

arena



ISSUE 26

AUTUMN 2016



**The new Metropolitan
Grand Master's Banner**

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A selection of London Events:

RA Advanced
Exploration Seminar
15th November 2016

Welcome Seminar for
New Companions
16th November 2016

Lodge & Chapter
Mentoring Training
Workshops
21st November 2016

Secretaries/Scribes E
Seminar
17th January 2017

Website Workshop
3rd February 2017

RA Representative
Seminars
6th February 2017
3rd May 2017

Secretaries/Scribes E
Seminar
16th May 2017

See Porchway for more
information and details

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FOREWORD

RW Bro Michael Ward Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master

Brethren and Companions,

I trust that you are enjoying the start to the new masonic season. As always, it is full of new hopes and opportunities.

Membership Development will be one of our key priorities for 2016-17. The good news is that there has been an increase in the number of Initiates and Exaltees this past year. The challenge is to continue to attract new members and retain our existing membership. We all have a role to play in this as Individual members, lodges, chapters and Metropolitan Grand Lodge (MetGL) and Grand Chapter (MetGC).

In order to improve the support that MetGL provides to individual members and lodges, we have recently reorganised the Recruitment, Retention, Rejuvenation, Mentoring and Almoner Teams into an integrated Membership Development and Family Welfare Team that is now aligned to the lodges in each Inspectorate. Ideas for membership development and family welfare are being investigated drawing on the experience of London lodges and chapters as well as the Provinces. It is hoped that each lodge and chapter will consider these as part of its own planning.

Turning now to charity, less than two years ago we pledged to raise

£2m to assist with the purchase of a second London Air Ambulance. This Appeal has clearly captured our imagination and through your amazing generosity we have now met our target. On behalf of the MetGM, I would like to congratulate you all for this incredible achievement.

We are now turning our attention to celebrating the Tercentenary of Freemasonry in 2017. There is already a wide range of UGLE and Metropolitan Grand Lodge events planned including a number of family events. Details can be found on Porchway and I encourage you to sign up early to avoid disappointment. As part of our celebrations and to demonstrate our commitment to local London communities, we are aiming to support a variety of small charities. There are so many deserving causes that do not have the visibility of larger charities and where £500 could have an enormous impact. There will also be an opportunity for you to vote on some of these and information on how and when to do this will be circulated shortly.

Another aspect of our 2016-17 charity strategy concerns volunteering. Freemasonry seems to attract people who are naturally generous in giving their time ... there is already an incredible

commitment to volunteering in support of so many worthwhile causes including hospices, scouts, charities for the disabled and schools and many more. The MetGM is keen that in our Tercentenary Year we all try to make a commitment to volunteering if we can make the time available. There may even be an opportunity for some positive PR to illustrate the great work that we do. W Bro Roger Friend is co-ordinating the volunteering programme. If you have any suggestions or questions, he would be delighted to hear from you at r.friend@metgl.com.

The 3rd November was clearly the highlight of the year for those being invested with London Grand Rank or London Rank. It was wonderful to see the Grand Temple so full especially with so many non-masons present. The lunch at the Grand Connaught Rooms was the most well attended lunch at such an investiture so thank you for the support shown for Metropolitan Grand Lodge at this important event.

I hope you will find this latest edition of arena an enjoyable and informative read and I commend it to you.

Michael



EDITORIAL

Dear arena Readers,

London Masons have always been involved in a wide variety of pursuits which reflects the universal nature of our Society. However this edition of arena appears to cover the full span of such activities. We have those who have recently joined our

order through to those celebrating reaching 100 years old, having had a long and distinguished journey through the Craft. We have those throwing themselves out of perfectly serviceable airplanes (why?) through to those who've been recognised by the Queen for their efforts outside of Freemasonry.

We also get to look at the Volunteering initiative of the Metropolitan Grand Master, the Lifelites Charity and a variety of Lodge events. We also get to hear about the Association of Medical, University and Legal Lodges annual festival which doubtlessly will be fascinating to all of us that work in

this great city of ours.

This edition has its regular updates including those from the Connaught and Kent clubs, as well as the sporting news from the Metropolitan sports clubs. As we look forward to getting back into the swing of things I sincerely hope all of you are enjoying your masonry, looking forward to spending time with your little blue/red book and reinvigorating yourselves for a particularly enjoyable Masonic season both in London and beyond.

W. Bro Rod Glyn-Thomas
Deputy Editor, arena

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS OF NEWS OR OTHER ITEMS TO NEWS@METGL.COM

METGL AND METGC USE NEW SOFTWARE TO HELP SECRETARIES AND SCRIBES E

W. Bro Lewis Conquer, LGR, describes the modernisation of the service

Secretaries of Lodges and Scribes E of Chapters are required under Bye-Law 13 of Met Grand Lodge (and Grand Chapter) to send copies of their summonses into the Metropolitan Office. This amounts to more than 6,000 summonses. These are examined by a team of volunteers to ensure that there are no deviations from the appropriate rules and regulations. Ideally the summonses should be reviewed and problems resolved before the meeting happens but sadly this hasn't been the case for some time.

In the early days of Metropolitan Grand Lodge most summonses were printed and distributed by post. But as email became more prevalent, probably 90% or more of summonses now arrive this way, often at the last minute. Unfortunately until recently our process wasn't the quickest.

Searches for software solutions to speed things up led to two pieces of software, 'Santiago' and 'FileDirector'. Now emails

sent to summonses@metgl.com are forwarded to Santiago which removes the attachments and converts them to 'Tagged Image File Format' (.tif) which are then distributed to the Scrutineer's inbox on FileDirector. The Scrutineer can review the summonses, add notes and when completed archive the summons. Those summonses that still arrive in hard copy format are scanned in the Metropolitan Office and sent electronically to the Scrutineer. This is a much quicker process which should enable the ideal situation of reviewing summonses before the meeting occurs to be achieved.

There have been some changes in the Scrutineer team and we are currently looking for some new Scrutineers in order to provide this valuable service to Secretaries and Scribes E. If you are interested contact the author at summons@metgl.com.



W. Bro Lewis Conquer, LGR

OXFORD & CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LODGE NO. 1118 CELEBRATES ITS 150TH

W. Bro Phil Elder reflects on a special evening in a special setting.

The Oxford & Cambridge University Lodge formed in 1866, was originally called the University Lodge. At an emergency meeting held at Cambridge Masonic Hall, on Saturday 2nd July 2016 it celebrated its sesquicentenary.

The Lodge was opened in due form by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Paul Engeham, AGSwdB, who welcomed the Brethren and received the Honourable Grand Master of Romania, RW Bro Mircea Gheordunescu; the Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, RW Bro James Hilditch, and the Provincial Grand Master of Cambridgeshire, RW Bro William Dastur, prior to receiving the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, RW Bro Simon Duckworth OBE, DL, PJGW.

The Lodge usually meets at Duke Street, St. James, London, but for this occasion the Worshipful Master read out a

dispensation that he had received permitting the change of location to Cambridge.

A Candidate was initiated in exemplary fashion by the Worshipful Master and his Officers and included the use of a poniard two feet or more in length that caused some surprise to the Candidate when brought to his attention at the appropriate time.

W. Bro David Lloyd-Owen, LGR, presented a lecture entitled 'An Updated History of the Oxford & Cambridge University Lodge' which provided a fascinating history of the Lodge through its many high and one or two low points through the years, culminating in the fine condition the Lodge finds itself in today.

The meeting finished with the presentation of a cheque from the Worshipful Master to the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master for £10,000 in aid of the

London Air Ambulance Appeal. The Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master spoke movingly of his association with the Lodge and of the vital work the London Air Ambulances undertake.

The Lodge was closed in perfect harmony after which the Brethren retired to Queens' College to a sumptuous Festive Board at which the Worshipful Master introduced three Brothers who had been present at the Lodge's centenary celebrations some fifty years ago. The responses included that of the Provincial Grand Master of Romania who reflected on the international aspect of our fraternity and the hardship that some of our Brothers have to endure for their commitment to the Craft. After a fabulous solo rendition of The Entered Apprentice's Song and The Parting Song, the evening concluded with the traditional Tyler's Toast.



THE MEN AT THE TOP:

CHRIS BURGESS

*W. Bro Stan Marut interviews
W. Bro Chris Burgess MetGIInsp*

Masonic Career

- 1986 Initiated into May Fair Lodge No 8284
- 1990 Exalted into Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft Chapter No 3790
- 1995 WM May Fair Lodge No 8294
- 1998 First Principal Royal Naval Anti -Aircraft Chapter No 3790 and Joined Stationer's Company School Lodge No 7460
- 2001 Appointed LGR and installed WM Stationers Company School Lodge No 7460
- 2001 Founder of Clerkenwell Chapter of First Principals No 9628
- 2002 Joined Clerkenwell Lodge of Installed Masters No 9628
- 2003 Invested Metropolitan Grand Steward and joined Guild of Freemen Chapter No 3525
- 2005 Founder and WM Metropolitan Grand Stewards Lodge No 9817
- 2005 LGCR
- 2006 Appointed SLGR and Installed First Principal Clerkenwell Chapter of Installed First Principals No 9628
- 2007 VO (Craft) then SVO (Craft)
- 2007 Invested Metropolitan Grand Steward (Royal Arch) and AGStdB (Craft)
- 2008 Founder Metropolitan Grand Stewards Chapter No 9817
- 2010 SLGCR
- 2010 VO (Royal Arch)
- 2013 PGStdB (Royal Arch)
- 2015 MetGIInsp (Craft and Royal Arch)
- 2016 Invested PSGD (Craft) and PAGSoj (Royal Arch)



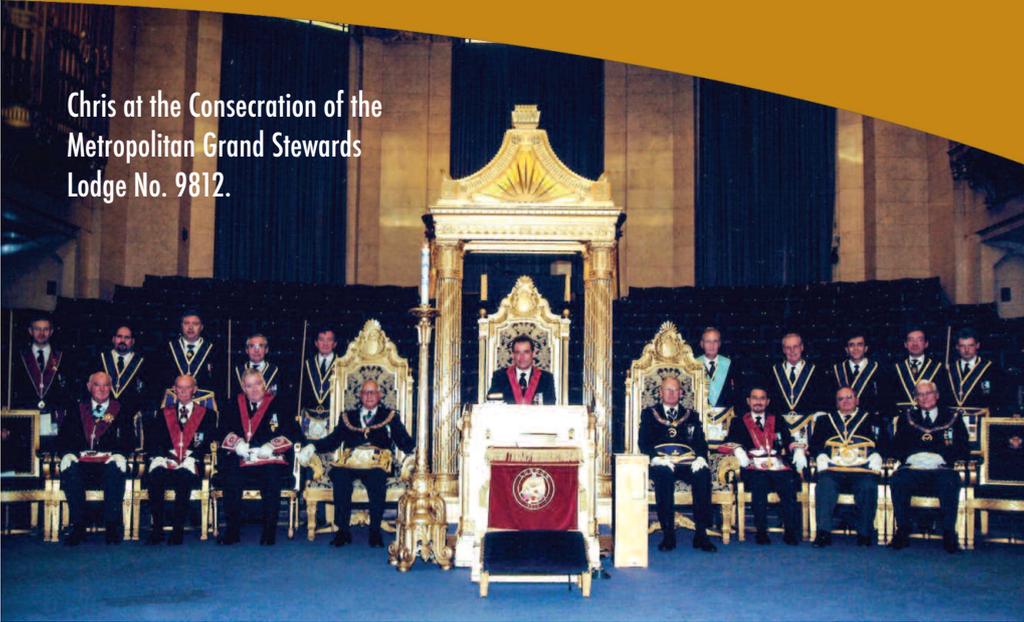
Chris around the time of his Initiation.

Often in life choices are made on our behalf which an older generation of freemasons may remember in relation to the jobs that we did when we first left school. Our parents were guilty in this respect possibly thinking they were acting on our best interests by pointing us a certain way. It was thus that Chris Burgess found himself a pageboy at Claridge's at the tender age of 15. His father, Alf Burgess, worked close by as Cashier for Mark Grand Lodge in the old Mark Masons Hall (situated in Upper Brook Street near Grosvenor Square) and Chris believes there may have been a masonic link that led to that initial interview.

Chris was the youngest of his class so he still had a few weeks to go before he could start a regular job. His wage at Claridge's was £4 per week plus tips which in his first year amounted to £1,000 which was duly deposited at

the bank. In 1968, £1,000 per annum was a substantial salary but being a pageboy was not a job destined for longevity, because as the boys' voices broke, became lankier and started to sprout stubble there would be the new batch of 15 year olds ready to take over. Alternative positions as Hall Porter's Assistant were offered in the Hotel but after 3 years Chris thought it time to move on and worked as a post boy for Swan Hellenic, a major travel company specialising in tours of historical or cultural interest aimed at the upper end of the cruise market. This he did for a short time and when he reached eighteen, a friend informed him that there were jobs with Haringey Borough Council for building workers at a rate of £18 per hour, with a promise that this would increase to £23 per hour very soon. Chris applied and was taken on and it would

Chris at the Consecration of the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Lodge No. 9812.



be this move that would influence his career and generate qualifications that would determine the course of his working life. This was in 1972.

Chris settled into his new routines with the London Borough of Haringey (LBH) in the maintenance department with wages which must have seemed a King's ransom in those days. He had already started to consider foreign travel, which was to become a part of a wanderlust that continued throughout his life. As a ten year old he would buy a London Transport Red Rover bus ticket and travel extensively on the bus network; as far as he could in one day for the cheap price of a ticket. In 1972 he was persuaded to enlist in the Territorial Army with a friend and joined the 6/7th (V) Battalion The Queens Regiment based in Muswell Hill, North London, but after two years he decided that the soldier's life, even as volunteer, was not for him and politely resigned. He worked diligently for the LBH and developed his skills as Carpenter's Assistant and then as fully fledged Carpenter. In the meantime he had met and dated Jeannette who, as fate would have it, was born in the same maternity home as him in Muswell Hill.

Masonry soon caught up with the young Chris and aged thirty two he was initiated by his father, Alf, together with his brother Alan, into the Mayfair Lodge No 8294 on the 28th May 1986. He recalls the first lodge of instruction that he was expected to attend not having any notion of what to expect. His secretive father had told him

nothing. The Preceptor, W. Bro Tony Simpson, who has been a friend ever since, gave these words of advice, "Son, it's a way of life. You'll either like it or you won't". It must have been daunting for the young Chris, but after he understood what was expected of him he knuckled down and did his best.

