



squaretalk

The Magazine for Freemasons in the Province of Gloucestershire

Autumn 2015

Editor's Page

Cover . . .

What a spectacularly good day at Highnam again this year! The youngster on the front cover was certainly having fun!

This issue . . .



What a varied selection of articles again in this issue. On the international front, we have items involving lodges in India, New Zealand, Germany, Singapore and Malta. We have reports from other orders and many pieces on charitable events. Keep those stories coming, Brethren!

New lodges

Thornbury Lodge has got off to a tremendous start (p5). Newent's new Daffodil Lodge will be consecrated at Tewkesbury on Sat 17th Oct.

Fifties & Sixties

In the last issue, we had an abundance of certificate presentations. Coincidentally, several were called David and we managed to transpose two of them. W Bro David Lewis was shown in Sudeley Castle Lodge whilst W Bro David Turton found himself in

Glevum Lodge. Sincere apologies to both. Forthcoming presentations are in the hands of W Bro Ray Thilthorpe. He is in contact with relevant secretaries who are asked to promptly send him the necessary biographies and photos.

Tercentenary

2017 will see the three hundredth anniversary of organised Freemasonry and there are sure to be celebrations across the nation. Ideas for activities around this Province are sought from brethren. See p40 for contact details of W Bro Nick Robinson who is coordinating.

Advertising

Many thanks to W Bro Simon Waring who has completed his stint as advertising manager. The team is seeing some changes. W Bro Andy Holdsworth takes command and on his behalf, I thank the advertisers, without whom we could not produce and distribute this quality magazine.

New website

The easy-to-use new Provincial website is proving very popular. In the 'News' section, over a hundred articles have already appeared so far this year, drawing on the interesting and varied activities of lodges and individual brethren, as well as Provincial events. Space is always a concern in magazines, so the website provides an ideal opportunity to expand, not least on some of the stories contained in this issue. There are lots of useful sections and links too, (see p63 for details.)

Dick Smith, Editor

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High Honours at Highnam!

Gold Waypoint

Right, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro John Thurston announces that he is awarding a bottle of bubbly to W Bro Jon Jones, Charity Steward at Lodge of Grace. His lodge was the first to attain the Grand Charity 2018 Festival Gold Waypoint.

Laura Chapman, the Chief Executive of The Freemasons' Grand Charity was the guest of honour at Highnam Court and presented Jon with a certificate to mark the achievement.

Scorchio!

The Family Fun Day saw hundreds join in to enjoy a variety of attractions, old and new.

"Our sincere thanks to the owner of Highnam Court, Roger Head, and to Jane Bruton of the Pied Piper Appeal," said W Bro Phil Waring afterwards. "The weather was



brilliant and Roger and Jane's help ensured this annual family fun day was a sizzler!"

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward was announcing that the event had raised over £5,000 towards the 2018 Grand Charity Festival and acknowledging the many people who put themselves out to make this so enjoyable.

"To see the happy smiling faces of children and adults alike was worth all the hard work put in by the Charity Team. The entertainment value of the kids' races proved most popular. Additional features this year were as diverse as an eagle owl and a Lotus Formula 1 car.

"There are obviously too many people to mention and to thank here," he said, "but I'll make sure they get a mention in the website article."

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross (left), presented Roger Head with a cheque for £2,000 for the Pied Piper Appeal.

There are more photos on the centre-fold in this issue and many more on the website!



Still a busy man!

British Legion post



It was five years ago when last *squaretalk* reported how busy W Bro David Street of Perseverance Lodge was. "It doesn't stop!" said Dave,

who is now starting his second three-year stint as Chairman of the National Branches District in the Royal British Legion.

"Brethren might like to know that they have a direct contact into Haig House and

the RBL amongst their numbers, should I be able to be of assistance or a charity link," he said.

These are some of his other current activities;

- America Lodge, London;
- Chairman National Branches District RBL;
- Councillor Ashchurch Rural Parish Council;
- Trustee Sir George Dowty Award Trust;
- Welfare and Membership Officer 'Ability';
- Gloucestershire Constabulary Disability Support Association;
- Member Jesmond House Patient Participation Group, Tewkesbury;
- Governor Alderman Knight Special School;
- Associate Member to Governing Body Tewkesbury School.

Full story at www.glosmasons.org.uk

"It's a small world!"

Duke of Edinburgh Awards

Finding themselves seated together at the Lodge of True Friendship installation festive board, the conversation of (L to R) W Bros Geoff Francis, Ian Maxey and Steve Coles turned to Scouting. "I mentioned that I was a senior member of the Sea Cadets," said Steve, "and that I was the organisation's national manager of the Duke of Edinburgh's awards. This prompted Geoff to say that he attained the gold award (the highest accolade) in 1962. I announced that I attained my gold in 1973. Ian then said he got his in 1961!

"It showed what a small world we live in and also that the qualities required to attain the highest Duke of Edinburgh's award might somehow be mirrored in Freemasonry," continued Steve. "My thoughts then turned to perhaps how we could harness this within freemasonry to help other organisations, like the Sea Cadets, Scout

movement and St John's Ambulance, to name but a few, by promoting and delivering the Duke of Edinburgh's award within these and other organisations. It would also be good to get all those Freemasons that have attained one of the levels of the award together not only to celebrate their success but also to exchange memories.

Any other brethren showing an interest in this initiative can contact Steve at hqsodofe@gmail.com.



New Kids on the Block!



Thornbury Lodge consecrated

A couple of hundred years ago, masonic lodges invariably met at public houses. With the notion of a first-ever lodge in Thornbury being formed, it was in no way surprising then for a pub to be chosen for the new venture.

The consecration took place in front of 140 masons at the nearby Armstrong Hall (below), conducted by Past PGM, RW Bro Adrian Davies assisted by the Provincial Wardens, W Bros Nigel Bridges and Dick Smith. The PGM, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross then installed the WM and officers.

At the festive board, the PGM paid tribute to the tremendous work which the founders had put in to bringing the lodge to fruition. He said, "The culture of the

lodge is a blank page. What is written on it will depend on how the lodge progresses. It is important to make a good impression on the local community." Heeding that remark, the lodge opened its doors to the public during the Thornbury Carnival in July.

"We started with fourteen founders," said the first WM, W Bro Richard Birkwood. "Already we've had three initiates and there are more in the pipeline, not to mention joining members. This is a lodge which will serve Thornbury and freemasonry well."

Anyone interested in joining the lodge should contact the secretary, W Bro Michael Stone, on 01454 419002.

Above, founders outside the Knot of Rope.

Full story at www.glosmasons.org.uk



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long term care



New name for Cotswold Care Hospice



Longfield, Hospice Care for the Cotswolds

If you were at lunch following Provincial Grand Lodge at Wycliffe College, you will probably have recognised this team of ladies serving at table. Brethren will have seen these volunteers dashing around at Wotton festive boards where their time and expertise has been transformed into hefty donations to Cotswold Care. Wotton Friends was conceived 27 years ago, during which time they have raised and delivered a remarkable £378,000 for the charity.

"The charity has undergone a name-change," said Tricia Henderson-Ross, Chairman of Wotton Friends and is the wife of Gloucestershire's PGM. "The rebranding is mainly funded through a legacy which had a stipulation that it was to be used for projects."

There is a five-year strategy," said Dr Trevor Bentley, Chair of the Trustees. "Our goal is for Longfield to become the leading provider of community palliative care services in



Gloucestershire, to support those with a life-limiting illness to live well and support people to die well. The first step is to take away the apprehension people sometimes feel about hospices.

"The word 'hospice' can be seen by some as not relevant to them as they associate hospice with a place where you go to die. We know from our many years supporting people from diagnosis, that we can help people to live with their condition as well as at the end of life. So we have removed the word 'hospice' from our name to become 'Longfield'. The aim is to promote the concept of 'hospice care' rather than focus on hospice as a place."

"'Longfield' was the name of the original house bought to set up the charity," continued Tricia. "I do understand why people associate 'hospice' with somewhere you go to die and has been seen as an obstacle. Longfield will soon include community-based outreach services at hospitals and surgeries. Hopefully, in the not too distant future, we will see satellite centres created across the Province where Longfield's services can be delivered."

Longfield – the same charity, the same great care, just a different name.

TLC x 5000

Teddies for Loving Care

"Almost 5000 teddies have been distributed to hospitals throughout the Province," the Provincial Grand Almoner, Mark Smith (right) told Sam Bird (below), who is Emergency Nurse Practitioner at the Vale Community Hospital.

W Bro Mark and the PGM, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, were delivering a fresh batch of teddies to replace the hundreds already distributed at the ultra-modern Minor Injuries Unit in Dursley.

'Scarlet'

No sooner was the box open than 'Scarlet' was delivered to young Keira Smith, who was in X-ray with an ankle injury. It was all smiles from Keira when she was told there were no broken bones and she could keep her teddy.



Prestigious award for Roger the Rotarian

Wedding Cars-R-Us!

As well as being very busy in masonry, (PM and Secretary of Royal Lodge of Faith & Friendship), W Bro Roger Perrin has also been an active Rotarian. During his 27 years with the club, he's held most of the officers' positions; the highlight was Thornbury Club President in 2000.

