sponsorship in memory of family or friends who have benefitted from the Florence Nightingale organisation.



*Ruby Inns, Andrew Hough, Jean Robinson & Liza Brissenden-Hemstock.*





Isabel & Phil Blacklaw, Samantha Snelus & Tony Robinson

## Supporting the staff of Milton Keynes University Hospital.

In early August, our charity liaison contact at Milton Keynes University Hospital, Samantha Snelus, contacted Tony Robinson with what she thought might be a 'cheeky request'.

The 'staff hub', a central non-clinical point for staff to take a break, a very important resource during the highly stressful times at the peak of the Covid pandemic, was using up its refreshment supplies at an ever-increasing rate and her request for some help in replenishing the basic stocks such as tea, coffee, herbal teas, fruit juice drinks etc.

The supplies were resourced by Rob Pulford, of the Bletchley Masonic Centre Catering and Phil Blacklaw and Tony Robinson, accompanied by their wives Isobel and Jean delivered them to Samantha at the hospital.

The provision of basic refreshments seems so little but Samantha said that it meant so much to the staff.

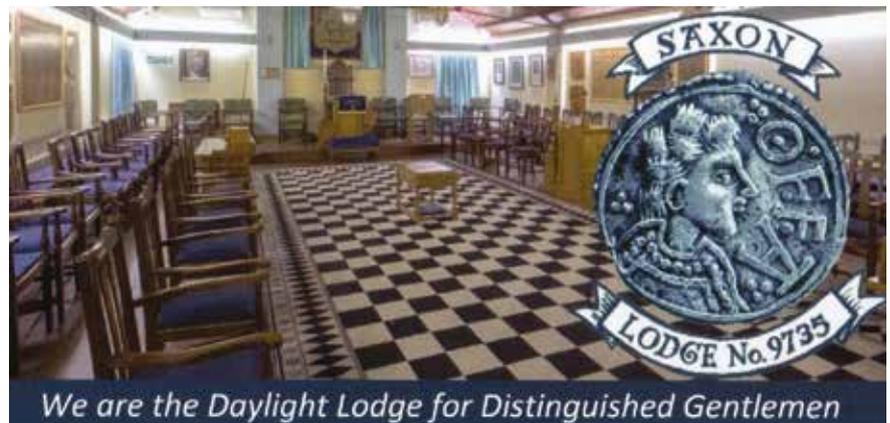
## DAYLIGHT LODGE IN WINSLOW BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

The members of Saxon Lodge meet in harmony, fellowship and good humour and are welcoming to all. On occasions interesting guest speakers are invited to inform the Brethren which adds knowledge of our charitable purpose.

The Lodge Room in Winslow is used exclusively for Masonic meetings and is a warm welcoming venue that is enjoyed by all that attend.

One of the highlights of the Saxon Lodge meetings is the opportunity to have an excellent lunch together at the nearby Bell Hotel which is an important component of the friendship we all gain from these occasions, and being a daylight lodge allows those who have problems with driving at night an opportunity to participate in Masonic activity, and allows us to eat a good lunch and avoid possible indigestion late at night.

The highlight of our Masonic Year is the White Table event normally held in November when Brethren, Wives, Visitors and Widows of departed Brothers meet up, enjoy Lunch, entertainment and good conversation in an informal setting. If you wish to know more please see below:



Do you find it difficult driving in the dark at night?  
Do you find eating a large meal late at night difficult?  
Would you enjoy adding a lodge which meets in the daytime to your Masonic activity? It's a lot of fun, so why not give it a try?  
We're sure that you will be pleased that you attended.

**SAXON LODGE MEET FOUR TIMES A YEAR IN MARCH, MAY, JULY AND NOVEMBER AT THE ELIOT HALL, CHURCH St. WINSLOW, MK18 3AN & DINE AT THE BELL HOTEL, WINSLOW**

For More Information please contact:  
W. Bro Graham Perry Membership Officer  
Email: [graham.c.perry@sky.com](mailto:graham.c.perry@sky.com)  
Tel: 01908 640888 Mobile: 07538001002

## Prebendal Close AGM and BBQ



**In July the residents of Prebendal Close (Masonic Homes Association) held their Annual General Meeting and BBQ.**

For the many newly Initiated members within the Province, Prebendal Close is situated in Castle Street, in the heart of Aylesbury. It offers residential accommodation to Masons and non-Masons aged 60 years and over. The accommodation consists of 30 one bedroom and 2 two bed roomed flats. The Scheme Manager, Beverley Mills, is supported by a voluntary House Committee who together have skills in Estate Management, Accounting, Health & Safety and many other areas of expertise. The House Committee, comprising of Buckinghamshire Freemasons and Chaired by Mark Duncan, also took the opportunity to hold a Committee Meeting.