By 1988 Chris moved on from his Haringey job and became self-employed and started to build a new home for his family under the auspices of the self-build programme governed by PELAN (Partnership Experiment in Local Authority Works). This ostensibly meant that individuals were able to buy a share in a development and self-build their new homes which they were expected to commit a minimum number of hours a week. Once the development was completed the individuals would purchase their plot from the company set up for the development who in turn would repay the bank. As with things in life it went pear-shaped for some of the participants. Chris managed to rescue the development and finish it off using specialist extra labour and hiring the necessary machinery. No doubt his prowess as carpenter would have come in to the fore.

After completing the self-build Chris had to find new work and applied to the Tottenham College of Technology for a possible position as Lecturer in Building. After a day of interviews, he was able to demonstrate that he was suitably qualified in a practical sense to teach younger men the necessary skills. This he undertook within the

Construction and Engineering Department. However, it did mean that he would have to gain a teaching qualification which was undertaken at the Middlesex University and, amongst other qualifications; he gained a Certificate in Education. He would, in 1988, gain a Licentiate'ship in the City and Guilds Institute in London as well being made a Fellow of the Institute of Carpenters in 2003. Chris was already a freemason during this time and it was noticeable, he says, that there was an "anti-culture" towards freemasons within the College, probably based on the book by Stephen Knight – The Brotherhood – which at the time was current and fairly provocative. Chris remarks that he now knows that many former colleagues at the College belong to a variety of Lodges, indeed, enough to form another new Lodge!

Meanwhile the Craft was now a prominent part of his life and in March 1990 he was exalted into the Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft Chapter No 3790. He became Master of his mother lodge in 1995. Having attended the Stationer's Company's School he joined its Lodge No 7460 in 1998 becoming its Master in 2001. Also in 1988 he became First Principal in the Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft Chapter No 3790. Chris gained promotions in both Craft and Chapter and served as Worshipful Master in all the Lodges of which he was a member of as well as First Principal in his Chapters. He was a founder member of the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Lodge No 9817, Metropolitan Grand Stewards

Chapter No 9817 and also Clerkenwell Chapter of First Principals No 9628. He did the round as visiting officer/senior visiting officer in the Craft and was visiting officer in the Royal Arch. In 2015 Chris became Metropolitan Grand Inspector in the Craft in March followed by the same appointment in the Royal Arch a month later.

Chris has had an interesting and fulfilling work life and has been able to indulge his passion for travel even more so once he became self-employed in 2004. He became affectionately known as "Judith Chalmers" amongst his work contemporaries because of his urge to travel which made him more or less part time in his occupational pursuits. Fortunately Jeannette also likes to travel. Chris has a son, Lewis, who works as gas and heating engineer and a daughter Rebecca. Lewis would be an apt name for a new initiate into one of his father's Lodges but so far has shown little inclination to become a freemason. Rebecca has a career in the Lettings/Estate Agents business.

He believes that London masonry is missing out on the culture of Lodges of Instruction, unlike the Brethren in the Provinces, and that it should not solely be for ritual but should also be based on members,

especially the newer ones, having the opportunity to feel comfortable within their new masonic colleagues. It should create new bonds of friendship which spill over into family life. Chris also feels that LOI should be a platform for advising etiquette at Festive Board. Jeanette is supportive of his freemasonry, her father having been a mason. Chris's father Alf is still active and has been responsible for the formation of Craft and Mark Lodges in the Balearic Islands of Spain where he now lives. Indeed, he eagerly awaits the centenary celebrations of the Royal Naval Anti-Aircraft Chapter No 3790 in London in 2021 when he himself will be 100 and plans to take the First Principal's Chair. Chris's brother remains a Master Mason and a member of Mayfair Lodge No 8284 but hectic work commitments do not allow him to progress at the moment. Sadly, Chris's mother Jill died in the Masonic care home of Prince Michael of Kent Court in Watford aged 82. Although times have moved on and kids no longer leave school at 15, Chris believes that in his case it equipped him for life and gave him the self-confidence to successfully pursue his roles both at work and in his freemasonry and of that we can be certain.



Chris in Madagascar.



Chris at a Ladies Festival.



Chris in China.



Chris with Lewis in South Africa.

Five things you didn't know about Chris Burgess:

- 1) Played "football" with a rolled up ball of paper with the late King Constantine of Greece whilst at Claridge's not knowing who he was.
- 2) Came second in the Great Britain National Speed Skating Championships in 1970 for under sixteens.
- 3) Is a Black Belt in Tae Kwon Do.
- 4) Nearly died from secondary drowning snorkelling whilst on a Caribbean Cruise.
- 5) Armchair Arsenal supporter.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON ORGAN CONCERT



Jane Parker-Smith
International Concert Organist

5pm, 14th December 2016

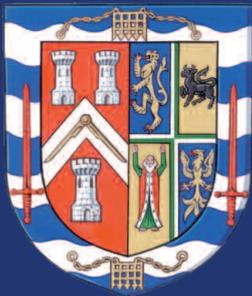


FREE ADMISSION
(BY TICKET ONLY)



Tickets available at:

<http://bit.do/TempleConcertDec2016>



WANTED: Assistant Communications Specialists (x4)

The Metropolitan Communications Team is looking for four brethren to assist as volunteer Assistant Communications Officers. Your work will be very wide ranging and interesting and is likely to include the drafting and production of Press releases and the reporting of internal/external events. The ability to spot a good story as well as the usual IT abilities, access to a telephone and flexibility will definitely be an advantage! We understand the pressures of volunteering on home life and guarantee that the time involved can be specifically tailored to your availability but is not likely to be less than one evening a month when averaged out.

If interested, please contact d.robertsjones@metgl.com with a brief introductory note and a contact telephone number.

THE CEREMONY OF THE EMPTY CHAIR

*December 15, 2016 17:00, Temple No.10, Freemasons Hall,
Great Queen Street, London*



A team of thespians from Suffolk Provincial Grand Steward Lodge No.9215, under the guidance of the Suffolk Provincial Orator, will present this event. The ceremony or tableau originated from an American presentation which had its origins from the end of their civil war. Freemasonry was a great healer and many of the ex-combatants from both sides met together in fellowship in Lodge. The

Empty Chair symbolised the fallen not as Unionists or Confederates but as brothers. That version has been performed since 1875 across the United States of America. This version has now been completely re-written and lengthened to make it suitable for the English constitution and to commemorate our own fallen, particularly from the First World War. The resultant 30 minute ceremony is

both moving and poignant. The evening is hosted by Bloomsbury Rifles Lodge No.2362 and there is a dinner afterward. Tickets available as follows:

Meeting and Festive Board at
Imperial Hotel £40.00

Meeting Only £8.00

CONTACT DETAILS
ianedmed@talktalk.net
www.bloomsburyrifles.org

CONNAUGHT CLUB UPDATE

W.Bro Lewis Geo Clement describes the recent events of our youngest brethren

So that's it. The summer has been sand gone.

The members of the Connaught Club welcome back our fellow friends in Metropolitan Grand Lodge. No doubt you are now returned from your sojourns to the sun-bleached strips of St Tropez, Santorini and Skegness, to rediscover dusty rosettes, moth bitten gloves and a very busy calendar.

We reported in the last copy of Arena that we were set to have a busy summer. Well, never a truer word was uttered. At the June meeting of the Club's Lodge (Burgoyne, 902) we welcomed W.Bro Mark Smith who gave an absolutely fascinating talk on the history of the Victoria Cross. Each member perched tensely on the edge of their seats as Mark regaled the stories of the men and women who performed the most courageous acts under enemy fire. And I thought Masons who argued over the last bread roll were scary. In August we set off on

our bicycles for a Masonic Tour of London where we explored the history of Freemasonry by visiting the many sites of importance, and we also enjoyed a family picnic in Lincoln's Inn Fields. Couple this with our usual monthly drinks on the first Friday of every month, which have been particularly well attended over the summer, we have been busy bees indeed.

By the time this goes to print the Club will have already supported our friend and member, W.Bro Anthony Muirhead's, Bushey Park Lodge No. 2381 who are hosting a 19th Century Third Degree ceremony demonstration. A detailed report of which is available at www.connaughtclub.org from mid-September.

On the 6th October the club welcomed a host of senior officers of Metropolitan Grand lodge who addressed on the roles of past masters of a lodge. The Lecture "Beyond the Chair" and

provided detailed explanation and practical advice for Freemasons who have graduated from the Master's chair into roles such as Lodge Secretary, Charity Steward, Almoner etc. The lecture was held at Mumbai Square and was followed by our first ever 'Curry night'.

In November we will be enjoying another first for the Club – a Masonic Secret Cinema evening. For those readers who may not know, a "secret cinema" is where you do not know the film you are about to watch, or what surprises may pop out from the audience. The Club has handpicked a film with particular Masonic interest and will be tailoring the evening to include many surprises to provide a truly immersive experience!

Our final event before Christmas is the infamous Connaught Club Christmas Dinner. I have jitters just thinking about it. This year, on the 9th December, donned in our finest, we will be enjoying our annual feast and singalong at the East India Club, St James's Square. Last year we hosted the Club's then Patron, RW Bro Russell Race, PMetGM, and gave him a fitting send off to say thank for all that he has done to create and promote the Club during his tenure as Metropolitan Grand Master. This year we welcome our new Patron, RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder, Metropolitan Grand Master, and trust that every member of the Club will come and welcome our new Patron with the Club's usual gusto.

In the New Year we will be arranging our annual [Worshipful] Master Mind pub quiz, a seminar on the Order of the Secret Monitor, and a trip to our Masonic friends in South Wales. As well as our usual informal gatherings, Club Lodge meetings and visits to members' lodges.

We will shortly be introducing our new charity initiative – 'Bros 4 Jo's' - where we will be looking to provide our mothers, sisters and friends as much support as possible in their quest to eradicate cervical cancer. We





are currently in the process of planning a Tercentenary Party and Fundraiser and will keep readers of **arena** informed as our plans progress. In the interim, for more information on this charity please visit: www.jostrust.org.uk. The Club is happy to report to our Metropolitan family that we are in

good health. We have continued to watch members of the Club grow into active officers in Metropolitan Grand Lodge, and to see our members play a significant role in the ritual and governance of their respective Lodges. We are thankful for the support of the brethren of MetGL, and trust that you will

continue to engage with us, refer new initiates to us, and support our events in the new Masonic season as you have done so in the past. For more information on the Club or to get in touch with us, please visit www.connaughtclub.org.



LONDON TERCENTENARY EVENTS 2017

- 1) Sunday Night Variety Show
London Palladium - Date TBC
- 2) Open House
Freemasons' Hall - Saturday 24th June
- 3) Metropolitan Tercentenary Banquet
Guildhall - Thursday 29th June
- 4) Metropolitan Summer Party
Queensmere - Saturday 8th July
- 5) Special Meeting of Grand Lodge
Royal Albert Hall - Thursday 31st October
- 6) Lord Mayor's show and lunch
Barts - Saturday 11th November



TWO LONDON MASONS HONOURED IN QUEEN'S 90TH BIRTHDAY HONOURS

London Masons have their community work recognised in a very special way



W. Bro John Singh, LGR.



W. Bro David Tudor, PJGD.

This year marks Her Majesty the Queen's 90th Birthday and the Honours list published on 10th June 2016 is therefore a special one. Two London masons who have made a real difference to their local communities have been recognised in the list.

W. Bro John Singh LGR a member of Saint Alfege Lodge no. 4637 and W. Bro David Tudor PJGD a member of Old Foresters No. 7726 have both been made Members of the Order of the British Empire. Less than five hundred people across the United Kingdom were honoured in this way.

Bro John is a regular marathon runner whose work to improve the lives of children and young people and their families stretches back for more than forty years having first become involved as a volunteer in the mid 1970s. For the last nineteen years John has been working with Havering Council where he heads up a team which engages teenagers whose antisocial behaviour is severely risking their futures.

The married father from Hutton who has four children said: "I was shocked, honoured and truly humbled, if you could feel all three at the same time, of being given this special award to celebrate the Queens 90th birthday. You always read about these awards being given to others, however, you never think it would happen to you."

During his time within Havering, Bro John has also volunteered his services as a Havering Volunteer, Management Committee Member of a Pupil Referral Unit (children who cannot maintain full time education due to behaviour difficulties) as well as supporting various other charities in Havering such as 'Add Up' (working with children with Attention Deficit Hyperactive Disorder), 'Motorvations' (alternative education for teenagers),

Little Haven's Children Hospice and St. Francis' Hospice.

Bro John also volunteers his time and is currently a Governor of Newtons Junior School in Rainham and King Edward VI Grammar School in Chelmsford. He has also volunteered his services for the Army Cadets Outreach Project which involves a Pan London brief of engaging young people who are on the edge of offending, through structured activities, setting clear boundaries and mentoring within a safe environment.

Bro John has completed seven London Marathons and more than sixty half marathons, plus numerous fun runs for various charities such as Little Haven Children's Hospice, British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Nurses and GOSH including dressing up as 'Santa' and completing 'Santathon' on behalf of SFH & Harefield Hospital in their yearly runs.

W. Bro. David Tudor PJGD, a Grand Steward and a retired headmaster and Grandfather, was honoured for his services to charity and the community in Shrewsbury. As Master of the Shrewsbury Drapers' Company, he raised £3 million to build new almshouses and he also raised nearly £3 million to repair the 100ft tower and dome of St. Chad's Church. Through his work with 'Signal' (a charity that helps the deaf and those hard of hearing) he raised £300,000 for a new hub in Shrewsbury.

Recognising those he has worked closely with over many years he said: "It has been a team effort. I might have been the leader of the team but there have been a team of people supporting the projects who have worked very hard." He recently retired as Chairman of the Shropshire Society in London after six years.



arena TAKES A LOOK AT THE METROPOLITAN GRAND MASTER'S NEW BANNER



fig 2

Brethren may be curious about the front cover photograph of a heraldic banner and wish to know what it has to do with London. The answer, probably apparent from the photographs that accompany this article is that the banner is the personal standard of the Metropolitan Grand Master, RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder. Those who attend the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge will have been used to seeing the personal banner of the Pro-Grand Master being carried alongside the banner of UGLE in the processions in and out of the Grand Temple and to their position on either side of the Grand Master's throne. Hitherto, in Metropolitan Grand Lodge we have only seen the Metropolitan banner itself in our processions at the London Rank and London Grand Rank investiture on the 3rd November we saw this personal banner process into the Grand Temple alongside that of Metropolitan Grand Lodge.