"I have also held two District positions, Shelterbox Officer and, more recently, Environment Chairman. I have been very keen on supporting the Shelterbox Charity, which was founded by a Rotarian in the Helston Club in Cornwall in 2001. To date, they have delivered worldwide over 100,000 boxes to various areas suffering from natural disasters. I have supported this charity by using my car for weddings and donating all the money; over £4,000 so far."

Roger has been honoured in Rotary with the Paul Harris Fellowship, which is given 'in appreciation of tangible and significant assistance for the furtherance of better



understanding and friendly relations among the peoples of the world'.



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Charity Recipients visit Sherborne



£4,000 distributed

Bro Colin Drewett, the WM of Sherborne Lodge, opened the doors at Stroud to representatives of nominated charities. They were invited onto the lodge-room floor to be presented with cheques.

Colin, who was recovering from very recent surgery, delegated the pleasurable task to Charity Steward, W Bro Jon Hutchen. He in turn invited the guests to give a brief overview of the work they did and how the donations would help. This latest batch of charity donations from the lodge totalled £4,000.

Recipients were:

- The Nelson Trust
- Minchinhampton Primary School
- James Hopkins Trust
- The Western Lupus Group
- Horsfall House
- Robocap

Photographed above (L to R) are W Bro Jon Hutchen (Charity Steward), John Trohan (Nelson Trust), Bro Mike Thomas (Senior Warden), W Bro Colin Drewett (WM), Sarah James (James Hopkins Trust), Bro Brendan Clements (Junior Warden), Chris Bruce, (Minchinhampton Primary School PTA) and W Bro John Jutsum (Chaplain and Horsfall House representative).

Guests John, Chris and Sarah joined the brethren at the Festive Board. "I was here last year at the invitation of the Installed

Masters' Lodge," said Sarah, "and jumped at the chance to come back."

'He does snakehips all day long!'

These guests were entertained at the festive board by Past Master, W Bro Richard Smith (below), on piano and kazoo. Amongst his amusing numbers he included a Sophie Tucker hit from the thirties, "My canary has circles under his eyes!" It couldn't be said too many brethren recalled the catchy number but it was met with roaring applause.



Indian diary



150th anniversary

W Bro John Gillo made his annual trip to India and took the opportunity to visit three lodges.

The District Grand Conclave of Western India one afternoon was followed in the evening by the District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Bombay. This was a particularly important event, as it was the District's sesquicentenary (150 years), "We welcomed visiting deputations representing various orders and Regional Lodges," said John. "The District Grand Master of Southern India took the chair and obligated and invested the new District Grand Inspector for Northern India. The meeting continued as would a Provincial meeting and the booklet recording the history of the District was circulated to all present, together with a Mark Token fixed to a key chain. We all then retired to a local venue for an Indian buffet dinner.

"The following day I was at the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India installation meeting at the Garware Club, Wankhede Stadium, where India normally play their International Cricket in Mumbai. The meeting commenced at 5.00 pm and some 300 brethren were present. Bro Vakil was duly obligated and invested. The region has some 76 Lodges under its jurisdiction, and he proceeded to appoint, obligate and invest his deputy and no less than twelve Assistant

Regional Grand Masters! He then conferred the rank of Past Deputy Regional Grand Master and Past Assistant Regional Grand Master on a significant number of brethren before appointing his Active Officers. The vast amount of business conducted meant the meeting did not conclude until 9.30pm; drinks and buffet followed."

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Food for thought

. . . at Light & Reflection

WM, W Bro Geoff Poyner, invited Bro Jake Lukas, the Chief Executive of the Novalis Trust, to present to brethren at the Avonmouth day-time lodge. Jake gave a thought-provoking talk about the work of the Cotswold Chine School, Minchinhampton Common. The trust also runs a residential home for adults with learning disabilities at Painswick.

Cotswold Chine is an independent charitable school founded in 1954 for children with complex learning needs and associated social, emotional and behavioural difficulties. The education and social care programmes are inspired by the German philosopher, scientist and Goethe scholar (and Freemason) Rudolf Steiner (1861 -1925).

With residential places for 42 male and female students aged 7 to 19 and up to 18



places for day students, the school and children's home uses a holistic approach in working with young people with challenging behaviour.

Pictured above are (L-R) VW Bro Gordon Cole, Chairman of Novalis Trust Board, Bro Thomas Pentzek; W Bro Geoff and Bro Jake. You can read the full article at www.glosmasons.org.uk.

Frog-racing at Lydney

£2000+ raised for 2018

"That so many respectable members of the community could be persuaded to part with money by inviting them to pull a plywood frog on a piece of string," said RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, "only goes to prove that entertainment doesn't need to be complicated in order to be both fun and rewarding!"

The PGM was announcing that the Lydney fund-raiser had succeeded in topping £2000 to go towards the 2018 Grand Charity Festival.

The venue was the spacious and spectacular arena at W Bro Steve Dodson's farm at Purlieu. The Cotswold Frog Racing Team, comprising W Bros Steve Parkes (right)

and Rob Dewberry have raised over £300,000 for deserving charities since they hatched out 20 years ago.

Full story and many more pics at: www.glosmasons.org.uk



Annual pageant at “spiritual home”

2015 Cathedral Service

This is very much designed as a spectacular annual day-out for all Gloucestershire brethren, their families and friends and other guests, bringing them together at this highlight of the masonic calendar. Everyone was welcomed to the service by the Dean of Gloucester, the Very Reverend Stephen Lake, who again pointed out that the Gloucestershire Freemasons may consider the grand building their ‘spiritual home’.

He extended his welcome to the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, the Lord Lieutenant, Dame Janet Trotter and the High Sheriff, Thomas Frost.

Many more photos at www.glosmasons.org.uk



Shorts!



Scapegoats!



At Stapleton Lodge of Instruction, brethren from provinces near and far are more than welcome. One wonders, however, what these visiting brethren are blamed for!

Prepared for festive action!



Spotted at Sherborne Lodge festive board: visitors W Bros John Sullivan and Richard Williams-Jones.

Dennyside Bowling

A charity match in London raised the incredible sum of £4800 for children with brain damage, disabilities and special needs. "The Dennyside Bowling Association was formed in 1926 by Leonard Denny, a renowned philanthropist," said W Bro Max Hart.



"Although, it is not a masonic club, a great number of the members, who are mainly Past Presidents of County Bowling Associations, are active Freemasons.

Thanks!



Dear Mark Smith, (Prov Grand Almoner), Please could you send Lydney Minor Injury Unit a box of teddies. They are being so appreciated by the young children that

attend the department and they make a big difference to treating the younger ones. They absolutely love them! Many thanks and kindest regards, Mandy Baker.

Nap-hand!



Brethren of Somerset's Forest of Mendip Lodge made their regular pilgrimage to Downend Lodge, using the opportunity to show off smart new embroidered napkins. W Bro Adrian Moore, who was a Downend member before venturing south and joining the Rickford-based lodge, was the first editor of *squaretalk* back in the nineties. He is pictured here (centre) with the two masters, W Bros Barrie Burgess and Ian Angell.

Gulf War Memorial soon

Twenty-five years on

Gulf War veteran, Ray Thaw (right), holds aloft a model of the proposed memorial which will stand 4 metres high. He was the luncheon guest of Gloucestershire Freemasons, who have raised almost £5,000 towards the £60,000 needed to build the memorial and unveil it next February. It will be twenty-five years after the short conflict, which cost the lives of 47 British servicemen.

The fund-raising lunch was organised by Tyndall Lodge and held at a packed Bristol Golf Club at Almondsbury.

"The generosity of the Gloucestershire brethren has gone a long way towards bringing this project forward," said Ray. "To you, the people here today and to those that have helped us on the way, we salute you!"

Ray and his wife Claire were received by Tyndall's Worshipful Master, W Bro Tony Thomas and his wife Sue, (below).

The connection was W Bro Norman Weeks (right), who was master of the lodge in 1985 and is also currently the WM of Lodge of St Christopher. Norman's son, Squadron Leader 'Kev' Weeks, was a member of Tyndall Lodge and was killed when his Tornado was downed a week into



the war. "There is a plaque in memory of 'Kev' at the Masonic Centre at Downend,"

said organiser,

W Bro Paul Wilmot.

"There has never previously been any central point dedicated to the memory of the fallen."

The action in early 1991, in which 44,000

British troops were deployed, followed the occupation of Kuwait by Saddam Hussein.

The PGM, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, was in attendance and presented a cheque to Ray, who is the Families Liaison Manager for the Trust. Ray concluded, "Due to the efforts of Paul and Norman, money is pouring in from the Gloucestershire area. On behalf of the Gulf War Memorial Committee I thank you Masons for your generous donations."

Full story and many more pics at www.glosmasons.org.uk



Gloucester's Blue Plaque

"Historic Jewel"

Assisted by the Mayor of Gloucester, Cllr Deb Llewellyn, the Provincial Grand Master unveiled a plaque explaining some of this unique building's history. It is generally believed that the roof and the current building came together at some time in the 18th or possibly 19th century.

The plaque was commissioned by Gloucester Historic Buildings Ltd, a joint company and registered charity owned by Gloucester Civic Trust and Gloucester City Council. The current chairman is W Bro Martyn White of May Hill Lodge of Gloucester.