*W Bro Mark Duncan acts as chef*



*Residents enjoy their lunch*

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## NOW UP AND RUNNING

### On Saturday the 13th of November, Buckinghamshire Royal Arch Vision Club held its inaugural meeting at the Bletchley Masonic Hall.

Although the club was formed more than two years ago, it was impossible to hold face-to-face meetings due to the pandemic. This, however, did not stop the club from creating a lot of interest. During the past two years, the club has steadily grown in membership. It now is just shy of 250 members, which is a tribute to the enthusiasm of Nick Wilson in managing the club and keeping members updated and interested in the development of the Royal Arch.

At this inaugural meeting, The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent Graham Dearing and his Executive introduced themselves with a short, light-hearted potted history of their lives. Who knew that our Grand Superintendent likes to perform as a pantomime Dame every year, or that our 3rd Grand Principal used to own a Fish and Chip shop.

Following the revelations, bacon rolls, coffee and much laughter ensued, along with a visit to the updated Royal Arch Chapter of Improvement room.

Graham Dearing then updated all members about the Province and the plans for Buckinghamshire Royal Arch, notably "The Provincial Challenge" asking each companion to find a new member for their Chapter. The update and "Provincial Challenge" were well received by all present, along with some interesting questions from the companions to the executive.

A very productive and interesting Q and A then took place.

One companion said of the meeting on social media.

*"An excellent morning. I've been in Freemasonry for 25+ years, and I can't recall a better 'casual' meeting. I am looking forward to the next advancement in my daily learning."*

*I hope it's not another 25 years away; well done to everyone involved."*

Anyone who is new to the Royal Arch or wants to learn more about what we do and why we do it, please join us on our Facebook group page, "Royal Arch Vision Club". Or keep up to date on the Provincial Website [www.buckspgc.org](http://www.buckspgc.org).



Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Chapter

# PROVINCIAL CHALLENGE

Every member of Buckinghamshire Royal Arch is being challenged to find at least one candidate in the next three years  
Use the new "Challenge" cards

### Why join a Buckinghamshire Royal Arch Chapter?

- o To learn more about masonry
- o To learn more about yourself
- o To meet more people and have fun

***Be Part of Something Special!***

[www.buckspgc.org](http://www.buckspgc.org)



# Too many candidates - a great problem to solve

## B.I.G. celebrated the combined efforts of the Membership and Marketing activities but it was not all plain sailing!

As the membership team started to see enquiries from the marketing teams advertising campaigns it was very apparent that spreadsheets and Post-it notes were not going to be sufficient to manage what became a huge data management problem. The online membership management system used by Buckinghamshire (HeliPAD) was extended to track and report back to both the membership team and Executive every aspect of each enquiry and the performance of everyone within the team.

With this, different adverts could be tested against each other to see what generated the best results, then when enquiries came in, they could be distributed amongst team members for follow up, but on allocation it could be seen who was becoming overloaded and steps taken to ensure nothing was lost. Finally when it came to placing a candidate with a Lodge, the system automated the process and made decisions based on their stated interests, the more convenient centres, the most suitable days of the week and their age



compared to the age of members in the prospective Lodge.

As candidates were sent to Lodges, they continued to be tracked to ensure no one was forgotten and also that no Lodge was swamped with just too many candidates to deal with. The tracking system doesn't stop with their Initiation, it tracks them right through to the Chair of the Lodge and reports to the Mentoring and Membership Pathway teams to ensure that once in, these new candidates are retained.

In Buckinghamshire we have been very lucky to have brought together teams of highly motivated and skilled members who have all worked together to a common goal. By ensuring that each team member, and the recipient Lodges, had easy access to the information they

needed in a single place, we were able to eliminate duplication and wasted effort.

What is more the continual evaluation of every step has allowed us to tune both the process and the advertising to ensure the best possible results.

What has become very evident is the attraction to a younger audience. Our Lodges typically have an average age of members in the early 60s. Traditional recruitment drives through existing members, tend to attract more old members. There is nothing wrong with that, but it does not address the problem of an aging membership that constantly needs to be replaced. The marketing effort across social media has shown how that younger audiences can be captured and now it is our new Initiates who will be looking to bring in their friends and colleagues. Each one of them potentially reducing the average age of members in our Lodges and thereby increasing those Lodges sustainability.