When Sir Michael was knighted he was granted Arms from the College

of Arms, the design of which was worked out by Bro Michael and the Windsor Herald to be a visual heraldic representation of Bro Michael. The full achievement (see fig 2) is the Crest at the top (the dragon with Abacus) with the Arms (the decorated shield) together with a Latin motto at the base. Thus the red cross in the Arms and the dragon in the Crest remind us that he was the first Chairman of Finance and then Chairman of Policy and Resources of the City of London Corporation. The eagle shows action and alertness, and the cock courage and perseverance. The former is holding a needle to symbolise the Needlemakers, one of the livery companies of which Bro Michael has been Master, and the latter a sword, as he is a fencer, the sword also appearing in the City's own Arms. The other livery company of which he has been Master, the Tallow Chandlers, is represented in the Crest by the celestial crown and his profession as a chartered accountant by the abacus. The motto DILIGENS BENOVOLENS SAPIENS

means "With diligence, love and understanding".

The full description or 'blazon', written in the ancient heraldic jargon of the College is as follows:

Arms: Quarterly Argent and Or a Cross Gules between in the Argent a Cock Sable combed jellopped beaked legged and holding in the dexter foot a Sword erect Gules and in the Or an Eagle displayed Sable beaked legged and holding in the feet a Needle fesswise point to the dexter Gules

Crest: Upon a Helm with a Wreath Argent and Gules A demi Dragon wings Sable langued and gorged with a Celestial Crown Or holding between the claws an Abacus Gules wires Azure beads Argent

Mantled Gules lined Argent



ST. BARNABAS LODGE NO. 3771 CENTENARY MEETING, SATURDAY 2ND JULY, 2016



Our Centenary Master, W.Bro David Mingo PAGDC and VV.Bro Cdr Ian Wellesley-Harding, RN, PGSwdB, AMetGM.



WM - W.Bro David Mingo PAGDC, SW - Bro Bruce Nichol, JW - W.Bro Steve Shipp, PPJGD(West Kent).



All the Brethren and Guests.

W.Bro Charles Bishenden, LGR reports on a special anniversary.

In the midst of this summer's moving commemorations of the Battle of the Somme, St. Barnabas Lodge No. 3771 met at Freemasons' Hall to celebrate their Centenary. The Lodge was consecrated two days before the battle and we can only guess at what was going through the minds of the Founders but in a time of great fear, they must have thought that consecrating a Lodge of Freemasons was a 'force of good', as it is to this day.

Over the years the Lodge has thrived on its family ties and now has a membership of over seventy, a third of the membership being from Spain. In fact, during our Centenary year our Centenary Master, W.Bro David Mingo PAGDC, was very proud to initiate his grandson Recharad Rawoo, under the age of 21 years.

This brings us to our Centenary meeting which came upon us after much preparation and a great sense of excitement (and relief) for the committee; not least for our Secretary W.Bro Michael White, SLGR, who had worked tirelessly during the lead up in coordinating all aspects of the event and also because we would be marking the event with the Lodge's first Banner dedication.

The lodge was opened by our hugely

experienced Centenary Master in fine fashion and we were honoured to welcome a delegation of distinguished Brethren led by Guest of Honour VV Bro Cdr Ian Wellesley-Harding, RN, PGSwdB, AMetGM; accompanied by W.Bro The Reverend John Hughes MBE, Met Assistant Grand Chaplain; and ably escorted by W.Bro Robert Lakic, Metropolitan Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies; W.Bro John Wood, PJGD Met Deputy Grand Secretary; and Met Grand Stewards W.Bro Luis Hui, LGR and W.Bro Michael Chapman, LGR.

We were also pleased to enjoy the company of The RW Bro David Hagger, PGM for Leicestershire and Rutland; W.Bro Christopher Burgess, PSGD, MetGIns; W.Bro Simon White, PJGD MetGIns; our SVO W.Bro Norman Strong, SLGR; our VO W.Bro David McNeill, SLGR; and our retiring VO W.Bro Alan Brumwell, SLGR.

The Centenary Warrant was presented and our Secretary stood to deliver a well written and moving precis of the Lodge's History. The Centenary Jewels were displayed and the Lodge's freshly sewn Centenary Banner was processed around the Lodge to Vaughan Williams' hymn 'All people on Earth do dwell', otherwise

known as 'Old Hundredth' and the Metropolitan Assistant Grand Chaplain delivered a fascinating, engaging and memorable oration on the foundations of the Lodge and the story of St. Barnabas.

The Master presented Bro. Wellesley-Harding with a cheque for £10,000 for the MMC and the LAA appeal.

The Lodge was closed and all retired to the Crowne Hall of The New Connaught Rooms for a Champagne reception, a fantastic feast and plenty of Rioja (a gift from our family from Spain). Fine speeches and toasts ensued and some very fond memories were relived with a hearty cheer for the Assistant Metropolitan Grand Master.

100 years ago, 2 days before the battle, it seems our founder brethren were intent for us to consider our sons. While I'm unsure of what they would think of our excess at the Festive Board, I hope they would be proud of our extended family and the thriving direction the Lodge is moving in.

'To you from failing hands we throw the torch; be yours to hold it high, as poppies grow'...we hope St. Barnabas Lodge will live to see another 100 years.

TERRY THE EAGLE'S CHARITY SKYDIVE

W.Bro Terry Anderson, LGR, describes this jump in memory of his brother



On Friday 29th July 2016, I undertook a charity skydive for the benefit of the London Air Ambulance and Bliss, a charity that helps premature and unwell children at birth, as well as, supporting the affected families at such an uncertain time.

The seed was sown during a

conversation with the London Air Ambulance team after the Lord Mayor's show. 'Terry the Eagle' was destined to make an appearance!

My partner Kim and I travelled up to Beccles from our home in Southend on the day before. On the day itself I boarded and the plane took about twenty minutes to arrive at 13,000ft. Then the door opened and, one by one, we jumped. It was

now my turn, strapped tightly to Rick, my instructor. Three taps on my shoulder from Rick then 'Geronimo' and, off with my left, taking one of the longest steps a Mason could take! "Whoa, what a rush!" I thought as we proceeded to freefall to 6,000ft, smiling with thumbs up (as you do) ably captured for posterity by James our photographer.

At one stage, I was 'everywhere and nowhere,' enveloped in silence, a moment of sheer peace and tranquillity. Then, all too quickly, the main parachute was deployed and I helped guide us - safely and gracefully - back to terra firma.

I'd like to thank all those Brethren, family and friends who have already donated to the 'Just Giving' page (e2058b.everydayhero.com/uk/terry) for these charities. Any arena readers who would like to donate to these very worthwhile causes - please feel free to do so.

Editor's Note: Terry was born a twin but unfortunately, his brother did not survive "God rest his soul" and it was in his memory that Bro. Terry dedicated this jump.





THE NEW "KENT ROOM" OPENS

Although our correspondent A.W. Bro Corrado Canonici gave us a sneak preview of the new "Three Centuries of English Freemasonry" exhibition in the Library and Museum of Freemasonry's new gallery, he was not aware that the lodge room adjacent to the exhibition (previously Lodge Room 23) was to be re-named the Kent Room, as a tribute to the MW, the Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent. The exhibition celebrates the tercentenary of the first Grand Lodge and looks forward to 2017, which will of course be

the fiftieth year that the Duke of Kent has held the office of Grand Master.

The Duke had a private tour of the new exhibition space and was joined by staff members and other Museum-connected well wishers for a brief reception afterwards on the 29th September. Again, it is worth following Bro. Corrado's advice and seeing this extremely interesting exhibition, next to the Drawing Room on the first floor of Freemasons' Hall.

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A LONG AWAITED ELECTRONIC REVOLUTION HAS STARTED

W. Bro Capt. David Swain, RN, PJGD, Metropolitan Grand Secretary, gives us a unique look at a few of the technological changes coming out of the MetGL Office

There is a common perception that Freemasonry is administered to this day with quill pens and heavy-bound ledgers. While that is far from the truth, there is no doubt that advances in technology appear to have receded away and left us somewhat behind. Be that as it may, we have had quite a few technological successes recently and plan for many more. This will improve workloads not only for us in the Office but also for Lodge Secretaries and Scribes E.

The administration of English Freemasonry relies heavily on a central database, Adelphi, which holds the complete masonic record of every mason initiated under the United Grand Lodge of England. The previous version was a rather dated system which needed modernisation. While it was an excellent receptacle for storing data it was not very good in being able to extract that data for analysis or use elsewhere. A new all-singing, all-dancing Adelphi 2 was launched last August which, in time, will enable every Lodge Secretary and Scribe E to register and use his own Lodge or Chapter data direct at source rather than relying, as now, on local duplicate spreadsheets and/or databases.

An Information Management Task

Force (IMTF) has been established for London. The IMTF has been busy tackling the myriad of forms and information requests that dog a Secretary or Scribe E's life. The Initiation Confirmation Returns and Exaltation Confirmation Returns have been revamped. The Lodge Annual Information Sheet (LAIS) and for Chapters the CAIS now only need to be completed once per year, at the same time as the Installation Return. It has been designed to minimise asking for information that we already hold and, further, as Adelphi 2 develops we hope to incorporate an increasing element of data pre-population. UGLE are engaged in a project to examine all forms and data entry with the plan to use electronic submission or completion online for Annual Returns, Installation returns and Registration of new members.

This year we also introduced Digital Signatures for all Honours nomination forms. A digital signature is relatively easy to generate and only has to be done once; after that you can use it as often as you like in a whole array of different documents. Step-by-step guidance is available on Porchway but anyone who gets really stuck can contact our friendly volunteer who will

walk you through the process. The advantage of using digital signatures is they allow forms to be sent by email and thus avoid the time delays and high cost of using regular postal services. We also now have new software in the Office that identifies summonses sent to summons@metgl.com which passes them directly into our electronic document management system, giving us a searchable, electronic record of all summonses. No more photocopying.

Porchway is also due for a refresh and a new information management system is now under development, codenamed Rosetta, which is hoped will come into service sometime in 2017.

Finally, I hope by now that you will all have had an opportunity to explore our updated external website at www.londonmasons.org. This is our public face, which has had a make-over to ensure that it remains fresh, modern-looking and relevant. Please help us keep it fresh by sending any items worthy of being published to news@metgl.com and the team will consider it for posting.

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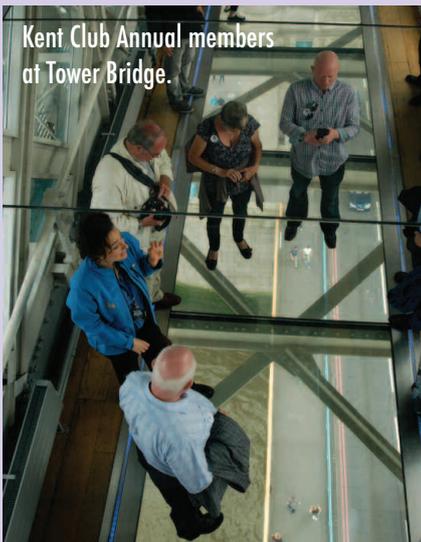
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KENT CLUB UPDATE

Bro. Richard Criddle describes events over the summer



Kent Club Annual Dinner



Kent Club Annual members at Tower Bridge.

The Kent Club provides a forum for London-based Freemasons over the age of 35 to socialise and to develop masonically through networking, learning and visiting. Since the last issue of *arena*, the Club has held 2 events: a tour of Tower Bridge and our Annual Dinner.

On 11 June the Kent Club, families and friends had a real treat when they visited Tower Bridge. Not only did we get the opportunity to see the Bridge's towers, high-level walkways with their spectacular new glass floors and the Engine Room, in which the original Victorian

machinery was on display but, because the trip coincided with the Queen's 90th birthday celebrations, we also got a ring-side seat of the some of the

activities to mark that fantastic occasion. We were able to see the *Gloriana* (the Queen's barge), *Havengore* (the vessel famous for carrying Sir Winston Churchill's coffin on the day of his funeral), and some of the Dunkirk little ships. We then watched as the bridge lifted in salute, with accompanying artillery fire from the banks of the Thames, followed by a fly-past including the Red Arrows. We were definitely in the right place at the right time.

Later that month we held our flagship event, our Annual Dinner, at St Bart's Hospital. This is an amazing venue that never ceases to impress, the staircase (the walls of which are decorated with frescos by Hogarth) and the stunning Great Hall particularly standing out. While we dined superbly, we were entertained by a string trio from the Royal College of Music. This year, The Metropolitan Grand Master, RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder was our Guest of Honour. During his speech he outlined his vision of London Masonry stressing the importance of having fun, involving our families more and ensuring the right balance between masonic duties and family/work commitments. He explained that he tries to limit himself to one masonic meeting a

week and that, by increasing the number of Metropolitan Grand Inspectors and Deputy Metropolitan Grand Masters, his intention is to spread the work across as many people as possible in order to strike the right balance between masonic and family commitments.

