

# MASONICLINCS

December 2018



## The sky's the limit

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# Message from the Province

Now is a fantastic time to be a Freemason. Already undergoing a significant evolutionary change, Freemasonry's profile took a step change to a new level thanks to the 'Enough is Enough' campaign. That made it OK to talk about Freemasonry again. As a result, after 20 years of declining numbers, we are seeing a nationwide increase in new members; new thinking is being mixed with traditional values, which makes this an exciting time.

As this message was being written, it was only a matter of weeks after my installation, and the memory of that remains strong. I never expected to be in the position of PGM and Grand Superintendent, and when I walked into the ceremony at the Epic Centre, took the chair, and looked down the room, I had to take a breath. It was an outstanding moment; a great day, and could hardly have gone better.

But now it's down to business. I've received an incredible handover from my predecessor Graham Ives, and he is giving me significant ongoing support. He has so much experience, but it's fair to say that we are very different people.

I have received overwhelming support from a great many others too, and people have willingly done everything I have asked of them. What's more, people have stepped up and offered to help, which has been encouraging.

For our Province I think the philosophy of 'Team Lincolnshire' is very important. The appointments I've made, such as our Provincial Communications Officer and Provincial Charity Steward, will be people leading teams. Their roles will work better that way. The success of teamwork is indicated by Masonic Lincs, which is now a permanent fixture in the Province. Its refreshing new look owes much to the efforts of Richard Garn, who brought together the team which has made it possible. He has now stepped down and handed leadership to Peter Brooks, but I couldn't let him go without thanking him publicly for his invaluable contribution.

Naturally, we mustn't lose focus on membership. It's not just about recruiting new members of the right calibre, but retaining the ones we have and recovering ones who have left. Our Provincial Membership Officer and Provincial Grand Mentor are doing excellent work in this regard, and I am pleased to see the appointment of Lodge Membership Officers. Evidence shows that this increases membership. We must also draw attention to the benefits of membership of the Royal Arch, and lots of effort is being made on that. Finally, I'd urge all Lincolnshire brethren to get involved with the lives of our Lodges and Chapters. There are lots of opportunities, and doing so will make the Masonic experience more rewarding for individuals, the Province, and Freemasonry as a whole.

*Dave Wheeler*

David Wheeler Provincial Grand Master & Grand Superintendent



Dave Wheeler with his PGM's Charter, on permanent loan to Lincoln Masonic Centre.



## Why don't you join us for a memorable day out?

**The lighter side: We all know that Freemasonry can be a serious business – but it doesn't have to be so all the time, as W Bros Steve Spavin, left, and Dave Metcalf prove.**

This picture was taken on the day of a Quarterly Communication meeting at Freemasons Hall, where our Province is often amongst the best represented. The day presents an opportunity to see an impressive ceremony conducted by the most senior Freemasons in the impressive Grand Temple at Freemasons' Hall in London. The optional meal afterwards at The Connaught Rooms is accompanied with a reception drink as well as wine at the table, where you will sit with other Lincolnshire Freemasons and officers of Provincial Grand Lodge.

# Freemasons do our bit to save lives in Lincolnshire

## Life-saving work of the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance is given a £4,000 Masonic boost

**Thanks to a donation of £4,000 from Lincolnshire's Freemasons two more people will survive life-threatening injuries and illnesses because of the work of the Lincs and Notts air ambulance and its crew.**

It costs an average of £2,500 every time the Air Ambulance scrambles for another life-saving mission from its base at RAF Waddington – which is a small price to pay to save a life, says our PGM Rt W Bro David Wheeler.

He said: "The Air Ambulance provides a vital service in our largely rural Province, and we are pleased to say that by helping to fund it with our donation we have played a small role in ensuring that there will be people alive tomorrow who might otherwise have passed away.

"Freemasons represent only one in 250 of the people in the historic county of Lincolnshire, and although we all hope never to need this valuable support, tragedy can strike randomly and at any time.

"We are all part of our community and we try to help everyone in it if we can. Support for the Air Ambulance is a positive way to do that at life-changing moments for patients and their families," he added.

The £4,000 came from the Masonic Charitable Foundation, and was part of the latest round of Air Ambulance funding, which totals £2.3m to services around the country since 2007. This

year 20 services will share in £192,000 from the MCF, which administers funds raised through our personal contributions.