At the ceremony, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross spoke about the current



Masonic use of the building. The Mayor responded, "I congratulate the Freemasons of Gloucestershire on preserving such a distinctive building; one of the many historic jewels among the seven hundred listed buildings in the City of Gloucester."

Full story at www.glosmasons.org.uk

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Further support for Air Ambulance



Tri-Province donations

Brethren from the three Provinces served by the Midlands Air Ambulance stationed at Strensham have made a further gift, adding yet more to the £1.5 million donated by the Freemasons' Grand Charity over the past eight years.

In order to present cheques for £4,000 each to Fundraising Manager, Annie Newell, the trio of Provincial Grand Masters from Gloucestershire, Herefordshire and Worcestershire homed in on the strategically-placed HQ adjacent to the M5, only to discover the helicopter was answering an emergency call to a road accident.

Administering first aid at the scene, medics Steve Mason and Tim Davies

handed over the patient to road ambulance staff before pilot Tim Hutchins raced the team back to base.

Following a quick refuel ready for the next call-out, the chopper-crew took out five minutes to pose for photos whilst Annie gratefully accepted the cheques.

3 miles to the gallon!

"We worked out that the helicopter consumes around a gallon of fuel for every three miles covered," said Annie, "so funding is a major issue for us."

Photo: L to R, Tim Hutchins, Steve Mason, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, Annie Newell and Tom Davies.

More pics at www.glosmasons.org.uk

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Provincial Grand Chapter



The new Third Principal

The Crypt School in Gloucester was the brand-new venue for the annual convocation where E Comp David Ford (pale blue robe) was invested as the new Provincial Third Principal for Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. He is pictured here with E Comp Paul Diggins (dark blue), ME Comp Graham King (red) and his deputy, E Comp Ray Bennett.

David also manages the Provincial Royal Arch website, which is well worth a visit at <http://glosandhereroyalarch.com/>



Fortitude Banner dedication

Graham recently led his executive team to join sixty companions at his mother chapter, the Filton Chapter of Fortitude. To mark the half-century occasion, there was the dedication of a banner of which Graham was also the instigator, driver and benefactor. The Chapter will be forever grateful to him for this gesture.



The new robes came all the way from India, courtesy of Amara Gillo, wife of Ex Comp John (above), to whom Graham, said, "This bouquet is for you to take home to Amara, together with our sincere thanks."

There was a further presentation to Past Deputy Grand Superintendent, Tony Stock (left). Presenting a number of gifts to Tony, Graham thanked him for the five years he had dedicated to the post.



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Thanks are in Order!

Royal Order of Scotland

As we go to press, we learn of the sad and sudden passing of Bro Ron Smith. Since its consecration in 2007, RW Bro Ron had been the Provincial Grand Master of the Royal Order of Scotland for the Province of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire. On his retirement, the opportunity arose at Newnham for the brethren to give a resounding 'thank-you' to him for his wonderful leadership.

An array of representatives

Representing Grand Lodge was RW Bro Jim Daniel, Substitute Governor (PGSec UGLE) and Bro Ewan Rutherford, Grand Marischal. In addition to three PGMs from the neighbouring provinces and a number of deputy and substitute PGMs, the Grand Superintendent of Royal Arch, W Bro Graham King and his Deputy, Bro Ray Bennett were in attendance.

The Mark Masons PGM, Bro Jim Green, was accompanied by the Grand Superintendent Knight Templar Priests, Bro Dr David Paterson. The PGSR of the Order of the Secret Monitor, Bro Dick Mussell, was joined by the Inspector General of AAR, Bro Ian Crowe, and the PGM and Grand Superintendent of Monmouthshire, Bro the Rev Malcolm Lane.

RW Bro Ron advanced three new brethren into the Order and the Substitute Governor assumed the Chair. Having congratulated Ron for the exemplary way he had conducted the ceremony and for his work over the years as PGM, he then Installed RW Bro James Bartlett as the new PGM. In his address to the brethren, the new PGM thanked RW Bro Ron for all that he had done for the Province and presented him with an engraved Nailsea Glass tankard and an



engraved Past PGM's jewel and collaret on behalf of all the brethren.

It was fitting that the meeting was followed by a traditional Burns Night Dinner. The haggis was piped in by the Provincial Junior Grand Warden, W Bro Alastair Hamill, and the address was given by Bro Ewan Rutherford.

Photo: Ron (left) is congratulated by his successor.

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Sodbury Vale on Tour SVOT Team!

Successful visiting initiative

A casual discussion over coffee has snowballed into opening up one of the main benefits of Freemasonry . . . visiting! 'SVOT team' brethren are embracing the delights of attending lodges, both near and far.

It was the idea of W Bros Gary King and Alan 'Bunny' Groves (right) to embark on a programme of visits for Sodbury Vale Lodge members. "Hence, in the summer of 2013," said Gary, "Alan and I devised SVOT. Our first visit was to the Lodge of True Friendship at Stapleton. I was a regular visitor there and I knew their ceremonies were 'a bit different!' We attracted only eight Sodbury Vale brethren, but their response to the wonderful evening meant that soon the news filtered through to other SV members and also members of other lodges who asked if they too could join us. In the spirit of true brotherly love, they were naturally welcomed.

"Next we were off to St Andrews Lodge at Avonmouth and that produced fourteen brethren. This was then improved on, when a further 22 visited Southey Lodge in Clevedon and our season finished in a flurry with 21 brethren visiting Tennant Lodge in Cardiff.

Momentum

"The next season, we had brethren pushing us to keep up the momentum.



Fifteen tourists visited St Stephen's Lodge in Bristol, then seventeen were at Sherborne Lodge in Stroud, sixteen at Tyndall Lodge in Downend and we finished off with an amazing 22 visiting St Catherine's Lodge in Pontypridd.

"We always pay all our own visiting costs which includes the festive board, drinks and transport, so we are limiting to about four ventures in our Masonic year. We have a dozen signed up for a visit to St Luke's Lodge to celebrate their 250th anniversary at Grand Lodge and a visit to Devizes next February."

SVOT has come to the attention of our own PGM. Whilst visiting Sodbury Vale Lodge, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross mentioned he had heard about the successful visit to Stroud and said, "I'll be looking out for the SVOT charabanc whilst I am on my travels." "He would be very welcome to join us on any future visits!" responded Gary.



Ladies Night benefits local hospital

True Friendship gift

The Lodge of True Friendship's generosity received good reporting coverage amongst the Southmead Hospital Charity's social media following as a result of a cheque for £1,165 being presented to the Richard Bright Renal Unit. The money was raised by W Bro Ken Allen and his wife Christine, mainly at their lodge ladies' night.

In acknowledging the gift, Aleisha Foreman, the Communications Manager, outlined a short history of the lodge on the charity's website. She added, "The money will be donated to the renal research fund. Key projects include improving access to kidney transplantation and the efficacy of iron protocols in haemodialysis. Christine Allen is a long-term patient of the unit and six years ago she received a kidney transplant at another unit in Oxford."



cheque to Adrian Brown (right), who is the Community Appeal Manager for the Southmead Hospital Charity.

"Giving something back!"

Christine said, "They have been brilliant over the last few years. I just wanted to give something back."



Pictured with Christine and Ken is one of the research unit nurses, Vicki Lee and Dr Albert Power, who is the clinical lead for Renal Research. Grandson Austin is helping Christine hand over the giant

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Accolades at Avonmouth

The efforts of two Avonmouth stalwarts were acknowledged by VW Bro Colin Bendon at a meeting of Royal Edward Lodge. The Hall chairman, W Bro Mike Goodfield was pleased to add his recognition.

W Bro John Donaldson

"Initiated into that lodge in 1969 and WM in 1978, a founder of The Lodge of Light & Reflection and Secretary from 2008 – 2015, Chairman of the Avonmouth Club (Hall Bar) since time immemorial and also the licence holder." These were just some of the credits to which Colin referred when he presented John with a beautiful piece of Dartington crystal.

"Despite his dyslexia, John has carried out all his duties impeccably," said Colin. "Through sheer hard work and dogged determination he has overcome every challenge. A 'super sub' in ceremonies, we tend to take him for granted. John is, without doubt. 'Mr Avonmouth'."

Outside masonry, John has for many years been Chairman of the Thornbury & District Stroke Support Group – breathing new life into the group under his 'can do' style of leadership. In April of this year, he was awarded the prestigious 'Dyer Award' in recognition of his exceptional services freely given to the Alveston community.

W Bro Eric Johns

W Bro Eric Johns (photo right) has played the organ in Avonmouth for over 25 years. In addition to the five Craft lodges,



he also plays for Kings Weston Chapter, Portus Abonae Mark and several lodges in Somerset.

VW Bro Colin thanked Eric on behalf of all the brethren for his commitment and for the dignity his music has brought to the ceremonies. "That poise is only being matched by the dignified manner in which he conducts himself at all times," remarked Colin.

Eric was also presented with a stunning piece of Dartington glassware. Typically, he replied with smile and a quiet "Thank-you!"



Frenchay Brain Injury Rehabilitation Centre

Fortitude!

A very close friend's son called Glyn suffered severe brain damage when his heart failed and he stopped breathing," said W Bro Steve Roach, PM of Filton Lodge of Fortitude.

