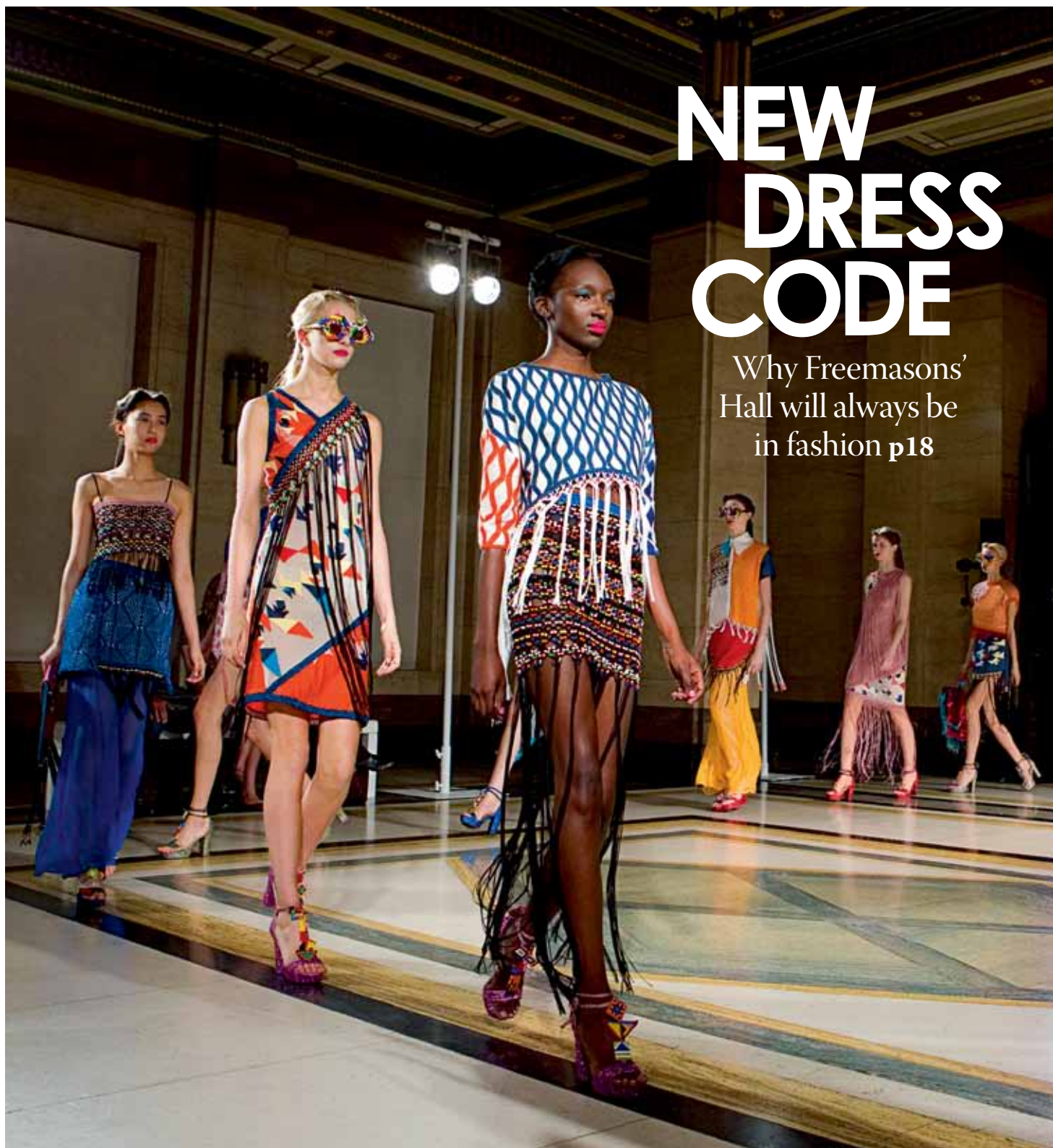


# FREEMASONRY TODAY



## NEW DRESS CODE

Why Freemasons' Hall will always be in fashion p18

**WHEN THE BARRIERS ARE IN YOUR MIND**

Paralympian Jon Amos, p26

**THE MAN WHO SHOT THE DAMBUSTERS**

Photography at war, p31

**WE NEED TO SHARE THEIR WORLD**

Understanding dementia, p50

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# GRAND SECRETARY'S COLUMN

Photography: David Woolfall



**A**s we all know, time seems to go by at an ever-increasing rate and, with that in mind, our great celebrations in 2017 are not that far away. Just think, as the Mother Grand Lodge of the world, we will be the first Grand Lodge to reach three hundred years – what a fantastic milestone.

On this subject I want to address a point of huge significance. The Pro Grand Master in his last Quarterly Communication speech, which you can read in this issue's Senior Insights, stressed that this 'once in a lifetime' opportunity to celebrate the occasion is for everyone. It is quite simply the members' celebration. To that end we will be working tirelessly with the Provinces and Districts to make this a memorable experience for us all.

Our magazine continues to go from strength to strength and this is supported by a recent online readership survey. We were particularly impressed that forty-six per cent of our readers' wives and partners are now enjoying the magazine. I have also just heard that *Freemasonry Today* has been shortlisted for an award by an external body as a membership magazine that has

made the most progress for its readers. This is fantastic news.

In this issue, we find out about brethren who are inspiring communities, challenging preconceptions and contributing to society. Paralympian and conqueror of Kilimanjaro, Jon Amos explains why he keeps his trophies in the loft and how he fits Freemasonry around his busy schedule. We fly back to the Second World War to find out how Squadron Leader, mason and secret hero Jerry Fray played a covert but hugely important role in photographing the destruction wrought by the Dambusters. We explain why RMBI homes are now using pioneering techniques that focus on the quality of life for someone with dementia. And we go along to the ihelp finals to report on how Buckinghamshire Freemasons are giving young people the chance to show they care about the communities they live in.

I hope you enjoy the issue and that you and your families have a wonderful festive season.

**Nigel Brown**  
Grand Secretary

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TO ENSURE THE 2017  
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# NEWS & VIEWS

Out and about on planes, trains, boats, bikes and tanks



Tommy and the Prime Minister in the Downing Street garden

## GUERNSEY HOME HELP

Guernsey Cheshire Home (GCH) received a donation of £37,500 towards running costs from Guernsey and Alderney masons. Jurat Stephen Jones, chairman of the home, expressed his gratitude to Provincial Grand Master David Hodgetts, saying it was a magnificent contribution to the annual running costs, none of which are state-funded. GCH provides specialist care with a family atmosphere, and the funds were raised in the islands solely from within masonry, aided by a grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity.

The donation to GCH took place at the Masonic Centre, St Martin's



## CHARITY COLLECTION AT NUMBER 10

### Raising funds, and his charity's profile, Tommy took his collecting box to meet the Prime Minister.

When blind London mason Tommy Mulholland went to Downing Street to meet Prime Minister David Cameron there was one thing he was not going without – his precious Greater London Fund

for the Blind charity box. Tommy, whose mother lodge is Castrum, No. 7603, lost his sight at the age of 47, but this remarkable mason travels around London to attend lodge meetings. He is a member of several lodges and learns the ceremonies with the aid of a hand-held voice recorder. Tommy uses public transport to journey through the capital on his own, and as well as his charity work he remains an active director of a building company.

## SAYING IT WITH FLOWERS

Freemasonry in the Community was at work when Harpenden Lodge and St Nicholas Lodge (named after the parish church) sponsored one of the many flowerbeds that adorn this attractive Hertfordshire town. The continued contribution of the local lodges is acknowledged in the plaque within the display.



A flowerbed thanks to two Hertfordshire lodges



Warwickshire Provincial Grand Master David Macey led the church procession

## WORSHIP IN WARWICK

A masonic procession to the Annual Church Service of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire took place at the Collegiate Church of St Mary, Warwick, where people have worshipped for nearly 1,000 years.

The church's association with Freemasonry dates back at least as far as 1728 when the Master of the first

lodge in Warwickshire was vicar at the church. The present vicar, the Rev Dr Vaughan Roberts, welcomed everyone to the service during which representatives of the Jewish, Sikh, Islamic, Hindu and Christian faiths offered thoughts and blessings relating to the multi-denominational service's theme of Brotherly Love and Charity.



## FUNDRAISING ON WATER

Bassetlaw masons, led by Neil Airey of Worksop Priory Lodge, No. 7443, brought together 12 charity stewards and volunteers from lodges meeting at Worksop and Retford to raise funds for two charities in north Nottinghamshire.

A swimathon took place at Worksop College prior to the annual Rose Croix service in the college chapel, which was broadcast live by hospital radio Trust AM. Roy Collard, headmaster of Worksop College, generously enabled the fundraisers to use the swimming pool without charge and Fran Lacey, director of Worksop Swimstars, provided lifeguards and voluntary support.

Registered charities benefitting from this inaugural event are staffed by volunteers at Bassetlaw Hospital. They are the League of Friends of Bassetlaw Hospital and Trust AM, the hospital radio that broadcasts to patients and staff at the hospital and Doncaster Royal Infirmary. Both charities will receive donations exceeding £5,500.

## MISSOURI SEES ENGLISH DEGREES



American hosts (rear, l to r) Jim Morris, Ty Treutelaar and Jeff Parrotte with demonstration team

Three years of planning – following a suggestion by Jim Morris of St Clair Lodge, No. 24, in Belleville, Illinois – resulted in a trip by English masons to St Louis, Missouri, that involved four degree demonstrations in 10 days. Members of five London lodges, three from Essex, and one each from West Kent and Cambridgeshire, formed the nine-strong demonstration team. One demonstration was held in St Louis and three in Belleville.



## TAKING THE HOSPITAL TO THE PATIENT

Somerset and Dorset Freemasons have each presented the local Air Ambulance with a grant of £4,000 from The Freemasons' Grand Charity, part of the total of over £1 million donated by the charity since 2007, providing funding to every Air Ambulance in England and Wales.

On average, an emergency Air Ambulance takes off every 10 minutes in the UK, reaching people as quickly as possible to help save lives. Air Ambulances operate almost entirely from donations from charities such as The Freemasons' Grand Charity, as well as from the general public.

Justin Martin, speaking on behalf of both Provinces, said: 'Air Ambulances across the country play such a vital role in taking the hospital to the patient, saving precious time and consequently saving lives. We are proud to provide this further support.'



## A GOOD CATCH

Members of Flyfishers' Lodge, No. 9347, and Saint Oswald Lodge, No. 850, from Ashbourne in Derbyshire, used their annual competition to launch a wheelyboat for disabled anglers. The funding was raised by both Derbyshire and Leicestershire masons, along with the Peter Harrison Foundation and Derbyshire Community Foundation. The boat was launched by Derbyshire Provincial Grand Master Graham Rudd. Ben Hodgson, principal of Carsington Sports & Leisure, said: 'We'd like to thank the Freemasons. They expected a five-year campaign, but achieved their target in 12 months.'



The boat is launched at Carsington Water. With no bank fishing, it provides essential disabled access

## LINCOLN'S INN FESTIVAL

The Association of Medical, University and Legal Lodges (AMULL) celebrated its 12th annual festival at Lincoln's Inn in London, in the presence of Deputy Grand Master Jonathan Spence, his wife Almudena and Metropolitan Grand Master Russell Race.

This year's host was the Chancery Bar Lodge, No. 2456, whose meetings are held in Lincoln's Inn. The day included a lecture: 'For Valour – The Victoria Cross', by Mark Smith. An ecumenical service was held in Lincoln's Inn Chapel, led by the Reverend Alan Gyle, with the address by the Venerable Peter Delaney. This year's AMULL bursaries went to Michael Mather (Universities Lodge, No. 2352, Durham) and Daniel Glover (University Lodge of Liverpool, No. 4274).



## SKILLFORCE MAKES A DIFFERENCE

A team of students from Fareham worked tirelessly as part of the SkillForce 24 Hours to Make a Difference challenge, with the task of refurbishing North West Fareham Community Centre in readiness for a unique charity fête. SkillForce is an educational charity that works in partnership with 10,000 young people throughout 150 schools in England and Scotland.

Michael Wilks, Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight, represented The Freemasons' Grand

Charity and attended the opening together with representatives from Hampshire councils, schools and public services. 'The Freemasons' Grand Charity has, over the past six years, made grants of £240,000 to SkillForce, which is a national charity with a local presence, and the local team has received £90,000 of the £240,000,' explained Michael. A selection of year 8, 9 and 10 students from The Henry Cort Community College also attended the charity fête and enjoyed a broad range of activities.



Lunch at Lincoln's Inn in the historic Great Hall

## ALL ABOARD FOR A FUN DAY

Masons from Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire raised over £42,000 at the Chiltern Centre Diamond Jubilee Family Day at Fawley Hill, near Henley, in Oxfordshire. Held at the Fawley Hill Railway and Museum, thanks to the generosity of Sir William and Lady McAlpine, the event was in aid of the Chiltern Centre for Disabled Children, which has lost significant government funding.

Chiltern Centre Chair of Trustees, Paul Barrett, said the day 'exceeded expectations with more than 3,000 people attending'. The masonic team was led by John Clark (Buckinghamshire), Roger Hampshire (Oxfordshire) and Gerry Hann (Berkshire).



Full steam ahead as families enjoy a special railway treat



MACE: helping keep masonic bowls alive

## BACK ON THE GREEN

In 2011 the Masonic Annual Charity Event (MACE) was launched, and in August 2012 the Gloucestershire Masonic Bowling Association (MBA) hosted the second tournament at Stroud's Cotswold Bowls Club. Around 96 players from 16 Provinces attended, as London Metropolitan Bowling Association's 'A' rink beat last year's winners, Middlesex. The day raised £13,300 for ROBOCAP and concluded with a Gala Dinner at the Masonic Hall in Stroud. The 2013 tournament will be hosted by Cambridgeshire MBA.

**£5k**

AMOUNT AWARDED TO THE WINNING YOUTH GROUP AT THE IHELP PROJECT FINALS

Turn to page 58



## TANK DRIVING REUNION

This year's annual reunion of the 1991-1992 Board of Grand Stewards took place, with wives, on the north Norfolk coast, near Weybourne, at the Muckleburgh Military Collection. They were able to drive a 16-ton Abbot SPG at the site, run by board member Sir Michael Savory. He made the two-hour tour a rewarding experience, and

brought to life many of the exhibits with his knowledge of the weaponry.

Among the exhibits is the ambulance driven by The Queen when she was in uniform during the war, a Harrier jump jet aircraft and a German V1 pilotless plane.

Go to <http://www.muckleburgh.co.uk> for more information on driving tanks



The group in front of the Abbot SPG

## RAF BAND ENTERTAINS IN CHARITY CONCERT

The District Grand Lodge of Cyprus sponsored the island's ninth Annual Charity Band Concert. It was held in Paphos Castle Square in front of a large audience, who were entertained by the band of the RAF College, Cranwell. The RAF bands have a long tradition of playing to audiences in Cyprus, having been present on the island over many years, during which they have freely given their time for charitable causes. These yearly charitable band concerts are the single largest charity drive of the Cypriot masonic year. The proceeds from this year's concert went to Cancer Patients Support Group, Paphos and to Open Arms TPMH (The Princess Mary's Hospital) Cancer Patients Support Group, Akrotiri.



Photography: Duncan Kendall, Franck Guizou/Axiom

## GLOBAL BROTHERHOOD

**That Freemasonry is a worldwide brotherly organisation was recently brought home to Martin Cargill, a biker with a group of the Widows Sons International Motorcycle Association, who meet around East London, Essex and Hertfordshire.**

Widows Sons groups are called Chapters and, through the internet, Martin discovered an American Chapter of the organisation in New Jersey, where his widowed mother, who suffers from Alzheimer's, lives in a retirement home. He contacted Gordie Barrett of Union Lodge, No. 19, Free and Accepted Masons, in North Brunswick, who is president of the Broken Column Chapter of the New Jersey Widows Sons.

Gordie was able to visit Martin's mother in time for Christmas, along with Brian Napier of Murdostoun Castle Lodge, No. 1096, and Philo Lodge, No. 243, New Jersey, and Mark Barrett of the Massachusetts Lodge in Boston.