The Lincs and Notts donation was handed over by Provincial Charity Steward Peter Tong, who said: "The Air Ambulance service in our region has been there to help more than 192,000 people since its inception in 1994. It already flies two or three times a day, but the organisation's ambition is to make itself available to fly to where it's needed on a 24/7 basis. That could lift the number of missions to five a day, which is a tremendous financial commitment. We wanted to play a small part in helping to make that happen."

Sally Crawford is the Lincs and Notts Air Ambulance head of Fundraising and Communications. She said to our brethren: "Thank you so much for supporting the Lincs & Notts Air Ambulance; £4,000 is an incredible amount of money and we are most grateful. The Critical Care we provide gives people their very best chance of survival and recovery. We receive no direct Government funding, and are not part of the NHS, so your donation really is essential in helping us to save lives!"

● **Cover picture: Provincial Charity Steward Pete Tong with Air Ambulance Ops Manager and paramedic Roger Linnell**

We'd urge anyone who's never been to make the effort to go at least once. The meetings are on the second Wednesday of March, June, September, and December, with the latter being particularly special. Anyone who's a Warden or above is entitled to attend every meeting; those below the Wardens' chairs can attend when special arrangements are made.

### Record attender

W Bro Bob Smith of Sir Joseph Banks Lodge 9828 in Horncastle has an impressive 40-year record in attending these meetings, having been to all but two since 1978. He knows the building well, and would be happy to introduce visiting Lincolnshire brethren to parts of it they may not know.

● If you'd like to go you'll need to book in, which can be done by emailing [lincs.qcomms@yahoo.com](mailto:lincs.qcomms@yahoo.com), from where you'll be sent a booking form and further details of the meetings and how to take up Bob on his offer of sharing knowledge about Freemasons' Hall. If you have any questions, please call either:

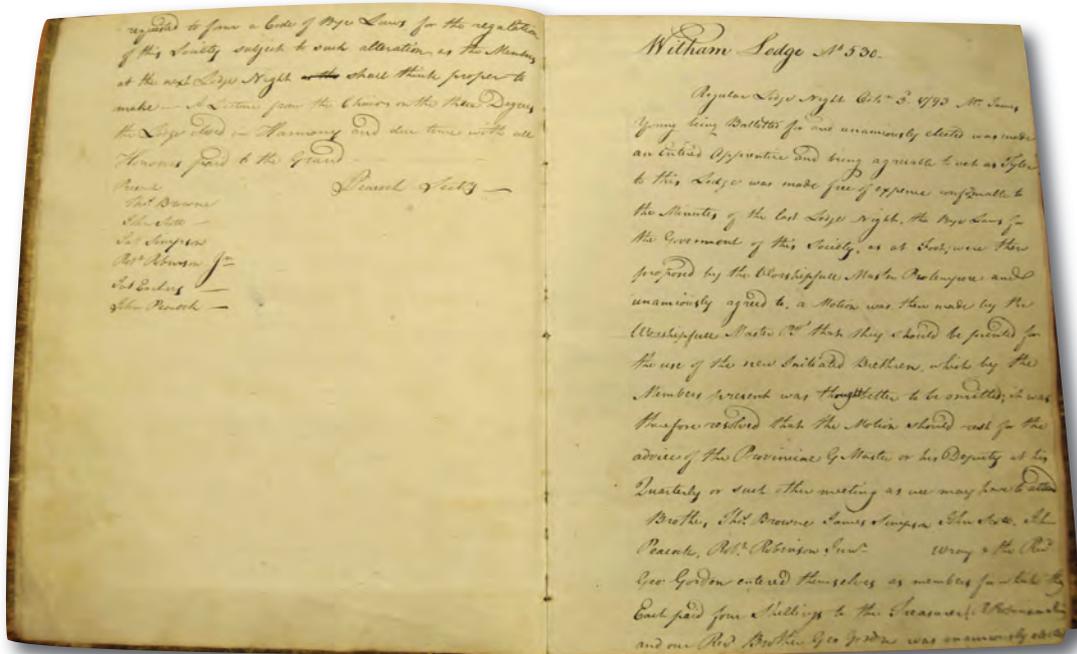
● W Bro Andrew Ham, 07966 521653 or

● W Bro Gideon Hall, 07824 808116.