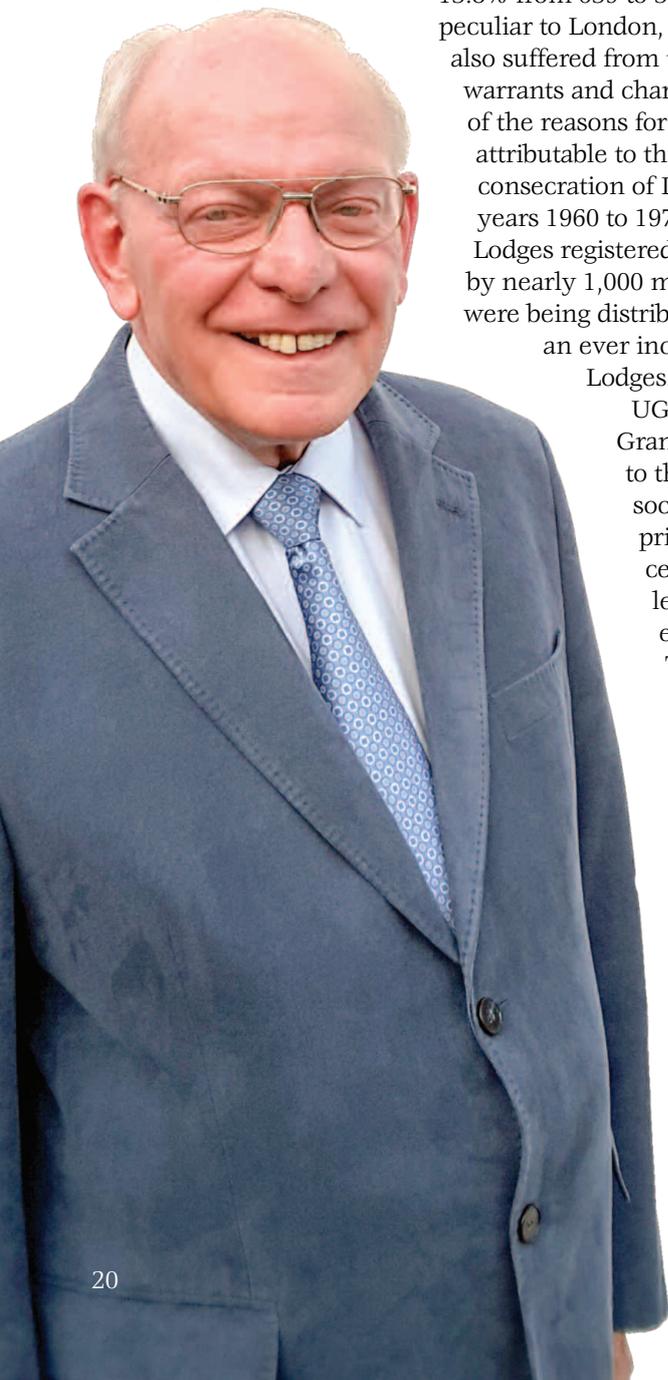
Looking ahead, on 5 November the Kent Club returns to the Thames, this time for a tour of HMS Belfast. We've also got an exclusive tour of Big Ben, or rather the Elizabeth Tower to use its official name being organized for Club members as well as a museum tour of the Battle of the Somme. The details of these events are still being finalised, so keep an eye on the website and the Facebook group for more information.

As the Club's membership continues to grow, we have started to look at what the Club can do in the area of charity. One of the graduates of the Connaught Club, Seirios Kokkalis, has joined the Committee as Charity Steward and to kick-start his term of office, Seirios is running the Greek Marathon to raise money for the Metropolitan Masonic Charity. The run will be on 13 November, and is being held in Athens. Please support Seirios so he can achieve his target of £1,200 by donating via e2058b.everydayhero.com/uk/kent-club.

If you have any thoughts or suggestions on what more we can be doing for our 100+ members, please do get in touch via info@kentclub.org. Otherwise, details of all our activities and how to join the Kent Club can be found on our website (www.kentclub.org) or by contacting membership@kentclub.org.

RECRUITMENT & RETENTION

*W. Bro
Richard
Greenhill
PSGD lets us
know how this
important
work is going.*



My first year as Project Leader for Recruitment & Retention, two elements of R3M, has been satisfying and demanding for me and the R&R teams in which there are over fifty in each team. Every member of both teams is highly trained and dedicated to recruiting and retaining men who have been attracted to Freemasonry and pass a searching assessment process. This is happening at a time when, over the ten years 2006 to 2015, the number of London Craft Lodges reduced by 15.7% from 1532 to 1292 and London Royal Arch Chapters reduced by 13.8% from 639 to 551. Closures are not peculiar to London, as the Provinces have also suffered from the surrender of warrants and charters. It may be that one of the reasons for the closures is attributable to the surge in the consecration of Lodges during the 20 years 1960 to 1979 when the number of Lodges registered with UGLE increased by nearly 1,000 meaning that initiates were being distributed more thinly over an ever increasing number of Lodges.

UGLE and Metropolitan Grand Lodge have faced up to the challenge of changing social patterns and priorities of life in the 21st century. At the national level, the Winter 2015 edition of Freemasonry Today published UGLE articles on 'The Future of Freemasonry' and 'Masonic Guidance' together with an easy to read leaflet 'Our Strategy 2015-2020'. Following an extensive consultation exercise, the Membership Focus Group (MFG) launched a strategy paper aimed at securing the long-term future of Freemasonry. The response of

Metropolitan Grand Lodge was to establish the Membership Development Group (MDG) of which I am a member under the leadership of VW Bro Philip Summers, AMetGM, to whom I report on R&R. The MDG has a direct impact on the aims and objectives of the Recruitment team and indirectly on the work of the Retention team.

The Recruitment team of which W. Bro Peter Sage PAGDC is the Deputy Leader and a member of the MDG, deal with the hundreds of enquiries we receive each year from unsponsored men who profess an interest in becoming Freemasons. Each enquirer is asked to complete a personal details form and then, if appropriate, they are invited to be interviewed by two of the Recruitment Team's highly trained interviewers. If that proves successful, the enquirer is introduced to a Lodge the features of which appear to be a good match with the characteristics of the potential candidate for initiation. It is then down to the Lodge members to determine whether or not to propose and second him. Unsponsored candidates typically account for about 15% of initiations in London each year.

The Retention team of which W. Bro Clive Temple-Court PGStdB is the Deputy Leader, receives the exit forms submitted by Secretaries and Scribes E and then contacts the mason who has resigned, or whose membership has ceased for financial reasons under Rule 148 or 181. Telephone contact with leavers is undertaken by one of the highly trained Contact Officers who will listen and respond according to what he hears; he will express thanks to a Brother or Companion who has resigned because of age, health, travel or cost. In some cases, the Contact Officer is able to help a brother to continue in membership by joining another Lodge/Chapter. There are an increasing number of instances where it appears that the pressures of work and family life make it difficult for younger members to play an active part in the life of their Lodges/Chapters. This makes the roles of Mentors, Almoners, Secretaries and Treasurers vital in developing our 2020 vision of London Masonry.

CHARITY GETS HELP FROM METROPOLITAN MASONIC CHARITY

Through the magic of technology, Lifelites gives life-limited and disabled children in hospices opportunities they wouldn't otherwise have.



The charity Lifelites is a masonic initiative providing specialist technologies for over 9,000 terminally ill and disabled babies, children and young people using every child's hospice service across the British Isles - including the six in the London area. These packages enable the children to play, to be creative, control something for themselves and communicate, often for the first time. Their conditions mean that many of the children have limited mobility and reduced dexterity and some cannot communicate in traditional ways. The generous support of the Metropolitan Masonic Charity has really helped Lifelites to push the boundaries and donate incredible equipment for children using such hospices.

Lifelites' specialist iPad packages have applications that give children the opportunity to join in with creative activities like music and painting. The 'Magic Carpet' gives them experiences they wouldn't otherwise have to fly a plane, splash in the sea or play football with their brothers and sisters and 'Eyegaze', an eye tracking device, means they can tell their carers what they would like to eat or drink and can even, for the first time, tell their parents that they love them. It means that these children can stay involved with the world around them for as long as it is possible. In addition to this and very

importantly, the charity ensures that the equipment they provide is portable so that even if a child cannot get out of bed, the equipment can be taken to them, even into their own homes.

Thanks to Lifelites, the Living Films club at Richard House Children's Hospice in London has been able to use film making as a focus for fun and creative activities for the children and their brothers and sisters. Jordan, 19, has Duchenne Muscular Dystrophy (DMD) and attends the weekly club. When it comes to movies and film making, Jordan comes alive. He is passionate about film and over the years has produced and starred in a number of short features. Even though Jordan uses a wheelchair and has limited dexterity, he can use all the specially adapted equipment to develop his film editing skills and produce his masterpieces. When Jordan is in his creative element there's no stopping him. Shahina Haque, Family Support Services Manager, said:

"This is where Jordan can break all boundaries and go beyond limitations; it gives him a chance to escape from reality to where the impossible is made possible. Our young people would not be able to achieve such a high quality of work if we did not have the equipment donated by Lifelites."

Olivia uses Christopher's Shooting

Star Chase's Guildford based hospice. Her mum Sarah said:

"Lifelites has given my daughter access to some fantastic technology at Christopher's. She is 9 years old and has cerebral palsy, epilepsy and visual impairment so watching her use the equipment by herself is so amazing. She uses Eyegaze to look at different animals and I can follow what she's doing and tell her to find things. She finds the lights and sounds of the Magic Carpet really relaxing, and she smiles and laughs at the fish moving around. It makes me feel really proud of her when I watch her use the programs because there's not a huge amount for children with Olivia's condition to do, and this is just so interactive for her. Her brother Charlie likes to help her use Lifelites' special technologies and often plays with it beside her, so it's been great bonding for them too."

Three year old Rio was born prematurely with multiple conditions including Down's Syndrome, chronic lung disease, partial deafness and two holes in his heart. Rio regularly visits a children's hospice and really enjoys playing on the Lifelites' mobile Magic Carpet. Rio's mum, Nicola, says: "Rio loves the Magic Carpet. He can't walk yet so he bum-shuffles and rolls over and interacts with the features on the mat. He plays on it for long periods of time and loves everything about it - from splatting the beetles, waving

his hands over and moving the water and playing with the fish. This Magic Carpet is a great sensory tool for Rio. It relaxes him when he lies on the carpet moving his arms and legs and hears the sound of the water. The number of different programs means he never gets bored. I can see how excited he gets and it makes me feel so happy watching him play. ”

Seven year old Samuel has cerebral palsy. Samuel's mum Stephanie says he loves the magical technology



Lifelites has provided: “Technology is really important for Samuel because he's so clever it's a way for him to express himself. He likes to make decisions and be independent and the Lifelites' equipment helps him do this. With his limited mobility, Samuel likes to use the Eyegaze because he doesn't need his hands to control it – just his eyes. At the moment it's just games but he will be able to use it a lot more for communication. As much as it makes me sad that he can't talk, it makes me proud and happy that he can use the equipment and achieve something. It also means that Samuel is able to interact with his friends independently which is important for him and us. Do I dream that he will be able to talk tomorrow? Of course I do and I still hope - but it'll always be difficult for him, so I know this technology is the future for Samuel.”

Lifelites does not just provide the equipment and walk away: they consult with the staff and children to find out what would be most useful for them; they constantly research the best solutions and make hospice

staff aware of what is possible; they raise the funds to provide it; they install it; they train the hospice staff how to use it; they commit to maintaining it in good order and aim to replace it with the latest package of special equipment every four years. The hospices themselves simply could not afford to do what Lifelites does. Without Lifelites these children, for whom every second counts, would miss out on the opportunities which new technology can bring. Because Lifelites look after the equipment, hospice staff can concentrate on doing what they do best, caring for the children and their families.

Lifelites' Chief Executive Simone Enefer-Doy said: “Lifelites could not do what we do for children in London hospices without the generous support of London Freemasons. It is testament to the huge charitable support Freemasons provide and we are proud to be an example of the good work of Freemasons in the Community.”

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LONDON WHEELCHAIR RUGBY CLUB RECEIVES £4,000 FROM THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC CHARITY

W. Bro. Stuart Sherriff went to find out more...

Wheelchair rugby, also known affectionately as murderball due to its aggressive full contact nature, is a sport like no other. It was developed in Canada in the 1970's for people with disabilities that include some loss of function in at least three limbs. Often as a result of spinal injury, but those with multiple amputations and other medical conditions also qualify. The sport developed internationally in the early 1980's and is now practiced by over 25 countries and is a summer Paralympic sport.

London Wheelchair Rugby Club supports those wishing to learn the sport and develop as athletes. They provide suitable levels of competition for a diverse range of players. The domestic league boasts the Stoke Mandeville Storm and the Kent Crusaders, just two of 16 teams in the UK. Internationally, the London Lions has won the Europa Cup five times and provided several team

members that took part in the London Paralympics 2012 and six members (out of a total of 12) at the Rio Paralympics 2016.

The aggressive nature of the sport means that the chairs need to be both light and robust (one of the simplest ways of taking the ball from an opponent is to physically knock him out their chair!). The Metropolitan Masonic Charity provided a wheelchair for the Rio Paralympics, but it will last for many more years after the event has finished.

London Wheelchair Rugby Club is based at the Aspire National Training Centre, Wood Lane, Stanmore, HA7 4AP and they are always keen to meet potential members; if you know anyone that might be interested in joining to put them in touch with Dave Goddard on 07702 136 131 or email londonwrc@gmail.com.



CONTACT THE ELDERLY



W. Bro Joseph Le Roi-Smith, LGR reports...

Who would want to be elderly, alone, uncared for? Many in our society feel just that. Research shows that the lifespan of those living alone is shorter than those who are in regular contact with people. Enter this lovely charity, established in 1965. With 136 active groups throughout the Metropolitan area, it aims to ensure that isolated over 75s have something special to look forward to, each month, on a Sunday.

Its volunteers collect their elderly "guests" from their homes and take them to a host's house to meet up with the rest of their group and enjoy conversation, good company

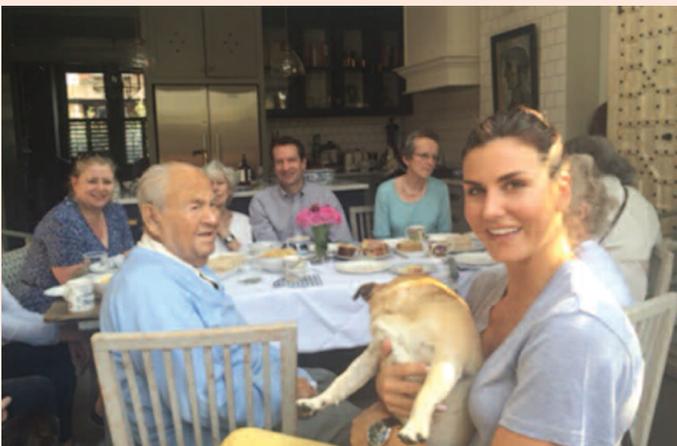
and plenty of tea and cakes. The social contact makes a huge difference to people who spend long periods on their own.

Developing a new group costs over £5,000 to cover a Development Officer's time, volunteer training and general administration but, once launched, a group costs just £715 a year to run. Volunteers act as drivers, coordinators or hosts and are matched to those on the charity's waiting lists. Recent group launches include Bromley and Richmond including 97 year old Andreas who fought and was wounded at Dunkirk. The £2,500 donated in May by the MMC covered about half the cost of

setting up one of these new groups.

In arena 25, The Right Worshipful Metropolitan Grand Master said that London has chosen to focus on "Volunteering" as the theme for our charitable contribution to the tercentenary celebrations. So, would you consider giving your time to this worthy cause? Remember, a few hours of your time, a few cakes and sandwiches, and a little conversation can make a huge difference to the lives of so many.