Martin was also told that if he wanted to visit the US, then Jim Cairns of Milltown Lodge, No. 294, in New Jersey, and his family would put him up for three weeks, rent-free, and loan him a car, while Bob Vinik of Union Lodge would lend him a motorcycle. He took them up on their kind offer and was met at the airport and royally entertained during his stay. He was able to see his mother and attend various masonic meetings before being taken back to the airport for the flight home. Martin said, "These are memories I will never forget, thanks to Freemasonry and the Widows Sons."

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# LODGE BICENTENARY AT GOODWOOD

Lodge of Union, No. 38, celebrated its bicentenary at Goodwood House. The country estate, near Chichester in Sussex, is the seat of the Duke of Richmond, many of whom have been masons over the centuries. Lodge officers wear gold on their collars to commemorate the close connection

between Chichester Freemasonry and the ducal family, whose colour it is.

The event was attended by Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes, Grand Secretary Nigel Brown, Grand Director of Ceremonies Oliver Lodge and Sussex Provincial Grand Master Kenneth Thomas.



Lodge Master Ivan Jones (centre) with Sussex PGM Kenneth Thomas (left) and Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes



Photography: Ben Anders

## TEACHING THE RITUAL

The Taylor's Ritual Association (TRA) is mounting a campaign to improve ceremonies. It has refreshed its website and is introducing new ways to teach ritual, contacting all London lodges during the process. TRA chairman Keith Alexander said, 'One of the big attractions of Freemasonry is that when ritual is done well, it is a moving, meaningful and memorable experience for all those involved.'

The TRA will seek to identify a number of high quality Lodges of Instruction that may be accredited by the association to teach the ritual according to approved practice.

The Taylor's Ritual Association plans to publish a lodge directory, consisting of a database of registered lodges that are happy to share the dates of their meetings online.

**Go to [www.taylorsritual.org](http://www.taylorsritual.org) for more information**

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## PRESTONIAN LECTURE ON TOUR

With this year's Prestonian Lecture discussing the subject 'Scouting & Freemasonry: Two Parallel Organisations', lecturer Tony Harvey (above) delivered his speech at Beacon Lodge, No. 4066, in Halifax, Province of Yorkshire, West Riding.

The lecture attracted 75 people, of whom 17 were non-masons. Servers at the festive board were from Halifax District Explorer Scouts, and speakers included Mark Stageman, county commissioner for West Yorkshire.

## MAKING WAVES IN WINDERMERE

A gruelling swim by Dave Neal took him along the 10.5-mile length of Windermere in the Lake District to raise funds for Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research. Dave has been passionate about raising funds for such research since his wife's best friend died of leukaemia, at the age of 26, after battling the disease for a number of years.

The £1,400 sponsorship money for the swim, which took six hours and 49 minutes

to complete, has gone to the Claire Wadley Forget Me Not Fund within Leukaemia and Lymphoma Research.

Dave's lodge, Indaba, No. 9454, donated the funds to enable him to hire an electric boat to support him on his epic swim. His father, Allan, also of Indaba Lodge, was one of the team on his support boat.

**Go to [www.justgiving.com/daveneal](http://www.justgiving.com/daveneal) to view his fundraising website**



Dave swims, with Windermere Ferry as his backdrop



An intricate stained-glass window from the original Freemasons' Hall in London

## KENT REOPENING FOR LIBRARY AND MUSEUM

The Kent Masonic Library and Museum Trust has been reopened by Geoffrey Dearing, Provincial Grand Master for East Kent, after an extensive 18-month redevelopment.

Located in the heart of Canterbury, in St Peter's Place, just a five-minute stroll from the 11th-century cathedral, the museum was originally opened in 1933, and has probably the finest collection of masonic material in the UK outside London.

As well as masonic paintings, glassware and porcelain, the displays include unique 19th-century stained-glass windows that originally adorned the old Freemasons' Hall in London. The solid oak entrance doors came from St Mary's College, part of the Jesuit Monastery in Hales Place, Canterbury, which was demolished at the same time as the museum was being designed by its architect, Brother FG Haywood of Market Square, Dover.

The first change evident to visitors is a striking new entrance in St Peter's Place that catches the eye of the thousands of passers-by. The building is open daily from 10am to 4pm and is wheelchair accessible. Entry is free of charge, with donations welcome.



## HELPING WOMEN IN BOMBAY

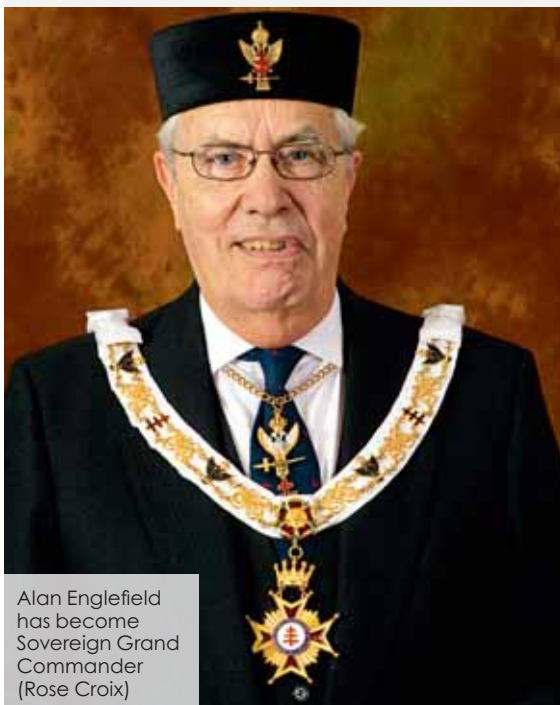
During a recent visit to the District of Bombay, Richard Douglas, Masonic Samaritan Fund Chief Executive, saw clear evidence that Freemasonry does care. Richard witnessed an example of the help provided by local masons through Haig-Brown Lodge, No. 3829, which supports the Goa branch of the Association for Social Health in India, a refuge for women of all ages. Lodge members donated water purification equipment and dried food for use by the residents.

# NEW GRAND CHANCELLOR APPOINTED

Derek Dinsmore has taken over the role of Grand Chancellor, in succession to Alan Englefield, who has been appointed Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient and Accepted Rite (Rose Croix). Alan was the first person to be appointed to the new post of Grand Chancellor in 2007. As Grand Chancellor, one of his duties was to assist the Grand Master and the Rulers representing Grand Lodge on formal visits overseas and at international gatherings.

At the annual investiture this year, the Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, said that Alan had made 'an invaluable contribution to bringing us closer to other Grand Lodges around the world, as well as to maintaining our position as the Mother Grand Lodge'.

Derek was initiated into Chevron Lodge, No. 6021, in 1970 and is a member of the Grand Master's Council, the Board of General Purposes and the Committee of General Purposes. He is a member of the Royal Arch, Rose Croix and other Orders. He spent much of his childhood on a family farm in West Wales and later joined Debenhams. In 1974 he started an agency to market products of European fashion houses in the UK and Ireland and spent the last 11 years of his working life as chief executive of Betty Barclay (UK) Ltd. Married with two sons and five grandchildren, he retired in 2000.



Alan Englefield has become Sovereign Grand Commander (Rose Croix)



Keith leads the group to the finish

Photography: Roy Teikeir

## BEST FOOT FORWARD

Keith Pauling of Rathcreedan Lodge, No. 8690, Province of Oxfordshire, set off on a 290-mile walk across the Macmillan Way, from Boston in Lincolnshire, to Chesil Beach in Dorset, in aid of Macmillan Cancer

Support. Three weeks later he completed the formidable journey, raising £3,300 for the charity. He was joined for the last 10 miles by four members of Weyland Lodge, No. 6507, and one of their wives.



## MASONIC GIFT FROM 1883

Nearly 800 Hertfordshire masons and their families attended the Cathedral and Abbey Church of St Alban for a service of thanksgiving and the rededication of a pulpit, a gift from English Freemasons in 1883. Most of the original funding for the carved stone pulpit came from the Province of Hertfordshire and three lodges in particular – Watford, No. 404, Gladsmuir, No. 1385, and Halsey, No. 1479.

Its £6,000 restoration, under the guidance of Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Orator and Cathedral Clerk of the Works,

George Laverick, was made possible by many lodge donations, as well as three other local orders: Knights Templar, Rose Croix and Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia.

At the service, Provincial Grand Master Colin Harris and Dean the Very Rev Jeffrey John both referred to the relationship between the Abbey and Hertfordshire Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge, No. 8984, which regularly assists at major Abbey events. The restored pulpit is situated in the crossing of the cathedral, under the great Norman Tower.

## LODGE PRESERVES BERWICK HISTORY

Previously undiscovered facts about Berwick-upon-Tweed's history were brought to light when the town's record office, museum and The King's Own Scottish Borderers Museum were invited to look at the records of St David's Lodge, No. 393.

On display were record books, letter books and other pieces of literature, dating back to 1829. 'We were amazed at the lodge's records, which are a treasure trove of the history of Berwick,' said local archivist Linda Bankier.

'St David's Lodge has been very helpful in giving us details of their members who were also serving soldiers in the regiment when stationed in the town, as well as details of the regiment's own masonic lodge,' added Ian Martin, curator of The King's Own Scottish Borderers Museum.

St David's Lodge can trace its history back to 1649, and the regimental lodge was founded in 1738. 'We hope to have further meetings where we will be able to discuss how this wonderful collection can be made available to the people of the town,' revealed David Dunn, the 184th Master of St David's.

**Anyone interested in the history of the town and the regiment can go to [www.stdavids393.org.uk](http://www.stdavids393.org.uk)**



From left to right: archivist Linda Bankier, and curators Anne Moore and Ian Martin are shown documents by St David's Lodge's Junior Warden Steve Newman



Robert makes it to John O'Groats

## CYCLING FROM SOUTH TO NORTH

Campaigning for charity can be exhausting, as Robert Crawford discovered when he spent 65 hours in the saddle to complete the 908-mile Land's End to John O'Groats cycle ride for the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland 2016 RMBI Festival. Travelling the entire length of Great Britain, at an average speed of 14 miles per hour, Robert, of Trinity Lodge, No. 6730, raised the magnificent sum of £1,700. A keen runner on the fells, he presented a cheque to both the Kendal Mountain Rescue team and the festival.



## BACKING FOR HEROES

Freemasonry in the community has always been at the heart of Welsh masons and is underlined by the Provincial Grand Master of South Wales's Gala Dinner, attended by members of 62 lodges in Cardiff. At the event, Provincial Grand Master Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards presented a cheque for £12,500 to Help for Heroes, a further sum of around £5,000 being added later.

## CHORISTER'S SUCCESS

Patrick Dunachie, a student at Hereford Cathedral School, has benefitted from a Chorister Scholarship from the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys since the age of seven, and now has a place to read music at King's College, Cambridge, following his brother Liam, a music scholar at Trinity College.

Patrick said that it was hard to overestimate the importance and benefit of the scholarship, which was a great privilege. The Dean of Hereford, the Very Reverend Michael Tavinor, thanked Herefordshire Freemasons for their continuing valuable support.



Centre stage: Patrick with the Dean (far left) and PGM Rodney Smallwood (far right) in the Dean's garden



Shown left to right: Peter, Rob, Paul and Keith, in Gibraltar, with the tiled panel presented to the District by the Group of Lodges in Portugal at the time of its formation

## PLAIN SAILING FOR LODGE MEETING

There have been some unusual ways of travelling to lodge meetings, and a special route was recently taken by four members of the Group of Lodges in Portugal, who sailed from Albufeira to Gibraltar to attend the Annual Investiture of the District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar.

Yacht owner Keith Lloyd, Secretary of Prince Henry the Navigator Lodge, No. 9360, was joined by treasurer Peter Wilkinson, Paul Nicholson, and Rob Levitt, Grand Inspector of the Group.



Local Dorset masons inspect a defibrillator point

## DORSET'S BIG-HEARTED LIFE-SAVING INITIATIVE

An official unveiling at Wareham launched the first of the planned automated external defibrillators (AEDs) that are to be provided outside each of the 17 masonic halls throughout Dorset. Contributions towards their cost came from the Grand Charity and the Province of Dorset's own charity, Dorset Masonic Care (DMC), in conjunction with the Arrhythmia Alliance organisation.

The purchase and installation of this life-saving equipment was in commemoration of The Queen's Diamond Jubilee and is part of the Freemasonry Cares initiative, which was launched in 2009.

Bournemouth mayor Cllr Phil Stanley-Watts said: 'We are truly indebted to the Freemasons of Dorset for this magnificent gift to the local community.'

Taking the plunge for the RMBI Festival

## CHARITY AT 15,000 FEET

It was a leap of faith for charity by Kevin Hutton of Horsford Lodge, No. 5339, Province of Yorkshire, West Riding, when he made a fundraising parachute jump for the RMBI 2017 Festival.

This was no ordinary feat, with a tandem jump from 15,000 feet over Hibaldstow Airfield in Lincolnshire, apparently the highest freefall jump in Britain. His efforts raised £600.

## OPENING THE DOOR TO THE PUBLIC IN LEICESTER

An open day has been held at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester, where a total of 255 visitors were shown around the Georgian building housing the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire & Rutland.

The tours gave visitors staged presentations in various parts of the building, including the Library and Museum. These showed the principles, history and symbolism of Freemasonry; the charitable activities supported by masons; and lodge interiors, including banqueting and meeting facilities available for commercial letting. As a direct result of the experience, 25 people expressed an interest in joining the Craft.

Provincial Grand Master David Hagger said, 'I felt very proud of the efforts made by so many brethren in making this event the most successful ever in engaging the public in what we are, aim to be and our place in the local community.'



Visitors were shown around during the open day



Shown left to right: Anthony Wilson (trustee), Nishith Patel, Martyn Coomer, Priyan Landham and David Blanchard

## WILTSHIRE IN ROYAL ARCH APPEAL

Wiltshire Grand Superintendent David Blanchard has received strong backing for the Royal Arch Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal in support of the Royal College of Surgeons, improved by a further £500 donated at the First Principals Chapter.

There were presentations by a number of college representatives, including head of research Martyn Coomer; Priyan Landham, who specialises in orthopaedic (trauma) surgery; and Nishith Patel, a heart surgeon who is researching kidney failure after cardiac surgery.

## PROBLEM SOLVERS

Megan Baker House (MBH), a Herefordshire charity at Moreton Eye, near Leominster, is a centre of excellence in conductive education. It teaches problem-solving skills to people with physical disabilities and special educational needs. Many are from nearby counties, but some children – and more recently, adults – come from across the UK to attend classes.

As MBH does not receive any statutory funding, and does not charge for its services, local masons have maintained their support with donations from the Herefordshire Masonic Charity Association and Royal Edward Lodge. Julia Higgs, MBH volunteer organiser, emphasised that such sponsorship is essential to the charity and its outreach centres.



Vital outreach: Provincial Grand Charity Steward David Knowles, MBH's Julia Higgs and Gareth Prosser, Royal Edward Lodge Charity Steward

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Outward Bound youngsters with (far left) PGM Norman Thompson and team member John Asplin, and (far right) DPGM Keith Young with PIO Mike Clementson

## GRAND CHARITY GOES OUTWARD BOUND

The Outward Bound Trust has received a grant of £30,000 from The Freemasons' Grand Charity which, since 1985, has donated over £250,000 in total. The grant helps fund bursaries that will enable disadvantaged young people to go on three-week outdoor learning programmes. Nearly 25,000 youngsters took part in these activity courses during 2011, and more than 69 per cent were bursary funded.

Mike Clementson, Cumberland & Westmorland Provincial Information Officer, said: 'Providing support to

disadvantaged youths is at the heart of the grant-making funded by the Grand Charity. The masonic community, both locally and nationally, recognises the importance in supporting young people today and we are therefore delighted to be able to show our support for Outward Bound once again.'

Nick Barrett, Outward Bound Trust chief executive, added: 'We are delighted to have Freemasons' continued support. This kind of donation enables us to provide crucial bursary support to hundreds more young people each year.'

## PROSTATE AWARENESS

Lancaster and District Freemasons donated £24,000 for prostate cancer research after a campaign set up by Peter Pemberton, of Pilling Lodge, No. 7879. Jack Bacon, from Prostate Action, said, 'I am extremely grateful for this magnificent and generous donation from the amazing campaign by the masons of Lancaster and District.'

