



LEICESTER SQUARE

ISSUE 52
Winter 2024

Centenary Celebrations for The Holmes Lodge – p9



**Tracing Boards
Conserved and
Restored** Page 11

**Leicestershire and Rutland Lodge of Installed
Masters No. 7896 Welcomes Distinguished
Guest** Page 7



DEVONSHIRE PLACE

Devonshire Place is an iconic grade II listed Georgian building in the heart of Leicester. Our meeting rooms can accommodate up to 300 delegates. Smaller more intimate rooms are also available. There is ample parking for delegates and if arriving by train we are less than a 5-minute walk away.

Our day delegate rate includes the following: -

- Arrival tea, coffee, and Danish pastries
- Mid-morning serving of tea, coffee, and biscuits.
- Hot or cold 2 course buffet lunch
- Afternoon tea, coffee, and mini snacks
- Meeting room
- Car parking
- Equipment: Screen, LCD projector and flipchart.

Prices from £28 per person plus VAT

For further information call 0116 2548361
or email enquires@devonshire-place.co.uk

**The Premier
Metal Laser Cutting,
Folding, Fabrication,
Finishing and
Assembly.**

**Providing Bespoke to
Volume Solutions.**

ADS
LASER CUTTING

☎ 0116 2444 999 ✉ enquiry@adslaser.co.uk

🌐 www.adslaser.co.uk



Contents

WINTER 2024

Inside this issue...



6 Feature

Tracing Boards Conserved and Restored
Centenary Celebrations for The Holmes Lodge



10 Lodge News

A Family Evening at John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 523)
Edward Holmes is Restored!
A Welcome Gift for Neonatal Unit
Jason Lodge Visits Sister Cycling Lodge
Leicestershire and Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters No. 7896
Welcomes Distinguished Guest
A Personal Best for a Very Personal Cause



15 Charities

Freemasons Provide £60,000 to Voluntary Action South
Leicestershire
Recent Updates
£8,000 donated to Guide Dogs following Steam Railway Fun Day
Chance Opportunities - David and Michelle



20 Royal Arch Matters

Harley Staples Cancer Trust Cheque Presentation
E Comp
Companions Day Out



22 Mark Degree

Oliver RAM Special Night

TO ALL READERS

Have you considered the opportunity to advertise your business in the Leicester Square?
The twice yearly Newsletter is delivered to all 3,000 members, families and widows in the Province as well as many other Provinces.

Enquiries to Tony Sibson – Mob: 07747 614049 Email: leicestersquare@pglleics.co.uk



Devonshire Court, Leicester
Short term breaks & permanent stays



Residential care and residential dementia support.

"From day one, our father thrived at the Home. He was treated with love, care and dignity at all times and we were grateful to know he was safe and warm but most importantly happy." Carehome.co.uk review.

Enjoy a stay in one of the boutique rooms in our star centre, browse around our mall, watch a film in our cinema room, or enjoy a cold beverage in our cocktail bar.

For care advice, please contact: Michelle Giles on 01162 714 171, or email devonshire@rmbi.care

Caring is our way of life

Howdon Road, Oadby,
Leicester LE2 5WQ
www.rmbi.org.uk

Registered Charity No: 1163245 Company No: 1293566



Melton Memorials

Fine Headstones & Graveside Ornamentations



Honouring the memory of a loved one can be a distressing time, we endeavour to help you choose a suitable memorial as a lasting tribute from the beginning of the choosing process until completion.

We work to a high standard and are accredited members of the British Register Of Accredited Memorial Masons (BRAMM).

We offer a wide range of quality hand crafted memorials, headstones and gravestones.



We always aim to provide a quality, reliable, friendly and caring service
Appointments and home visits are available on request

01664 852702 • 07982235564 • info@melton-memorials.co.uk
www.melton-memorials.co.uk

Target pest control & Hygiene LTD

NOW a 'WHICH TRUSTED TRADER' and supplier for ESPO

DOMESTIC • COMMERCIAL • INDUSTRIAL



Guaranteed Service - No Add On Charges

Wasps • Fleas • Ants • Rodents

Bird Control • Fly Killers • Fly Screens

Washroom/Feminine Hygiene

TO ENQUIRE ABOUT OUR SERVICES CALL ON

0116 234 0078

www.targetpestcontrol.co.uk | info@targetpestcontrol.co.uk



Target House • 24 Albion Street • Anstey • Leicester LE7 7DD
Tel: 0845 055 4992 • Fax: 0845 301 6740

Editor's Welcome



A Time of Reflection, Family, and Fellowship.

As Freemasons, we hold four important values defining our path through life: Integrity, Friendship, Respect, and Service. In today's world filled with uncertainty, these principles resonate loudly now as they have at any point in our history. As we enter the festive season—a time marked by Christmas, Hanukkah, Diwali, and other traditions—we are reminded of the themes that unite us: family, community, and reflection. As Freemasons, this is a time to renew our values, strengthen our bonds, and look inward as we prepare for the year ahead.

I was delighted to receive an email from W. Bro David Kibert of Saint James' Lodge No. 8478, who informed me other members of the family had been re-united besides The Holmes Lodge's lost daughter, the Lodge of Gratitude ('Holmes' Gratitude at finding long-lost daughter', Leicester Square, Issue 51, Spring 2024, page 13). David shared that in a picture of a 1947 petition, his late father, W. Bro James Winston Kibert, Commercial Lodge No. 1391, had signed the document. His father, a chartered accountant, had his address listed at 50 Bannerman Road. The petition, signed in open lodge on April 1st, 1947, was especially meaningful to David, as just twelve days later, he was born. With a smile, David added that he was, "glad that my late father was then able to turn his attention to domestic matters."