"Afterwards, Glyn was unable to recognise his parent and could not even carry out the basics of using a knife and fork. With the assistance of the BIRU at Frenchay Hospital, Glyn has made a remarkable recovery. Whilst he will always need care, he is back to being the cheeky lad we know and love."

W Bro Steve handed a cheque for £2,900, raised during his year in the chair,



to Gerry Roxburgh, the Lead Speech and Language Therapist, and Alison Woods, the Centre Manager. The current master of the lodge is W Bro Brad Seaman (right).

£18 per minute!

"We bring the hospital to the patient!"

W Bro Mike Conner (left) introduces Bro Mike Page (Beaufort Lodge, Bristol), at a festive board, as he presents him with a £500 cheque, raised from spirits draws at Hambrook Lodge.

Bro Page is a member of the Great Western Air Ambulance flight crew. He went on to say, "Speed is of the very essence in life-saving these days. Having a doctor on board, as well as the state-of-the-art equipment we carry, means patients stand a far better chance of survival. It costs £18 a minute once those rotors start turning, however, and the average mission amounts to around £800. Your money will be put to great use."

The chopper, which is based at Filton,



covers Gloucestershire, Bristol, and some of Wiltshire and Somerset.

Lodge of Seafarers ~ first 20 years



In the finest of traditions

Celebrating twenty years since foundation, Lodge of Seafarers was packed to the gunnels as W Bro Steven Case took the helm, (pictured with wardens, Jon Bright and Barry Edwards).

W Bro Clive Godfrey, who was the founding secretary, writes, "In 1993, the MOD made drastic defence cuts in the reserve services. A number of Freemasons

being RN Reservists conceived the idea of getting brethren together under the same roof. Prospective founders included officers and men of the Royal Navy, RNR, Royal Fleet Auxiliary, Merchant Navy, Royal Marines, Tug Masters, Sea Cadet Corps and HM Customs. The lodge name was obvious!

"A logo of red, white and blue ensigns in saltire was chosen together with a motto "VECTURA ET COMMITARI" (Escort & Protect). Tyndall Lodge agreed to be the mother Lodge. Sixteen candidates were proposed in the first year and other lodges helped out with seconds and thirds.

"We now have 63 subscribing crew who can wear uniform at the meetings. We maintain naval traditions like piping the Master to his chair, up spirits (yes the lodge does serve a tot of real naval rum at every meeting) and hands to dinner, along with ringing the ships bell on the half hour."

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Interviews with the Pro

W Bro Jim Kelly



ST: A true Scotsman, Jim?

JK: Aye! Born and raised on Clydeside. I studied chemistry at Glasgow Uni and was the Faculty Staff-Student Liaison Rep for my year.

ST: And where did you go to work?

JK: Procter & Gamble. I spent seven years in the manufacturing division producing household-name brands before joining a management team.

ST: And we thought you were an accountant!

JK: I am! I switched to an accounting career on Tyneside and in London and Manchester. I was involved in the launch of products like Ariel and Pampers and setting up a new toothpaste factory.

ST: Did you stay at Proctors?

JK: No, I moved to Lloyds Bank in 1984 as part of the push to develop accounting and financial analysis, before transferring to the new retail HQ in Bristol. I became Head of Finance for the Business Banking Division before taking early retirement in 2002.

ST: Most of us know you as being a central figure in the GMCA.

JK: I was treasurer from 2003 to 2014. I introduced computerisation of the accounts, developed the Gift Aid processes for claiming tax repayments for Charity Balances held on behalf of lodges and individual donations to the 2006 NMSF

Festival via the GMCA. I was treasurer for the PGM's Glos Charities Appeal and managed the financial aspects of the creation of its successor, the Charitable Incorporated Organisation, the Gloucestershire Masonic Charity Action. It was quite an experience to be able to contribute to the immense amount of effort that is involved behind the scenes to ensure that the activities of the Province run smoothly and effectively.

ST: So, when did you become a Mason?

JK: 1995. I was initiated into the Lodge of Sympathy and became WM in 2002. I also became Master of the Black Horse of Lombard Street Lodge in 2005. I'm active in Royal Arch, Mark, Royal Ark Mariners, Rose Croix, Royal Order of Scotland and management of Wotton Masonic Hall. Not surprisingly, you'll often see me at the Treasurer's desk!

ST: Married to Jean, as we know.

JK: Yes, for 45 years, with two children and two grandsons. After graduation, my daughter worked for Barclaycard. Keeping up traditions, I suppose. My son joined the Army after graduating and went to Sandhurst. He did two tours of Iraq. He now lives in London, working for the Middle East charity AMAR. I was privileged to be present at and take part in his initiation into the Old Wilsonian Lodge in London in January.

ST: You and Jean love the countryside, we hear.

JK: Yes, we are members of the Wetlands Trust, RSPB, Westonbirt and the National Trust.

ST: Time for other hobbies?

JK: Just about! We both were keen choral singers and also performers on the musical stage. My wife was usually the star and I was happy to be in chorus; (a tenor is always welcome!). When we were looking to downsize a couple of years ago, the killer question was always, "Is there enough room for the grand piano?"

Provincial Grand Wardens

W Bro Brian Gargett



ST: We can see from the photo that you play golf. That's the Gloucestershire team colours, yes?

BG: That's right. I'm a past captain of the Glos Masonic Golf society and the current secretary. We've just retained the trophy in the annual tournament against Bristol Province, so we are pretty happy about that!

ST: Any other hobbies?

BG: I Follow cricket and rugby and I really enjoy my gardening.

ST: So, you're a Yorkshireman?

BG: From the North Riding of Yorkshire, to be precise. Yes, born in Thirsk and grew up on a small mixed farm, so I've got the countryside in my blood. I read agriculture at Nottingham University and moved to Cirencester where I became a lecturer at the Royal Agricultural College. That's when I fell in love with the county.

ST: But you moved away?

BG: I did . . . a work opportunity. After six years at the college I went to Northants where I was a Chartered Surveyor; later

becoming a Fellow of the Royal Institution. I was initiated into Freemasonry in Daventry.

ST: So, on your return to Gloucestershire, you naturally became a joining member of Royal Agricultural College Lodge?

BG: Yes, in 1996. I became master four years later and in 2005, I was appointed The Provincial Sword Bearer in Glos. That was a great honour! I became WM in my mother lodge in Northants and Hunts in 2004. My Royal Arch masonry is also in that Province.

ST: Are you in other orders?

BG: Yes, Old Patesian Mark Lodge, where I was master in 2009 and I'm currently Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in that degree. I was appointed Grand Steward in Mark last year. I'm also in Royal Mark Mariners and in the Ancient & Accepted Rite.

ST: So a busy masonic schedule! You work full-time too?

BG: Yes, I'm a director of a national estate agency. With my background in agriculture, it's not surprising I'm in the Rural Division, I suppose, having responsibility for professional standards. I am also actively involved in business development and both internal and commercial research.

ST: You have three grown-up daughters I hear?

BG: Yes. Georgina is the eldest and she manages a travel agency in Bristol. Victoria is in her final year of study to become a barrister and Elizabeth is going to Exeter University in the autumn to read English. I can rightly be very proud of them.

ST: So, your appointment as Junior Warden. What do you think about that?

BG: I was both surprised and delighted to be appointed. It is a wonderful opportunity to visit lodges throughout the Province, which I hope to do as well as assisting with the work of the Executive.

ST: Thank-you for your time, Brian. We'll let you get back to your busy schedule.

Letter from New Zealand

W Bro Bob Jenkins writes . . .

"Having moved to Wanganui, New Zealand, it took a year to settle and buy a house. There are lots of lodges on North Island and you see Masonic or Round Table signs on the outskirts of towns. So the next step was naturally to find a lodge. I visited some of the local ones; there are six in town, meeting in the same hall. They come under different constitutions; New Zealand, Scottish, Irish and English.



"I received invitations from several brethren. I found the Scottish workings difficult to understand. I was then contacted by the secretary of The

Tongariro Lodge (English Constitution). I went along and saw a third degree Emulation Ritual ceremony. I knew then and there it was for me!

"Founded in 1857, it met regularly in the Rutland Hotel before occupying newly-built



rooms in Bell Street Wanganui in 1886 and met there until 1999, when a new temple was built in Dublin Street.

"I have been a Lodge member now for a year and have been so well received. I have filled in on occasions in various offices and I was recently invested as Junior Warden.

Best wishes to all brethren and friends in Gloucestershire." W Bro Bob was a member of Lodge of Fidelity at Stapleton.



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Contacts for articles and
adverts please see inside cover

Interactive advancement

Giant certificate!

W Bro Jim Philip (centre) was standing in for the WM at Royal Edward Lodge and there was no candidate for the meeting. So the opportunity was seized to call on the skills of W Bros Frank Smith (right) and Martin Thomas to provide interactive enlightenment surrounding the contents of a Grand Lodge certificate.

Using a huge facsimile of the almost 200-year old "pillars certificate" as a prop, W Bros Frank and Martin led a fascinating Q&A session, examining the histories of the royal coats of arms and the Grand Lodges, pointing out the influence of both the Antients and



the Moderns prior to unification.

"For each item on the certificate, we give an explanation," said W Bro Frank, "merging it with the relevant piece of ritual and the significance of that to a mason's development today."