## ARMED FORCES DAY OUT

It was a special day out for Richard Penelrick and his mother, Margaret, when they attended the Armed Forces Day national event celebrations on Plymouth Hoe, Devon.

Almoner John Pritchard and Master John Speak of Lord Roborough Lodge, No. 5789, Plymouth, in the Province of Devonshire, in partnership with the Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF), arranged the visit.

Richard, aged 35, is the son of Allen Penelrick, who was a member of Lord Roborough Lodge. He has ataxia telangiectasia (A-T) and was presented with a special wheelchair with a power-pack from the MSF in 2009. Margaret Penelrick is also receiving assistance via the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution Care Advice Team.



Seen with Richard and his mother are (left to right): John Pritchard and John Speak of Lord Roborough Lodge



Graham Barnetson, of Stivichall Lodge, presents gifts to Pax Mundi Lodge Master, Octavian Serb, watched by Pro Grand Master Virgil Nitulescu

## ROMANIAN HOSPITALITY

Pax Mundi Lodge, No. 119, of the National Grand Lodge of Romania (MLNR), based at Brasov, hosted a delegation from Stivichall Lodge, No. 5799, Province of Warwickshire, to celebrate its 10th anniversary. Bogdan Prodea, who studied in Coventry, and his father Mihai Prodea, both members of Pax Mundi lodge, extended the invitation. Masons from Brasov lodges, their mother lodge in Sinaia, and MLNR Grand Officers including Pro Grand Master Virgil Nitulescu, attended the meeting and a gala dinner at the Brasov Citadel with an orchestra, singers and dance.





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Twice a year, Freemasons' Hall plays host to shows for London Fashion Week, with press from around the world in attendance. **Ellie Fazan** finds out what happens when fashion and Freemasonry come together

# TURNING HEADS



Visitors to Freemasons' Hall on London's Great Queen Street are being greeted by a stylish young woman bedecked in a studded leather jacket. With a clipboard in one hand and wristbands in the other, she is very much in charge.

Upstairs in one of the 21 lodge rooms, frantic preparations are under way for design duo Leutton Postle's Spring/Summer 2013 show. It is not a scene you would expect to find in Freemasons' Hall: there is an impossibly tall model having her make-up done wearing nothing but underwear and sparkly high heels, while a team of assistants hurriedly make final adjustments to various hairstyles and outfits.

In the midst of it all, two young women are trying to control the chaos. They are Jen and Sam, otherwise known as Leutton Postle, and this is their third show at Freemasons' Hall. Their work is being showcased by Vauxhall Fashion Scout – an initiative that offers young designers a space to show their collections. 'Hello, we'd love to stop and say hi but...' Before they can finish, they are swept away in a sea of assistants.

The frenzied atmosphere permeates the room. The majestic corridors are full to the brim with brightly coloured clothes, with fun oversized collars, playful

## 'THE BUILDING HOSTS SUCH A VIBRANT AND ECLECTIC MIX OF PEOPLE... BUT IT STILL MAINTAINS THE ELEGANCE OF THE PURPOSES IT WAS BUILT FOR' Karen Haigh

patchwork and lots of glitter. A photographer is shooting a catalogue for the designers today, and has set up a makeshift studio in the cleaning cupboard. Meanwhile, the cleaning lady leans on her mop looking unfazed. She watches on while the call 'Girls in shoes please' sends everyone into a panic.

### START THE SHOW

Outside Freemasons' Hall, the fashion crowd is queuing around the block: it's one of the most anticipated shows of the season, and the designers here are the ones to watch. The Temple vestibule starts to fill with guests, and techno music begins to blast. The clothes are the main attraction – big, bold and attention grabbing – but they don't detract from the space. Three models at a time appear in the three carved archways before taking to the perfectly polished floor. The contrast between the futuristic collection and the stately, solid building is powerful.

One of the finest Art Deco buildings in England, Freemasons' Hall has been available for use as a location for television productions and photoshoots for more than a decade. 'One of the location managers I'd worked with on a film project asked if we hired the venue to outside events such as fashion. We hadn't before, but I just said yes,' remembers Karen Haigh, UGLE Head of Events. 'That led to us piloting the first London Fashion Week shows for Vauxhall Fashion Scout in 2009. All events are special in their own way, but working twice a year with Vauxhall Fashion Scout

has become part of the venue. It's bigger than ever now and it has been wonderful to see it develop each year. It's like being a parent!'

### OFFERING AN OPPORTUNITY

Freemasons' Hall is an integral part of London Fashion Week, placing it alongside Somerset House as one of the most important events spaces in the capital, hosting the most cutting-edge shows. The designers here are the ones to look out for. This year fashion's punk princess Pam Hogg showed, with celebrities and fashion editors alike coming to watch.

For Karen Haigh it's an exciting time, with no friction between the long-term residents and the temporary inhabitants. 'The building hosts such a vibrant and eclectic mix of people during this time, but it still maintains the elegance of the purposes it was built for. It really makes me smile when members come into the building during that period and can't hide their surprise at some of the outfits on display!'

Vauxhall Fashion Scout is helping young people in their chosen fields – one of Freemasonry's founding principles. Hand in hand they are offering young designers a space. Sam and Jen agree. 'We couldn't do this without their support,' the pair say. 'It means that as designers we can grow. We've learnt so much since last year.' And what do they think of the building? 'It's intense! Even though we have permission to be here, it's so awe-inspiring it makes us want to run around here at night!'



## ONES TO WATCH

Sam Leutton (far left) and Jenny Postle (third from left) both graduated from Central Saint Martins and made their debut at London Fashion Week in 2011. Their first collection won the acclaimed Vauxhall Fashion Scout Merit Award.

They describe their label as 'luxury fashion knitwear and textiles, with



strong emphasis on innovative use of colour and intense patterning'. Their clothes are aimed at the eccentric lady – someone with a sense of humour, who appreciates real craft. Or, in the duo's own words: 'Like us, but richer and more fabulous!' Their collection is stocked in Browns Focus in London and online at [avenue32.com](http://avenue32.com).

Hordes of make-up artists and hair stylists in the Processional Corridor help the show run flawlessly



Innovative use of colours and patterning are central to Leutton Postle's work



Contemporary fashion statements against the elegant decor of Freemasons' Hall create a striking impression



Photography: Simon Armstrong

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# ONCE IN A LIFETIME

Pro Grand Master **Peter Lowndes** explains why 2017 will be a unique opportunity to share masonic pride across the nation

**A**s the masonic fraternity is a single, indivisible fellowship that is neither divided nor affected by local or national boundaries within our constitution, the word 'united' is extremely appropriate as we move forward to our three hundredth anniversary celebrations in 2017. Hence, Metropolitan Grand Lodge, the Provinces and Districts are united as part of one fellowship – that of the United Grand Lodge of England.

## CELEBRATION FOR ALL

So how should we be working together to plan the 2017 celebrations, remembering that this is just over four and a half years away? From the very outset, I want to make it clear that this is a celebration for every one of us – for the members throughout the English constitution, both here and in the Districts.

Celebrating three hundred years is a once in a lifetime event for us all, as is appropriately marking this wonderful achievement and, of course, being the first Grand Lodge to do so. We have seen two great events this summer – that of Her Majesty's Diamond Jubilee and the Olympic Games. Both these events proved highly successful and raised the morale and spirit of our nation. That is exactly what I want the members' 2017 celebration to achieve for our united fraternity.



## PLANNING AHEAD

I am convinced that by working through the Metropolitan Grand Master and the Provincial and District Grand Masters we will encourage a large participation in this great occasion. Although there is much detail to be planned and to be communicated to you for your own planning, the main event will certainly include partners.

We are proud to be Freemasons and 2017 is a great opportunity to show that pride not only to our families and friends, but to the non-masonic community as well. To this end it will also be the natural culmination of the open public relations strategy we have embraced. ◇

'FROM THE VERY OUTSET, I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT THIS IS A CELEBRATION FOR EVERY ONE OF US'

# NO TIME TO BE RETIRING

The National and the London Chairmen of the Universities Scheme, **Edward Lord** and **Julian Soper**, give some advice on how to recruit and retain younger members



Of our members across the English constitution, only nine per cent are aged under forty. To put that percentage in perspective, it is three thousand less than the number of members we have aged over eighty. Indeed, the vast bulk of our members are aged between fifty and eighty. While there is nothing intrinsically wrong with these figures, it does set a generational challenge with fifty-five per cent of our members in, or reaching, retirement. If the average age of reaching the chair is sixty-three, one can assume that most lodge decision makers are near to, or in retirement, which leads one to question the degree of representation younger members have. So how do we attract younger men to join masonry?

## SIMPLE STEPS

Research we conducted found that masonry is in increasing competition with many other calls on the leisure time of prospective members. It is also clear that it is less easy for those in employment to leave their workplace early in order to get to a lodge meeting. Nor for that matter do younger brethren want to stay late all the time – something that is equally true of more senior members.

Many successful lodges don't start their work until 6 or 6.30pm in the evening and they still finish in good time to get home at a reasonable hour. They do this by taking a number of simple steps. Some, for example, don't process in and out of the lodge. Most circulate rather than read their minutes, and do the same for the Almoner's and Charity Steward's reports.

All of the above not only cuts down the time taken by the formal proceedings, but also increases the pace of a meeting. However, it is not as simple as saying that time commitments should be reduced. Regular meetings, often informal, and involving members' partners, can be important in fostering a feeling of membership. A good mentor should greatly assist in helping a new member to feel he belongs, and the formal creation of lodge mentor as a lodge office should help ensure that this happens.

The language we use to describe Freemasonry is key to it having a broader appeal, as is dispelling many of the myths that still surround us as an

organisation. Being able to describe in simple laymen's terms what Freemasonry is about is crucial; emphasising the social side of our activities as well as the contributions we make to society, both through our charitable activities and by helping each individual mason to become the best person he can be.

## MUCH TO OFFER

Experience has shown that, approached correctly, young men – indeed men of all ages – find considerable appeal in joining an organisation that is secular, multi-faith, cross denominational and shares their values. Indeed, in explaining Freemasonry to new and potential members, a lodge should consider emphasising the lifetime friendships, development possibilities and new experiences that are on offer.

So where exactly do we get these new younger members from? Of course, the basic approach of 'member-get-member' remains the best. But some lodges, particularly those that are affiliated to a school or university, find that discreet advertisements letting people know they exist often attract initial enquiries. And in some cases, the adverts are less discreet. The Province of West Lancashire took the back page of last year's Freshers' Handbook, which went out to over twenty-thousand students in Liverpool. That resulted in a bumper crop of candidates for the University Lodge of Liverpool.

Many enquiries are now coming through the internet. Every day we receive hundreds of hits on the Grand Lodge, Provincial and lodge specific sites, which then translate into expressions of interest from prospective members. This is rapidly becoming one of the most important marketing methods for the Craft. So if your lodge doesn't yet have a website, then it should consider investing in one.

Communication is crucial but lodges that have successfully spanned the generations have other attributes as well, not least in making new members feel welcome. Involvement in ceremonies is also important, but involve them at a pace that is right for them – don't force them up the ladder.

And if you find you have a masonic star in waiting, let him move forward quickly as the chances are he could help ensure the future of your lodge.



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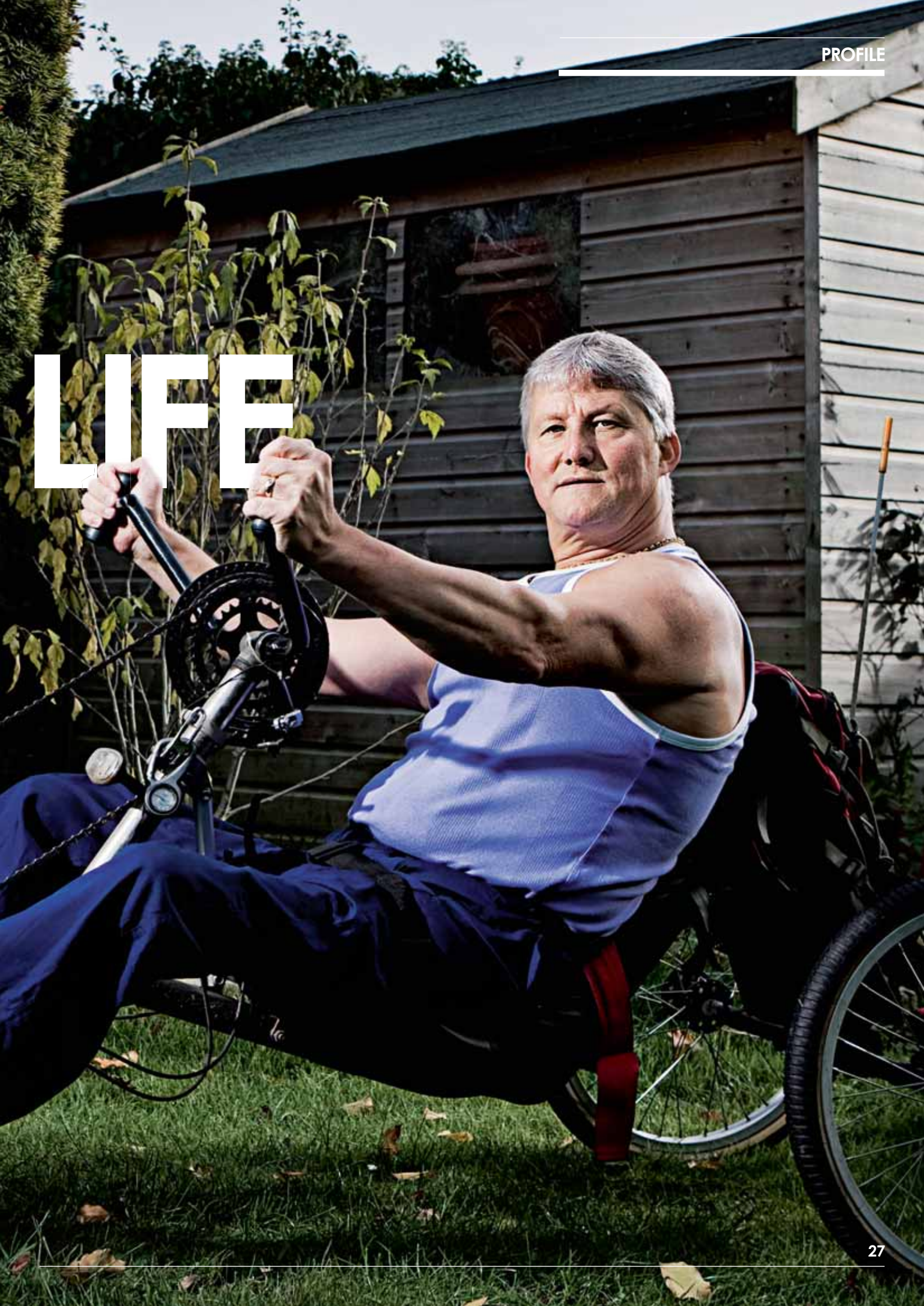
# CYCLE OF

Paralympian and Freemason Jon Amos has handcycled across Australia and conquered Kilimanjaro. He talks to **Luke Turton** about why he rarely takes no for an answer

**A**s chairman of the International Powerlifting Committee, Jon Amos has come to the end of a gruelling two weeks at the London 2012 Paralympic Games where he has worked fourteen-hour days to make sure the powerlifting events run smoothly. 'I could have sat back but I preferred to get involved,' Jon says, a statement that reflects not just his commitment to the Paralympic Games but to all the challenges he has faced in his life.

In 1976, driving along the M5 towards Birmingham, Jon was in an accident that injured his spine and paralysed the lower half of his body. Despite being in and out of hospital, Jon refused to give in to his injuries, and was an international swimming champion by the end of 1977 before deciding in 1984 that powerlifting sounded more interesting. By 1985 he was representing Great Britain in the sport and competed at the 1992 Paralympics in Barcelona. In 1993 he was coaching the first international team at the European Championships in Hungary and was head coach and team manager of the >

# LIFE





ParalympicsGB powerlifting team that competed at Athens in 2004, a role he reprised at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games. With a world altitude record for wheelchair mountaineering, thanks to a five thousand, six hundred and eighty-five metre charity ascent up Mount Kilimanjaro in Tanzania, and also the record for crossing Australia by handcycle, it is something of an understatement to say that Jon likes to 'get involved'.