"Funders such as yourselves play a key role in our capacity to support existing groups and to launch new ones."





MMC DONATION TO THE CITY MUSIC FOUNDATION

arena met with Dr. Clare Taylor (Lady Gifford), the MD of the City Music Foundation to discuss how they will spend the recent £20,000 donation from the Metropolitan Masonic Charity.

The City Music Foundation's (CMF) mission is to turn exceptional musical talent into professional success by equipping outstanding musicians with the tools, skills, experience and networks they need to build and sustain rewarding careers. Many musicians have spent years training but often have little experience of a 'real life' career (managing finances; marketing; pricing; contracts) and what they need to do to have a successful 'business' as a practical musician. CMF's experience, knowledge and connections within the music industry, City institutions and the corporate world allow it to provide

unique and unrivalled support and education.

Through an annual competitive audition CMF selects classical soloists and chamber ensembles, as well as jazz, folk and world musicians. These CMF artists then follow a two-year programme of artistic and business mentoring as well as professional development workshops. These cover a range of topics: tax and pensions; legal input on copyright and contracts; presentation and interview skills; promotion and publicity strategies and much more. CMF also helps with promotional tools, such as websites, photos, recordings and videos, as well

as live performance opportunities.

Finally, the musicians are fully supported by CMF in devising, organising, funding and promoting a bespoke musical project to help them develop a unique selling point.

This MMC donation is the amount it costs CMF to support one soloist or ensemble over the two year CMF Artist Programme. Supporting talented musicians not only secures their employment, but helps to ensure the future of quality music in the UK and beyond. Lodges who wish to follow the MCC in supporting this work can contact Clare on clare.taylor@citymusicfoundation.org



“A STROKE OF GENIUS”

Bro. Adrian Fox visited the charity 'InterAct Stroke Support' to see how a £3,000 grant from the MMC has helped

A stroke can affect anyone at any age and is the second biggest killer in the UK. Medical treatment can be helped by the arts, using professional actors to deliver interactive book readings to stroke survivors. Stimulation through reading and conversation can help the brain find new neural pathways, a phenomenon known as adoptive re-wiring. The book readings improve mood and motivation when patients are struggling.

Nirjay Mahindra, Chief Executive, introduced a former patient, Alpha, who had been left for dead after a serious bike accident in 2012. Alpha recalls at his first reading he smiled for the first time in weeks. A stroke can lead to depression and memory loss and Alpha has fought both and gone on to pursue his favourite sport – sailing. Alpha describes the charity as a “stroke of genius” and says watch out for him at the next Olympics!

InterAct reads at twenty hospitals and fifty stroke clubs. Nirjay says that first visit can be tricky as often the patient will say “I don't want to listen to an actor”. For instance, having been previously shunned on a stroke ward, he wore a football top on his next visit, provoking the patients to talk. With one to one situations the actors will tailor the reading towards their background and interests.

The charity has strong links with St Thomas' Hospital, which is where they first started. The staff say “we know when the charity is in, as all the ward patients are smiling and laughing”. Professor Anthony Rudd, National Clinical Director for Stroke NHS England said “I hope that in due course the benefits of the InterAct service become recognised as being an essential component of a stroke service.”



METROPOLITAN MASONIC CHARITY DONATES £5,000 FOR LAMBETH SUMMER CAMPS

W. Bro Edward Lloyd-Jones tells of a special community initiative in London

Born out of a need to improve relationships between communities and the police, the first Lambeth Summer Camp project was set up in 1988. Originally intended as a one-off event, nearly thirty years on, it is still going strong.

John Street, who has been involved in the projects since the early days, explains that, "The police Borough Commander back then, to defuse tension, asked his officers to run a project. It was such a great success that the community wanted it to continue. The camps have grown and have been run every year since." Despite retiring from the police in 2002 John is still heavily involved as the project administrator.

Two camps were run this year, in Stockwell and West Norwood, where youth group provision is limited during the Summer. Almost 300 children aged nine to 16 who live or attend school in the London Borough of Lambeth took part.

The young people experience a range of activities, such as drama, dance, music and arts, as well as sports, like badminton, table tennis, football and fencing. There are also a staggering 100 off-site trips. These range from canoeing to sailing, from museum visits to rock climbing, and from ice skating to seaside trips. There are also activities that might help the young participants decide on a future career: beauty therapy, photography, videography and cooking to name but a few.

Whilst the children have the

opportunity to try activities they might not otherwise experience, the camps also aim to instil good citizenship and divert the participants, through awareness, from crime, gangs and anti-social behaviour. These themes run through many of the activities included in the programme.

Throughout the year John and the police teams work hard to plan, prepare for each of the activities of the Summer programme, and raise the necessary funds. The camps are run jointly by police, other staff and volunteers, including young adults who benefited from attending the camps when younger.

The project has annual running costs of about £80,000 and is totally dependent on donations and grants. With the money that the project is able to raise each child pays no more than £30 a week, depending on their circumstances, to attend the four-week, packed programme. Needless to say, the £5,000 donation that the Metropolitan Masonic Charity gave this year has made a big difference. John says "We are very grateful for the generous support that London Freemasons have given for at least 12 years. This generosity has had a positive impact on the lives of several thousand disadvantaged young people who live in Lambeth's deprived area. It also leaves them with fond memories that will remain with them for years to come."



YOUR CHARITY SUPPORTS INNOVATIVE THEATRE WORK FOR STUDENTS

Bro. Noel Haynes takes a look at Mousetrap Theatre Projects which received £3,000 from MMC.



Credit: Alex Rumford

SEN school students explore the workshops.



Credit: Alex Rumford

SEN school students take part in TheatreJourneys.



Credit: Alex Rumford

SEN school students meet the cast at *The Railway Children*.

Between March and August 2016, Mousetrap Theatre Projects ran *Theatrejourneys* projects for 549 students from 33 Special Educational Needs and hospital schools in Greater London. Mousetrap is dedicated to introducing young people to London's outstanding theatre, particularly those who would not otherwise have the opportunity.

Theatrejourneys is tailored specifically for students who experience learning difficulties, and often a range of other disorders and disabilities. The project offers a theatre trip at hugely subsidised rates, as little as £8 for a top West End ticket, and this visit is often supported by an optional in-school drama workshop, to help the young people get the most out of what is for many a very new experience. *Theatrejourneys* directly benefits pupils' learning experiences in school. Teachers can re-use the catchphrases, messages and themes of the show in future lessons, and the students learn important life and social skills simply by being taken out into a public place and using public transport.

In addition, 98 pupils from 6 schools took part in more in-depth *Explore* projects. *Explore* projects give the young people a chance to have a go at making some theatre of their own. Expert practitioners delivered a series of 4 or 5 bespoke weekly workshops in each school, using acting, movement, music and sensory activities to get every student expressing themselves, no matter what their learning level. To finish, the students performed their work in front of an invited audience of friends and family. Many of the teachers and parents never expected to see their children calmly sitting through a West End musical, or reciting a memorised script, but *theatrejourneys* and *Explore* projects showed just how much these young people can enjoy and achieve!

"All our students made exceptional progress and each had their own journey. One in particular improved his speaking and communication and his family was able to see how good a performer he is. This was amazing, as they had underestimated his abilities."

–Teacher, Charlton Park Academy

"One of the children came to the school in September and doesn't speak at all- this project has been fantastic for his self-esteem. He's really built himself up; his mum was in the audience and she was so pleased."

–Teacher, Riverside School

Schools for Children with Special Educational Needs are sometimes short of the facilities, funds and specialist staff needed for regular drama provision, so for a lot of students, the Mousetrap project this year was their first ever taste of structured drama activities. Teachers, too, discovered what powerful tools drama and role play are for young people to engage in new activities. Afterwards, Mousetrap equipped the teachers with the learning resources and games used in these projects so the opportunities for dance and performance can carry on for these creative young people for years to come.



MASONS MAKE THEIR MARK AT ST GEORGES HOSPITAL, TOOTING

W.Bro John Little reports on a £4,000 donation by the Metropolitan Masonic Charity

The “New Kit Appeal” run by St George’s Hospital Charity, south west London, was launched to raise £140,000 for various pieces of high tech kit for a variety of medical disciplines.

Chief Executive of the hospital charity, Martyn Willis, said: “We are immensely grateful to the Metropolitan Masons for their gift which will help the charity provide items of equipment that are over and above what the NHS provides. Our role is to identify those special bits of kit that will make life better for patients, and then appeal for funds. The response of the Metropolitan Masons was especially welcome as we had not previously benefited from their charitable support and we thank them most sincerely.”

Such equipment includes foetal endoscopic sets which improve the lung function of a foetus when the diaphragm has failed to form. These are used to insert a small balloon into the windpipe of the unborn baby to improve the lung development. This equipment will enable the hospital to develop their foetal endoscopic surgery programme, which currently undertakes around 50 procedures each year with only one set of equipment.

Prof Baskaran Thilaganathan, said “We are hugely grateful, along with our other colleagues in renal, cardiac and elderly care departments, to benefit from the Metropolitan Masons gift. There are times when charitable support is needed – notably when special items of equipment are selected by the hospital charity in consultation with the specialists and brought to the attention of generous supporters.”

The hospital charity reports that the New Kit Appeal is close to being a complete success – the remaining £20,000 needed is currently being fundraised and the charity is asking potential supporters to make contact via giving@stgeorges.nhs.uk.



LONDON TAXI DRIVERS FUND FOR UNDERPRIVILEGED CHILDREN

W. Bro Don Tidiman describes two wonderful days out

The Grand Charity awarded the London Taxi Driver's Fund for Underprivileged Children, the sum of £5,000. The purpose of this award was to assist the fund in taking Underprivileged Children to the Southend on Sea seaside and also a day out to Woburn Safari Park. Alan Cohen and Raymond Levey, said that the award was divided into two to finance the trips each of which involved over a 100 Taxis.

The Southend trip took place on 13th July, with taxis conveying over 300 deserving children to the seaside. One particular taxi was driven from Florence, Italy to Chingford by Italian Taxi driver Caterina Bellandi to join this special outing, where her colourful taxi and dress both stood out. Caterina does a lot of charity work in Italy driving children with cancer to hospitals.

To make this event possible Sainsbury's

of Chingford allowed them to use their car park, and provided breakfast and bottles of water for the journey. Southend Council set aside their Shorefield Road Car park for the taxis.

The Woburn Safari Park trip took place on the 17th May 2016, when 100 taxi drivers gave up a day's work to collect 200 "special needs" children from schools in North West London and drive them in three separate convoys to the Park where they enjoyed fun packed day. When the convoys all reached the park they were split into two groups half on the road safari and the other half in the park's restaurant and later on swapping around. The road safari allowed the children to see different types of animals in a natural setting, whilst later in the afternoon they all experienced the on foot Safari and enjoyed all the other attractions of the park.



VOLUNTEERING 300

W. Bro Roger Friend, PGStB, describes the Tercentenary Metropolitan Volunteering Programme

The United Grand Lodge of England is fast approaching its 300th anniversary and every Mason is aware of some of the remarkable achievements during its evolution. One of the great secrets of Freemasonry is the work carried out in the wider world as a result of your generosity: disaster relief, a cyber knife, child hospice support, air ambulance, medical and surgical research and lifeboats. You will all be able to add to this remarkable list.

London Freemasons have proved that they can respond very generously to financial appeals for worthwhile causes by digging deep into their own

pockets, which is admirable. However, to celebrate the tercentenary, the Metropolitan Grand Master would like to mark the landmark event by encouraging London Freemasons to become more involved in community and other non Masonic support organisations.

Donating time is just as important as giving financial support. Volunteers can make a huge difference to people and communities, by inspiring them and changing their lives. You could volunteer to help people, communities and causes that matter to you.

It is well known that among the thousands ranged under its banner in

London, many Masons are already very generous with their time. The scale of volunteer work carried out by them is not quantified, but every Mason knows members of his Lodge or Chapter that undertake community commitments.

In an effort to try and gauge the scale and range of activities a short questionnaire is included in this article. It would be helpful if you could complete it and mail it to r.friend@metgl.com.

If you do not currently volunteer but have some free time and would like to consider helping in the community, the local library, the local town hall or



#MetHelpingHands

the internet are good starting points to research the causes and issues that matter to you. Look for a group that deals with issues you feel strongly about. Advice is also likely to be available to you from your family, neighbours, work colleagues and Masonic Brethren. They could outline some of the voluntary work that they do.

There are several considerations you need to take into account. How much time can you devote? How will it fit in with your current commitments and obligations? What is your level of fitness and what would be detrimental to your health? What level of commitment are you able and prepared to undertake? How far are you prepared to travel? What are your skills? How can they be applied and what can you offer? What sort of working environment would suit you: external, for things such as gardening or forestry; indoor, for drama or youth activities; activity, for groups like the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme; or even virtual, for computer based activity; group, for activities that can be carried out with family, neighbours or Lodge members?

It is likely that there will be local community groups that need volunteers, such as Neighbourhood Watch programmes, youth organisations or Samaritans. Your friends and colleagues might be volunteers, so ask them about their activities. When you find a charity, project or other organisation that that fits in with your interests, request an interview, which will give you the opportunity to ensure a match of your skills and their ideals. Plan for it with the same precision you would for a job interview. Be ready to describe your interests, qualifications, experience and background and be prepared to ask about the organisation's aims, successes and future plans.

The Metropolitan Grand Secretary recently made the point in the LGRA quarterly bulletin that youth groups struggle to find sufficient leaders. To emphasis the situation,

the Scout Association currently has 35,000 boys and girls on the waiting list to join. Recruiting volunteer leaders will reduce the waiting list and help young people to prepare for their future. There are many similar youth groups that would benefit from responsible adults to manage their meetings.

In an attempt to quantify and monitor activity, anything advised that is connected to volunteering by London Freemasons will be broadcast through social media. For those of you who are using or working with social media, either through Lodge or Chapter accounts or through personal accounts, Metropolitan Grand Lodge will be using the hashtag #MetHelpingHands to describe, and hopefully popularise, any news concerning individual volunteering efforts brought to its attention. Use of this unique and convenient shorthand will be both easy and helpful. Just by using #MetHelpingHands, readers will know it is part of the Tercentenary Metropolitan Volunteering initiative; a coordinated campaign of Masonic volunteering.