*Picture: Andy Urry*

Dukes, Earls,  
and hand-written  
ritual books  
feature in the  
history of our  
oldest lodge

**Pages of history: Minutes of this meeting of Witham Lodge record the initiation of Bro James Young, who was immediately elected Tyler...**



# Preserving a proud tradition...

**Witham Lodge 297 is the oldest in Lincolnshire – but it's not the first in Lincoln, as the brief Lodge history presented by W Bro E C Coleman at Witham's 225th meeting shows...**

Witham Lodge No.297 is the oldest Lodge in the Masonic Province of Lincolnshire. Its warrant is dated 23rd September 1793. There had been two previous Lodges in Lincoln before this, the first having been formed in 1730, and erased in 1760, and the second lasting from 1734 to 1754.

The first Witham Lodge in 1793, was numbered 530, changed to 374 in 1838, and finally, in a rationalisation of Lodge Numbers by United Grand Lodge of England and Wales in 1863, Witham Lodge became No. 297, and has remained so to date.

Witham Lodge meets at the Lincoln Masonic Centre on Nettleham Road in the city on the second Monday in the month, from February to May and October to December.

Witham Lodge Meetings in the early days were held in Inns/Public Houses/Hotels. In March 1894, the Lodge bought land and built its own Lodge Rooms in Mint Street. These

rooms were the home to all Lincoln Lodges up to 1963, when a 50-year lease was taken out at the Assembly Rooms in the Bailgate. When the Assembly Rooms lease expired in June 2013, the Lincoln Lodges, of which there were now eight, moved to their own new premises in Nettleham Road which had been purchased 18 months earlier.

Our Warrant or Charter is unusual in that it was issued by the Provincial Grand Master of Lincolnshire, Rev. William Peters, Bachelor at Law, Rector of Woolsthorpe, near Grantham, Prebendary of Lincoln Cathedral, and Chaplain to his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales. Warrants are now issued by United Grand Lodge of England and Wales, and have been since the early 1800's. This same warrant is still opened at every Lodge Meeting, and is an extremely interesting document.

The Witham Lodge Ritual is contained in handwritten books which have been passed down to Lodge Masters and Officers throughout the years. The Ritual workings differ from standard. They contain passages and phrases which are not found in other workings, and include some items which may be derived from older York work.

The last re-write was in 1929, when three new handwritten copies were produced. With the advent of computers, the Witham Ritual is now stored, updated and reproduced by computer when required. The Witham Lodge archives hold these handwritten Ritual Books along with all the Minute and Record Books of Witham Lodge going back to 1793. The Witham archives also hold the original Record Books of the two Lincoln Lodges between the years 1730 and 1760.

There have been many famous/notable members of Witham Lodge. Among them are:

- Sir Henry Nelthorpe, 7th Baronet and High Sherriff of Lincolnshire
- Sir Gonville Bromhead, 1st Baronet
- Sir Edward Bromhead, 2nd Baronet
- The Rt. Hon.Charles Worsley MP, 2nd Earl of Yarborough
- The Earl De Grey and Ripon
- William, 10th Duke of St. Albans
- Sir Joseph Banks, 1st Baronet, Botanist
- Dr George Oliver, Doctor of Divinity

A more comprehensive history of Witham Lodge can be found in the booklet 'A Short History of the Witham Lodge No.297 Lincoln'.

# There's going to be room at the inn for homeless this Christmas



## Donation marks hospital milestone

A £750 donation from the LMCA via the Isle of Axholme Lodge means work can now start on creating a bereavement suite for the families of stillborn children at Scunthorpe General Hospital.

This donation means there is now enough money in hand to start the creation of the £150,000 facility at the hospital's Maternity Ward. The money, given to the Health Tree Foundation, is the latest donation in an appeal launched in 2016. The donation was made by Lodge member Adrian Grimshaw and his wife Jayne, herself a former midwife. Adrian said: "Members of the Lodge thought this was a particularly important cause, and deserving of our support. To learn that there is now enough money to start work on the project makes it very special – and it shows that every donation, no matter how large or small, helps towards achieving a goal."

Lincolnshire Police have asked our PGM Dave Wheeler to write a short article for their staff magazine.

## St Guthlac donation supports 16 weeks of work to provide care for the homeless this winter

Brethren from St Guthlac Lodge in Deeping St James have given raffle proceeds of £150 to the Light Project in Peterborough to help provide support to the homeless in Peterborough this winter.

WM Nick Drewitt proposed that Light should be given the money, and he went with Almoner Steve Blake to hand it over.