### NEVER SAY NEVER

Jon's story is one of determination and self-belief. For the first nine days after his accident, he was in a critical state and recalls how devastated his parents were. 'I thought how dare I let what's happened to me affect them. In those days, there wasn't a lot of support around in rehabilitation for spinal injuries and I thought, I'm going to move forward rather than see myself as being limited. I was told all the things I couldn't do. The doctors were advising me based on their experiences of previous patients, but I felt that didn't have to spell

out my future. I was having a twitch in my leg and they said it was just a spasm but I knew I was moving it. After a few weeks I could control it.'

Always good at sport, Jon decided to focus on swimming after his accident. His charity work began when he heard about a lady with a degenerative eye disease who needed financial assistance. 'I used to do a mile in the swimming pool, but I had to start doing it faster in order to raise money for this lady. That started off my charitable side. We set up a link scheme for people with spinal injuries because lots of them were leaving hospital with questions and could feel very despondent. We'd talk to them and give our personal experiences.'

With Jon climbing his way up the sporting ladder, his charity work saw him making a different kind of ascent. Working with Derek Groves, a Freemason and fellow coach from the British Weightlifting Association for the Disabled, Jon reached the summit of Great Gable Mountain in the Lake District in 1996, raising £4,000 in the process. 'We needed funds to send some female powerlifters to a world championship in 1997 and made a version of a wheelchair with skids rather than wheels. It was totally wrecked by the end of the climb but we got the ladies to Colorado. Derek then suggested something higher and I said Everest, then we thought about Fuji and then Kilimanjaro. There were certainly trials and tribulations on the way. It showed me what my limits were and took me back to my time in hospital, but we challenged the world.'

### FEELING OF TOGETHERNESS

After completing the Kilimanjaro climb in 1998, Jon was presented with a magnificent ceremonial sword by the Wilkinson Sword company. Feeling it far too grand an object to be sat on his wall at home, Jon, with the assistance of Glyn Hibbert, another fellow coach and Freemason, arranged for the sword to be given to Castle Lodge, No. 1436, in Sandgate, Kent, which in return made a charitable donation to the British Wheelchair Foundation.

That same year, Jon was asked to deliver a talk about the Kilimanjaro ascent at a Middlesex masonic sports lodge. With the lodge also giving a donation to the foundation, and continuing to support the charity long after the speech, Jon found that he liked the community aspects of Freemasonry and in 2006 joined the Saltford Lodge, No. 8633. 'It's very relaxed so I can fit it around my schedule – you can give up every night or treat it as a hobby. I like the fact that you can do good things in a discreet way and I'm happy to be a part of it.'

**'THIS WAS THE FIRST PARALYMPIC GAMES WHERE CROWDS FILLED THE STANDS AND PAID FOR IT. RIO 2016 HAS BIG SHOES TO FILL'**



Reflecting on a glorious summer of sport in the UK, Jon believes there was something special about the 2012 Paralympics. 'We have a better perspective on disability in the UK. I haven't seen anything in previous Games that matches the way we work with people with disabilities. This was the first Games where the crowds filled the stands and paid for it. In Seoul and Beijing, the stands were filled but that was government driven. The US didn't run a great Games in 1996, and maybe even moved it back a few steps. Sydney raised the bar again but London pushed it even higher. Rio 2016 has big shoes to fill.'

Asked how he feels about helping to organise the Paralympics, breaking world records and competing for Great Britain, Jon downplays his achievements. 'My awards are in the loft, I never put them in the cabinet,' he says, clearly far more interested in challenging people to challenge themselves. 'You could call it bloody-mindedness, but you should always believe in yourself. There were so many things I was told I couldn't do and my approach has been to say, "Well maybe I can't, but I've got to try."' ♦

Jon with Lord Sebastian Coe, chairman of the London Organising Committee for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games

## HANDCYCLING AUSTRALIA

Jon Amos cycled into the record books when he powered across Australia on a handcycle in 1999. He rode from Darwin to Adelaide on a cycle designed with hand pedals. Using his arms for propulsion, he completed the journey in just over one hundred and forty-one hours, covering one hundred miles a day and reaching top speeds of twenty-five miles per hour. Filmed by the BBC during the ride, Jon said: 'This has superseded all that I've done before. I'm finding out new things about myself. [The trip] was to create awareness from an able-bodied point of view of what people with disabilities can achieve. But it was also to show disabled people what they can achieve if they want to.'

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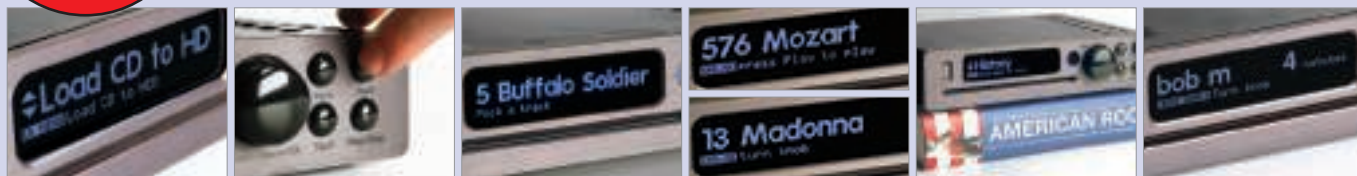
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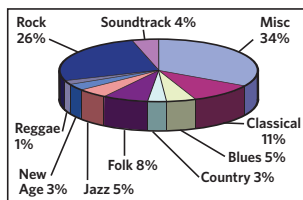
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# DAMBUSTERS CAPTURED

While much is known about the endeavours of the Dambusters, Squadron Leader Jerry Fray's more covert role of photographing the resulting destruction is far less familiar





**A**lmost seventy years ago, the Royal Air Force No. 617 Squadron or ‘Dambusters’ used a specially developed bouncing bomb to attack the dams that supplied hydro-electric generated power to Germany’s industrialised Ruhr valley. The aim was to bring the German military to a halt by denying power to the factories that would build the machines and ammunition required for Adolf Hitler’s war.

Operation Chastise was carried out on 16-17 May 1943 and its success is the stuff of legends. Barnes Wallis’ spectacular feat of engineering allowed a bomb to bounce across water until it struck its target, before sinking to explode underwater. The Möhne and Edersee dams were breached, causing catastrophic flooding of the Ruhr valley and the Eder valley.

Iconic photographs showing Germany’s submerged industrial heartland quickly found their way onto the front pages of British newspapers. The images were taken during a lone flight in an unarmed plane on

The series of photographs that were captured in May almost seventy years ago still resonate today

17 May by Frank Gerald Fray – or ‘Jerry’ as his friends called him. A flying officer in the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit, Jerry had flown in a specially adapted sky-blue camouflaged Spitfire to capture the devastation wreaked by the Dambusters’ raid.

### FLYING DETERMINATION

Jerry’s identity was only revealed in 2001 by the RAF and brought to the public’s attention through an interview in *The Sunday Telegraph* in the same year. ‘I could see the industrial haze over the Ruhr area and what appeared to be a cloud to the east. On flying closer I saw that what had seemed to be cloud was the sun shining on the floodwater,’ said Jerry. ‘I looked down into the deep valley which had seemed so peaceful three days before, but now it was a wide torrent.’

With his photographs proving to be a massive morale boost to the British public, Jerry had written himself into the history books. Born in Bristol, and the eldest of three children, he was educated at the





**‘I LOOKED DOWN INTO THE DEEP VALLEY WHICH HAD SEEMED SO PEACEFUL THREE DAYS BEFORE, BUT NOW IT WAS A WIDE TORRENT’**

City of London Freeman’s School in Ashted, Surrey. With war imminent in 1938, Jerry’s parents were not enthusiastic about his desire to become a pilot so he volunteered for the army and joined the Royal Engineers. Shortly after the outbreak of war, he was sent to France and attached to the No. 4 Squadron at Mons en Chaussée. Evacuated from Dunkirk in 1940, Jerry was transferred to the RAF for pilot training shortly afterwards. His early flying training was at the No. 4 Elementary Flying Training School in Brough, followed by advanced training at the No. 9 Service Flying Training School in Hullavington, where he gained his pilot wings and was commissioned into the RAF in January 1942.

### **MEDALS AND MASONRY**

Electing for special duties, Jerry undertook specialist navigation training before flying unarmed Spitfires at RAF Benson. With his photography of the Moehe dam immortalising the exploits of the Dambusters, >

Photography: Greg Funnell



Photography: Getty Images

Jerry was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross and later the Belgian Order of Leopold and Belgian Croix de Guerre (with palm) for photographic work to help the Belgian resistance.

After two successful operating tours, and with the war ending, Jerry was posted to India to command the No. 34 Squadron at Palam, Delhi. After the partition of India he joined No. 80 Squadron in Germany, still flying Spitfires, but in a tactical role. Then followed a period as a regular officer with No. 613 (City of Manchester) Squadron Royal Auxiliary Air Force, and two and a half years in Greece with the RAF Mission. Twelve months at the Staff College at RAF Bracknell preceded various staff appointments at Fighter Command and RAF HQ in Germany.

In 1963, Jerry took early retirement and for several years was involved in management training with the British Productivity Council in London. It was at this time that he began his masonic career. By all accounts an enthusiastic Freemason, Jerry was initiated into the Daedalus Lodge, No. 3843, in 1963. He joined the Pegasus Lodge, No. 5637, in 1965, where he was installed as the Worshipful Master in 1979. Jerry finally retired to Somerset in 1981. Becoming Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1985, he was appointed London Grand Rank in 1990 before being promoted to Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 1991 and to Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 1999.

Just two years after his interview had been published, Squadron Leader Jerry Fray died on

The Möhne dam after being bombed by the No. 617 Squadron of the RAF, better known as the Dambusters, during Operation Chastise. Image found in German archives post war

## ‘THE WHOLE VALLEY OF THE RIVER WAS INUNDATED... I WAS OVERCOME BY THE IMMENSITY OF IT’

26 June 2003. He had lived long enough to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the Dambusters and his remarkable flight over the Ruhr valley. Ten years later, his contribution to the war effort still resonates in an evocative series of black and white photographs that were captured at first light on that May morning. ‘The whole valley of the river was inundated with only patches of high ground and the tops of trees and church steeples showing above the flood,’ said Jerry in the final remarks of the newspaper interview, ‘I was overcome by the immensity of it.’



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

*Freemasonry Today* would like to thank Squadron Leader Bob Chevin, Buckinghamshire Past Provincial Grand Charity Steward and Past Senior Grand Deacon, for his help in putting this piece together, and the RAF Museum London, for letting us access its archives.



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# THE ROYAL CONNECTION



In 1737, HRH Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, was the first Royal Family member to become a Freemason

With members of the Royal Family carrying out a vital role in Freemasonry, **John Hamill** counts the line of princes and dukes who have played their part over the past three hundred years

**T**his year, the nation rightly celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, but there is another significant royal and masonic anniversary of which many of the Craft may not be aware.

It was the two hundred and seventy-fifth anniversary of the initiation of HRH Frederick Lewis, Prince of Wales, the first member of the English Royal Freemasons, on 5 November 2012. The eldest son of King George II, Frederick Lewis did not come to the throne, as he died in 1751 at the early age of forty-four. This was some nine years before the death of his father, who was succeeded by Frederick Lewis's son George, who went on to reign for sixty years as King George III.

Frederick Lewis was made a Freemason in what was termed an 'occasional' lodge, presided over by the Reverend Doctor JT Desaguliers, Grand Master in 1737. In the fashion of the day, the prince was made both an Entered Apprentice and a Fellowcraft at the meeting. A month later, another occasional lodge was held and he became a Master



## HRH THE DUKE OF KENT'S WISE COUNSEL, IN WHAT HAS BEEN A TURBULENT TIME FOR ENGLISH FREEMASONRY, HAS BEEN INVALUABLE

Mason. Due to lack of records for the period, we have no information as to what Frederick Lewis did in Freemasonry, other than that in 1738 he was Master of a Lodge. We know this because in the same year, the Reverend Doctor James Anderson published the second edition of *The Constitutions of the Free Masons*, which has a wonderfully flowery dedication to the prince 'now a Master Mason and Master of a Lodge'.

### RAPID PROMOTION

It would be interesting to speculate if Frederick Lewis discussed Freemasonry within his family, for one of his brothers and three of his sons went on to become Freemasons. The youngest of his sons, Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland (1745-1790), had rapid promotions. He was initiated at an occasional lodge on 9 February 1767; was installed as Master of the Horn Lodge in April 1767 and in the same month elected a Past Grand Master of the premier Grand Lodge. In 1782 he became our first Royal Grand Master and held that office until his untimely death in 1790. He was also the first Royal Brother to enter the Royal Arch, being exalted in the Grand Chapter in 1772 and was its Grand Patron from 1774 until his death.

Henry Frederick introduced the next generation of royalty to the fraternity, with sons of King George III becoming Freemasons. Three of them went on to serve as Grand Master: George, Prince of Wales (later Prince Regent and King George IV) succeeded his uncle as Grand Master in 1791 and served until he became Prince Regent in 1812, when he was succeeded by his younger brother Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex. At the same time, their brother Edward, Duke of Kent, became Grand Master of the Antients Grand Lodge.

With two royal brothers at their head in 1813, the two Grand Lodges came together as the United Grand Lodge of England, with the Duke of Sussex as Grand Master. Sussex was determined that the union would succeed, and put in place a number of procedures that today still form the basis of the

government of the English Craft and Royal Arch.

The death of the Duke of Sussex in 1843 marked a twenty-five-year period without royal participation for the simple reason that – with the exception of Queen Victoria's husband, Prince Albert – there were no princes of an age to join. That situation was happily rectified in 1868 when the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VII) became a Freemason on a visit to Sweden. In 1869 he was elected a Past Grand Master and in 1874 became Grand Master, holding office until he came to the throne in 1901 when he took the title of Protector of Freemasonry.

### INVALUABLE SUPPORT

The Prince of Wales was soon joined by two of his brothers, the Duke of Connaught and the Duke of Albany, and brought in his son, the Duke of Clarence. The Duke of Connaught succeeded his brother as Grand Master in 1901 and was to be an active ruler until 1939. He was supported by his son Prince Arthur and by his great nephews, the then Prince of Wales (later King Edward VIII and Duke of Windsor); the Duke of York (later King George VI); and the Duke of Kent, father of our present Grand Master. The Duke of Kent succeeded as Grand Master in 1939 but his rule was cut cruelly short when he was killed in an RAF air crash in 1942.

Today, English Freemasonry is fortunate to still have Royal support. HRH The Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh became a Master Mason in Navy Lodge, No. 2612, of which he is still a subscribing member. HRH The Duke of Kent has been our Grand Master since 1967 and his wise counsel and great support in what has been a turbulent time for English Freemasonry, have been invaluable. His brother HRH Prince Michael of Kent has given long service as both Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex in the Craft and as Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons.

To look back on two hundred and seventy-five years of Royal support is a wonderful sight and something that English Freemasons hope will continue long into the future.





Photography: National Portrait Gallery/London

Clockwise from top left: Edward, Duke of Kent; Henry Frederick, Duke of Cumberland; Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex; and Prince Arthur





# OPEN DOOR POLICY

With visitors invited to explore Freemasons' Hall, director of the Library and Museum Diane Clements explains to **Caitlin Davies** how this is leading to greater transparency

**C**ovent Garden is one of London's tourist hot spots and this sunny Saturday in September is no exception. The area is crowded with people sightseeing, shopping and visiting bars. But at the end of Long Acre, where it meets the corner of Great Queen Street, is another city attraction altogether. It's a large, almost monumental, stone building with little to identify its purpose to those who don't know.

Come a little closer, however, and a plaque states it was opened in 1933 by Field Marshall HRH The Duke of Connaught, Knight of the Garter and Most Worshipful Grand Master. This is Freemasons' Hall and today it sports a welcoming sign as part of the annual celebration of the capital's architecture – 'Open House London.' Now in its twentieth year, the scheme has seven hundred and fifty buildings opening their doors for free, from iconic landmarks to private homes. A steady stream of people head through the Tower entrance to Freemasons' Hall, where a steward hands out a leaflet. 'Welcome to Freemasons' Hall,' he says. 'It's a self-guided tour.'