Among many definitions, the Oxford English Dictionary describes a Volunteer as "a person who spontaneously undertakes a task". Volunteering includes not only the service type activities but encompasses blood, plasma or platelet donation and joining the organ donor list. Many people are on the waiting list for kidneys, livers, hearts, whose chances of a transplant will improve with each new committed donor.

A seminar to discuss Trusteeships will be held at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street on January 11, 2017. David Roberts-Jones will help guide those who would like to become trustees of charities. Limited spaces will be available and it is recommended that you book as soon as the announcement is made on Porchway. In the meantime, email r.friend@metgl.com if you would like to register your interest.

Volunteering Questionnaire

Do you volunteer in a community project or organisation? Y/N

If so:

A What is the project?

B What is your role?

C What is your time commitment?

Are other Lodge/Chapter members involved in local activities? Y/N

Would you like help to become involved in local initiatives? Y/N

Name

Lodge/Chapter Name and Number

Email address

Please return this information to r.friend@metgl.com

THE MEN AT THE TOP:

COLIN BARRROW

W. Bro Rod Glyn-Thomas interviews...

Bro Colin, as one of London's newest Inspectors brings a diverse and interesting wealth of experience to the Inspectorate. Three distinct careers in construction, financial services and local politics in London, leading a national charity, plus being a linguist fluent in French and German, pilot, skier, diver and an inveterate traveller, Colin has, by any standards, led a full life. But to fully understand Colin's journey it's important to understand where it all began.

He was born in Hampshire but grew up in Croydon as an only child and demonstrated that he was a

capable pupil and was fortunate enough to win a state assisted place at Dulwich College. This was a huge opportunity for Bro Colin and he quickly realised he really enjoyed learning languages. By the 6th form, Bro Colin was looking for a different challenge and decided to focus on Philosophy. This he very much enjoyed and considered going to Keele University due to their strong Philosophy department. However Cambridge also appealed to him, so Bro Colin took the entrance exam during his gap year and won a place at Clare College, Cambridge. For the rest of the year he worked in the lighting department of a Berlin department store. So if any readers need to order any plugs, sockets or chandeliers in German then they know someone with the requisite language and illumination knowledge!

Leaving Cambridge in 1974 with a first degree in Philosophy and Law Bro Colin started work at Grieveson Grant Stockbrokers. However, his career in stockbroking was short lived. Three months to be exact, as Bro Colin discovered that, however glamorous the City might appear to be, the career path for a stockbroker involved doing pretty much the same work until retirement. Not his thing. So there was a quick change of direction and Bro Colin joined constructors John Brown as a commercial officer specifically looking after construction contracts. This was a role he held for ten years and found hugely enjoyable and intellectually stimulating. Very early on he was trusted to draw up complex contracts for unique business relationships around the world and this gave him a taste for international business.

Bro Colin had kept up with many of his university friends and it was one of these friends who persuaded him into another change in his career path. Essentially the conversation was along the lines of how much he knew about the treasury operations in commodity trading. Bro Colin confessed to not being overly knowledgeable on either subject. His friend was in no way dissuaded and only a few weeks later Bro Colin found himself in New York running the Treasury team of ED&F Man (now known as the Man Group). Essentially spending his time working in what is now known as the secondary risk market, designing tax schemes for ships, and looking for specialised financial trading opportunities "all in all interesting times".

In 1983, Colin set up Man Group's international fund management business, around one of the world's first automated trading systems. He operated from bases in New York, London, Bahrain, Hong Kong, Tokyo and Switzerland where Colin was located for six years. Bro Colin personally took on the task of building out the company which sold this system and the company was soon successful. Ultimately the system provided a significant trading advantage in a number of areas and was quickly recognised as such which led to the orders for it flooding in. This company eventually floated and Bro Colin, appreciating the position and the opportunity this afforded him, chose substantially to reduce his involvement with the company and focus on other projects which intrigued him including politics and charity. He left ED&F Man in 1996 and it was in 1997 he was one of the few Conservative

Masonic Career

- 1996 Initiated into Old Alleynians 4165
- 1999 Exalted into Mount Sinai Chapter No 19
- 2003 Joined British Lodge No 8
- 2009 Appointed Metropolitan Assistant Grand Registrar
- 2009 Worshipful Master British Lodge No 8
- 2009 Elected President of the Board of Grand Stewards for 2009-10
- 2011 Proposed (successfully) the election of HRH the Duke of Kent as Grand Master
- 2012 Appointed PSGD
- 2016 Appointed Met Grand Inspector Craft and PAGSoj in the Royal Arch



Above: The moment of induction as Chevalier de Tastevin.
Right: In Palmer Station, US base in Antarctica with Ana last January 2015.



County Councillors elected for Suffolk. Bro Colin then found himself holding the position of Deputy Party Leader on the council and developed a reputation as an independently minded councillor who could influence both sides of the local political debate in the county at that time. His work in Suffolk brought him to the attention of Conservatives in London who on discovering that Bro Colin was to move to London in order to get his autistic son better treatment, suggested he stand for election as a councillor in Hyde Park.

In 1999 Bro Colin led the 'Improvement and Development Agency' for Local Government and was awarded a CBE as a consequence in 2004. Meanwhile he had joined the Cabinet at Westminster Council, looking after the transport department, including its universally loved parking operation. Later he became Deputy Leader, concentrating on finance and was elected Leader in 2008. This meant that he could set the strategy for the Council. His achievements included raising the educational attainment of the state school children from levels where only 40% got 5 good GCSEs to 71% when he left office in 2012. In the public realm he renewed and beautified Marble Arch and Leicester Square, and made Piccadilly two-way again enlivening that area, all the while keeping Council Tax unchanged.

He also pioneered the cooperation between neighbouring authorities leading Westminster into partnership with Kensington and Hammersmith. Such roles are never free of controversy and Westminster always attracts its fair share, but overall Bro Colin looks back at his term in office

with pride. He retired from this role in 2012.

Bro Colin is married to Ana, a Brazilian, who respects the history, good work and fellowship that Masonry offers, but regards it with some amusement, as she cannot imagine her husband obediently submitting to the rules of such a large and ancient organisation. A view shared by his elder son, who is studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Warwick University.

As far as his interests are concerned Bro Colin enjoys both active sports such as scuba diving and skiing and the more sedentary study of wine. He's a trained rescue diver and has dived in some particularly remote areas of the world including Indonesia, the Maldives and the Tuamotu Islands of the South Pacific. You'll notice an obvious aversion to cold water. As a frequent visitor and sometime resident of Switzerland, he is also a keen, though he says inexpert, skier. Bro Colin has had a lifelong interest in wine and was recently inducted in the 'Order of Chevaliers of Tastevin', a French society designed to promote the wines of Burgundy by way of good fellowship, companionable dinners in historic surroundings and, occasionally, song all of which sounds familiar!

Outside of his career Bro Colin has had a long involvement with the National Autism Society. His main motivation for getting involved with the NAS was to help to improve life chances for that most forgotten and misunderstood group of disadvantaged adults and children, the 1% of the population that has autism. By fundraising and by supporting advocacy for people who often cannot speak for themselves

but still need to lead fulfilling lives. Bro Colin's son has the condition and so it is particularly apt that Colin sought to get involved. In 2002 he began his work with the NAS. In 2004 he was asked to be Treasurer of the society and in 2005 he was elected to Chairman, a role he held for six years. It was in 1996 that Bro Colin was initiated into the Craft. He'd known about Masonry to a limited degree as his father had been in the Craft but had never really talked about it at length. The penny-drop moment for Bro Colin was when at a small social engagement he had organised, he realised that amongst all his male friends present he was the only one who wasn't a Mason. Considering he was surrounded by friends who he liked and respected the recurring thought was 'there must be something in this'. So after some enquiries he was initiated into Old Alleynian lodge in 1997, incidentally restoring his connection with Dulwich. The first thing he really liked about the Craft was that the ritual held multiple layers of significance. That along with having as a Director of Ceremonies, a school teacher, who was particularly adept at dealing with brethren who were slow to do their homework. In 1999 he was exalted into Mount Sinai Chapter, No 19, which he particularly enjoys. A few years later in 2003 he was approached to join British Lodge, No 8. He progressed through the offices of British, becoming Master and a Grand Steward in 2009. He had the honour of being elected President of the Board of Grand Stewards for his year which entailed making the speech at the Grand Festival. As Bro Colin has said, his year as a Grand Steward was one of the most

enjoyable of his time in Masonry. In 2011 he was given the task of making the speech in Grand Lodge proposing the election of the Grand Master for the ensuing year; fortunately he achieved this successfully.

In 2012 he was appointed to Senior Grand Deacon and enjoyed it having a second active role within Grand Lodge. Three years later he received a phone call out of the blue from the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, RW Bro Michael Ward, asking if he'd be interested in

becoming a Metropolitan Grand Inspector. Being appointed to the role earlier this year and although relatively new to it, he's enjoying very much. As he sees it, his primary role is to be an ambassador for Metropolitan Grand Lodge, encouraging lodges and their visiting teams to make best use of the resources available, and to assist Masons within his group to get as much enjoyment from their Masonry as possible.



A dignified Inspector designate at this year's Rio Carnaval. In the parade - with an escort of 2000.

Five things you didn't know about Colin Barrow:

- 1) Holds Swiss Nationality as well as UK nationality
- 2) Has lectured on the subject of British attitudes to the EU at a German Civil Service College
- 3) Speaks French and German; never could get his head around Swiss German, and is currently struggling with Portuguese-as his wife Ana is Brazilian
- 4) Is particularly interested in wine tasting, including the wines of France
- 5) Qualified Rescue Diver

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THE ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL, UNIVERSITY AND LEGAL LODGES 2016 FESTIVAL



*W. Bro Mike
Jones reports.*

Admiral Rt Hon. the Lord West of Spithead was the Speaker at the 16th Annual Festival of the Association of Medical, University and Legal Lodges held on Saturday 24th September when some 170 members, their wives and guests met in the prestigious Law Society Hall in Chancery Lane, London for what was a most enjoyable day of fellowship, culture and fun.

The Association, which has become known as AMULL was formed in 2000 as a network for Medical and Legal Lodges and also those Lodges who would ordinarily attract university graduates. It aims to provide a very positive image of Freemasonry to those in the professions. It has no Masonic meetings as such and there is no regalia worn at its events. Its purpose is to present a picture of enjoyment that Masonic events can bring, acting as a showcase for partners whilst also showing its charitable side.

AMULL raises funds through its own AMULL Relief Chest with a purpose of supporting individual and deserving students who have been unable to obtain vital funding for graduate education from other sources. Also by providing for student prizes and part funding post graduate professional training. Working in harmony with the UGLE Universities Scheme, AMULL provides a useful contact network of lodges around the country for those whose careers take them to new pastures as well as introducing prospective candidates to Masonry and informing them of Masonic aims.

This year it was the Legal Lodges' turn to host with the Western Circuit Lodge No. 3154 stepping up to the plate with Lodge members joining the organising team led by the AMULL Secretary, Prof. Mike Jones. HH Judge Simon Oliver handled all the bookings whilst the Worshipful Master Tim Fisher was on

hand to participate in some of the more formal aspects of the event.

A clear blue sky over London on the Saturday morning saw the members and guests assemble in the glorious ambience of the Law Society building for registration and coffee, meeting old friends and making new ones before taking a short walk to the delightful Guild Church of St Dunstan-in-the-West for the annual Ecumenical Service. The service this year was led by the Revd. Dr Peter Blackwell- Smyth who had travelled from his Parish in Cornwall. The Address, which was very well received, was given by Rt Revd Jonathan Baker, the Bishop of Fulham, both Clergy being well known amongst Masonic circles. The numbers attending ensured that St Dunstan's was full and the delightful service was enhanced by the powerful singing of the Choir.

Following the Service, the congregation became an audience as it returned to the Law Society to be taken down a "Nautical" memory lane by Admiral Lord West, a former First Sea Lord. This most informative and enjoyable talk was full of humour and gave a real insight into life at the top end of our Senior Service. Lord West was a joy to listen to and his talk was as extremely well delivered as it was received.

Then it was off for the usual drinks reception followed by a sumptuous lunch during which the Toast to AMULL was given by the Western Circuit Lodge WM Tim Fisher, with the response by the AMULL President, RW Bro David Williamson PAGM.

It was announced that in 2017 the AMULL festival would again be held in London with the date and venue to be announced. All in all another excellent, well planned and organised day which was very well attended and thoroughly enjoyed by all.

SPORTS NEWS

METROPOLITAN BOWLING UPDATE

W.Bro Ian Keech, SLGR, keeps us up to date with events and changes in the bowling world.



The new Approach

The LMBA is anxious to overcome the obvious difficulty of all those Metropolitan Brethren who bowl but for whom membership of the LMBA incurs travel difficulties because wherever the LMBA chooses to hold its 'Home' matches is a long way for some. However the fixture list does involve four charity matches every year, 2 outdoors and 2 indoors, when our objective is to play against both local non masonic clubs as well as our neighbouring Provincial Bowling teams. So we now invite all Metropolitan Bowlers to join us on these occasions without incurring any membership fees. For the coming Indoor season these matches will be held at the Herts Bowling Club, Watford, very near to the M25 /A41 junction for ease of travelling. Teams may consist of both Brethren, Ladies and Family Friends for these fixtures.

Dates for your diary are 23rd February 2017 LMBA Charity Crystal Trophy and the London Inspired Masonic Bowls Occasion (LIMBO) Blue Diamond Trophy 26th April 2017.

All our provincial opponents are in agreement that there is a special frisson playing in these Masonic Bowls matches. So do please come along to share a special day with the LMBA. You'll have a great time! Please contact Ian Keech -- ian.a.keech@btinternet.com 07904 525988; or Steven Schaffer -- steven.schaffer1@virginmedia.com 020 8950 8128 to learn more.

Masonic Annual Charity Event 2016 (MACE)

This now well recognised Annual Event as the only truly National UGLE Inter Provincial Bowls Competition was held at Ipswich on Friday 12th August, under the Sponsorship of the Province of Suffolk. MACE was initiated by London Masonic Bowling Association (LMBA) in August 2011 and in its first six years has raised around £40,000 for local charities. One of the Brethren playing at a MACE for the first time was overwhelmed at the amazing sight and atmosphere created by a hundred Masonic Bowlers around the Green waiting for the first bell to

start the day.