The Light Project works with the homeless over winter, providing a day centre, where



Donations made to the MCF by brethren in our Province were used as part of a £70,000 donation sent to Indonesia to support earthquake and tsunami victims.

they can find help with medical matters and counselling for finding permanent accommodation and employment.

Last year the service ran for 12 weeks, and this year they intend running for 16.

The project has a good success record; of 36 people helped last year more than 20 are in settled accommodation, and most of these have found work.

Picture:  
Andy Bagworth

## The Retreat

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# Talking Heads offer a new demo for your lodge

## A new initiative has been launched to promote the Royal Arch in Lincolnshire.

It's a Talking Heads Team which shines a new light on the advantages of joining a Chapter. It has been set up by the Lincolnshire Royal Arch Focus Group, whose member Terry Little said: "This education initiative is a key element within the 'Initiation to Exaltation' Masonic journey. Not only does it introduce the Holy Royal Arch (or Chapter) to new Master Masons, it also explains a brief history of Freemasonry and the indissoluble link between the Craft and the Royal Arch." Talking Heads is a 35-minute playlet performed by the team at Craft Lodges within the Province, and it can be brought to your Lodge. Terry explained: "The demonstration features an encounter between two lodge members; one an experienced Past Master and Royal Arch Companion; the other a Master Mason curious to know

more about the Royal Arch. "It covers the history of the Order, explanations of the regalia, links to the Craft, why the Royal Arch is the climax and completion of pure Antient Freemasonry, the time and financial commitments involved in being a member, how to discover more and how to find a Chapter to join," he added. The encounter between the two characters starts in the anteroom at a Craft meeting when the two brothers are opening their cases and getting prepared for their meeting. It answers questions ranging from idle curiosity "What is Royal Arch Masonry?" to more personal speculations such as "Why should I join the Royal Arch?"

**For further information and availability contact:**  
**W. Bro Terry Little**  
**email: [terry.little31@virginmedia.com](mailto:terry.little31@virginmedia.com) tel: 01522 754972 or 07976 566032.**

## Communications team being formed: Do you want to be part of it?

Applications are invited from brethren in Lincolnshire who would like to be part of the Province's Communications efforts in the years ahead.

Newly-appointed Provincial Communications Officer Stuart Pearcey said: "It's clear to me that the UGLE 'Enough is Enough' campaign was a watershed in the way Freemasonry presents itself to the world; a change which signalled the start of an evolutionary path."

He's proposing setting up a small team with a three-fold objective:

- To change the way Freemasons and Freemasonry are perceived in the wider community
- To generate an increase in the numbers of suitable people who want to become Freemasons
- To get Lincolnshire noticed for all the right reasons

"We need to achieve these objectives through a blend of traditional and more modern communications channels, with none of them overshadowing any of the others.

"I have already got support from several Twitter users in the Province, but this must be a team effort.

"All Lincolnshire brethren who'd like to be part of the team are invited to contact me by email at [stuart@wordswoman.co.uk](mailto:stuart@wordswoman.co.uk) or by phone 01724 352156.



Keiths Appleton, on tamborine, and Edwards perform at the top of Scafell.

## Hitting the high notes: Two Keefs conquer Scafell Pike and raise £645

**It started with what seemed a good idea at the time, when W. Bro. Keith Edwards said to his friend W Bro Keith Appleton: "I want to play my guitar on the top of England's highest mountain, and I want you to be my guide and percussionist."**

That's how 'The Two Keefs' was formed to play a one-in-a-lifetime gig on the top of Cumbria's Scafell Pike, and to raise money for Lincolnshire's New Provincial Benevolent Fund in the process.

Keith A is an experienced walker, with numerous demanding treks to his credit, but Keith E is not. Pretty soon into the climb it became apparent that practice walks in Lincolnshire had not adequately prepared Keith E for the 3,200 foot ascent. He said: "I must admit I found it quite tough, although the many

fellow climbers we came across provided me with lots of breaks whilst I explained why my rucksack was guitar-shaped."

The Keiths – both members of Astral Lodge 3841 in Grimsby – made it to the top and played two rock songs, Wishing Well and Fisherman's Blues. It wasn't long before the cold was in danger of making their fingers blue too, making playing tricky and bringing the gig to an end. Said Keith A: "It was nice to see that the Great Architect laid on some atmospheric dry ice for the gig, although it did restrict the view of the beautiful Cumbrian scenery."

And Keith E added: "When we finished we heard clapping which was very pleasing – until we discovered that it was someone's cagoul flapping in the strong wind."