'People often walk or cycle past and have never been in,' says Diane Clements, who is overseeing today's proceedings and is director of the Library

and Museum of Freemasonry. 'People don't know what they're going to see – there is a sense of amazement when they get inside, the building is far more elaborate than you might think. The fact that they can come in shows how open we are and helps address misconceptions about Freemasonry.'

Diane has run the Library and Museum for thirteen years, and relishes the opportunity to work with a world-class collection of objects that have interesting stories to tell. 'The public has a continuing desire to learn about Freemasonry. I'd like to think the Library and Museum has played a part in improving their understanding.'

## WANDERING AT WILL

Each year thirty thousand people visit the Library and Museum, and most come for organised tours of the Grand Temple. Freemasons' Hall has taken part in Open House London since 2000 and the logistics of running the event are considerable. 'For Open House we couldn't get enough people through the doors using our usual guided method,' explains Diane, 'so it's the only time you are basically given a leaflet and left to look around.' Her role is to make sure that the two thousand, five hundred



Diane is ready to field questions in the contemplative setting of the Grand Temple



## 'THERE IS A SENSE OF AMAZEMENT WHEN PEOPLE GET INSIDE, THE BUILDING IS FAR MORE ELABORATE THAN YOU MIGHT THINK' Diane Clements

visitors on Open Day have 'an enjoyable and informative visit', and over the years she's learnt to always 'wear comfortable shoes'.

On the right of the cloakroom a sign shows visitors where to start, then there's a murmur of voices and creaking of knees as people go up the stairs. The building has a library feel to it, but this changes in the first vestibule, which is flooded with glorious yellow light reflected from the stained glass windows.

A man crouches to take a picture of a small golden figure, part of the shrine designed by Walter Gilbert. Meanwhile, a woman from West Sussex says she wasn't sure what to expect: 'My dad is in a lodge and I always thought he just meant he went to a room somewhere. But it's fantastic. It's really beautiful.'

Another visitor, Dermot, just happened to walk past this afternoon. And what did he imagine was inside? 'That's the thing,' he replies, 'I didn't know what to expect.' For a lot of people it is curiosity that has brought them here today.

### FIELDING QUESTIONS

'All our buildings are chosen for the quality of their architecture, that's our criteria,' explains Victoria Thornton, director of Open-City, which runs Open House London. 'Some, like Freemasons' Hall, may have a quiet façade, behind which lies real exuberance.'

In the second vestibule, steward Peter Martin is presiding over a table of free literature and says the event is even busier than last year. Eric from Kent has been to several Open House events today. 'I started at Lloyds and worked my way along Fleet Street. I've seen Unilever and Doctor Johnson's house... the stained glass is awesome here.'

The question of gender is a popular one. In the third vestibule a woman asks a steward if only men can join Freemasonry. He explains women can join one of two Grand Lodges in England, but they are not allowed in the men's Grand Temple, and vice versa.

In the Grand Temple there are fold-down seats like a theatre and it's here that many visitors take the opportunity for a rest. Voices are respectfully hushed. 'It is contemplative,' says Diane. 'There's never a huge noise in here. It's not like the Sistine Chapel – we don't have to say "Quiet please."' One steward answers a barrage of questions about rituals and pledges. 'Is it true the Queen is a Freemason?' asks one visitor. The answer is no.

An outside walkway leads to the Library and Museum where an exhibition traces the relationship between Freemasonry and sport. The tour ends at the exit on Great Queen Street, where members arrive for their lodge meetings and are watched with interest by departing visitors, one of whom takes a final snap. ♦

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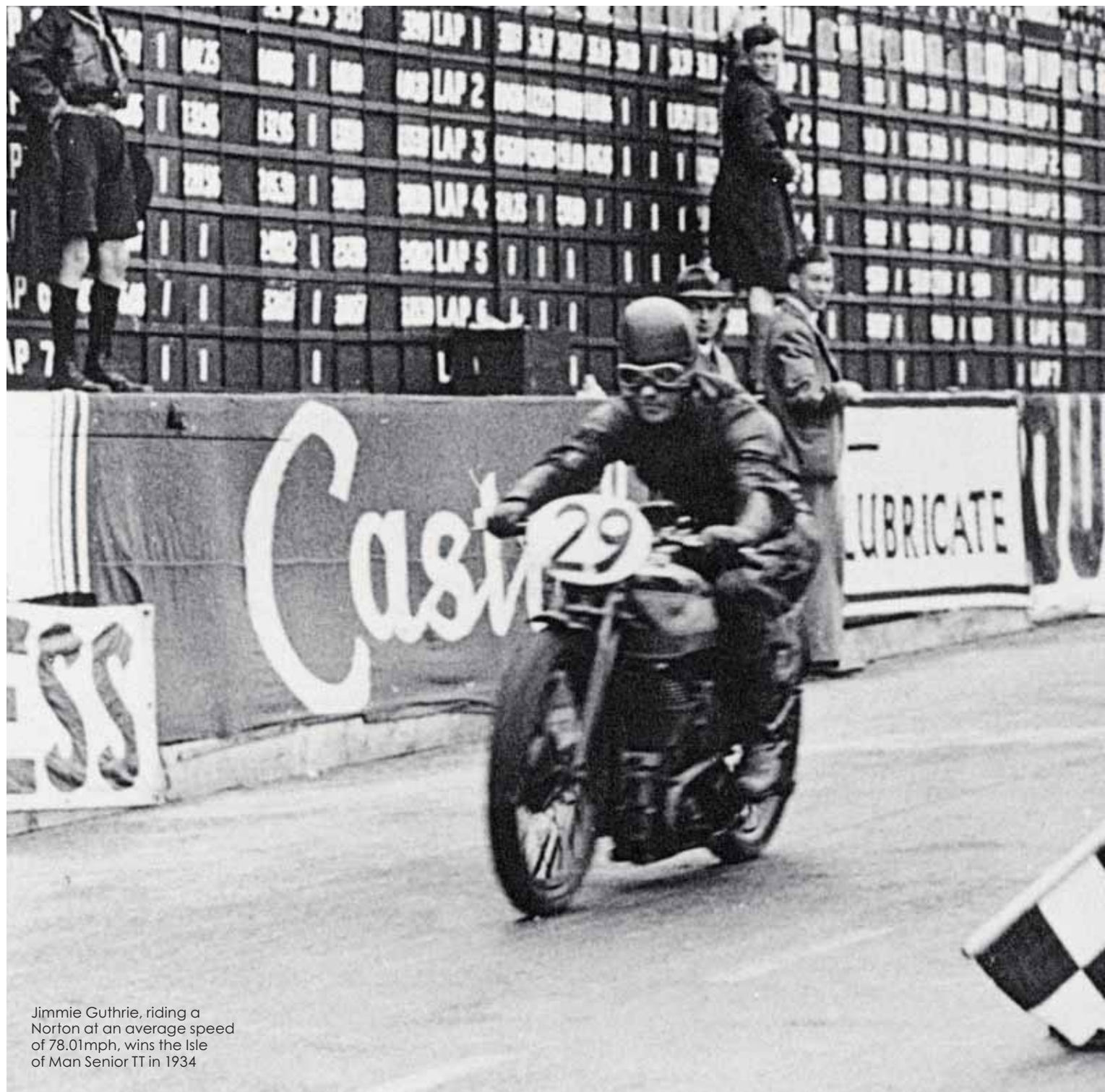
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Jimmie Guthrie, riding a Norton at an average speed of 78.01mph, wins the Isle of Man Senior TT in 1934

# THE SOCIAL CIRCUIT



Photography: Motoring Picture Library / Alamy

Born from a pure passion for motorcycles and a desire to encourage young people into the Craft, the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy Lodge is on the right masonic track, as **Ellie Fazan** discovers



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Please will you help us? Anything you can send now will be gratefully received and carefully used in relieving hardship and distress among Gurkha ex-servicemen and their dependants in Nepal.



*This is Rifleman Lalbahadur Thapa (L) aged 93 and his younger brother Rifleman Dilbahadur Thapa. Both served with 6th Gurkha Rifles throughout World War Two.*

*The brothers keep each other company on the five day walk they make every three months from their home village to the nearest Gurkha Welfare Trust Area Welfare Centre to collect their 'welfare pension'. This money is their only source of income and all that stands between them and destitution.*

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## 'MOTORCYCLING IS ABOUT FRIENDSHIP AND IT ENGENDERS A SPIRIT OF UNION. THERE IS A SIMILAR FRATERNAL BOND BETWEEN FREEMASONS'

**W**hen king of speed Charlie Collier won the first Isle of Man Tourist Trophy (TT) race in 1907, he wore a three-piece tweed suit and was almost disqualified for having pedals on his bike. In the early days of TT, it wasn't uncommon to have to get off and push, and the Mountain Circuit was basically a horse-and-cart track; it was the duty of the first rider around in the morning to open the gates along the way, and the last rider was responsible for shutting them.

Collier's average speed of 38.21mph may seem painfully slow by today's standards but the race was groundbreaking. From these rudimentary beginnings, the event has developed into a world-famous annual spectacle, and remains one of the most exciting road races on the motorcycle racing calendar. Now, 105 years since TT's birth, a lodge on the island has been consecrated to celebrate this illustrious history.

With many arriving by bike, 171 people came from all over the UK to take part in the consecration ceremony on 14 July. 'The Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight rode up here with his wife on pillion, and the next day we took him for a guided spin around the TT track. It was a fantastic day,' enthuses Nigel Bowrey, Director of Ceremonies at the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy Lodge. 'After the formal ceremony and the festive board that followed, we sat around until midnight exchanging motorcycling tales.'

A past racer who has owned 37 bikes, Nigel has toured North Africa down to the Sahara, as well as undertaking a two-month tour in Australia covering nearly 8,000 miles. 'I think my most epic journey was a 10,000-mile trip across America and back.'

### BROTHERHOOD OF THE ROAD

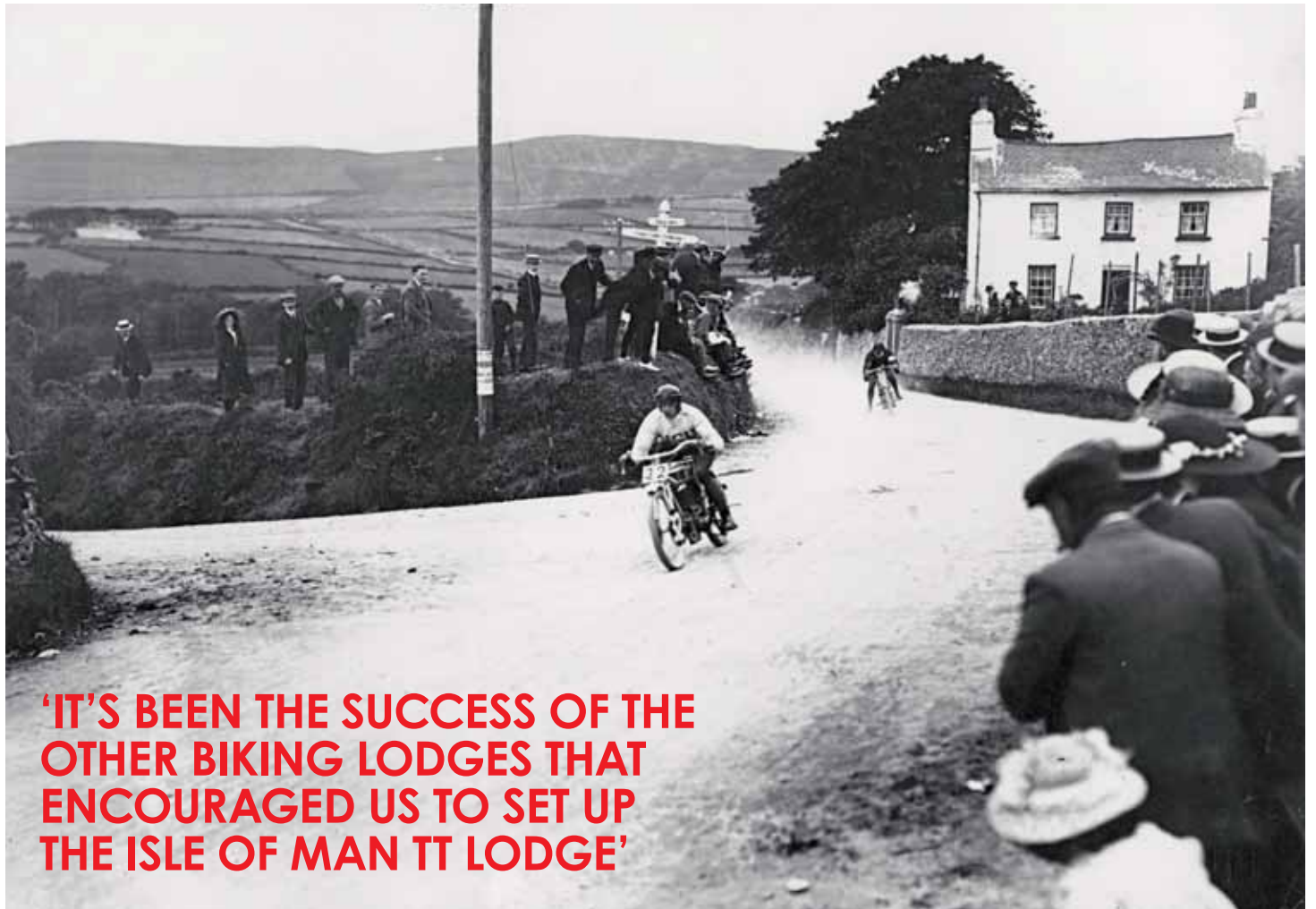
The connection between motorcycling and Freemasonry might seem a stretch, but there are striking similarities in their code of conduct and behaviour. 'When you pass a motorcyclist on the road you wave at one another. It is totally normal to engage in conversation with someone on a bike that you meet at a stop, because motorcycling is about friendship and it engenders a spirit of union,' explains Nigel. 'And there is a similar fraternal bond between Freemasons where you have a huge network of people you can rely on, even though you don't necessarily know one another at the outset.'



Mike Hailwood's 1967 TT victory set a record average speed of 104.29mph



Joey Dunlop – famed for his humanitarian work and 26 TT wins, with three hat tricks



**'IT'S BEEN THE SUCCESS OF THE OTHER BIKING LODGES THAT ENCOURAGED US TO SET UP THE ISLE OF MAN TT LODGE'**

Photography: Getty Images

The Isle of Man link between Freemasonry and motorcycling reaches back to the turn of the century. In 1912, Lieutenant Governor Lord Raglan, one of the men responsible for initiating road races, became Provincial Grand Master of the Isle of Man, perhaps forging the first connection. Today, the members of the TT Lodge are all motorcycle enthusiasts, many of whom are still heavily involved in the TT race and other motorcycle events that take place annually.

With several other UK lodges sharing a passion for biking, the TT Lodge is in good company. The surge started in 2000 with the consecration of the Lodge of the Chevaliers de Fer, No. 9732, in Basingstoke. There is also the Sussex Motorcycling Lodge, No. 9871, consecrated in August 2012. Some lodges are named after TT alumni, including the Mike Hailwood Lodge, No. 9839, the Graham Milton Lodge, No. 9796, and the Joey Dunlop Lodge of Mark Master Masons, No. 1881. Freemasonry in the UK often has to work hard to retain, let alone increase, membership, but the motorbike lodges are thriving.

'We want to broaden our appeal, particularly to younger people. It's been the success of the other biking lodges that encouraged us to set up the Isle of Man Tourist Trophy Lodge,' says Nigel. 'We want to say to people, "We're not a bunch of tired old masons, we're a bunch of active motorcycle enthusiasts with an associated interest in Freemasonry."'