It is utterly amazing what feelings can be stirred up by old documents and evidence informed research. When I spoke to David, it was clear that this discovery had stirred an emotional connection. Seeing his father's name on the document, as well as something as personal as his signature, brought the past vividly into the present, serving as a reminder of the continuity of our masonic heritage and the enduring ties of family.

This festive season, regardless of our faith or tradition, is about gathering with loved ones and appreciating the people who mean the most to us. In our lodges, as in our homes, we create bonds of friendship and community that extend beyond individual celebrations. These connections remind us why we strive to live by masonic values—not only within our fraternity but in our families and wider communities.

This time of year, is also an opportunity for reflection. Have we lived by the values of integrity, friendship, respect, and service? Have we been the fathers, husbands, brothers, and friends we strive to be? Each tradition, whether it's the light of Christmas candles, the glow of a menorah, or the brilliance of Diwali lights, encourages us to reflect on our actions and intentions.

The holiday season teaches us the importance of empathy and understanding. It is a time to extend goodwill to all, regardless of their background or beliefs, and to practice the masonic principle of seeing all people as our brothers and sisters. It encourages us to celebrate the diversity within our own ranks and to learn from one another's experiences.

Amidst the celebrations, it's also important to make time for ourselves. Finding moments of quiet and peace amidst the busyness allows us to recharge and refocus, so we can be at our best for our families, our communities, and our lodges. This period of reflection isn't about withdrawing but about renewing our sense of purpose.

As we celebrate this season of goodwill and welcome a new year, let us carry the spirit of the holidays with us. Let us strive to embody the values that we hold dear, offering kindness, understanding, and generosity not just during this time but throughout the year. By doing so, we continue to build a stronger, more united community that honours the principles of Freemasonry.

Finally, I would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to W. Bro Andy Green, who has decided to step down from the Leicester Square Committee. Andy has been a tireless presence behind the scenes, proofreading hundreds of stories over the past few years. His rigor and grammatical clarity ensured each story was checked for errors and his thoughtful suggestions helped improve countless articles. His patience and experience will be missed, and I along with the rest of the committee, are deeply grateful for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Leicester Square.

Wishing you all a season of peace, joy, and the blessings of family, no matter how you celebrate.

Jason Clothier,

Editor Leicester Square



LEICESTER SQUARE

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND

EDITORIAL

Editor, Jason Clothier
19 Hill Way, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5YG

Tel: 0116 2710395

Mob: 0790 5501811

E: leicestersquare@pglleics.co.uk

ADVERTISING

Tony Sibson

Tel: 01572 747598

Mob: 07747 614049

E: leicestersquare@pglleics.co.uk

DESIGN/PRINT

AnchorPrint Group Ltd,
121 Parker Drive,
Leicester, LE4 0JP
Simon Bradshaw

Tel: 0116 2690800

E: simon.b@anchorprint.co.uk

Visit: www.anchorprint.co.uk

DISCLAIMER

This publication is copyright AnchorPrint Group Limited and may not be reproduced or transmitted in any form in whole or in part without prior written permission of AnchorPrint Group Limited. While every care has been taken during the preparation of this magazine, AnchorPrint Group Limited cannot be held responsible for accuracy of the information herein or for any consequence arising from it. Whilst the greatest of care has been taken in compiling this newsletter the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions that may occur. Editorial opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the Editor or the Provincial Grand Lodge of Leicestershire and Rutland. Provincial Grand Lodge does not accept any responsibility for the advertising content.

Tracing Boards Conserved and Restored

A dedicated Freemason for over six decades, Colin Ibbetson of Sir John Coach Lodge No.7736, has shared his expertise on the Second Tracing Board countless times in the Holmes Lodge Room at Leicester's Freemasons' Hall. Recently, however, he expressed concern about the fading details on the board, making it difficult to decipher.

The tracing boards dating back to 1918 are a significant piece of Leicestershire and Rutland Masonic history and were a unique collaboration between two local talented Freemasons:

- Bro. Benjamin Fletcher: Past Master of Wiclif Lodge No.3078 and headmaster of the Leicester School of Art (precursor to DeMontfort University). His forward-thinking design incorporated elements of the Modern/Art Nouveau style, representing a distinct departure from the Victorian-era boards. Examples of his work can even be found in the V&A Museum, London.
- Bro. William Knight: Past Master of Golden Fleece Lodge No.2081 and an artist who exhibited at the Royal Academy of Arts. His masterful oil paintings brought Bro. Fletcher's vision to life. Several of his paintings hang in prestigious galleries across the country.

At the time they were aptly described as truly exceptional works of art, lauded for their "praiseworthy artistic design, exquisite colouring, and carefully-executed Masonic detail."

After over a century of continuous use, the Second Tracing Board had become tarnished and damaged. Recognising its historical significance, Colin generously offered to fund its restoration to ensure its preservation for future generations of Freemasons.

With the support of the Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works, Charles Bentley, all three tracing boards underwent a meticulous restoration process overseen by a Fellow of the British Association of Picture Conservator-Restorers. Additional funding was provided by a generous legacy from a former Leicestershire and Rutland Freemason.

The restoration involved a careful cleaning of the surface using cotton wool swabs and specialised cleaning agents. Discoloured varnish was meticulously removed with cotton wool swabs and appropriate solvents. Areas of loss were filled and repainted to match the original appearance, and the dark wood frames were polished.

Thanks to this conservation effort, the tracing boards were restored to their former glory in time for Colin to deliver his explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board at the meeting of Sir John Corah Lodge in September, where Josh Hughes was Passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft.

Andy Green, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, who recently has put together a paper on the history boards for the Lodge of Research No.2429 said:

“It's wonderful to see these boards restored to their former glory, honouring the vision of their designer and painter.”



Centenary Celebrations for The Holmes Lodge

Holmes Lodge No. 4656, met for their 698th regular meeting on 5th November 2024 to celebrate their hundred birthday. One hundred years ago the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Edward Holmes, consecrated The Holmes Lodge as the 22nd Lodge of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland. The Lodge was sponsored by St. John's Lodge No.279, and the first Master of the Lodge was W. Bro, George William Hunt.