Namesake Visitors

Burns Night in May!

St Andrews Lodge hosted its namesake lodge from Birmingham for an extraordinary night of friendly rivalry and revelry at Avonmouth.

A coach-load of visitors from the Lodge of St Andrew in the Midlands, led by WM, W Bro Ian Bulloch, helped fill the lodge-room to witness a faultless second degree ceremony. It was conducted by local WM, W Bro Alan Gilbertson, assisted in some part by his son, appropriately called Andrew, who was the Senior Deacon.



In providing festive board entertainment, however, it was the visiting team which produced the star in the person of W Bro Dave Bates. He not only piped in the haggis but also performed the address; no mean feat for an Irishman!

Highnam 2015

As always, there was just so much to do; even more attractions than usual. "A highlight for me," said W Bro Phil Waring, "was the canny approach of Bob Preece and his wife Mary.

Bob's loud 'Tombola for a pound!' was subtly augmented by Mary's enquiry, 'Is it just the £5 worth you want?'"

Next year's date Saturday 13th August 2016.





A purse of Sovereigns?

Rose Croix

9th January 2015 was a very special date for E&P Bro Geoff Davis. This was the evening when he was enthroned as Most Wise Sovereign of the Cotswold Chapter Rose Croix at Cheltenham.

Pictured right are E&P Bros Geoff Davis (Cotswold), Robert Day (St Aldwyn), Brian Calway (Cheltonia) and Very Illustrious Bro Ian Crowe, the Inspector General for the district.

"Any brother wishing to be perfected into this Christian order," explained Geoff, "must have been initiated in a UGLE lodge, been a Master Mason for a full year and profess the Trinitarian Christian faith.

"The District of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire comprises fifteen Rose Croix Chapters, fourteen of which meet three times a year. The Past Sovereigns' Chapter meets twice a year. Meetings are always



very friendly with members sharing a commitment to Christian fellowship and a deep understanding of this beautiful and very colourful order. Visiting is highly recommended; wherever I've visited I've been made very welcome," said Geoff.

Pig-roast brings home the bacon



Zetland Lodge money-maker

A pig-roast at the Upton St Leonards home of Anne and W Bro David Shotbolt (above right) proved a winner with Zetland Lodge members and guests. It also produced

a pretty penny or two; the lodge raising money for a lesser known charity based in the North Cotswolds. Kate's Home Nursing provides palliative nursing home care services for those in the last stages of illness. Sadly, it was necessary for WM, W Bro Ian Deakins (left) to call on those services on behalf of his wife Margaret, shortly before he attained the chair. "I was keen to ensure that 'Kate's' would benefit during my year as Master," he said.

Full story, details of the charity and more photos at www.glosmasons.org.uk



Kate's Home Nursing



Helping a brother in need

Regular *squaretalk* readers will recall the item a couple of years ago when a group of Vale of Castiard Lodge brethren came to the aid of the late W Bro John Cammell, then the Provincial Grand Chaplain. As his health declined, so John found the upkeep of his extensive gardens too arduous. His wife's eyesight was also failing.

Bro Russell Baker (right), runs a landscaping company at Bream, near Lydney. He mustered the brethren and used his expert skills in the field to direct their labours to best effect.

"This has not been the only occasion that Russell has come to the rescue," said Past Master, W Bro Andy Barrow. "He is never slow in volunteering his services to benefit a Forest of Dean brother in need. A fellow lodge member required help with a large beech tree. Russell immediately stepped in, providing chainsaws and other equipment gratis.

"Russell is our Charity Steward . . . and his efficiency is matching his generosity," concluded Andy. "His initiative of raising



funds by selling unwanted items on eBay is also proving very successful.

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Tools with a Mission

Julia Lettety's Uganda report



"It is a beautiful country with many beautiful people who have a heart for the children, the young people and the widows. I thoroughly enjoyed my time in Uganda again in May."

Julia is the wife of W Bro Mike Lettety. She is committed to helping people in Uganda, engaging with several charities there.

"My visit this time," she continued, "was to view projects using refurbished tools donated in the UK. There is everything from bow-saws to sewing machines. The aim is to equip students with skills to enable them to start small businesses in their villages."

Full report at www.glosmasons.or.uk.



Home is the sailor

. . . home from the sea!

W Bro Ken Willies hands over a cheque for £1022 to Mr Stan Hammond MBE, President of the Pride of Bristol trust. The venue is the bridge of the vessel and the money was raised during Ken's year at the helm of the Lodge of Seafarers.

"The Trust owns and operates this ex-naval fleet tender," said Ken, "to provide education and training in life skills to the disadvantaged in the Bristol area, and to assist the civil powers. I was a founding trustee 22 years ago on being demobbed from the Royal Navy Auxiliary Service, where we all trained on similar ships. On reaching 70 this year, I have stood down as First Officer and retired from the sea. The vessel gets no public funding. Money is raised by working the vessel and from charitable donations. Dolphin Lodge in Bristol has also been a firm supporter. Several members of

the Lodge of Seafarers are also members of the Pride of Bristol crew a trainee Skipper is our next candidate.

"Other charities to benefit in my year were St John Ambulance Youth Leadership Project (£288) and the crew restroom of the new lifeboat station at Portishead (£144)," said Ken.



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Memories of Singapore



W Bro Clive Alexander recalls

The 'Singapore Stopover' article in the spring issue of *squaretalk* reminded W Bro Clive Alexander, a Past Master of Lodge of Seafarers, of his time in the sixties on the archipelago when he was Secretary of Lodge Johore Royal.

"The lodge got its 'Royal' name from the Sultan of Johore who donated the land and the temple," writes Clive. "I did not have the pleasure of meeting the elderly Sultan, but his son used to come to our meetings. In 1966, the WM was W Bro Lim Fong Chew, who delivered perfect Emulation ritual.

"The mention of the secret meetings held in Changi Jail during the Japanese

occupation (1942-1945) prompted me to recall the square and compasses made by W Bro M McKenzie of Lodge Johore Royal. They were first used to install W Bro IMR Lawson in April 1942. They are now proudly on display in the lodge."



Sunshine at PGL

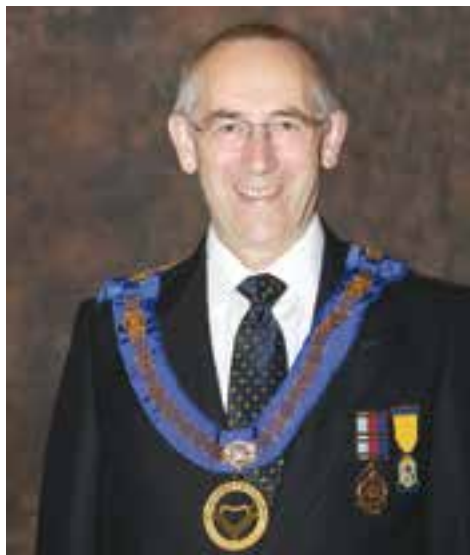


The sun was shining on W Bros Phil Parsons, Shaun Harris and Geoff Warburton at Wycliffe College, where brethren were invested with appointments and promotions.

"It is a great honour to be asked to take on this role," he said. I hope to be able to rise to the challenge with the help and support of the brethren. I am looking forward to it immensely."

New Assistant PGM

W Bro Nigel Bridges stepped directly from the Provincial SW to the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Nigel was for many years the Secretary of the GMCA.



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Preparations for 2017



"The word 'united' is extremely appropriate as we move forward to our three hundredth anniversary celebrations in 2017," said Peter Lowndes, the Pro Grand Master.

"Hence, Metropolitan Grand Lodge, the Provinces and Districts are united as part of one fellowship – that of the United Grand Lodge of England."

Glos response

In the Province of Gloucestershire, W Bro Nick Robinson of St Lawrence Lodge, will be heading up an organising committee to coordinate our celebrations.

"Much has to be decided, but a format is beginning to emerge," said Nick. "The festivities will be bookended by two occasions. The launch will be at our Cathedral Service in March 2017. The ceremony at the Royal Albert Hall on Tuesday 31st October 2017 will be the conclusion. This London event will be available for a video feed and we will encourage various temples to arrange a showing of this followed by a dinner."

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, has already indicated that he wants as many brethren and their families to have the opportunity to partake. "The 31st October dinners which Nick mentioned should be for brethren and partners," he said.

"Throughout the summer of 2017 there will be a number of events for

brethren and their families," continued Nick (below). "The themes for these are yet to be agreed, but Highnam

2017 will be the pivot. We envisage much more than just a series of garden parties. Bright ideas are actively being sought.



Participation

"Events will be spread throughout the Province on various days to give everyone a chance to participate. There will be a theme clearly based around the figure '300'.

"At present. It's much like a Turner painting. The shapes are discernible but to complete the canvass, the detail needs to be planned and agreed."

Brethren and lodges wishing to put forward ideas may contact Nick at robinson_nick@hotmail.co.uk.



"All aboard the Festival Special!"

£6,600 raised

"180 brethren, families and friends were clearly enjoying themselves despite the heat," said the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, W Bro Phil Waring. "If the passengers were hot, imagine what it must have been like for the driver and fireman!"