A Boldt, on an NSU, leads from Charlie Collier, on a Matchless, during the 1911 Isle of Man Tourist Trophy

## NEED FOR SPEED

The Motor Car Act of 1903 set the speed limit in the UK at 20 miles per hour. Of course, most cars couldn't go this fast, and most people didn't have cars, but for the Automobile Club of Great Britain and Ireland, it was a severe dampener. How were they to test their new, ever-more powerful machines, if they were limited to crawling around country lanes?

So the club plotted. Secretary Sir Julian Orde had a bright idea: his cousin Lord Raglan was the Lieutenant Governor of the Isle of Man. The Manx Government was autonomous and not bound by the same laws, so with some gentle persuasion from Lord Raglan, they were encouraged to permit public roads to be closed so 'high speed reliability trials' could take place.

In 1904 the International Car Trials were held there, with motorbike trials added a year later. The first 125-mile race was won by JS Campbell in four hours, nine minutes and 26 seconds, with an average speed of 30.04mph, despite a fire in the pit stop.



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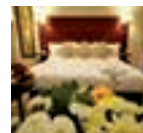
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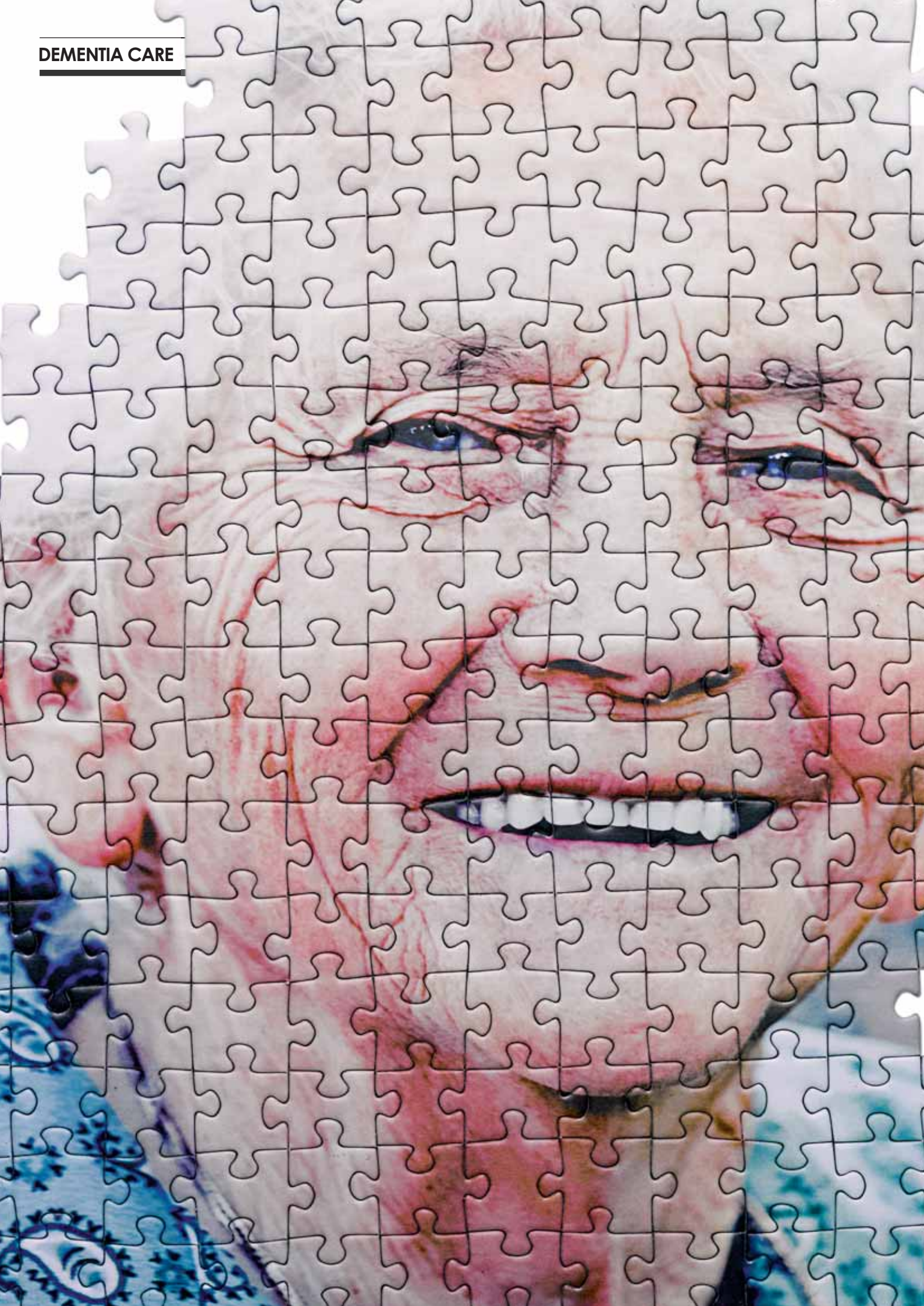


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# PUTTING THE PIECES BACK TOGETHER

A new way of treating dementia recommends that you concentrate on creating the best possible quality of life for people.

**Andrew Gimson** finds out how RMBI homes are pioneering groundbreaking techniques in dementia care

**H**elen Walton speaks with some emotion as she discusses providing good quality care for people living with dementia. As operations director at Dementia Care Matters, an organisation that has become closely involved in the provision of dementia care in the homes run by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution (RMBI), Walton draws a sharp distinction between the right and wrong approach.

Care has traditionally been very institutionalised; huge importance is attached to routine and the atmosphere in some homes is sterile. People with dementia are treated as passive recipients from whom no initiative is expected.

Walton is deeply concerned that this kind of care still exists today, which can leave people sitting in their chairs staring into space. She believes strongly that it can be different, that instead of being run with the greatest possible efficiency, homes can concentrate on creating the best possible quality of life. She emphasises that although people living with dementia may have lost their capacity for logical thought, 'their feelings are enhanced – feelings are what they have left, and are stronger than before'.

For Walton, staff must encourage rather than repress the natural inclinations of those they look after. The first step is to relax any barriers between staff and residents. In a home where Dementia Care Matters is called in to advise, the staff will get rid of their uniforms and the main meal of >

## DEMENTIA CARE

the day will be eaten together. Once this happens, it will not necessarily be apparent who is a member of staff and who is a resident. The two groups will be running the home together as friends.

Debra Keeling joined the RMBI four and a half years ago. In her role as deputy director of care she has a brief to bring in exactly this approach. She is 'hugely encouraged' by the progress that has been made: 'The people who live in our homes are now becoming much more involved. We're really developing communities.'

### JOINING THEIR REALITY

The RMBI has seventeen homes in England and Wales, accommodating more than one thousand residents. Louise Baxter is home manager at an RMBI home, Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court in Essex. She tells the story of Nina Wainwright, who arrived in the dementia support unit in 2008. Mrs Wainwright, who was suffering from early to mid-stage dementia, had great difficulty settling in. Like many people, she felt disorientated by leaving her own home. She would ask: 'What is this place? Why am I here?'

The staff became increasingly worried about her happiness and welfare, so they arranged with the catering contractor for Mrs Wainwright to start working in the kitchen. Each morning, she comes downstairs, goes to the kitchen and starts to wash up and make herself useful. She believes she lives upstairs in her flat and is employed to undertake washing up as well as some waitressing duties. This has given her a sense of purpose and allowed her to feel once more in control of her life. Staff 'join Mrs Wainwright in her reality' – they do not seek to disabuse her of her beliefs.

Baxter believes that her diploma course with Dementia Care Matters has certainly given her the confidence to join people in their reality without being accused of infantilising them. 'It allowed me to work in the way I'd always wanted to.'

Conventional methods for treating dementia would confront the person with reality. When they asked for their mother, for example, they would be stood in front of a mirror and shown they were



**'IF A RESIDENT ASKS FOR HER MOTHER, YOU COULD SAY: "TELL ME ABOUT HER. SHE SOUNDS VERY SPECIAL"'** Debra Keeling

clearly far too old for their mother to still be alive. Nowadays, there is a different approach. When a resident with dementia says they want to go home, the best thing to do is open the door and let them go outside. 'Once they're outside, the urgency to get out is gone,' says Baxter. 'You can then go and rescue them by saying something like: "Oh hello, Mrs Jones. I live next to you. Would you like to come and have a cup of tea with me?"'

There are parallels between the care of children and those with dementia. If a child is playing a game that depends on imagining that a toy is real, you do not ruin things by telling them to stop being so stupid, the model car is not real. Rather, you enter into the child's world in the same way that you should with a person with dementia.

Keeling agrees: 'While you should never lie to people with dementia, if a resident asks for her mother, you could say: "Tell me about your mother. She sounds very special. Do you have a photograph of her?"' The RMBI has sent one or two people from each of its homes to take the diploma run by Dementia Care Matters, while everyone else – from gardeners to trustees – have attended courses run by the Alzheimer's Society.

Dementia Care Matters has awarded Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court its Butterfly Services kite mark. Launched in 2010, the kite mark is conferred after unannounced visits by auditors who 'observe the quality of interaction between staff and people' in a home. Six of the RMBI's homes have received the award and this work is of the greatest value. By showing that there is a better way to look after people with dementia, the RMBI and Dementia Care Matters are performing a public service of inestimable value. ♦

Mrs Wainwright (left) helps out in the kitchen every morning, where she believes she is employed. This has given her a vital sense of purpose



Photography: Getty Images. Puzzle photography: Dan Matthews



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# A DEGREE OF LATITUDE

With the spread of the Royal Arch across the world creating different rituals in each of the countries it has touched, **John Hamill** explains why international relations can be complex

**I**n the news section of this issue there is a short piece on the change of Grand Chancellor in the Craft. That office has now been in place for just over five years and the question has been asked why, unlike the other 'executive' offices in the Craft, there is no equivalent of the Grand Chancellor in the Royal Arch? The simple answer is that, from a combination of historical reasons and the close administrative links between the Craft and Royal Arch in England, there is little in the Royal Arch for a Grand Chancellor to do.

There is no doubt among historians of the Royal Arch that it originated within the British Isles. During the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries it quickly followed the spread of the Craft into what were then the Colonies and became firmly established in North America, the West Indies and Caribbean, India, Africa, the Far East and Australasia, in all of which it is still practised today.

**AFTER THE SECOND WORLD WAR, ENGLAND WAS ASKED BY VARIOUS EUROPEAN GRAND LODGES TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING THE ROYAL ARCH**



The Royal Arch has spread its wings throughout the globe from Hungary to the Caribbean

The Royal Arch, however, never took hold in mainland Europe until the second half of the twentieth century. Apart from a short-lived Grand Chapter in France in the early nineteenth century, there is no evidence for any Grand Chapter being formed in Europe before the one attached to the National Grand Lodge of France in the 1930s.

Scandinavian countries that have the Swedish Rite do not work any of the degrees we have 'beyond the Craft', yet the degrees above the first three in the Swedish Rite are regarded as being equivalent to, but different from, our Royal Arch, Knights Templar and Ancient and Accepted Rite degrees. In other European countries and in Central and South America, the Ancient and Accepted (Scottish) Rite and the Rectified Scottish Rite were the preferred steps after the Craft.

## EXPANSION IN EUROPE

After the Second World War, England was asked by various European Grand Lodges to assist in establishing the Royal Arch, leading to the erection of Grand Chapters in Finland, the Netherlands, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Italy, Hungary and Estonia. That process continues today with English Chapters meeting by dispensation in Bulgaria, Russia and Macedonia. There are also Grand

## IN 1813 AN INDISSOLUBLE LINK WAS FORGED BY THE ACCEPTANCE OF THE ROYAL ARCH AS AN INTEGRAL PART OF PURE ANCIENT MASONRY

Chapters in Austria, Germany, Italy and Slovenia set up under the American Royal Arch system.

There is an added complication in that not all Grand Chapters work the same ritual. Some have preliminary degrees that are taken between the Craft and the Royal Arch. The closest rituals to the English traditions are the Grand Chapter of Scotland and those in Canada and Australasia – the majority of whose founding Chapters originally worked under either England or Scotland. Scotland works the same Royal Arch ritual as England but requires candidates to take the Mark Degree and the Excellent Mason before they can be exalted into the Royal Arch.

The English and Scottish ritual explains to the candidate how certain major discoveries were made when the Children of Israel returned to Jerusalem from their Babylonish captivity and were clearing the ground for the rebuilding of Solomon's temple under Zerubbabel. The principal officers of English and Scottish Chapters are Zerubbabel the Prince, Haggai the Prophet and Joshua the High Priest.

While the import of the ceremony is the same in Ireland and the US, the discoveries were made at a different time, when the second temple at Jerusalem was being built under King Josiah. Their principal officers are King Josiah, Hilkiah the High Priest and Shaphan the Scribe, although in the US – the Great Republic – the High Priest is the senior of the three. As in Scotland, Irish and American Chapters include the Mark Degree and the Ceremony of Passing the Veils as preliminaries to entry into the Royal Arch.

Add to these differences the unique relationship between the Craft and Royal Arch in England – the bicentenary of which we will be celebrating next year – and you will begin to understand how complex international relations are within the Royal Arch. In all other constitutions the Craft and Royal Arch are entirely separate. The closest is Ireland, where the Grand Secretary is always the Grand Registrar of the Grand Chapter (the equivalent of our Grand Scribe E) and Chapters bear the number and, in very many cases, the name of the lodges to which they are attached.

### ROYAL ARCH ACCEPTANCE

When, in 1813, the indissoluble link was forged by the acceptance of the Royal Arch as an integral part of pure ancient masonry, a number of links were put in place to strengthen the relationship. In particular, a preamble was made to the General Regulations governing the Royal Arch which, in short form, states that anything not specifically covered by the regulations is to be considered as bound by the Book of Constitutions of the Grand Lodge.



The bicentenary of the Royal Arch will be celebrated in England in 2013

While the Grand Chapter is sovereign over the regulation and administration of the Royal Arch, the Craft is paramount and certain aspects remain in its sole remit. This is particularly so in regard to our relations with other constitutions. It is Grand Lodge, on the recommendation of the Board of General Purposes and its External Relations Committee, which grants recognition to other constitutions. The Royal Arch has a voice in such recommendations, as the President of the Committee of General Purposes of Grand Chapter is ex officio a member of the Board and sits on its External Relations Committee.

As recognition has always been a Craft matter, Grand Chapter does not formally recognise or exchange representatives with other Grand Chapters. It is, however, very happy to receive companions from, and to allow its members to visit Chapters under any Grand Chapter that draws its membership solely from a Grand Lodge recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England.

With all these differences, a companion wishing to visit a foreign Chapter would be wise to seek advice from the Grand Scribe E's office in advance. ♦



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Ollie Harper of Chalfont St Giles Youth Club's Misunderstood makes an impression

# MOVING TOGETHER

An innovative competition run by Buckinghamshire Freemasons is confronting stereotypes by giving young people the chance to show why they care. **Sophie Radice** reports from the ihelp finals

**T**he atmosphere in Beaconsfield Masonic Centre is buzzing with excitement. Five youth groups from Buckinghamshire have made it into the ihelp finals. Over the afternoon each team will make a presentation to a panel of judges to convince them that they deserve the top prize of £5,000 to fund their community project.

Each team is different. There's Misunderstood, a street dance group who have raised £4,000 to build a youth club. The Leon School team has been making beautiful bird feeders for a local old people's home and 1st Stokenchurch Scout troop has been running respite camping weekends for young carers.

Jan Smith from Leon School explains how much being a finalist means to the competitors: 'Most of our kids have difficulties with learning, and presenting the project to the panel is particularly challenging for them. But being a finalist has been such a boost and the responsibility of putting their case forward has really increased their self-esteem.'

The ihelp project is the brainchild of Buckinghamshire Assistant Provincial Grand



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## ‘THERE WERE SO MANY NEGATIVE ARTICLES ABOUT THE BEHAVIOUR OF YOUTHS AND IT JUST SEEMED SO UNHELPFUL’



The ihelp judges have the difficult task of choosing a winner



Misunderstood mascot Baby Boo follows the lead of his instructor

Master Mike Stimson and ihelp’s president Eugene Matthias. Three years ago, the two Freemasons found themselves talking over a pint about the mismatch between the young people they knew and the poor image the press gave them.