At that first meeting 160 Freemasons were present, and so it was only fitting that 160 brethren and guests from Leicestershire and Rutland and further afield, came to witness and celebrate its centenary.

The room glittered with gleaming regalia in a resplendent Holmes Lodge Room. Brethren and officers from across the province milled around chatting to and catching up with friends and making new ones. A full lodge room witnessed the opening of the centenary meeting by the Master, W. Bro. Steve Skidmore and his officers. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Peter Kinder, Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, along with numerous Grand Officers.

Steve offered the Provincial Grand Master the gavel, fully expecting to receive it back as is the custom, but on this occasion, Peter was happy to take the Chair of Solomon to conduct proceedings. After a brief

handover, Peter invited Steve to give a short history and flavour of the Lodge and its members over the years. After this, the Provincial Grand Master presented the Lodge with their Centenary Warrant and each eligible member of The Holmes Lodge with a Centenary Jewel.

The Lodge was further honoured to hear from R.W. Bro. The Rev. Canon Michael Wilson, who gave the Centenary Oration.

The Lodge was handed back to Steve who promptly presented Peter with Honorary Membership of the Lodge, just as the PGM who consecrated the Lodge had been 100 years before. After the Lodge was closed, the brethren gathered for a magnificent Festive Board, based on the menu of the Consecration Banquet.

The final honour of the evening for the Lodge was a special Centenary cake made by W. Bro. Adrian Ganderton, from which everybody present was able to take a piece home.



Centenary Celebrations for The Holmes Lodge Continued



Peter Kinder, PGM, said,

“ Well, what a fantastic evening from start to finish, 160 Freemasons together enjoying a super ceremony and a most scrumptious Festive Board. The following day several members of the Lodge were flooded with messages containing many superlatives about the evening. Also, the following evening I was in the company of a well-respected Freemason of over 20 years standing who remarked, ‘that was the best Masonic meeting I’ve ever attended.’ For all that attended this summed the evening up perfectly. ”



Steve Skidmore, Master of The Holmes Lodge, said,

“ What an incredible night! The sight of 160 brethren in the Holmes Lodge Room was truly breathtaking. We trust that everyone had a great night as we celebrated the Lodge’s 100th in style! Thanks to everyone who attended and special thanks to the Centenary Committee – the hard work was certainly worth it all. ”



Wives and partners of the brethren of Holmes Lodge dine together to celebrate the Centenary



Leicester Square is always on the look out for advertiser, so if you would like to advertise in the magazine or know someone that would benefit from advertising, please get in touch with Tony Sibson (see page 5 for full contact details). We offer adverts from as little as one eighth size to full pages and all proceeds help towards the production costs of the magazine which helps in maximising our donations to local charities.



ARE YOU READY TO EMBRACE THE POWER OF THE SUN ?

KAS
Solar Services

Please make an appointment to view existing jobs to get a feel for how system looks & operates.

When considering solar panel installations, opting for battery storage is a strategic choice that brings numerous benefits to potential clients. By harnessing solar energy during the day and storing excess power in batteries, clients can enjoy a self-sufficient and reliable energy source when sunlight is scarce or during power outages. This not only enhances energy independence but also allows for significant cost savings on electricity bills.

Moreover, having a local installer who can guarantee after-sales service ensures prompt assistance, efficient maintenance, and timely troubleshooting, ultimately providing peace of mind to clients. With solar panels and battery storage, along with the assurance of reliable support from a local provider, clients can make a sustainable and smart investment for their energy needs.

KAS ELECTRICAL SERVICES
www.kaselectrical.co.uk

Tel: 07734 250768



WELDON HOMES
YOUR TRULY INDEPENDENT ESTATE AGENT



07720 311451

sales@weldonhomes.co.uk

www.weldonhomes.co.uk

RESIDENTIAL SALES AND LETTINGS

- ✓ Free Valuation
- ✓ Personal Service
- ✓ Independent
- ✓ No Sale No Fee
- ✓ Fully Managed and Let Only Services
- ✓ Professional Photo & Video



**BRITISH
PROPERTY
AWARDS**

2024



GOLD WINNER

ESTATE AGENT
IN WIGSTON

A Family Evening at John of Gaunt Lodge (No. 523)

The John of Gaunt Lodge's Installation Evening of was very much a family affair.



The Master, W. Bro. Robert A. Coleman, placed his son, Robert B. Coleman into the Chair of King Solomon, who then invested his brother, Bro. Paul Coleman, as Senior Warden and his grandfather, W. Bro. Brian Lloyd, as Junior Warden of the Lodge!

This was all overseen by the new Master's uncle, Bro. David Lloyd.

The Master commented on the evening, saying that, *"the family made history that night."*

They certainly did!

“
...the
family made
history
that night”

Are you a homeowner considering releasing the equity in your home?

When it comes to making this important decision, you need the guidance of a trusted expert. Look no further, because we are here to help you navigate the world of Equity Release with confidence and peace of mind.

With years of experience and a commitment to a personalised service, we are your go-to resource for unlocking the hidden value in your home.

Whether you need help with bills and rising expenses, wish to improve your home, go on that dream vacation, help with medical costs, help your loved ones with school fees or help buy their home; equity release can provide a much-needed financial path to meeting your goals.

If you would like to discuss releasing equity from your home please call in confidence

07720 255099

Beneficial Financial Management 35 Lutterworth Road, Blaby, Leicester LE8 4DW

bfm is the trading style of Bruce Bennett which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority

Edward Holmes is Restored!

R.W. Bro. Sir David Hugh Wootton, Past Deputy Grand Master, and R.W. Bro. Peter Kinder, the Provincial Grand Master of Leicestershire and Rutland, were pleased to “unveil” the recently restored portrait of Edward Holmes (PGM of Leicestershire and Rutland 1913 – 1928) that has hung in the Holmes Lodge Room for nearly 100 years.