"Most passengers appeared to compensate by drinking copious amounts of alcohol which the splendid volunteer waiting staff were only too happy to supply.

Fish and chips

"The two main attractions which the Gloucestershire and Warwickshire Railway had geared us up for were entering Greet Tunnel and passing over the very picturesque viaduct. Fish and chip suppers were served as the train sat in the station at Cheltenham Racecourse.



"This event was the brainchild of W Bro Colin Bridgen, without whose support and assistance it would not have materialised. Thank you Colin. The event raised no less than £6600 towards the 2018 Grand Charity Festival. I would also like to thank the Festival Team and the volunteers from GWR for all their hard work and look forward to repeating the exercise at some time in the future."

Full story and more photos at www.glosmasons.org.uk



Masonry back underground?



Cave party

"The last thing I expected was a wine and cheese party in a cave!" said W Bro Norman Weeks, the WM of Lodge of St Christopher. He and his party of masons and wives were in the spectacular Atta Caves in Germany and being hosted by W Bro Peter Thonemann, the master of Johannisloge 'Zum Märkischen Hammer' in Lüdenscheid. (They are pictured together below.)

There were no less than nine lodges represented in the party of 33 which was treated to outstanding German hospitality. It included a lake trip, a civic reception hosted by the Bürgermeister, champagne at a local factory, a visit to an open-air craft museum, a fascinating lodge visit and much more.

"Members of Johannisloge were present at our consecration way back in 1983," said Norman, who was there as a founder.

Johannisloge, which was established a hundred years before that, was forced underground during 'The Time of Darkness' in the 1930s.

A history of the German lodge was published in *squaretalk* (spring 2010), available online at www.glosmasons.org.uk, as is the full article and lots of photos from this trip.



There'll be blue skies over

. . . . Berkeley

Forces sweetheart, Kate Nightingale, entertained Berkeley Widows at the annual luncheon. The widows joined in singing songs from the forties.

Organised by the Provincial Grand Almoner, W Bro Mark Smith, the event attracted a great attendance, supported by the PGM, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross and his deputy, VW Bro John Thurston.

W Bro Dave Wells played guitar throughout the lunch as the 'Longfield Ladies' from Wotton served the meal. Mrs Ann Churches responded to an address from the PGM. Members of Earl Bathurst, Royal Agricultural and Cotteswold Lodges served the wine.



"W Bro Jim Battersby, the oldest sommelier, who had just reached his ninetieth birthday, also insisted on driving some widows to the function!" said W Bro Frank Crossland.





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GMS News

Brian in the chair

Following a very successful year in the chair in which the future of Gloucestershire Masonic Society appeared to have been secured, W Bro Max Hart (right) handed over the presidency to his successor, W Bro Brian Ashworth, at the AGM in Stroud. W Bro Simon Clark has taken on the job of Secretary whilst W Bro Malcolm Hart remains Treasurer. There are presently 83 members.

Max's achievements were acknowledged, not least his overseeing of the establishment of the library at Wotton.

Declaring that some remarkable books had been bequeathed to the society by the late W Bro Henry Ford, Brian announced plans for the year ahead,



including a number of presentations. A tour of Cheltenham Masonic Hall has on 30th September has since been arranged.

Following a hot buffet, the brethren settled to listen to the results of Brian's researches into the Freemasonry in the Channel Islands.

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Summary: Data reported indicate that the United States is facing a demographic crisis that will have far-reaching effects on the nation's economy and society. The study by Robert N. Lerner, Donald Stenback, and Robert D. Smith, *Demographic Change and the American Future*, suggests that the United States is facing a demographic crisis that will have far-reaching effects on the nation's economy and society.

St George rediscovered

Ask any mason these days when St George's Day is and the chances are you'll be told 23rd April. Just a few short years back, this may not have been the case, but in recent times, many lodges are celebrating the occasion with some form of festive event.

Downend Lodge

This year, Downend Lodge held a lunch for members and their families and friends. The entertainment even included a traditional Punch & Judy show.

Watched by anxious chef, W Bro Richard Birkwood, Downend Lodge's Master, W Bro Barrie Burgess, tastes the beef and, (after pause for effect), declares it fit for consumption, before washing it down with an English ale! A total of £400 was raised, to be divided between The Jesse May Trust and Cancer Research UK.



Following the traditional banquet of English beef a programme of extracts from English writings followed. Stirring recitations included W Bro Bill Beedie (above) who took us "into the breach!"

A total of £200 was raised towards the 2018 Grand Charity.



Innsworth Lodge

Meanwhile, the ladies were invited to join the brethren to celebrate the patron saint in Gloucester; the hall appropriately decked with English flags, bunting and red and white balloons. The ladies were each presented with a red rose by the WM, W Bro Chris Paisley.

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Provincial publications

These days, we are used to accessing our information on line from PC, tablet or phone, but there is still something real and satisfying about holding a tangible object in the palm of your hand. That is why the Province continues to produce various publications which we can carry around and read or refer to when the opportunity or need arises.

So when every six months, *squaretalk* drops through the letterbox and, at this time of the year, it is accompanied by the yearbook, we have again called on the expertise of two individuals in our Province who understand the requirements when getting information to the brethren.

Whitehall Printing



VW Bro Colin Bendon, the Past Deputy PGM, set up the company 38 years ago. His sons, Adam and Joe, now run the Bristol-based family firm; their wives, Sarah and Lucy, are also part of the 20-strong team.

Whitehall Printing has published this magazine since its inception almost 20 years ago. Above, Colin shows a sample from the run to *squaretalk* editor, W Bro Dick Smith, as it appears at eye-watering

speed from a massive state-of-the-art Heidelberg litho-machine.

"We operate out of new, low-energy premises," said Colin, "using ultra-modern presses and facilities. We are passionate about quality, as our *squaretalk* readers will have realised."

Alpha Colour Printers



Bro Jeff Williams of Vassar Smith Lodge is the owner of Alpha Colour Printers at Quedgeley and prints the highly useful yearbook which is never far from the reach of most of us. Jeff's wife Maggie and daughter Erica, also work in the business along with a team of 34.

Alpha was started by Jeff 36 years ago and now uses the latest Carbon Neutral Heidelberg Press, the first of its kind in the UK. Alpha is dedicated to high quality and environmentally friendly printing.

"Our Quality and Environmental accreditations are important to us and we are always investing in new technology to increase production, which means we can remain competitive without compromising on our quality" said Jeff. "Running an environmentally responsible company with high standards of print and customer service is one of the reasons we get so much repeat business."

Across Malta in a Charabanc

200th anniversary meeting

Fresh from their visit to Gibraltar (*squaretalk* spring 2014), the Stroud contingent was again on tour, this time to celebrate with their Maltese brethren the two hundredth anniversary of continuous working of the Lodge of St John and St Paul in Valetta.

Dignitaries at the celebratory meeting included The Grand Inspector of Malta, VW Bro Dr Lawrence Porter and from Grand Lodge in London, the RW Assistant Grand Master, Sir David Wootton.

"Dr Porter also invited brethren to a lunchtime reception at quite a remote location called Palazzo Promontoro," said Bro Danny Wingrove of Hicks Beach Lodge.

"In planning our itinerary, an absolute must on the list was a visit to the ancient walled city of Mdina. The only opportunity would be after the reception, but with no public transport at Palazzo Promontoro, how to get there?

"The previous day, I happened to spot this 1930 Bedford Charabanc parked at the side of the road. I found the driver, a delightful fellow called David and made the necessary negotiations. So as an unexpected bonus, we found ourselves being chauffeured around the island in a wonderful charabanc. It was spectacular!"



Knights of Malta

The Lodge of St John and St Paul was founded in 1815 by the Chief Justice of Malta. He was PGM of Malta and the Mediterranean. The building in which the lodge meets was constructed in the Italian tradition during the time of the Knights of Malta and dates from c1650.

"Our visit was a wonderful experience," concluded Danny. "Almost 200 brethren were at the meeting, many from England. As always, we were afforded perfect hospitality."

Below ~ left to right: W Bro Michael Rapoport (Earl Spencer Lodge, London); W Bro Colin Cresswell (Hicks Beach); David (driver), W Bro Rob Molloy (Royal Lodge of Friendship, Gibraltar); Maureen Molloy; and Hicks Beach members, Bro David Stafford, W Bro Michael Doyle-Davidson, W Bro David Birch and Bro Danny Wingrove.

Full article at www.glosmasons.org.uk



Impeesa support for Hospital Scout Group

76 for lunch!

It was a sunny Sunday afternoon when W Bro Peter Wills and his wife Gillian hosted the annual ladies luncheon at The Gables, Falfield.

A highlight was the presentation by the WM of a cheque to Mrs Julie Waite (below) representing the Bristol Children's Hospital Scout Group. This unique group has been supported by the lodge for several years. Many of the young patients attending these scout meetings are short-term



members until their treatment is complete and they are allowed home. Equally exceptional is the fact that being a hospital for children with quite severe illnesses and conditions, bio-security is paramount and much of the equipment used has to be disposed of. This of course increases running costs and the financial contribution which Impeesa Lodge makes each year is a very welcome and vital part of maintaining sustainability.

Gloucestershire Golfers retain the Cup

18th green decider

The photo captures the moment the rain stopped and the gloom lifted as the last pairing won for Bristol Masonic Golf Society to halve this annual match.