LMBA entered 2 rinks, Team A: W.Bro's Lou Epstein [now a nonagenarian!], Tony Hammell, Jim Ashton and Ian Keech. Team B: W. Bro's Steven Schaffer, Bernard Jacobs and Mrs. Angela Jacobs. Sadly on this occasion neither of the LMBA teams was successful in lifting the MACE Trophy. However we did assist a hundred Brethren and their ladies to raise almost £2,000 for the "Hope for Tomorrow" charity, which aims to supply mobile Chemotherapy Treatment vehicles to save patients the stress of visiting their hospital with all the time consuming aspects that involves.

METROPOLITAN GOLF UPDATE

W. Bro John Massmann, SLGR describes our golfing brethren and their latest escapades



Leatherhead, a tough challenge, well so it turned out. With twenty players turning out making it a quite special day and welcoming new member Imran Jeffers into the bargain was a real pleasure. We had glorious weather to match what would have been a superb day had it not been for the heavy sanding and tining of the greens the day before.

So much sand was on the greens that the comment was made that perhaps sand wedges would be preferred instead of putters. But it really did not detract from the beauty of this mature parkland course, with so many dog legs it perhaps should have been called Battersea Dogs Home Golf Course!

There were quite a few notable performances mentioned by Captain Simon McCarthy in his address at the Festive Board, none more so than David Capri who was returning to golf after a course of chemotherapy, welcome back David.

The 'Nearest the Pin' on a really tough placement was Steven Pollock, and a monster drive earned that award to Kevin Jones. The guest winner, winning 2 sleeves of Metropolitan Grand Lodge logo balls was Jeff Hancock. For the members, the runner up was Peter Gatty himself returning to golf after a six week layoff, and the winner keeping the awards in the family so to speak was Bob Hancock, winning the 'Presidents Salver'. Both the runner up and winner finished on 33 points with Bob winning by just 1 point on the countback over the last nine.

Bob in his Chairman's role thanked everyone in sight, and the audience were certainly in tandem with him when he warmly thanked the serving staff at Leatherhead who had done a wonderful job providing for us.

In the next edition of Arena we will have the report on the Captain's Trophy to be held at Silvermere Golf

Club. We've already had over fifty applications for this event.

It's a beautiful course but has a brute of a finish as holes 17 and 18 are by far the toughest closing holes I have experienced and are veritable scorecard wreckers. The Captain requested that we are joined by any of our playing wives, partners or friends and so make it a singularly unique first for the Metropolitan Grand Lodge Golf Society.

Silvermere Lake was famously used by Barnes Wallis for testing his famous Dambuster bouncing bomb. So if you do stick the ball in the drink on the 17th or 18th just put it down to scientific research and be consoled by the thought that your ball has joined other valuable objects in the water. So look out for the next edition of Arena to see how the golfers of Metropolitan Grand Lodge got on at this challenging and historic course.





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ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL NURSES' 50 YEARS REUNION

Sue Buswell reports on a historic reunion.

In the year that Indira Gandhi was elected Prime Minister of India, Malawi and Botswana became independent countries, Harold Wilson became Prime Minister, and England won the football World Cup, thirty-three very nervous raw recruits commenced training at the Royal Masonic Hospital, Ravenscourt Park, London becoming Set 66/2.

In September some of us celebrated our 50th Anniversary of joining the hospital with a reunion in the Library and Museum of Freemasonry which aptly coincided with an exhibition to mark the Centenary of The Royal Masonic Hospital and the work done by its staff remembered as "Healing through Kindness".

Over the years the set have had previous reunions marking significant milestones even visiting Brisbane to meet up with the four nurses who had gone out on the £10 package as trained nurses. This time thirteen were able to make the day, catching up with great gusto before meeting Susan Snell, the Museum archivist. We had a really enlightening and well-informed tour through the exhibition and with a great deal of laughter were able to add our own personal anecdotes of our nursing days. Surprisingly however none of us were aware of the hospital's history while we were training so we all learnt so much from our visit.

In 1916 The Freemason's War Hospital was opened in London's Fulham Road and treated over 4,000 members of the Armed Forces during the First World War. In 1919 the hospital reopened as the Freemason's Hospital and Nursing Home but by 1933 had outgrown its site and moved to Ravenscourt Park where it was opened by King George V and Queen Mary and renamed The Royal Masonic Hospital. Again it treated many wounded military in the Second World War but mainly officers this time.

In 1958 additional wards were built in the form of The Wakefield Wing to house new physiotherapy and pathology facilities along with a chapel and finally in 1976 a new surgical wing was added. With the arrival of private hospitals around the country the hospital closed in 1992 with the Masonic Samaritan Fund affording Freemasons private treatment nearer home.

Our day continued when we adjourned to a private room in the newly refurbished Freemasons' Arms that was very kindly sponsored by members of The Avenue Lodge (No 3231) where the reminiscing, fun and laughter continued. After our Buffet Lunch we cut a stunning celebratory cake to mark this very special half-century. We concluded with a sing-song using the original words from the finale of the RMH Christmas Show which weren't exactly kind to our superiors. We were joined by Susan Snell for lunch so she definitely had an insight into how we all bonded in those days along with our sense of humour and just hope with all the windows open on such a hot day we didn't upset the neighbours!

Those present for this memorable day were Di Balding, Sandy Barnett, Sue Buswell, Sarah Cottle, Anne Guppy, Kathryn Mathews, Nona Pappin, Wendy Rankin, Rosemary Robson, Sue Sprigge, Shuvie Taylor, June Veal and Gwyneth Wynn-Davies which included two that we had lost contact with since training.

It was unanimously decided that we never again matched the friendship and sisterhood that we formed at the RMH and that our training was exemplary and would almost guarantee a job placement anywhere in the world. Some recommendation and that is why we are all so proud to be called Royal Masonic nurses. The exhibition, 'Healing through Kindness' is open till 7th April 2017.



FAMOUS LONDON MASONS:

SIR EDWARD LETCHWORTH

Grand Secretary 1892 – 1917

*W. Bro Stan Marut delves
into the history books*



Those Metropolitan Masons and Provincial Brethren who visit Grand Lodge might be forgiven for not giving too much attention to the origins of the name of Letchworth's masonic shop at Freemasons' Hall.

The name of Sir Edward Letchworth, after whom the shop is named, has gone down in the annals of freemasonry as having been a highly efficient administrator and superb ritualist in his role as Grand Secretary. It is perhaps poignant that he died at the time of the bicentenary of Grand Lodge in 1917, bearing in mind that the tricentenary will soon be upon us. His death warranted inclusion in the obituary columns of the Times, Telegraph and Morning Post.

He was born in 1833 descended from a long line of Quakers who also gave their name to the town in Hertfordshire. He practised as a Solicitor and travelled extensively in Europe and North Africa. His other interests included rowing and riding and he was proficient at both. In 1859, aged 26, he joined the Victoria Rifles and in 1860 was Commissioned in the 33rd Middlesex Volunteers (a forerunner to the Territorial Army). A career in the Army, albeit as a part time volunteer, was not congruent with Quaker tenets and he feared that he would never be much of a warrior. As a consequence he resigned his Commission in 1867 and instead took up an interest in "social amelioration", as the Victorians would call it, making the lot of the working classes better, especially children. Thus he was connected with the Foundling Hospital in Bloomsbury and St Bartholomew's Hospital.

He was appointed by Queen Victoria to the Office of Chief Steward of the Royal Manor as well as being appointed an Officer in the Duchy of Lancaster. But it is to his masonic career that we turn which will give us a further glimpse of the man. Freemasonry in the last quarter of 19th century was in the ascendant and it is possible that Letchworth's membership of the Garrick Club may have been his introduction to it. His connection with the Royal Household may also have been a factor, especially the fact that Edward, Prince of Wales had himself become a freemason in 1875. That year Edward Letchworth became a member of the Jerusalem Lodge no 197, London. This was to be the start of a high profile masonic career. When one looks at his masonic commitment it was no wonder then that he remained a



bachelor until very late in life. Shortly after his initiation, he became a petitioner for St James No 1579 becoming its first Senior Warden and was installed as Worshipful Master within eighteen months. No mean achievement by modern standards. It would not be until 1882 that he proceeded to the Chair in his Mother Lodge. Whilst in the Chair of Jerusalem Lodge he raised Bro Henry Irving, the famous Victorian actor. (arena Issue 25).

Other Lodges he was a member of were Lodge of Antiquity No 2, the Bard of Avon No 778, Royal Alpha No 16 and Captain Coram Lodge No 2737 (of which he was a founding member). Captain Coram had been founder of the Foundling Hospital of which Edward Letchworth was Governor. Edward had also become a Grand Steward and President of the Board of Grand Stewards in 1881. Many other offices were fulfilled and he was Master in three Lodges. There had to be something remarkable in a man who could give such dedication to the Craft.

With sudden death of the incumbent Grand Secretary, Colonel Shadwell H. Clarke in 1891, there was a little apprehension about who might succeed him. Edward Letchworth, despite his masonic credentials, was relatively unknown to the "great majority" as The Freemason's newspaper obituary article described the situation. Nevertheless, he was known to the MW The Grand Master through his Royal duties and when an examination of his qualifications was undertaken, it was agreed by the

Grand Master and others that a more fitting selection could not have been made. So, in 1892, just seventeen years after having become a freemason, he was invested in a private ceremony by the Pro Grand Master, the Earl of Amherst. He was 59 years old. It was reported at the time that Bro Letchworth, "had discharged so many and such various important duties that the news of his appointment will be received with satisfaction".

His appointment to high office carried the important duties of consecrating Lodges. As mentioned earlier this was a time of tremendous growth in freemasonry and within a few weeks Edward would be called on to perform his first Consecration. This was St Stephen's Lodge No 2424 at Blackheath. It had been noted that, "...all who had the pleasure of witnessing the ceremony experienced a great treat, as, in addition to the fluency of the Grand Secretary's delivery, grace and quietness formed the noticeable features of the execution of the work". He went on to consecrate more than 400 Lodges and a very large number of Royal Arch Chapters.

In 1902 he received a knighthood from King Edward VII and it was in the same year that he married Mary Constance a widow. Shortly after this time it became apparent that more Clerks were needed in the Grand Secretary's office to handle the increasing numbers of new members to freemasonry. This was achieved and prompted the

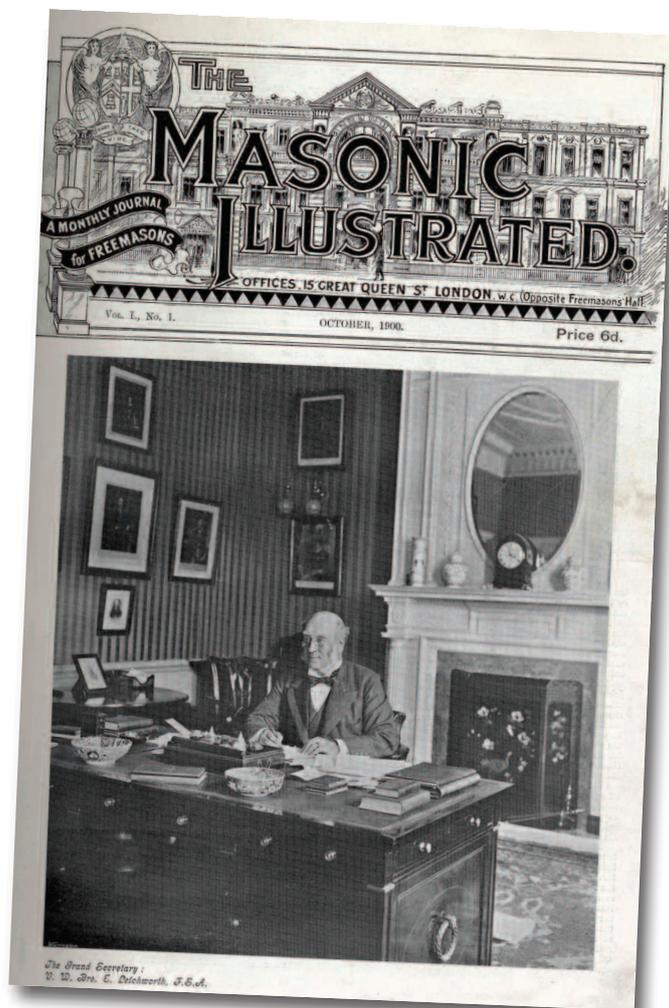
formation of Clerks' Lodge for those working in Grand Lodge which would enable younger members to be able to afford membership of a Lodge without undue hardship and also become Worshipful Master within a reasonable time. This was an extremely egalitarian approach to freemasonry and the formation of such a Lodge was supported by Sir Edward who consented to the Lodge being named after him and who generously defrayed the costs of consecration to his own account. So, in March 1911 VW Bro Sir Edward Letchworth PJGW and the assistant Grand Secretary W. Bro William Lake PAGDC were the consecrating Officers; Bro Lake being the first Master of the Lodge. (see illustration of Consecrating Officers Jewel for Letchworth Lodge No 3505). He became an honorary member of most of those Lodges which he had consecrated and if he received a consecrating officer's jewel for each one, he would have been envied by any Russian Army General sporting his campaign medals!

His last public masonic engagement was in June 1917 at the Royal Albert Hall, the year of the bicentenary of Grand Lodge where he gave a reading from the Bible. He had become noticeably less able and had lost a certain amount of vim. This should not have been surprising as by this time he was 84 years old, but it was in September 1917 that he finally relented and resigned from the position of Grand Secretary after twenty five years in Office. The tragedy was that he survived only a few short weeks

after his resignation and died in October the same year. Naturally there was a deep disappointment of the loss of such a mason with all his attributes. Indeed, the Freemason paper published on the 13th October 1917 was effusive in its praise for the late and lamented Sir Edward Letchworth. His ceremonial renderings, especially Lodge consecrations came in for much adulation. Indeed, it was said that it had become an honour for Lodges to claim that they had been consecrated by him. His obituary in the Freemason stated that even though "he had rendered the ceremony of consecration more than five hundred times (including Chapter consecrations), instead of wearying of the constant repetition it entailed, he seemed to gain a greater power and a sweeter diction. The only possible solution of this charming manifestation of his power lies in the knowledge that the whole of the outward observance was in harmony with his inner consciousness".

He was taken from his London home in Cornwall Gardens in South Kensington to St Peters Church, Cranley Gardens where his committal service was held. He is buried in Brompton Cemetery which lies between the Fulham Road, near Stamford Bridge and the Lillie Road, Earls Court, London.

Acknowledgments; A grateful thanks to Peter Aitkenhead of the Freemasons Museum and Library for his generous assistance in providing the material for this article including the illustrations used.