The restoration was a special project to help celebrate The Holmes Lodge’s Centenary. Lodge members contributed to the cost of the restoration that was undertaken by local art firm, Gadsby’s.

The portrait and frame were in a very poor condition, and the expert restoration has not only transformed the gilt frame but also revealed details in the portrait that had been hidden under the dirt and old varnish. We can now see that Holmes was wearing a monocle for the sitting, and that there is a picture frame in the top right corner of the painting!

Peter Kinder said... “It was a great pleasure once again to welcome the Past Deputy Grand Master and Second Grand Principal, Sir David Wootton, to Freemasons’ Hall, Leicester on a visit to the Leicestershire & Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters No.7896 as a guest of the Master, W. Bro. Andy Green.”

“It is always a pleasure to welcome distinguished guests for London, Sir David has made the trip to Leicester on several occasions for a multiple of reasons and always enjoys his time with us.”

Peter Kinder said,

“ Sir David kindly agreed to assist me with the unveiling of the portrait of Edward Holmes after whom The Holmes Lodge is named. ”



Sir David Wootton and Peter Kinder unveil the restored portrait of Edward Holmes.

PROSTATE CANCER?

Care + Support for Local Men

Improving local men’s care - now!

What We Do:

- Give support for Prostate Cancer Patients with 5 monthly Support Groups
- Fund 3 Local Prostate Cancer Nurses
- Fund New Life Saving Treatments



No Government Funding **Every** Kind Donation Helps Us

For help or information see: www.prostaid.co.uk



Contact: **Rob Banner, Trustee/Director**
Reg. Office: 17 Torrington Close, Wigston, Leicester, LE18 2RY
info@prostaid.co.uk | Helpline: **0844 800 7801** (low call) | www.prostaid.co.uk

MDM SERVICES LEICESTER LTD

JAGUAR MAINTENANCE REPAIRS AND RESTORATION SPECIALISTS

- Air Conditioning Specialists
- Complete Restorations Undertaken
- Entire Jaguar Range from XK150 to I-Pace



Unit 4, Wylam Court,
Telford Way,
Stephenson Industrial Estate,
Coalville,
Leicestershire,
LE67 3HP
Telephone:
Mark Meade on
01530 838666

“We can modify your E-type handbrake so as to work year in year out without adjustment.”

Email: mdmservices@hotmail.co.uk

A Welcome Gift for Neonatal Unit

On the 15th October, W. Bro. Mark Hilder, Master of the Lodge of Welcome No. 5664, accompanied by W. Bro Rob Tattersall, the Lodge's Almoner, visited the Leicester Royal Infirmary Neonatal Unit to present a cheque for £2000 for the purchase of a specialist electric adjustable cot. Unfortunately, the cot couldn't be seen in action due to very strict infection control, essential electronic equipment uses and photography, but they were reliably informed that it was already in use helping care for babies in the Acute Neonatal Ward in conjunction with other specialist equipment.

On the 15th October, W. Bro. Mark Hilder, Master of the Lodge of Welcome No. 5664, accompanied by W. Bro Rob Tattersall, the Lodge's Almoner, visited the Leicester Royal Infirmary Neonatal Unit to present a cheque for £2000 for the purchase of a specialist electric adjustable cot. Unfortunately, the cot couldn't be seen in action due to very strict infection control, essential electronic equipment uses and photography, but they were reliably informed that it was already in use helping care for babies in the Acute Neonatal Ward in conjunction with other specialist equipment.

The Matron and staff were all very grateful for the addition of this essential equipment and they all wanted to be in the photo!

The money was raised by the Lodge over the last 12 months during Mark's Mastership. This rounded off a successful year for Mark and the Lodge of Welcome with an excess of £4000 being donated to local charities and good cause s. A big thank you must go out to the Charity Steward, W. Bro. Simon Pegg, for his hard work throughout the year.

The restrictions of a couple of years ago due to Covid had a detrimental effect on Lodges and charitable giving. Post Covid, the charity function of the Lodge of Welcome was completely revitalised and is now in a purple patch of form. When Simon became charity steward, his ambition was to create a charitable environment within the Lodge and to ensure that the Lodge made a real difference to the local community. The Lodge efforts extended to support for The Baldwin Trust, the Air Ambulance, Kaleidoscope, and the brethren from Devonshire Court who are invited annually to a Christmas Lodge. The latter has proved very popular with the members of Devonshire Court, and the Lodge prides themselves on making sure they have a great time. This incentive is driven by W. Bro John Pinnock and financed by the Lodge Charity fund.

He created a 'Lodge Charity Committee' and encouraged brethren to commit to a lodge standing order of £5 per month (some did more, while others donated a one-off amount) as well as raising some extraordinary raffles, competitions, and various other incentives. One particular Christmas Lodge night, raised £1,000 in cash for charity - a massive achievement.

Once the Lodge had raised their money, the challenge was set to nominate suitable charities and good causes to donate to in order to make the greatest impact. As a result of this strategy, over the past twelve months the Lodge of Welcome has donated over £6,000 to local charities. Their latest high-profile donation was the purchase of a "height adjustable cot" for the neo-natal unit at the Leicester Royal Infirmary.

Our Lodge Almoner Rob Tattersall has never had it so good; his work has excelled now that he is being properly financed. Regular funding from the Lodge charity chest ensures he no longer works hand to mouth.

Standing orders are generating regular monthly income and the Lodge moved into the new masonic year it was carrying a healthy surplus forward. Congratulations to all involved in these wonderful achievements and the Lodge of Welcome is really a beacon of giving back and making an impact.