‘There were so many negative articles about the behaviour of youths and it just seemed so unhelpful. We thought about how great it would be if there was a *Britain’s Got Talent*-type contest to showcase the good things that young people do for their community,’ says Mike. The idea fitted in well with initiatives set up in 2006 by the then Provincial Grand Master Ray Reed to promote the work that Freemasons do in the community, as well as talk more freely and openly about their fraternity.

### TURNING AN IDEA INTO IHELP

With approval from Ray and Deputy Provincial Grand Master Clifford Drake, Mike and Eugene worked together in conjunction with Provincial Information Officer John Poulter and Chris Coombs to roll ihelp out across the Province. ‘We thought up

the slogan “Turn Hoodies into Goodies” and reached out to Scouts, Girl Guides, Air Cadets, Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme participants, youth clubs, church groups and schools. The response was amazing,’ remembers Eugene.

Mike explains how the ihelp idea fitted in with the concept of promoting Freemasonry within the community. ‘We already had a big display explaining the Craft, which goes round the local fêtes and community events. So ihelp was the next step,’ he explains. ‘We wanted ihelp to be different. We wanted to encourage youngsters to be the leaders of tomorrow and the successful projects were those led by the kids themselves, whether they’d been running for a while or just got off the ground. Overall, we wanted to ensure that each project embodied our values of friendship, decency and charity. That’s the modern way of explaining brotherly love, relief and truth.’

With the ihelp team constantly being asked to give talks about the project, there has been a great deal of interest in ihelp from local authorities,



## ‘WE WANTED TO ENSURE THAT EACH PROJECT EMBODIED OUR VALUES OF FRIENDSHIP, DECENCY AND CHARITY’



1st Stokenchurch Scouts celebrate their £5,000 win

Gordon Robertson, Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire, and his wife, Fran, enjoy the show



district councils and local businesses. Freemasons in other counties are now considering taking up the competition and there has been support from the Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, who visited Buckinghamshire in the summer of 2010 to see Freemasonry in the Community projects.

Promoted around the Province through town and village shows, the ihelp project is now in the fabric of Freemasonry in Buckinghamshire. It was through these shows that John made contact with Sir David Jason, who agreed to back the scheme.

### COMPETITIVE CAMARADERIE


Back at the competition, the teams are waiting to make their presentations. Each team is cheered when they go to present in front of the panel and when they come back there is a feeling of real camaraderie rather than rivalry. In the hall where the presentations are being made, the judges do their best to put the young contestants at ease. One of the judges, Clifford, is asked to be part of the Misunderstood dance troop and he rises to the

occasion. Donning a large gold chain and a backwards cap, he shows himself to be surprisingly good at following the street dance routine.

With all the presentations making convincing cases for why they should win, the judges have a particularly hard job this year in deciding who should take first prize. In the end it goes to the 1st Stokenchurch Scouts, whose presentation, although perhaps lower key than some of the others, proves to be such a worthy cause that the judges felt they could best benefit from the top prize. Leon School and their temple-like bird feeders get the second prize of £1,000.

After a long day with a lot of laughter and some tears, each team comes away smiling with a generous cheque in their hands. As Emily and Chloe from the 4th Taplow and Hitcham Guides, who raised money to take children with severe joint problems skating, enthusiastically explain: ‘We got so much out of coming here today and being runners-up. It was a great experience learning how to speak to an audience and present our case. We loved it!’

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*"The Ecocamel was really impressive and I've trialled a few aerated shower heads before, so I can honestly say that it is one of the best, 10/10."*

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Mr. T. G. General Manager, The Days Inn Hotel, Hyde Park

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Shown (l to r): Richard and Diana Hone, Hugh and Laura Chapman, Tim Pearce Higgins, Peter Lowndes, Carola and Rodney Wolverson, Margaret Pearce Higgins, Alistair Townsend and David Cuckow

## RAISING THE BAR IN CAMBRIDGESHIRE

The twenty-seventh annual Festival for The Freemasons' Grand Charity was held in September at Queens' College, Cambridge, under the presidency of Rodney Wolverson, Provincial Grand Master of Cambridgeshire. Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes was in attendance, to acknowledge the impressive £1,283,164 raised by Freemasons in Cambridgeshire.

Grand Charity President Richard Hone was thrilled with the generosity shown,

remarking: 'It has been an honour to attend this wonderful event in Cambridge, showcasing the culmination of this festival on behalf of the Grand Charity. The total amount raised is truly inspirational, especially considering the many economic pressures of recent times. Thank you to all those who worked so hard to raise these funds, we will ensure they are put to good use helping people in need.'

## THANKS TO ROGER FREEMAN

Retiring this month, Roger Freeman is returning home to Cornwall after five years managing the Masonic Relief Grants team at the Grand Charity office in Freemasons' Hall, London. Roger has been an influential force within the team, providing information and expertise gained during a career in the Civil Service spanning 40 years.

Roger's role as an area manager in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) provided him with knowledge that proved invaluable when he became Provincial Grand Almoner in Cornwall, a position he held from 1992-2007. He brought this same



Roger Freeman – an influential force

expertise to the Masonic Relief Grants team, playing a crucial role in ensuring that applicants received guidance on available state benefits, in addition to the help available from the central masonic charities. Roger will be missed by everyone at the Grand Charity for his hard work and dedication over the years.

'It has been an honour to work alongside so many Provincial Grand Almoners, assisting them in their demanding role, helping thousands of people in need,' said Roger. 'It would not have been possible without support from the Masonic Relief Grants team, all of whom are extremely dedicated. I am certain the team will continue to strengthen, and I wish all the best to everyone at the central masonic charities.'

## Masonic Samaritan Fund



60 Great Queen Street  
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Tel: 020 7404 1550  
Fax: 020 7404 1544  
info@msfund.org.uk  
www.msfund.org.uk

## SUPPORTING INDEPENDENCE

### How the Masonic Samaritan Fund is giving a new lease of life to a Leicester couple...

Sue Jacobs suffers from lymphedema and spinal stenosis, which causes persistent agonising pain and weakness in her lower back. She suffered constant falls getting around her home and underwent major spinal surgery last year to prevent the gradual loss of feeling in her legs. The surgery has hopefully prevented further paralysis but has left her requiring a wheelchair. Her husband Mike's search for help led him to the MSF, who welcomed an application for a wet room, entry ramps and a custom-designed power chair for Sue.

'The support from MSF more than exceeded our expectations and has taken the burden of worry from our minds,' said the Jacobs. The grant has given Sue a new lease of life, as she is now able to navigate her home unaided. 'The wet room has given me my independence back and my power chair allows me to move around freely,' said Sue. Mike is also



Sue is now able to move around her home without help – all thanks to the MSF

delighted. 'It felt like the MSF were bending over backwards to help Sue. We are so very grateful for their assistance and support.'

## FESTIVAL FINALE

The UK's party mood, evident throughout the summer of 2012, continued as the Province of Warwickshire celebrated the finale of their Festival on behalf of the MSF.

Provincial Grand Master David Macey handed over a cheque for £3,159,870 and thanked the members and their families for their generous support. Hugh Stubbs, President of the MSF, encouraged those present to use their new-found awareness to identify others in need of health and care support.

## ENABLING QUALITY OF LIFE

**A new combination drug to help treat the symptoms of Parkinson's disease gave Boo Beazleigh hope that a change was in store for her husband, Brian. When her local Primary Care Trust denied funding, however, Boo turned to the Masonic Samaritan Fund.**

Boo Beazleigh has been providing 24-hour care for her husband, Brian, since 2006 when his mobility and ability to communicate became increasingly impaired as a result of Parkinson's disease. Brian was confined to a wheelchair due to the tremors, slowness of movement and muscular rigidity associated with this painful illness.

The Beazleighs' local Primary Care Trust declined to fund a new combination drug, Duodopa, but members of the Kentish

Round Table Lodge, No. 8685, stepped in and turned to the MSF, who have now been funding the treatment for three years.

'As soon as he started treatment, the improvement in Brian was startling,' says Boo. 'I wheeled him into the hospital for his first treatment and he walked out unaided and caught the train home. It was that dramatic. He was able to articulate himself again, interact with our 10 grandchildren, and I instantly saw an astonishing

improvement to his quality of life. I never dreamed anyone would fund this treatment for us. I am utterly astounded and incredibly thankful to the MSF and everyone who supports them to make their work possible.'

The MSF supports Freemasons, their partners, widows and dependants who have a diagnosed health or care need. For further details please contact the fund or visit [www.msfund.org.uk](http://www.msfund.org.uk).



## Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution



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All smiles from an Essex RMBI home resident

## FLYING HIGH – THE BUTTERFLY KITE MARK

In recognition of their excellent care for people with dementia, five RMBI homes have been awarded the Butterfly Service status kite mark.

The RMBI is committed to making its dementia care service exceptional, and substantial investment in training for staff over the past three years is now benefitting the ever-increasing number of people with the condition who are living in RMBI care homes.

A number of the homes, including the dementia support units at Cornwallis Court in Suffolk, Prince Edward Duke of Kent Court in Essex, Devonshire Court in Leicester, Shannon Court in Hindhead and Albert Edward Prince of Wales Court in Mid Glamorgan, have received the acclaimed Butterfly Service status kite mark, which is nationally recognised and awarded by Dementia Care Matters.

Dementia Care Matters works with care providers to improve the quality of life for those residents living with dementia. They believe that care should focus on people, rather than policies, and this is tested through unannounced visits by trained impartial auditors. The audits are carried out using a qualitative observational tool, and homes that demonstrate exceptional dementia care achieve the Butterfly Service status. The goal is to make sure that all RMBI homes with a specialist dementia support unit work to obtain the award.

To read more about the relationship between the RMBI and Dementia Care Matters, turn to page 50

## A FRIEND IN NEED

**The RMBI needs continuous financial support to carry out its invaluable work.**

The RMBI helps around 400 older Freemasons and their dependants each year, supporting people who are unable to pay full care fees. Whether they have run out of personal savings or receive local authority support that covers only part of the total cost of their care, the RMBI can make up the shortfall, providing charitable support to the value of around £5 million a year.

Most of this amount is received from the funds raised by RMBI festivals, as well as through generous donations from individuals and voluntary groups. This invaluable financial support ensures that they are able to continue helping those in need.

Recent outstanding contributions include the very successful Walk the Province initiative that was set up as part of the East Lancashire 2015 RMBI Festival, which many local masons have

participated in. The festival has raised over £1 million for the RMBI and hopes to exceed this over the coming years.

The Friends of the RMBI is a small group of Freemasons who, for over 30 years, have been raising money specifically for the Good Neighbour Fund, and through their efforts, and the generosity of the fraternity, have raised £565,392 to date. The Fund is used primarily to provide holidays for recipients of a relief grant from The Freemasons' Grand Charity. It can also be used on a discretionary basis to assist those in immediate need.

During his year as President of the Friends of the RMBI, Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Master Gordon Robertson has seen donations to the charity reach a record £50,000. He explained: 'Our role has been to encourage members to organise events and inspire everyone to be as generous as possible. This fantastic amount will enable the fund to continue to help those whose lives have been changed in many ways.'

The Walk the Province initiative finds its way to the riverside





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# FORUM HIGHLIGHTS PROFESSIONALISM

An array of masonic fundraising talent gathered at Freemasons' Hall in October for the 2012 Festival Forum, an annual event organised by the RMTGB on behalf of the four central masonic charities.



Clockwise from top left: Mike Woodcock welcomes delegates to the Festival Forum; much lively discussion took place; more than 50 delegates attended representing over 30 Provinces

The Festival Forum brings managers and directors of current and future festival appeals together. It gives them the opportunity to share ideas and learn about the charities they are raising vital funds for. There was no shortage of experience this year, with delegates attending from over 30 Provinces, having raised almost £60 million between them in support of the four central masonic charities.

RMTGB President, Mike Woodcock, opened the event and introduced representatives from the Provinces of

Cambridgeshire, Leicestershire and Rutland and Worcestershire, who shared their experiences of the most recent festival appeals. David Macey, the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire, gave an address about the impact that his festival has had on his Province.

Forum delegates heard from speakers representing the central masonic charities, including RMTGB Chief Executive, Les Hutchinson. It was heard that festival donations were more important than ever, particularly in view of increasing calls for

charitable support – over 5,000 Freemasons and dependants have received assistance during the past 12 months alone.

Delegates were briefed about the increasing number of services that are available to festival and other masonic fundraisers, which have been developed by the charities in response to the increasingly professional nature of modern fundraising. RMBI President, Willie Shackell, closed the forum by offering a message of thanks to all those who work so hard to support the four charities.

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These two types of aids have some refinements and are on sale under cheap or two-for-one offers.

For a price range see our Consumers Guide

The ADVANCED digital hearing aid

The microchip opened the doors to new techniques to improve hearing. The advanced aid took in sounds and processed them through different channels.

Its aim was to make you hear more clearly. It cut down the volume of unwanted noise, controlled background noise and feedback and whistling. Some use directional microphones, making sounds much more clearer and you could tell where they came from. Of course, there were more changes for the aid to deal with. Modern technology e.g. bluetooth, the mobile phone all brought problems.

For a price range see our Consumers Guide.

The PREMIUM digital hearing aid

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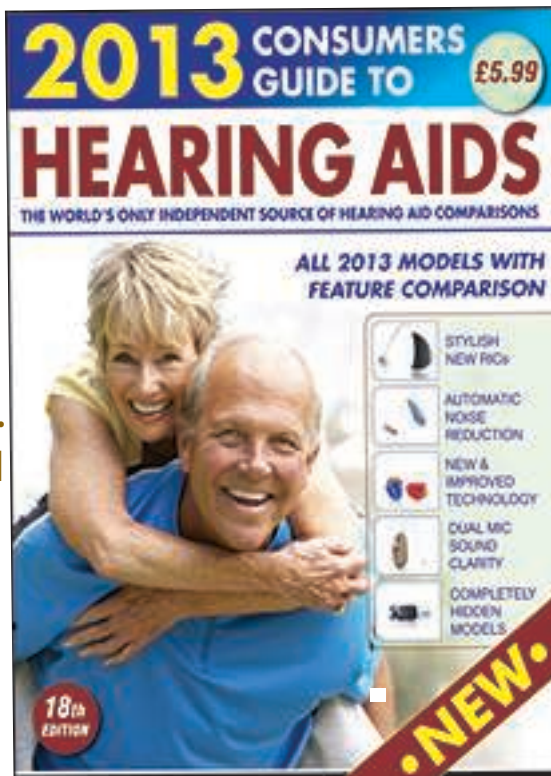
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# WHEN CRAFT BECOMES ART

A new exhibition explores the artistic inspiration that has been drawn from Freemasonry over the centuries

Artists have been associated with Freemasonry since the 18th century. For some, Freemasons and their lodges were a useful source of patronage, while others responded to the values of Freemasonry and its legendary history, incorporating its symbolism and stories in the art they produced. Drawing on the collections of the Library and Museum and with examples from across Europe, an exhibition at Freemasons' Hall will explore those individual artistic responses.

William Hogarth and Alvin Langdon Coburn looked at Freemasonry within their established fields of satirical prints and photography, respectively. Many artistic styles and media across three centuries are featured, including examples of contemporary artists.

Sir James Thornhill, Hogarth's father-in-law and the leading decorative painter of the early 1700s, was a keen Freemason. His artistic work includes the frontispiece for the 1725 engraved list of lodges. It was engraved by John Pine and Thornhill's design shows an architect with a set of building plans that he is showing to a king, clearly a reference to masonic ceremonies.

Alphonse Mucha was a Czech artist whose poster and advertisement designs frequently featured young women in flowing robes, and were typical of the Art Nouveau style of the late 1800s. In the 1920s he designed the jewels for the then newly formed Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia.

The exhibition is open from 25 February 2013 to 20 September 2013 and admission is free

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Above: Thornhill's design and Pine's engraving of the 1725 list of lodges.  
Below: Mucha's jewels designed for the Grand Lodge of Czechoslovakia



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# LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Write to: **The Editor, Freemasonry Today, Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ**  
Email: [editor@ugle.org.uk](mailto:editor@ugle.org.uk)

Letters emailed to the editor should not be sent as attachments. Please include a home address and telephone number. An S.A.E. should accompany any photographs to be returned. The opinions expressed are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Grand Lodge of England.