The buzz and enthusiasm from the B.I.G. candidates is infectious, these new members are excited and want to get on with their Passings and Raisings. This in turns drives interest with existing members who now see the potential of more ceremonies and new blood coming into their Lodges, the passion for freemasonry is returning. Couple that with the easing of lockdown and the future for Freemasonry is looking very bright.



## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE RETAIN THE TROPHY



Phil Goddard with the Masonic High Gun.

### The Oxford Gun Company at Oakley, Bucks, was the venue for the 2021 THAMES VALLEY TROPHY shoot on 31st July 2021.

With only two of the three teams competing turning up, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire were all fired up and ready for battle. Berkshire, the third team, were unfortunately unable to muster a team.

Although the shooting was not due to start until 10.00 am the shooters started to arrive as early as 8.00 am. Our very own AsstProvGM Tony Robinson, along with his wife Jean, soon had the coffee/tea and bacon rolls on the go, which all those taking part enjoyed on their arrival.

With 34 shooters assembled, including Masons from Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Monmouth, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, and 14 Guest



AsstProvGM Tony Robinson provides his services once again.

shooters from Bucks, Bedford and Oxford, two of which were ladies, the competition was set to be a good one.

At 10.00 am the shooters started shooting in groups of six from their allocated stands, and then rotating the circuit, with plenty of banter between the groups as they went. Although

there was a shower or two this did not dampen the fun atmosphere that was generated by those present.

Our AsstProvGM Tony Robinson had put on his other hat at this time and had now become the official photographer, before returning to the BBQ to help Jean with the burgers etc.

The groups started drifting in just after noon, and despite the scores all had a smile on their face as they tucked into the food that Tony and Jean served up and they chatted with the other competitors and compared experiences. After some time Roger managed to sort out the scores, and who had won what, and Tony Robinson put on his third hat of the day to present the trophies along with his wife Jean.



Michael Blackwell with the Guest High Gun trophy presented by AsstProvGM Tony Robinson



Phil Goddard with the Masonic High Gun.



Phil Goddard shoots a high clay.



### THE RESULTS

<b>Masonic High Gun</b>	
Phil Goddard with a score	83
<b>Masonic Run Up</b>	
James Walker on count back	77
<b>Guest High Gun</b>	
Michael Blackwell	89
<i>Highest score on the day.</i>	
<b>Guest Run Up</b>	
Chris Stibbs	82
<b>Lady High Gun</b>	
Anthea Mearns	61
<b>Lady Run Up</b>	
Anne Walker	54

### THAMES VALLEY TROPHY

<b>Winning team</b>	
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE	233
<i>Bucks retain the T.V.T.</i>	
<b>Top Three Bucks shooters</b>	
Phil Goddard	83
James Walker	77
Dave Hollis	73
<b>Runner up team</b>	
OXFORDSHIRE	208
<b>Top Three Oxfordshire shooters</b>	
Phil McDonald	77
Micheal Carder	71
Richard Florio	60

Tony thanked everyone for attending and wished them a safe journey home.

Dave Hollis thanked the OXFORD GUN COMPANY for the shoot they set up, and Tony and Jean for the hard work they had put in to make this an enjoyable day.

The shoot and raffle raised £500.00 and along with other donations the charity will receive £600.00

**The Charity the shoot raised the money for is:-**

**MEDICAL DETECTION DOGS.**  
[medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk](http://medicaldetectiondogs.org.uk)

# HOME COUNTIES CHAMPIONSHIP 2021

**Six Masons and two guests from Buckinghamshire attended the Masonic Home Counties Championship shoot at Northall Clay Pigeon Club, Fletching, East Sussex on 14th August 2021.**

It was a nice sunny warm morning that turned out to be very hot by the end of the shoot and prize presentation.

Phil Goddard returned the best Bucks score with an 85, Dave Hollis, James Walker, Peter Allen, Roger Tomkin, Roger Gills, Alan Newell and Adrian Harrison also all shot well but were unable to put together a winning team score.

Met GL won the team event with a score 249 out of 300, Essex second 248 and Bucks third 237; Well done Bucks!

**All the shooters from Bucks enjoyed the shoot which was very well organised and started with a super breakfast. The guys from East Sussex did a great job.**

**If you feel you could help Buckinghamshire Province win up and coming team events please contact Dave Hollis or Roger Gills. If you are a Bucks Mason and can shoot Clays you are very welcome to join us.**

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