XXXXXXXXXX XXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX XXXXXXXX

Jason Lodge Visits Sister Cycling Lodge

Andy Green, Master of Jason Lodge No. 7716, Leicestershire and Rutland's cycling lodge, along with Senior Warden Simon Oldfield and Senior Deacon Raj Solanki, recently visited their sister cycling lodge, Citizen Lodge No. 2911, in London. The group was warmly welcomed and had the privilege of witnessing a double initiation of two new cyclist members.

During the Festive Board, Andy responded to the visitors' toast and presented the new members with the "Working Tools of a Cycling Freemason", which were very well-received. Jason Lodge eagerly anticipates hosting members of Citizen Lodge at a future meeting.



Left to right: Andy Green, Initiates and Master of the Citizen Lodge, Simon Oldfield and Raj Solanki

Leicestershire and Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters No. 7896 Welcomes Distinguished Guest

On 31st October 2024, Leicestershire and Rutland Lodge of Installed Masters No. 7896 had the privilege of hosting Past Deputy Grand Master, Sir David Wootton, at Freemasons' Hall, Leicester. Master Andy Green extended a warm welcome to Sir David, who delivered an inspiring address on the power of collaboration and the importance of breaking down silos.

The lodge also welcomed six new members: Nicholas Bradshaw, Simon Walmsley, Richard Morris, Peter Ince, Nigel Bailey-Underwood, and Jonathan Hallett.

With three Installed Masters Lodges in the Province, it is encouraged that every Master considers joining one to enrich their Masonic journey. These lodges often offer unique experiences and a different perspective on Freemasonry.



Left to right: Geoff Phipps (SW), Noel Manby (Grand Superintendent), Sir David Wootton, Dr Andy Green (Master), Peter Kinder (Provincial Grand Master) and Martin Stevenson (JW).

A Personal Best for a Very Personal Cause

W. Bro. Arjun Sudra recently completed his first official 10k run at the Leicester Running Festival on 13th October, achieving a personal best of 56:08, after months of training! Through this event, he was able to raise £610 for the British Heart Foundation, thanks to the generosity of supporters.

His Lodge, Ratae Meridian No. 9673, were keen to support Arjun through sponsoring his run as well as spread awareness through social media and raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Arjun said,

“ I'd love to spread awareness of the cause and encourage others to get involved in similar initiatives. ”



W. Bro Arjun Sudra



Quality Products with First-Class Service and Highly Competitive Prices

- ✿ CLEANING MATERIALS
- ✿ CATERING CHEMICALS
- ✿ LAUNDRY SUPPLIES
- ✿ WASHROOM CONSUMABLES

Jangro (Leicester) Ltd

30 Gelders Hall Road, Gelders Hall Industrial Estate, Shepshed, Leics LE12 9NH

Tel: 01509 501 111

E-mail: sales.support@jangro-leicester.com

www.jangro-leicester.com

Discount code "Masonic20" for 20% off web orders



Freemasons' Hall Leicester

Tel 0116 2545325

Email: regalia@pglleics.co.uk

Opening Hours of Shop are Monday & Thursday

8:30am to 12:30pm

At all other times please leave a message and your request will be dealt with.

We are able to acquire and supply all items of Regalia for all Degrees

&

Rituals, Cases, Gloves, Ties, Gifts and Books.

All enquires are welcome

Freemasons Provide £60,000 to Voluntary Action South Leicestershire

Leicestershire Freemasons recently visited the Voluntary Action South Leicestershire (VASL) team in Market Harborough to provide a grant of £60,000 to help support 48 carers and people living with Dementia.

The project being supported by the grant is Carers Dementia Guardians (CGD) which provides weekly support sessions plus advice, advocacy and key work support. Volunteers provide wellbeing support, links to services and social activities and practical tasks such as hanging the washing, organising online shopping, accessing an Energy Consultant to assist with their home's energy efficiency, and making a room dementia friendly. It is an existing service managed by a Project Coordinator responsible for referrals, assessments, matching volunteers and overseeing group supervision so volunteers gain peer and staff support.

VASL's mission is to improve and enrich the lives of vulnerable people mainly in the Harborough district. Supporting around 4,800 people a year with a small team and around 180 volunteers from the local community is a testament to the extended reach VASL has achieved.



Left to Right: Kerry Turnbull, Julia Synnott, Tony Conlin (VASL) and Richard Barnett
(Leicestershire & Rutland Freemasons)

VASL provides services such as befriending and learning opportunities for isolated older people, transport for older, disabled, or rurally isolated people, mental well-being support for people with mild to moderate mental health conditions, and Leicestershire-wide Support for Carers.

Last year, VASL worked with 3,061 people, providing 6,272 hours of advice, information, and support.

Leicester Square is always on the look out for advertiser, so if you would like to advertise in the magazine or know someone that would benefit from advertising, please get in touch with Tony Sibson (*see page 5 for full contact details*). We offer adverts from as little as one eighth size to full pages and all proceeds help towards the production costs of the magazine which helps in maximising our donations to local charities.

Recent Updates

As many readers might know, the United Grand Lodge of England has been undertaking a strategic Review - “the Third Pillar Review” - under the leadership of Sir David Wootton. Its findings, and its accompanying ‘action plan’, are due to be published around the same time as this publication arrives with you. We await the details with interest.

Following on from an earlier article in Leicester Square, I am moved to write about our own conclusions locally in the Charity Office in this Province having listened to what local Brethren have been saying and some great feedback from local charities. There is an overwhelming feeling that support for charities from our fraternity should be kept local, funded by local masons in their local lodges, and making a measurable local impact. Time, Talent, and Treasure all come together these days in the key masonic value of Service. The brilliant work of Wyggeston Lodge No.3448 in giving time to support the Open Hands Trust is a great example of service and giving time. Open Hands is a brilliant local charity that brings emergency support and care to some of the most vulnerable in Leicester.