## DEJA VU

Sir,

It was with a great deal of pleasure and a slight feeling of déjà vu that I read in issue 19 of *Freemasonry Today* about the Pursey brothers attaining the 'three principal' Craft chairs in their lodge. This feat was also achieved by my two brothers and I in Monmouthshire in 2002 when my twin brother became Master, I became Senior Warden and our elder brother became Junior Warden. The next year I progressed to Master and my twin did so the year after, which I hope the Pursey brothers go on to do. My thoughts are very much with Phillip, who as the middle brother in this chain will be in the fairly rare position I found myself in – being installed by one brother and installing another. My brothers and I congratulate the Pursey brothers and wish Chris, Phillip and Robert good luck as they enjoy this family trilogy in Freemasonry.

**Nigel Roberts,**

**Jasper Tudor Lodge, No. 4074  
Newport, Monmouthshire**

Sir,

At the risk of triggering an avalanche of confessions from non-Freemasons seeking absolution for never having joined the Craft, I wish, by writing this letter, to follow the path that Ian W Roberts trod in your autumn issue of *Freemasonry Today* after a friend had shown him an earlier edition. It will not be the first time that I have followed Ian for I too was educated (from the age of eight) at the then Royal Masonic Institution for Boys Junior School. At the age of 12, I progressed to the then more enlighteningly renamed Royal Masonic (Senior) School. I joined Lathom House where Ian was already noted, not only for his bright brain but also for his leadership qualities and all round good nature. I would have wished to say that I modelled myself upon him but I was too occupied with being the homesick



rebel, feeling permanently sorry for myself, ever to get the best from the many opportunities that the school offered.

Like Ian, I have not joined the Freemasons but I am very, very grateful for the ethos of the life and education at Bushey. I left aged 16 in 1947, but had acquired sufficient qualifications there to enter St John's College, York after National Service and became a teacher. I hope that Ian W Roberts has the chance to read this letter. The example he and others like him set, the attention of quite a few caring teachers and the generosity of thousands of Freemasons enabled me eventually to settle down. I even became a head teacher, encouraging many disturbed characters like my own young self, as well as those like Roberts who had sense enough when young to realise what schools are for.

**DPG Kelley, Port St Mary  
Isle of Man**

## PLANTING TREES

Sir,

In answer to the letter in the autumn issue of *Freemasonry Today* regarding

Masonic Fellowships, as Charity Steward for Bolton District many years ago, I too was unhappy that several widows felt let down by some lodges. I asked the Farnworth Masonic Hall management if I could use the hall once or twice a month as a meeting place for widows and retired Freemasons. This was readily agreed. As I was to call it a Masonic Fellowship I contacted the Provincial office for advice and permission. Lord Hewlett, then Provincial Grand Master, readily agreed and told me to 'plant my tree.' I am happy to report that over the last 37 years many branches have been added to that tree. There is now an Association of Masonic Fellowships covering most of England, who meet for a conference once a year and have adopted the tree as their symbol. The co-ordinating Secretary of this association for retired members and widows is Mrs J Forrester, and she will be pleased to hear from anyone interested at the following email address: [jean.62@btinternet.com](mailto:jean.62@btinternet.com).

**Ken Tyler, Farnworth Lodge, No. 5301  
Bolton, East Lancashire**

Sir,

As an erstwhile lodge treasurer, I remember how, at the commencement of the masonic year, we are reminded of our charitable obligations and usually meet them in the form of cash. Having read the delightful article in your 19th edition about life in an RMBI care home, and being a resident myself in one such home, I am writing this in the hope it may encourage the brethren to extend their charity to more practical ways of helping us. For example, buying a book of raffle tickets for the annual friends fête is very generous, but it would be much appreciated if more brethren and their families could come along and see how we are; talk with those who have outlived their relatives; help us to maintain the principles of Freemasonry in our lives and actions. The RMBI was established 170 years ago, and we must

# 'OUR CHARITABLE VIRTUES SHOULD NOT BE OVERSTATED IN PUBLIC. THE CRAFT IS FAR MORE THAN A CHARITY'

Herbert Ewings

not let our standards slip to the minimum required under current legislation.

**Graham Whittle, St Audrey Lodge, No. 2727 Ely, Cambridgeshire**

## VALUING CARE

Sir,

I greatly appreciated your report in the autumn issue on Epilepsy Society. The support that has been given by the Grand Charity is immeasurable. My son, a research scientist, was diagnosed while completing his PhD. However, he went on to research stem cell analysis, cancer of the brain, Alzheimer's, and epilepsy in the US and Germany. Unfortunately, employment in the UK proved difficult, which emphasises a point made in the article. As parents, although aware of occasional seizures we were never totally aware of the traumatic consequences that could happen at any time. It is this concept that the general public are not aware of.

My son passed away in his sleep three years ago from sudden unexpected death from epilepsy (SUDEP). May I take this

opportunity of offering my sincere thanks and gratitude to the generosity of Grand Lodge, individual lodges and members who have supported the charity, which is totally independent of the NHS system and reliant on individual contributions.

**Sydney Pycroft, Breaksea Lodge, No. 5358 Barry, South Wales**

Sir,

In reading the Grand Secretary's column and hearing about the new Core Leaflet it occurred to me that Freemasonry is not just a charitable institution – a view held by the mundane world and many brethren alike. We all know that charity is the distinguishing characteristic of a Freemason's heart and most apply this virtue without vaunting it. It is natural that the Craft should defend itself against the many unfair accusations made against it, but in doing so in public our charitable virtues should not be overstated. The Craft is far more than a charity.

**Herbert Ewings, Septem Lodge, No. 5887 Surbiton, Surrey**

## PRESERVING HISTORY

Sir,

As we prepare to celebrate the 300th Anniversary in 2017 of the founding of The Premier Grand Lodge ('The Moderns') and remember the bicentenary of the Royal Arch next year, we are reminded how important our histories are. Here in South Wales we have just published a book covering over 180 lodges which have existed in our Province since 1724, with photographs of the temples, banners, Past Master jewels and biographies of past Provincial Grand Masters, their deputies and anecdotes from each Lodge, including distinguished former members. It is virtually a history of South Wales for over two hundred and eighty years and not just masonically, running to 736 pages.

I wonder how many other Provinces have undertaken a similar exercise? I know Cornwall have their book which inspired us to follow suit. I should warn that it involves considerable research by lodge secretaries and archivists, as well as those taking on the editing, photographing and distribution, but is well worth the effort.

If any reader is interested in buying a copy – the majority have been snapped up but a few hundred remain and it will never be reprinted – it costs £20 plus £12 for postage and packaging (it is very heavy). It may be obtained from Graham Wilcox (swphb-treasurer@virginmedia.com) or Central Regalia, 23 Great Queen Street (opposite FMH). The profits from the sale will go to local charities.

**Captain Sir Norman Lloyd-Edwards, Cape St Vincent Lodge, No. 8524 Cardiff, South Wales**

## NOT A BOYS' CLUB

Sir,

When I joined Freemasonry little short of half a century ago I was a serving police officer and one of the attractions of the Craft was the respite it provided from the vicissitudes of life that I faced while doing my duty. It was clear that high standards of behaviour were required and practised in our meetings and social engagements.

Freemasonry has to be a progressive science but does it have to embrace the declining moral standards prevalent today? Since I returned to live in England I have occasionally been surprised and dismayed at some of the things I have heard in masonic gatherings. At our festive boards it was always the case that even slightly smutty jokes were most definitely out but there appears to be a creeping practice to allow such things. Even worse, as they warn us on TV nightly, is 'strong language'. While I might reluctantly have to overlook such behaviour elsewhere I do not believe that I am alone in objecting to its use



**A MEETING OF MINDS**

Almost one in 100 people have epilepsy in the UK, yet the condition still carries a social stigma. **Angie King**, communications officer at Epilepsy Society, explains how a century-old relationship with the Freemasons is helping change perceptions

**T**his year marks the 120th birthday of Epilepsy Society, the UK's leading medical charity for people with epilepsy. Over its lifetime, the charity has worked hard to make life better for people with epilepsy. However, without the initial financial support of Freemason John Passmore, Edwards might have been a very different story.

The relationship between Epilepsy Society and the Freemasons goes back to the conception of the charity on 11 April 1892 when a group of doctors with a special interest in epilepsy, including Freemason Walter Bruce Cairnes (1844-1934), assembled in the house of consultant neurologist Thomas Buzzard at 16 Grosvenor Square in London's West End.

Victorian England was a hostile environment for anyone with a rare and incurable condition. At the time, epilepsy was stigmatised, with employment prospects for people with the condition virtually non-existent. Buzzard and his colleagues, including Cairnes, all practised at now the National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, which had been set up to provide a more positive alternative for people with epilepsy.

The first meeting of neurologists passed in resolution and of Epileptics. At the same meeting a letter from Passmore, a Freemason of the Cornish Lodge in London, was produced containing a cheque for £1,000 and a promise to pay more if needed by way of suitable form as a loan.

Stagston Farm in Charlton St Peter, Buckinghamshire, was chosen as the site on which to build the new society and Epilepsy Society's Charlton Centre is still based there today.

**MUCH-NEEDED SUPPORT**  
Fast forward to today and Freemasons are still championing the cause of people with epilepsy, with the Grand Charity generously giving Epilepsy Society more than £80,000 to date. A grant of £30,000 in 2002, paid over three years, helped to fund a helpline for people needing information and emotional support. A further £15,000 in 2009 enabled the charity to set up and run epilepsy information points in hospital outpatient neurology clinics throughout the country.

In April this year, Queen Elizabeth Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire and Derek Wirth, Provincial Grand Secretary, visited Epilepsy Society and met with Epilepsy Society's Head of Genetics, Professor Sanyal Sanyal. He learnt more about the work he is carrying out that is being funded by a £38,000 Grand Charity grant.

The research is aimed at finding factors for epilepsy, such as deletions and duplications in a person's genome, one envisaging to make risk factors for epilepsy. Sometimes, such changes have led to the identification of particular gene alterations in which one or direct cause of the epilepsy. One line of understanding that this brings may prove to be the best way to find new treatments for epilepsy.

**THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN EPILEPSY SOCIETY AND THE FREEMASONS DATES BACK TO 1892**

freemasonstoday.com 57

## 'OURS IS AN ORGANISATION THAT STANDS FOR THE VERY BEST IN HUMAN BEHAVIOUR'

Tom Carr

anywhere in the masonic environment and especially in the presence of ladies.

Ours is not a boys' club, rugby team or stag night where these things can come with the territory – ours is an organisation which stands for the very best in human behaviour and brethren should not have to be reminded of this.

**Tom Carr, Alnwick Lodge, No. 1167 Alnwick, Northumberland**

### RUNNING OUT OF TIME

Sir,

I refer to your article 'Keeping Up Appearances' in the autumn issue. It gave real insight into the interior of Grand Lodge and the way it is being preserved and returned to its original condition. As I read the article I thought how different it is to the building I have attended for the past 45 years. Our temple is almost 200 years old and in a very bad state of repair, with water, roof and ceiling damage and quotations out of our range. The two lodges that meet there have only raised about half the cost for one small roof repair. The cold, unsatisfactory environment means some brethren will not attend and there is a subsequent loss of dues and charities. I fear that without help in five years' time both lodges will cease to exist and the Craft will be left with a derelict building. I am sure we are not alone, yet letting lodges fail is killing the goose that lays the golden egg and we need help before it is too late.

**Peter Brake, Castlemartin Lodge, No. 1748 Pembroke Dock, Pembrokeshire**

Sir,

Many of us have had to find ways of tightening our belts to meet rising prices and cuts to income. Lodge fees and dining must inevitably increase but many brethren and lodges are affected financially. So, let's have a look at our Grand Lodge Officers' duties, e.g. visiting Grand Officers and lecturers and special occasions, which



many see as the life blood of our order. I know that these duties can cost £5,000 per year or more and although they may look able to afford this there are many who could use the help of at least a travelling fund that would keep them and us happy.

**Jim Sholl, Five Heads Lodge, No. 8507 Waterlooville, Hampshire and Isle of Wight**

Sir,

In mid-April, Paul Schulte, a member of a Dutch Lodge, contacted our Lodge Secretary. He had found a Humber Royal Arch Chapter, No. 57, Honours Board in a pub in Holland and that pub was about to be demolished. He asked whether we wanted the board? The major problem was how to get it from Paul's home about 120 miles from Rotterdam back to the Humber Chapter at Hull. The Humber Chapter determined that the board was probably genuine as the date of the final entry on the board coincided with the 1958 sale of the Humber Lodge building in Wellington Lane.

How the board subsequently ended up in a pub in Holland is a mystery; although

it appears to have passed through the hands of an antique dealer based halfway between Rotterdam and Utrecht. Fortunately, Des Hinshelwood, one of the Humber Chapter members, is a fairly regular visitor to Holland, and his Dutch hosts were coming to Hull in the autumn. It was quickly determined that the board was too big to go into their car but other transport options were forestalled when Des was invited to be a guest at Paul's Exaltation in October. Des received a very warm welcome in Zwolle and thoroughly enjoyed the ceremony. The excellent hospitality at the festive board culminated with an exchange of gifts and a photograph of a formal handover of the board.

Help was forthcoming in fitting it onto the roof rack of Des's Frelander for the journey to Hull. The board – now resting at Dagger Lane – is due for handover to the Humber Chapter, No. 57, at its regular convocation on 1 November.

**Des Hinshelwood, Humber Lodge, No. 57 Yorkshire, Kingston upon Hull, North and East Riding**

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# MASONIC EFFECTS



## Why does masonic regalia end up on eBay? Director of Special Projects **John Hamill** puts it down to a lack of family communication and lodge support

**O**ld habits die hard. For many years, for professional reasons, I used to visit antique shops, markets and boot sales to see if there were any masonic items on offer. These days I periodically surf the masonic section of eBay. What was, and still is, available was usually fairly modern standard regalia and jewels mainly for the Craft but occasionally the Royal Arch or other orders. I always found it sad that what was once a brother's treasured possession should end up on a market stall or car boot sale. Thinking about it I came to the conclusion that two main factors were at play. First was the excessive privacy of our members who never discussed their Freemasonry with their wives or families. When they died, unless they had made provision in their wills for the disposal of their regalia, the family were left wondering who it actually belonged to, whether or not it had been on loan and what they should or could do with it.

The lack of communication between family members became very apparent in the 1980s and 1990s when, as part of the openness policy, I took part in many phone-in programmes on national and local radio. On virtually every occasion someone would come on line and say that they had been sorting out the effects of a relative and had discovered a small case containing regalia and medals – what should they do with it?

The second factor was a group who should have been available to advise widows and families: the lodge almoners. It has to be said that for too long the office of almoner was seen in many lodges as a token act or sinecure to keep a Past Master in the team and on the list of officers. Before the introduction of the office of Charity Steward, many almoners believed that their role was to persuade the members to support the masonic charities, the lodge benevolent

fund and the Master's list. There were undoubtedly good almoners who did excellent work in looking after the welfare of their members and the widows and dependants of former members, but the majority tended to be reactive rather than proactive.

### REVERSING THE TREND

When the Craft came under intense scrutiny in the 1980s and 1990s for the first time in generations, we were forced to look at ourselves and our relevance in society. To the dismay of many it became apparent that we were not quite as good as we thought we were in caring for dependants. The central and local masonic charities were doing great work when deserving cases were brought to their attention, but too many were slipping through the net. Almoners were seen as crucial to reversing that situation.

The message soon went out that the office of almoner was not a sinecure but a working office within the lodge. In London and a number of Provinces, seminars and training sessions were introduced, the central masonic charities became involved and began to organise meetings in the Provinces to make almoners aware of what support was available and how they could tap into it. That process culminated in the introduction of the office of Grand Almoner at Metropolitan, Provincial and District level. They act as liaison with the charities and organise the work of lodge almoners within their areas. As so often in Freemasonry, lack of communication was part of the problem. Now there are good lines of communication and support and fewer should slip through the net.

Change takes time to percolate through, but I look forward to the day when I can go on eBay and not be saddened by entry after entry showing what are clearly the masonic effects of a former member. ♦

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