A draw, however, was sufficient for Glos Golfers to preserve their hold on the trophy, which they had won outright in 2014.

"It was probably the wettest and

windiest day of May," said W Bro Peter Williams of St Lawrence Lodge at Stroud.

"Playing in such testing conditions was a challenge to everyone. It has to be said, however, that the Kendleshire course was in great condition and excellent golf was played by both sides."

Nearest the pin on the 9th hole went to Gloucestershire's W Bro Mike Stevens of Royal Union Lodge.



“More enthusiasm than skill!”



This was the cheery and unanimous verdict of the ladies at the Innsworth Lodge and Chapter festival in response to their husbands' efforts in serenading them at the Brickhampton Golf Complex near Gloucester.

The 'fun' atmosphere throughout the evening was epitomised by the JW, Bro Mark Cliffe, who rounded off tributes with poetic largesse!

Earlier, the WM, W Bro Chris Paisley, had proposed the toast to the ladies and his wife, Jo eagerly responded. Bros Steve Isaac and Mark Williams had assisted W Bros Tom Robson and Bill Beedie in



organising the event. Tom's wife, Hilary, created the table decorations and glossy menus and the evening's proceedings were smoothly controlled by the lodge DC, W Bro John Lewis.

"Music was generated by The Apollo Discotheque", said Tom. "The Master and his lady took to the floor to set the standard for the 'strictly come dancing' and many of the brethren rushed forward (or were forcefully led) to strut their stuff!"

'Taking the tablet'

Bro Steve Isaac also organised a raffle, the star prize of which was an HP tablet, won by Mrs Jenny Cliffe. The evening raised £250 for the 2018 Festival in support of the Freemason's Grand Charity.

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More Shorts!

Sun shines on Stewards



It was a glorious day at Wycliffe College for this year's Provincial Grand Lodge. In his address, the PGM acknowledged the help provided both during and after the ceremony by his stewards, led on this occasion by W Bro Keith Checkley.

HM Queen's back garden



Gloucestershire Masonic Bowling Association captain, W Bro Robert Artus, took the team to Windsor Park to play against The Royal Household. "We are always on the lookout for new members at GMBA," said W Bro Max Hart (president). "We warmly welcome enquiries. Contact details can be found in the back of the Glos Year Book."

Travel with Fidelity

Lodge of Fidelity has suffered a lack of candidates of late, so has embarked on a visiting programme to keep interest going. W Bro Peter Kirsan, the secretary, chanced a meeting with a Solihull secretary in

Turkey and a visit to the Forest of Arden Lodge was duly arranged. "The welcome to the candidate at the Festive Board was memorable," said Peter. "Every officer rose in turn to drink a toast to him and give a few words of welcome."



Help for Nepal



W Bro Antony Jennings, the WM of Prince of Wales Lodge at Stow on the Wold, presented a £1000 cheque to the Alain Rouveure Nepal Relief Fund based at Todenham, near Moreton-in-Marsh. The fund supports projects in an isolated Nepalese village, including medical needs and the encouragement of economic development of local farms. After the recent earthquake, the only building left standing was the school and most of the villagers were sleeping under plastic. The brethren of the Prince of Wales Lodge readily agreed to support this local charity.

Letter from Mandy Prosser

The Health Care Assistant at Tewkesbury MIU writes . . . "The bears are a real success and really help with the anxious children in the department. We would love another box if possible please. Thanks so much for your support it makes all the difference." The Provincial Grand Almoner, W Bro Mark Smith, duly sent a box of bears!



Near to a fall of water



The WM of Hambrook Lodge, W Bro Chris Northcott, receives a gentle nudge from his DC, W Bro Will Durman, on a visit to the Forest of Mendip Lodge in Somerset.

‘The Forester’

There was good publicity for Eden Wall Lodge in the local newspaper following the donation of £1000 to ‘Forest Pulse’, a charity which supports children with disabilities Entertainment for the ladies’ lunch at Bells Hotel, Coleford, was provided by talented 10-year old Eve Jones, who sang and accompanied herself on ukulele. W Bro John Thornton, the WM, was pictured with Eve, whose brother has disabilities.



Remembering the Fallen

It is worth studying a new plaque at the hall at Cirencester which records those Cotteswold Lodge brethren who gave their lives in The Great War. You may read the full story on the website, as researched by W Bro George Skuse. The plaque was designed, engraved and presented to the hall by W Bro Tony Bowman, a Master Mason in every sense of the word!



Masonic Choir

The Gloucestershire Masonic Choir meets regularly at Stroud, singing a wide cross-section of songs for male voices. "We expect in due course to be able to give small concerts to interested parties such as at Masonic functions, ladies luncheons, etc," says W Bro John Hutchen. Contact him at john.hutchen@virgin.net or call 01453 883384 for more information and future dates." Full details at: www.glosmasons.org.uk.



KLAA

Impeesa Lodge is hosting the annual Kindred Lodges Association meeting at Downend on Saturday 09-Sep-15. The author, Colin Walker will be presenting 'Scouts at War ~ The Great War'.



Significant numbers!



2



. . . the first two candidates at Thornbury Lodge! Bros Joe Boyd (left) and Dan Boulter stand either side of WM, W Bro Richard Birkwood, who initiated them in a double-first ceremony at the inaugural meeting of Lodge 9901.

25



. . . the number of years since Downend Widows Association was formed. Above they are celebrating with a silver anniversary lunch.

2,000,000

. . . the number of pounds pledged by London masons towards the provision of a second air ambulance for the capital. The move has received much favourable press coverage.



1000



. . . the number of pounds the Grand Charity has donated to every hospice in the country. Here Deputy PGM, John Thurston, presents the cheque to Great Oaks Hospice in Lydney, accompanied by Vassar Smith WM, W Bro Mike Hale. The donation captured the attention of the local press; *photo courtesy of The Forest Review.*

20



. . . the number of hours tuition each disabled receives when accepted by Flying Scholarships for Disabled Persons. "It provides a boost in life; a one-off challenge for disabled people, to help them realise their abilities through the medium of learning to fly," said Chief Instructor, John Griffin. Here he receives a cheque for £500 from Gloucestershire Installed Masters' Lodge WM, W Bro Mike Woolf, after delivering an entertaining explanation of their work.

60-year certificate



W Bro Arthur Pullin

It was certainly a family affair when Arthur was initiated into the Royal Lodge of Faith & Friendship at the age of 23. His brother was the WM, assisted by their father. Bro F E Pullin presented the working tools and the IPM was W Bro Richard Clutterbuck's father.

The PGM, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, presented Arthur with his certificate, making mention of his wife, Ruth, and their three children. Their son Raymond now runs the family farm, which was one of the earliest organic farms in the area and had a reputation for producing fine cider.

First obtaining a scholarship at the Royal Agricultural College, Arthur was also a founder of the RAC Lodge in Cirencester. For many years, Arthur was one of three brethren who arrived at



Berkeley to set up the lodge. The old carpet was of full width and extremely heavy. The secretary of the day suggested that two strips be taken out to lighten it and make it more manageable to which Arthur responded that he had suggested that some 20 years before! Arthur could always be relied upon for giving sound advice to younger masons.

Sadly, Arthur passed to the Grand Lodge Above shortly after this presentation.



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Napoleonic POW demo



Free-flowing wine!

The Royal Lodge of Faith & Friendship received a visit from Monmouth masons who performed a dramatic depiction of the workings of a lodge of Napoleonic prisoners of war.

All in period costume, they were led by W Bro Graham Carey. "Many aspects appeared similar to current ceremonies, apart from the wine flowing in copious amounts during the actual ritual," said W Bro Les Bendall. "But I was afterwards reliably assured it was merely Ribena!"

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Fabulous raffle prize at St John's!



Champagne day out!

St John's Lodge in Dursley raised £850 for the 2018 Grand Charity Festival . . . the prize being a day out with W Bro Robin Tudor and his wife Beryl on their boat 'MV Portcullis of Poole'.

The winner was W Bro Brian Smith (above right), a new joining member of St John's. With his wife Zona, they were treated to an extraordinary day out.



Wine waiter

An expertly-served sparkling prosecco cocktail greeted them at the marina prior to heading down Southampton Water. A detour up the River Hamble provided a view of the moored flotilla of expensive boats. Transiting across to the Isle of Wight, they cruised the River Medina before lunching at the Folly Inn.



Amplified refreshed, they retraced their route to The Solent. Back to Southampton Water, they were fortunate to observe both the Oceania and Queen Mary 2 departing for their cruises.

Once back at the marina the party enjoyed champagne and strawberries and exquisite French pastries sourced by Beryl. A superb end to a "golden day".

"Special thanks must go to the lodge members who donated little luxuries that made the day an outstanding event," said Robin, "and to W Bro Martyn Slater, who not only helped sponsor the cruise, but also acted as skipper for the day."

More pictures at www.glosmasons.org.uk

More Shorts!



A pile of PGMs



Spotted together at Gloucester Cathedral, the RW Brethren who have led the Province since 1997; Peter Marsh, Tim Henderson-Ross and Adrian Davies.