Wyggeston Lodge members give their time every week most notably to support Pie Night. They help serve a free hot meal to anyone in need food at the Compassion Centre at 7pm on Tuesday evenings. The meal consists of a Pukka pie, jacket potato, baked beans and a pudding.

Recently, I have been struck by how many of the charities that the Lodges have been supported over the years were advertising locally for volunteers to support them as Trustees, or advisors, giving freely of their skills and expertise. Indeed, the LRFC - the charity belonging to the Brethren of the Province - has appointed 4 new Trustees to support the strategy of the charity. There will be a great deal more about offering skills and expertise to local communities in the coming months.

Treasure has been a traditional core value of course - many will remember the old days when the lodge collection took place and £1 coin was expected to be popped into the collection bag in the Lodge. The vibes in the Charity office we continually pick up are that Brethren want to give their ‘treasure’ to local charities first and foremost and what a wonderful sentiment that is too. Many Lodges

collect charitable donations and place them in their Relief Chests and identify a local charity close to their hearts to support. Often Lodges approach their own members charity - the LRFC - to see if further funds can be added to increase the value of the donation and increase the impact their donation will have. This is possible as a result of the funds that are generated by the £36 a year (or £3 a month) Standing Orders to their charity. These donations attract gift aid too thus further increasing the ability of their LRFC to have an even greater impact.

So, what about the festivals and raising money for the MCF? I wrote some months back about the Continuous Giving Scheme - a smoothing out of the peaks and troughs of giving to the Grand Charity, and the creation of a more sustainable way that leads to every brother feeling included and equally valued. No targets for Lodge totals, no league tables of ‘which Lodge gives most’ and unnecessary self-promotion! No doubt decisions in our Province will be guided and informed by the outcome of the Third Pillar Review but for now, until we have fully established that the £3 a month or £36 a year is the norm so as to have a wonderful impact locally, I sincerely hope that all these other demands will not be rolled out.

We appeal on your behalf to the 700 plus Brethren who may (or may not) have been wildly enthusiastic about the 2022 festival and may even wear their Festival Jewel with pride but do not give locally to their own charity - now is a good time to get the house in order and celebrate what we can collectively do locally. Local Charities desperately need our local donations, and we should look to our local impact on the lives of those less fortunate than ourselves. The spinoff is that local charities do and will speak warmly of the local Freemasons and, who knows where those relationships will take our membership numbers and strengthen our rightful place in local communities.

Leicester Square is always on the look out for advertiser, so if you would like to advertise in the magazine or know someone that would benefit from advertising, please get in touch with Tony Sibson (*see page 5 for full contact details*). We offer adverts from as little as one eighth size to full pages and all proceeds help towards the production costs of the magazine which helps in maximising our donations to local charities.

£8,000 donated to Guide Dogs following Steam Railway Fun Day

Representatives from the Knights of Malta Lodge No. 50 in Hinckley and The Echills Wood Railway (EWR) gathered at Hinckley Masonic Hall on 9th October for a cheque presentation to a delegation from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association for the incredible sum of £8,000 raised from a steam railway fun-day the Lodge held in June.

The event was sponsored by Knights of Malta No. 50 and organised in collaboration with the Knight of Malta No. 30 Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges. The day out proved to be perfect summer weather with steam train rides in the beautiful surroundings of Kingsbury Water Park near Sutton Coldfield with all funds raised going to Guide Dogs being the charity chosen for his year in office by the Master of Knights of Malta Lodge No. 50 and Worshipful Commander of the No. 30 Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, W. Bro Jim Driver.

Collectively, a total of £4,000 was raised from the day from the Masons and their families and friends, the Echills Wood Railway which donated all the income received that day from tickets sold to the general public, plus donations by the public on the day to a delegation of representatives from the Guide Dogs for the Blind Association with their 'roadshow', topped-up with a donation by the Knight of Malta No. 30 Mark Lodge. This overall sum has been generously match-funded via the Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons' Charity, resulting in a tremendous total of £8,000 which will be used locally in the province.

The event was organised as a 'Special Saturday' with the public welcome to take train rides for which they purchased tickets from the railway company. Our Masons and their groups enjoyed exclusive visitor access to the railway with unlimited rides for the whole day - and for one day only, private entry to behind-the-scenes guided tours of the engine sheds and maintenance workshops and all-day light refreshments very kindly provided by the railway company volunteers.

Jim and his wife Helen are steam railway enthusiasts and central characters and long-standing volunteers at the railway and are never happier than when driving locomotive 'Douglas' which bears the number 50 of Jim's Lodge. The EWR which at 2km is one of the longest narrow-gauge railways of its kind in the UK, is one of the region's most popular visitor attractions. It runs on a seven and a quarter inch gauge (gap between the rails) built and operated by a group of dedicated volunteers. The railway runs passenger carrying scale models of actual steam engines and trains that, do or have, run on the full-size national railway. It prides itself on running not only in a safe professional way but also being authentic with both light and semaphore signaling, working signal boxes and controlled crossings.

Thanks go to all the Hinckley Freemasons who supported the day and in particular Jim and Helen, Peter Gibson-Leitch who helped Jim plan and prepare the arrangements for the event, Jim Crawford who did so much good work on the day helping to ensure everything ran smoothly, Bob Kinghorn who handled all the financial aspects and to Phil Crowfoot for the donation on behalf of the Knight of Malta No. 30 Mark Lodge.

Finally, a big thank you to the many staff and volunteers at EWR whose sterling efforts and hard work up to and on the day made the event a great success and for their generosity for their donation.



Jim and Helen Driver aboard No. 50 locomotive 'Douglas'



Another happy group depart the station



Jeff Stevens Hon. Sec. of EWR; middle Jim Driver, far right Helen Driver with Guide Dogs delegates Russell and Anne with their dogs 'Sean' and 'Poppy', and Ambassador Guide Dog 'Tango' in the middle

Chance Opportunities

In 2023, David Hall was installed as Master of Lodge Semper Eadem No. 3091. Soon after this, his wife Michelle, was unfortunately diagnosed with bowel cancer.