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TALKING HEADS VISITS THE ISLE OF MAN

W.Bro Donald McGarr describes this recent visit.



Most people have heard of the Isle of Man, a Crown Dependency in the middle of the Irish Sea, 32 miles long and 14 wide as the venue for the famous Time Trials (TT) races, and even possibly as the spiritual home of Motorcycle road racing. Many will know of the main town, Douglas and some readers of Arena may have sampled the famous Queenies (Scallops) which are a special delicacy of the Island, or even know that a population of nearly 120 Wallabies lives on the north end of the island, a breeding pair having escaped a wildlife park in the 1970's.

But few will be aware that the Isle of Man is the home of a vibrant Provincial Grand Lodge with 19 lodges, 6 chapters and other orders. Like many other Provincial Grand Lodges, it has been seeking ways to enthuse its members to consider joining the Royal Arch, and thus a request came through for a performance of the Metropolitan Grand Chapter playlet 'Talking Heads-The Next Step: Into The Royal Arch' only the third performance of this off the shores of the mainland (following those of Guernsey and Jersey).

Thus it was that VW Bro Chris Clark PGSN DepMetGSupt, his wife Angela, W.Bro Ian Clark LGCR and myself found ourselves sitting in the departures lounge at London City Airport on the last Friday of July, rueing our luck at a one hour flight delayed by three hours, and a looming seven o'clock Lodge to present Talking Heads. At times such as this, an intrepid adventure begins to move through foolishness to appear like futility, our apprehension not helped by the Worshipful Brothers Anderson (the remainder of the team) who messaged to say they were happily enjoying ice creams on Douglas sea front, when we were yet to leave London!

Eventually we got airborne, and from the moment we landed, anxiety evaporated. We were met by one of the brethren at the airport and taken back to his house in the countryside, to have tea and get ready. Then on arrival at the Masonic Hall in Castletown we were all heartily welcomed and greeted by the brethren as if we were long lost friends, we were able to give a presentation which all seemed to enjoy, and were treated to a

wonderful festive board afterwards.

From the moment we set foot on the Island, to the moment we departed, we were enveloped by the warmth of the Manx welcome. On the Saturday afternoon we were given a four hour tour of the Island by two of the brethren, and even on the last day, our timely arrival at the Ronaldsway Airport was ensured by brethren who picked us up from our hotels to see us safely to our flights.

When one volunteers to be part of any Talking Heads presentation, the little you give in this way is always repaid many times over, not purely by charitable donations, but by a warm welcome, generous hospitality and the forming of real and lasting friendships.

Nowhere is this more true than on the little Island with a big beating Masonic heart. I hope that Talking Heads is a catalyst for growth in the Royal Arch on the Island, a Province which deserves to flourish, a Province whose generosity speaks through actions first, and then words. As one of our hosts put it 'it is the Isle of Man way to welcome our guests. Having travelled over and at no small expense, we believe it is the least we can do'.

METGL SUMMER BBQ JULY 2016

Bro. Mike Viney describes a very enjoyable event.



The 2016 MetGL BBQ will be remembered by the hundreds of attendees as a triumphant Saturday afternoon and by many others as a “highlight of the summer”. Indeed at noon on the 9th of July, something spectacular transcended upon the impeccable surroundings of Queensmere Lake, Berkshire, whose grounds were very kindly afforded as the most scenic venue for this inaugural event.

What was that spectacular 'something'? An all day, all-inclusive, entertainment programme culminating an end to end, delicious, BBQ banqueting session, a healthy amount of flowing refreshments catering to all pallets, live music, outdoor sports notably canoeing, and even a heated swimming pool, which was a huge hit with children and brave adult supervisors.

Exploration of the grounds revealed picturesque scenes befitting for national heritage park consideration, guests were truly in awe. Scenes that could only have been elevated by the fantastic musical accompaniment from

almost half a dozen bands and musicians.

Live entertainment didn't stop there, Zap the Magician caused many to question their belief in magic with his superb and generous skills, turning one Brother's hand signed £10 note into a £50 note - unbelievably then revealing the puzzled gentleman's original signed £10 note, to have been inside a fresh Kiwi the whole time. These were truly astonishing scenes that kept hungry guests at bay whilst lining up awaiting their BBQ feasts.

At around 2:45 there was a stir amongst guests caused by the announcement that at 3pm the BBQ would receive a fly past from the very Air Ambulance MetGL recently donated. Not missing a beat at 3pm, pilot Jeremy Morse swooped overhead. Twice. Morse, a veteran pilot whose 17 years military experience flying with the marines was aptly demonstrated, had a chat with me later in the afternoon. Discussing the donation from Metropolitan towards the new air ambulance Morse says "the support from the Freemasons





has been received with immeasurable gratitude; to have received this second air ambulance is incredible, it allows us to save hundreds more lives". Morse who actively raises money for charity himself is currently not a Mason but says he would be "very interested indeed to talk more about it". Are there any lodges short of a candidate for next season?

Later in the afternoon, Bro. Dale Brimble, recently initiated, commented "terrific grounds, delicious food, great company, we've really enjoyed ourselves. I'm so proud to be involved with Freemasonry and to be supporting a great cause". He wasn't alone, indeed crowds of people could not refrain from sharing with me their exceedingly complimentary reviews.

If there was only one thing that could be said about the event, then it should be that the atmosphere was beautifully harmonious. Indeed, it's rare to attend a BBQ without a cloud of irritation arriving, cast by someone pinching the last sausage or finishing off the last spot of tomato relish...

To have gone the distance at a BBQ

of such momentous scale, without such horrors, can only be attributed to Masonic principle of halving or sharing - and a rather generous team of organisers at Metropolitan Grand Lodge who supplemented much of the cost for everyone to enjoy themselves.

The event, attended by the Metropolitan Grand Master, RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder, raised a significant sum towards the London Air Ambulance appeal. Bro Snyder noted how much everyone was enjoying themselves and thanked the organisers and staff for their substantial efforts to make the event such a success. The final labour of the day from the impeccable serving staff was a final clear down of tables and grounds, which came very aptly as the sun set in the west. As night drew in the 'last men standing' revealed themselves, dancing away the evening to party classics. I think it fair to say that a great time was had by all.

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METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE CLAY SHOOTING ASSOCIATION (MGLCSA) UPDATE

VW Bro Brian L Saidman PGSwdB provides arena's first insight into this Metropolitan sports club

Well, the shouting, cheering and stamping of feet in support of our successful TeamGB clay shooting Olympic heroes has just about subsided. We are all brothers in the shooting world and to see Ed Ling pound his way through the best shooters in the world to take Bronze in Olympic Trap (imagine trying to hit a moving target going away from you at 50mph in any one of three directions, which you don't actually see until it's almost out of range) and Steve Scott fighting for and achieving his Bronze medal in Olympic Double Trap (like Olympic Trap, but in spades doubled), was a tremendous boost for us all.

The eleven strong MGLCSA team had received almost equal support a month or so earlier at the twelfth Interprovincial Masonic Clay Shooting Championships, this year hosted by the Province of Warwickshire. A record-breaking seventeen Provinces and 160 competitors were present at the largest ever gathering seen in the Interprovincials' history at the the picturesque Warwickshire Wedgnock shooting ground.

The MGLCSA, back-to-back winners of the Interprovincials in 2013 and 2014 were squeezed into bronze medal place by West Lancs & Cornwall last year (only 6 clays out of 900 targets separating the top three teams!), continued their climb back to ascendancy this year by taking Silver medal place, just pipped at the post by Surrey, again by the closest of margins.

London's Sam King (Vitruvian Lodge No.87) and Surrey's Kevin

Scarlett sharing the honours for Masonic High Gun, each with a tremendous 84 ex-100 scored. First class support from the Met team's other high guns, including John Perrin's hard-fought 77x-100 (Holloway Lodge No.2601) and Marc Price's solid 70 ex-100 (Metropolitan Clay & Rifle Shooting Lodge No.5409) completed the scorecard.

VW Bro Brian Saidman, briefly swapping his MetGLCSA Hon. Captain headgear for his new National Association of Masonic Clay Shooting Societies cap, following his recent appointment as Chairman, opened the prize-giving ceremony by welcoming all present and congratulating Warwickshire on a very well-run, successful and much enjoyed event. He confirmed that the 2017 Interprovincial Championships had been awarded to the Province of Essex and that the recent voting between all the member Provinces had upheld the Province of Surrey's application to hold the event in 2018. He wished them all well. Parish notices having been completed, Brian had much pleasure in handing over the proceedings to the guest of honour, VW Bro Michael Morris Dep. PGM for Warwickshire to complete the award presentations.

Keeping with the Olympic vein, London shooters were delighted and honoured that the Association's proud tradition, instigated by our first Metropolitan Grand Master, Lord Millett (greatly assisted by our Vice Patron, VW Bro Charles Grace) continued unbroken when following his investiture as Metropolitan

Grand Master last year, Sir Michael Snyder was pleased to pick up the baton as Patron of the MetGLCSA from his predecessor RWBro (and now, of course) the Most Excellent Second Grand Principal, Russell Race.

As the success and popularity of the MetGLCSA has grown, attracting new members from masonic clay shooters across London, so had the number of prospective candidates for Initiation from among the dozens of our non-Masonic shooting colleagues. It became clear that a dedicated London shooting lodge would be a logical companion for the Association.

The proposed closure of the Old Finchleians Lodge 5409, of which Bro Saidman was a a member, provided the opportunity and following most amicable discussions with the remaining lodge membership, a vanguard of twelve MetGLCSA members, lead by W.Bro Marc Price and W.Bro Ed Bottomley, became joining members. On 10th March 2015, pursuant to a Notice of Motion in January, the name of the lodge was formally changed to Metropolitan Clay and Rifle Shooting Lodge No. 5409. We are proud of our strong candidate stream for the lodge (and recruits for the MetGLCSA!)

Our charity raising is now approaching £16,000 and the Association proudly carries the RMBI Grand Patron and Patron of the MMC awards on our banner-head. The London Air Ambulance Appeal has of course been high on our agenda with our 2015 Christmas



VW Bro Michael Morris, DepPGM Warwickshire, congratulating Sam King on his High Gun Trophy for London.

Shoot raising £900 to go with the £2,500 presented earlier in the year.

With the June 2017 Tercentenary Freemasons' Hall Open Day events we hope to be permitted a fully manned display on behalf of the Association.

We continue to be an active 'interface' between Masons and non-masons throughout London, realising memberships and recruitment directly through our sport and now, with our Hon. Shooting Captain appointed Chairman of the newly formed National Association of Masonic Shooting Societies under the

Presidency and Vice Presidency of The RW Deputy Grand Master Jonathan Spence and The ME Second Grand Principal Russell Race DL, respectively, ensuring Metropolitan London can add its weight in bringing together in fraternal union all the masonic shooting activities throughout the country.

On behalf of all our Members we hope that we may have the privilege of providing our continuing and unreserved support to our Metropolitan Grand Master and to London Freemasonry for many years to come.



VW Bro Michael Morris, DepPGM Warwickshire, congratulating VW Bro Brian Saidman, MetGLCSA Hon. Shooting Captain, on London's Silver Medal place.

Dates for Diaries

MetGLCSA Open Championships Shoot
Sat. 29th October 2016
 'New Event'
 Hosts: MetGLCSA

MetGLCSA Annual Christmas Shoot
Sat. 26th November 2016
 'Open to All'
 Hosts: MetGLCSA

Contacts

Metropolitan Grand Lodge Clay Shooting Association
www.metclayshooting.com
 Membership Secretary:
 Marc Price mgp@m2interiors.net

Metropolitan Clay & Rifle Shooting Lodge No.5409
 Secretary: Ed Bottomley
SecMetCRSL@hotmail.com

National Association of Masonic Clay Shooting Societies
 Secretary: Roger Wilkes (East Kent)
ekclayshooters@btinternet.com



WHY BECOME A METROPOLITAN VISITING OFFICER?

*W. Bro Robert Grant PSGD
Metropolitan Grand Inspector
encourages participation.*

Churchill said "The characteristic of a great man is his power to leave a lasting impression on people he meets". Was he referring to the Visiting Officer? His words reflect the positive influence inspired individuals can have on any gathering.

The visiting programme in London has evolved since its inception in 2007 into a resourceful, innovative scheme geared to deliver guidance and support to the Lodges and Chapters that come under its sphere of influence. We are all subject to change in the never ending cycle of movement and innovation and the VO has had to adapt to these changes to reflect the fast electronic age in which we now live.

Today's world of the Visiting Officer is totally different from anything that gone before. The Visiting Grand Officer (VGO) concept of lodge visiting is synonymous of a bygone era with 'dark blues' occupying podium seats and holding court. The VO of today is required to be a multitasking, highly motivated Mason with an array of skills and knowledge tailored to assist his lodges and maximise their potential.

They comprise of brethren of all abilities drawn from diversified backgrounds and ranks ranging from Metropolitan Active LGRs to Grand Officers all coming together under one banner to achieve success. They are a vital link between MetGL/GC and the lodges ensuring the Centre is in sync with grass roots Masonry.

The VO seeks to foster a close harmonious relationship with his individual units from the perspective of being a friend and not that of an overseer and this is a key component in that bond. I fondly recall visiting a lodge a few years ago which had never had a Chain Visit and they were a tad apprehensive. The Secretary a lovely enthusiastic man was concerned that he had no one to deliver the Address to the Wardens so I offered to undertake it. This was followed at the Calling Off by tea and cakes in the temple with a superb pianist playing a melody of songs from the musicals. I had been watching Mary Poppins in the morning with my grandson and when the pianist struck up 'Let's Go Fly a Kite' I immediately started singing and headed for the piano accompanied by my Senior Visiting Officer and a group of

members. We continued with our 'performance from the musicals' until the DC unfortunately decided to Call On much to everyone's disappointment. The meeting was memorable and the members have never forgotten the Visiting Team's attempt at treading the boards and being part of the lodge. It highlights the positive impact flying the flag can have and the opportunities that can arise for making new friends.

Everyone is different with their own beliefs, ideas and aspirations and that's what makes Freemasonry so rich and rewarding. Visiting provides new opportunities and fresh ways to define success.

So why become a VO? Well it will provide you with the opportunity to broaden your horizon and make a significant contribution to visiting in London. You will become part of a highly motivated dedicated team who share experiences and enjoy rising to the challenge of making a difference. How can you be part of the success of MetGL/GC?

By joining us. Apply.