Freemasons' Fund grants

The latest grants have been announced from the Freemasons' Fund at GCF:



- Home-Start, Stroud District ~ £2000;
 - Allsorts Siblings Group, Stroud & Glos ~ £2000;
 - The Music Works SoundSpace Studio, Cinderford ~ £2500
 - The Forest of Dean Children's Opportunity Centre ~ £600
- See www.glosmasons.org.uk for full details.

Thank-you



Read the letter of thanks to the trustees of Gloucestershire Community Foundation for a grant of over £2000 for the 'Walk a mile in my shoes' family fun day: www.glosmasons.org.uk.

Dolls' House Village

On p61, we read of W Bro Les Hopcraft's 50th certificate and his wife Eileen's 'Leslie D Gale Award for Outstanding Service to the Community of Dursley'. W Bro Trevor Coles reminds us that W Bro Gale was also a member of St John's Lodge. Les and Eileen's house is a veritable village of doll's houses they have built over the years ~ see www.glosmasons.org.uk for the full story and pictures.



Mongol Rally – Stop Press



Bro Tariq Williams of Foundation Lodge looks surprised that the MOT failure he bought actually has an engine. It has, nevertheless, just taken him and a buddy 7,000 miles in 13 days, over mountain ranges and deserts to Mongolia, raising money in his case for Leukaemia & Lymphoma Research. Check out www.glosmasons.org.uk for more details.



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Stepping it out over the Cotswolds



Event raises over £5k for 2018

Twenty-five intrepid walkers (plus two dogs) braved the June elements and covered a total of around 500 miles. Over £5000 (plus gift aid) was raised through the event, all destined for the 2018 Festival and attributable to individual lodges.

It was the initiative of veteran Alpine guide, W Bro Peter Daniels of Old Wycliffian Lodge and served as a personal challenge to each of the participants. Starting at the hall at Wotton, the trekkers struck out through Ozleworth and Kingscote, skirting Dursley and completing the circuit via N Nibley. GPS showed a total climb of 1780 feet (up and down, of course) and actual time in motion of around 7 hours. The expected spectacular views from Tor Hill, Stinchcombe Hill and North Nibley were sadly veiled in mist.

CAST helps out

Checkpoints and dangerous crossings were manned by W Bro Andy Mitchem and his CAST team. W Bro Bob Preece drove the emergency minibus, kindly supplied by Gloucester Road Gearboxes, but thankfully not required.

Below, W Bro John Thurston pauses for breath on the descent back to Wotton. Full story and many more pics at www.glosmasons.org.uk.



More Shorts!



Burns pic



Fiercely proud Scot, W Bro Jim Mail, presents a picture of 'The Bard' to W Bro David Cooper, WM of Vigilantia Lodge. "There was no picture of Burns at Stroud," said Jim. "The matter had to be rectified!"

Tom Ives felt he had to get his cheque book out so as not to disappoint! Tom was remaining in the chair for a second year and the



Deputy PGM gratefully accepted the £1000 cheque as an additional contribution towards the 2018 Festival.

Mark / RAM 2018 donation



The PGM of Mark Master Masons of Gloucestershire and Herefordshire, W Bro Jim Green (left), was at the Gloucester Cathedral service and used the opportunity to present a cheque for £500 to the 2018 Grand Charity Festival. It was donated on behalf of Mark Masons and Royal Ark Mariners of the Province and represented the first of their contributions to the festival. The PGM of the Province of Gloucestershire, RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, gratefully accepted the gift, thanking both Jim and his Deputy, W Bro Roger Blake.

Masonic jewels

When VW Bro John Thurston asked where Regency Lodge's jewels were kept, W Bro

In loo of charity



Spotted on a visit to the boys' room at Maesteg Masonic Hall in South Wales was this 'toilet twinning' certificate. Reading on, it pointed out that 2.5 billion people in the world do not have toilet facilities. Providing clean water and basic sanitation, www.toilettwinning.org is a charity which allows you (as a masonic hall perhaps?) to sponsor for as little as £60 a loo in a part of the world of your choice. For £240 you can twin with a school block. Something to ponder on as you sit?

Recognition of 50 years' service

W Bro Haston Hobbs



As a committed Royal Arch Mason, it was fitting that Haston was presented with his certificate and pin by the ME Grand Superintendent, VW Bro Graham King. Haston, who for many years ran the family pharmacy in Filton, was initiated into Filton Lodge of Fortitude by his father, Percy, in 1964. He reached the chair of his lodge in 1973 and of his chapter in 1980. He's made no secret of his penchant for the office of Assistant Director of Ceremonies, holding the post in Purdown Mark for over twenty years and in Filton Chapter of Fortitude for over thirty!

Bro Jerry Evans



Asst PGM, W Bro John Gillo presented this certificate to Bro Jerry, who spent his

working life as a globe-trotting civil engineer working on major construction projects. "Hence I never had time to progress through the lodge offices," he said. "I've done some work on the lodge floor in recent times, but I wish I had made it to the chair." Born in Gloucester, Jerry was educated at Wycliffe along with many other masons before studying at Manchester University. WM, W Bro Ray Bennett is on the right of the photo.



W Bro Grahame Halliwell



Born in Bolton, Grahame did his national service in the 60th Rifles and worked for various blue-chip companies around the northwest, becoming a Chartered Secretary. He and his wife Celia love dance, particularly ballet. He joined a Preston lodge in 1965 and Civitas Lodge at Gloucester in 1975, where he had occupied every office, including master in 1989. He has been a very active and enthusiastic member of Royal Arch. He is also a long-standing member of Gloucestershire Constabulary choir and travels countrywide performing chorales and recitals. His certificate was presented by Asst PGM, W Bro Derek Gunningham, pictured above with the Civitas Lodge WM, W Bro Iain Yarranton.

W Bro Leslie Hopcraft



Leslie is pictured with his wife Eileen, who recently received her long-service award with the Independence Trust, which supports people with mental illness. 'In recognition of her selflessness and commitment as a volunteer', she also received the 'Leslie D Gale Award for Outstanding Service to the Community of Dursley' from the Mayor. Leslie's certificate was presented at his mother lodge in Hertfordshire. The event was additionally marked by Asst PGM, W Bro John Gillo, at a meeting at St John's in Dursley where Leslie is a member and was master in 2003. He was an engineer associated with aviation all his working life. An angler of some note, he recalls he did much of his courting on the riverbank. "I didn't catch many fish!" he said, "but Eileen and I had a guard of honour at our wedding; an arch of fishing rods!" Other hobbies included being a Group Scout Leader. Les and Eileen have three sons, five grandchildren and three great granddaughters, for whom he has made dolls' houses and furniture. He is actively involved in Royal Arch.

W Bro Ivor Wilson

W Bro Jonathan Wilson was initiated into Royal Union Lodge at Cheltenham in 1965, attaining the chair in 1979. He has since served in various offices and is currently the Chaplain. He was promoted to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2003.



He is active in Royal Arch and has just relinquished the chair in Rose Croix. "Jonathan is a regular at lodge, attends committees and Lodge of Instruction," said Secretary W Bro Julian Capewell, "thus making him a most worthy and valuable sounding board on all matters!" In presenting his certificate, the Deputy PGM, VW Bro John Thurston made mention of Jonathan's Alvis car and the boat which for many years he co-owned with the Late W Bro Brian Stephens. He praised Jonathan's commitment and yearned that it would continue for a long time.

W Bro Peter Daniels

Peter was born in Bristol in 1942. After schooling at QEH, he joined the Royal Fleet Auxiliary as an engineer officer cadet. Rising through the



ranks he attained senior captain of the flotilla before retiring in 2002 after 42 years' service, including Falklands duty. Peter was initiated by his late father Leslie in the Lodge of Sincerity in 1965 before taking the chair there in 1981. He was also a founder member of the Lodge of Grace in 1974. Now residing in Scotland, Peter is happily married to Margaret and his interests include playing golf and attending to his model railway layout. The PGM presented his certificate during a meeting at the Lodge of Grace.

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No log in!

A vast amount of information is here:

- News and events
- Links to lodges
- Links to social media
- Resources . . . useful documents
- Provincial officers
- Outreach programme
- Information for the public
- Links to the charities
- Grand Charity Festival updates
- Square Talk back issues

See p7 of the new Yearbook for full details



"Keeping afloat!"

GMCA donation

Accompanied by W Bro Colin Prewett, Master of Royal Lodge of Faith & Friendship, W Bro Les Bendall presented a GMCA cheque for £500 to Linda Diggory of the Willow Trust.

The trust runs two boats which each summer cruise the Gloucester-Sharpness

Canal with groups of disabled or seriously ill people. "It is completely self-funding and we rely on donations such as this to keep afloat!" said Linda.



Provincial Grand Lodge of Gloucestershire

Mid-term Gala Dinner

Saturday 20 Feb 2016

6.00pm for 7.00pm



Tortworth Court Four Pillars Hotel, Tortworth
Glos, GL12 8HH, (just off junction 14, M5).

Marking the mid-term stage of the Grand Charity Festival, the evening will include a splendid meal together with superb cabaret entertainment.

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Group Bookings Available (Table of 10)

Special accommodation rates have been arranged which should be booked directly with the Hotel, tel: 01454 263000, quoting "Ref No Prov200216". A standard double room will cost £89 (based on 2 sharing - B&B).

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