Michelle was treated at the Leicester Royal Infirmary, where she underwent surgery and chemotherapy. The surgery and treatment so far have been a success, although she will have adaptations to her everyday living. Michelle did not have any previous symptoms and was diagnosed after she took the opportunity of sending in a postal sample.

Whilst receiving chemotherapy treatment, Michelle recognised that the chemotherapy suite would benefit from extra equipment to benefit the patients and staff. On 23rd June, David and Michelle held a summer luncheon at Beedles Lake Golf Club raising £3800.

This was made up from raffle prize money and donations, including £1000 from the Leicestershire and Rutland Freemasons' Charity. 112 people attended the luncheon, and it was a superb day, with a fabulous carvery.

A month later, David and Michelle attended the Leicester Royal Infirmary to present the cheque, where we met various staff from admin, nursing staff and consultants. The chemotherapy suite is currently under renovation, and they hope the donation will go towards the provision that will improve the experience for patients and staff alike.



David and Michelle



Michelle rings the Bell



Richard Ward

Independent Funeral Services Ltd.

**Qualified, compassionate and experienced
Independent Family Funeral Directors
Home visits at your convenience**

**2B Cross Street,
Enderby LE19 4NJ
T: 0116 2866858 (24 hrs)
E: enderby@rwfs.co.uk**

Branches at:

**112 Aylestone Lane,
Wigston LE18 1BA
T: 0116 2887979 (24 hrs)
E: wigston@rwfs.co.uk**

Website: www.rwfs.co.uk

Going it alone? You don't have to.

Your own boss by day, bookkeeper, accountant and payroll expert by night?

Find out how we can do **more** for you.

Business

- Business Accounts & Taxation
- Tax Planning
- Payroll & HR
- Bookkeeping & VAT Returns

Personal

- Tax Returns
- Mortgages
- Pensions
- Investments

Book a free consultation:

01858 383159

Visit us at

114 St Mary's Road
Market Harborough
LE16 7DX

taxassist.co.uk/market-harborough



Harley Staples Cancer Trust Cheque Presentation

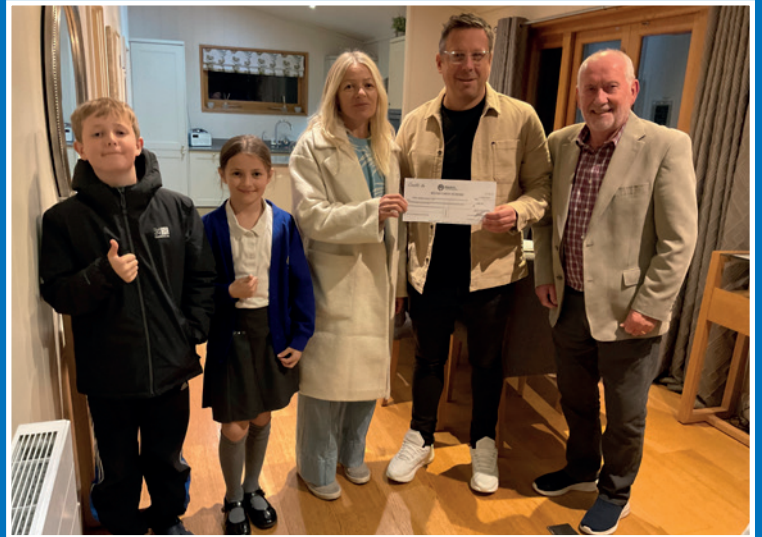
The Harley Staples Cancer Trust is a charity in memory of Harley who lost his battle with a rare leukaemia B Cell Acute Lymphoblastic Leukaemia Burkitt type in 2009, 9 months after he was diagnosed. Harley was just 8 years old.

The generosity of our supporters and fundraisers over the past seven years including £1,000 from the Vale of Catmos Chapter No.1265 and the Provincial Grand Chapter of Leicestershire & Rutland has enabled the charity to buy Harley's House, situated in Rutland, just minutes from Rutland Water. Families who have a child battling with cancer are welcome to take a free holiday for up to a week.

This gives families the chance to relax and escape from hospitals and spend quality time together creating memories to cherish forever.

Holidays are also available for young people up to the age of 24 and bereaved parents who have lost a child, although poorly children and their families will always have priority on bookings especially during school holidays.

The presentation took place at Harley's House, the retreat near to Rutland Water.



£1,000 being presented by E.Comp. Peter Willcocks (MEZ) to Katherine Staples, Chair of the Harley Staples Cancer Trust on behalf of the Vale of Catmos Chapter and the Provincial Grand Chapter of Leicestershire & Rutland. Also in the photo is E.Comp. Peter Williamson, Provincial Chapter Charity Steward and Katherine's two children.



E Comp

Peter Williamson (Provincial Chapter Charity Steward), presenting a £4,000 cheque from the Provincial Grand Chapter & the Freemasons Charity of Leicestershire & Rutland (LRFC) to Doreen Watson, Chair of the Strides! (Leicester) Charity together with the volunteers and members of the Charity.

The Charity supports people with mental health issues.

Companions Day Out

On Wednesday 13th November nineteen Royal Arch Companions accompanied the Grand Superintendent, Noel Manby to the convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter held at Great Queen Street, London. They were able to hear an excellent and fascinating presentation by Excellent Companion Mark Smith entitled "Hearts of Oak" about the Victoria Cross.

Afterwards, 18 of the Companions dined together at Totton's in Covent Garden, a convivial way to round off a great day.



Companions at Freemason's Hall London



Companions enjoying a festive board

A.J. Adkinson & Son

FAMILY-OWNED INDEPENDENT FUNERAL DIRECTORS

Serving our community for over 100 years,
with compassionate and professional bereavement care,
uniquely tailored to your needs.

Specialist faith facilities, on-site parking and catering suite.

12 London Road, Oadby, Leicester, LE2 5DG

24 hour service 0116 271 2340

Email: funerals@ajadkinsonandson.com

www.ajadkinsonandson.com



TRUSTED
BEREAVEMENT
CARE FROM
OUR FAMILY
TO YOURS



Oliver RAM Special Night

On Monday 18th November 2024,
Oliver R.A.M. No 751 had an incredibly
special evening.



In the Photo from left to right are W. Bro. Tom Mee, R. W. Bro. Phil Mann, Bro. Raj Tugnet, W. Bro. Ivan Scott W.C., Bro. Michael Singleton, W. Bro. Andy Lee, and W. Bro. Iain Walker

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. Andy Lee attended as the Provincial Representative and was escorted by W. Bro. Tom Mee and a number of other Provincial Officers including Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Phil Mann and Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Roger Whale, to see the Commander W. Bro. Iain Walker, install W. Bro. Ivan Scott into the Chair of Noah. All the brethren successfully conducted the installation, with precision and in due form.

Andy then presented the warrant of the Lodge to the newly installed Commander and Iain gave the address.

During the evening Andy presented Bro. Fraser Walker (Iain's brother) with his R.A.M. Certificate in his usual friendly and precise manner.

In itself, the events would have made the evening special, but after the installation Phil Mann asked Tom Mee to escort Andy to him where he presented him with his Grand Patron Charity Jewel. The Provincial Grand Master then asked for Iain to be presented, where he gave him a Provincial Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank to Provincial R.A.M. Grand Registrar. The surprise and joy on his face was very evident for all to see.

After the meeting, a very convivial festive board was enjoyed by all in excellent company.



Sporting Dinner

Friday 14th March 2025

Join us for an Evening of Food, Wine & Great Company

- **Guest Speaker: Geordan Murphy**
Former Leicester Tigers, British Lions & Irish International
- **MC & Host: Roger Dakin**
- **Auctioneer: Ed Giddins**
- **Raffle & Heads and Tails**
- **Three Course Dinner**
- **Half Bottle of wine**
- **Open to Friends & Family**
- **Dress code: Jacket & Tie**
- **£55 per person**



To book please contact

Email: enquiries@devonshire-place.co.uk / Tel: 01162 548361



Long Service Awards

The following Brethren have received continuous long service awards since our last edition.

W. Bro. David Sharpe	Howe & Charnwood Lodge No.1007	50 Years	26/02/1974
W. Bro. Keith Goddard	Uppingham in Rutland Lodge No.9119	50 Years	14/01/1972
W. Bro. Kenneth Hitchen	Uppingham in Rutland Lodge No.9119	50 Years	25/02/1974
W. Bro. Bernard Blow	Bradgate Lodge No.6596	50 Years	23/04/1974
W. Bro. Ronald Brown	Knights of Malta Lodge No.50	50 Years	09/05/1964
W. Bro. Richard Hallam	Knighton Lodge No.4711	50 Years	11/11/1974
W. Bro. John Hallam	Knighton Lodge No.4711	50 Years	11/11/1974
W. Bro. Peter Foster	Lodge of the Holy Well No.7827	60 Years	21/10/1964
W. Bro. Peter Bickley	Leics & Rutland Rotary Lodge No.9158	60 Years	16/11/1964
W. Bro. Alan Clarke	Gartree Lodge No.7778	50 Years	13/11/1974
W. Bro. John Waddy	Old Oakhamian Lodge No.8033	60 Years	09/12/1964
W. Bro. Michael Rook	Prince Rupert Lodge No.7841	50 Years	16/11/1974
W. Bro. John Buchanan	John of Gaunt Lodge No.523	60 Years	17/12/1964



Farewells

We are sad to announce the passing of the following Brethren to the Grand Lodge above and our thoughts go to their families and loved ones.

Each one will be missed but not forgotten.

W. Bro. Robert James	Hutchinson	Wyggeston	No.3448
W. Bro. Donald Henry	Gordon	Loughborough Lodge of Installed Masters	No.8312
Bro. Adrian John	Lewis	Sparkenhoe	No.8063
VW. Bro. Michael Edward	Herbert	Gartree	No.7778
W. Bro. Charles Victor	Bagshaw	St Martin's	No.3431
W. Bro. David Leonard	Gulley	Roundhill	No.8639
W. Bro. George	Elliott	Grey Friars	No.6803
W. Bro. Henry Walter	Dixon	Halford	No.3919
W. Bro. Graham George	Wright	Granstone	No.6406
Bro. William John	Slater	Lodge of the Holy Well	No.7827
W. Bro. Robert Thomas	Mason	Albert Edward	No.1560
W. Bro. Haywood Alfred	Bishop	Vale of Catmos	No.1265
W. Bro. Carl Francis	Simmons	Castle of Leicester	No.7767
W. Bro. Derick William	Marston	Granstone	No.6406
W. Bro. David Mostyn	Thelwall	Roundhill	No.8639
W. Bro. Anthony Thomas	Hughes	Temperantia Lodge	No.4088



Rothera Bray Solicitors LLP offer a dedicated, pro-active legal service to both businesses and individuals across the East Midlands.

Our services cover:

- Corporate & Commercial
- Commercial Property
- Employment Law
- Dispute Resolution
- Wills, Trusts & Probate
- Residential Property
- Family Law
- Personal Injury

Our offices:

LEICESTER: 0116 254 8871

MARKET HARBOROUGH: 01858 467181

HINCKLEY: 01455 639900

NOTTINGHAM: 0115 910 0600

DERBY: 01332 372211

enquiries@rotherabray.co.uk

www.rotherabray.co.uk

ROTHERA | BRAY



Award winning
customer service