# Peter takes over in charity role

Team of three established to cover the Province



**W Bro Peter Tong has been appointed as Provincial Charity Steward, taking over the role from Bruce Goodman who is now an Assistant Provincial Grand Master.**

Making the appointment the PGM Rt W. Bro David Wheeler paid tribute to Bruce's work in the role, which he took over in May 2011. Dave said: "Bruce guided the Province through a very successful Festival in 2014. The systems he introduced, the use of Gift Aid envelopes and his knowledge of Masonic charities have ensured the Province has been very effective in raising money for charitable purposes."

Peter, pictured, of Pilgrim Fathers Lodge in Boston, has been extensively involved at both Board and management level in charities. He said: "I feel very privileged to be given this office. I am looking forward to supporting Lodges and Charity Stewards in their charitable efforts."

To help with the work the PGM has also made two additional appointments. W Bro Paul Ellis, of St James Lodge in Grimsby,

and W Bro Dr Jagdish Chaggar of Lumley Lodge in Skegness. Paul's skillset includes experience in developing effective management procedures and ensuring compliance with legal requirements; Jagdish has training and management skills as well as a knowledge of the role of Lodge Charity Steward. Bruce and W Bro Jez Hyland will continue as the Province's representatives on the Masonic Charitable Foundation.

Peter added: "Most of the administrative work of the Provincial Charity Steward will now be centralised at the Provincial Office, and Lorraine Miller, the Provincial Office Secretary, will take on a valuable support role. We have some excellent Charity Stewards in this Province, who do some amazing work, and brethren who give generously according to their personal circumstances. The new team is here to help and support them. These appointments have helped create a team with diverse skills and abilities which, I am sure, will be very effective and as we move towards the next Festival."

## £3,000 will help to fight pressures of poverty

**A £3,000 donation from the MCF is helping Scunthorpe's Forge project meet growing demands for its services amongst those in poverty and suffering homelessness.**

The service is facing more demands for help than at any time in its 20-year history, and this donation will help to provide a part-time support worker to help meet the need. The Forge is managed by Andrea Houghton, who said it was a hub for those in need to access services in a safe and supportive environment.

The centre is open for five mornings a week providing support, and three afternoons a



**WRITERS' CIRCLE:** Scunthorpe brethren, Forge staff, and service users gather around the centre's table tennis table to bounce back and forth ideas for the creative writing group. Centre Manager Andrea Houghton is standing left.

week for creative work.

Andrea said: "A number of factors, including changes in the benefits system, have meant numbers attending our Day Centre have almost doubled, and we can only see these numbers increasing. We say The Forge is about opportunities for change; it's about helping people to help themselves, and build in them the resilience to be able to do that."

## Masonic charity by numbers

*Figures taken from last year's report compiled by Bruce Goodman.*

**44,000**

Gift Aid envelopes used

**£178,000**

collected through them

**£4.07**

Average given per envelope

**£43,000**

claimed back as Gift Aid

**£176,000**

transferred to the New

Provincial Benevolent Fund

**£2,000**

given to Masonic Charitable

Foundation

**7**

Lodges not using Gift Aid

envelopes

**14 Chapters**

using the envelopes

**2**

Lodges of Instruction using

them

**850**

brethren who have no recorded

giving via envelopes or Regular

Giving since the end of the last

Festival

**140**

Charity grants made in

Lincolnshire during 2018

**£106,500**

shared between those 140 grants

**900**

Charity grants made in

Lincolnshire since 2005

**£891,270**

Shared between Lincolnshire

charities since 2005

**3,500**

Freemasons in Lincolnshire



So how did Rose Croix Tower Chapter 192 get its name? Members who were present to help celebrate its 100th anniversary heard two possible explanations from Excellent & Perfect Prince Adrian Joyce. The first, and most obvious, he said, was the strong relationship of the Founder Members with Grimsby Docks and the Dock Tower. The second related to the Very Illustrious Grand Secretary General, John Charles Fitzroy-Tower. It is recorded that as his name had not previously been adopted as a Chapter name he willingly gave his permission for the use. The presentation was made as the Chapter celebrated 100 years of The Order of the Ancient and Accepted Rite in Grimsby at its Enthronement Meeting held in June, at the Masonic Hall in Grimsby. After Excellent and Perfect Brother Lindsay Studd had been Enthroned as Most Wise Sovereign by Ill.:Bro. Steven Dickson 30°, the Centenary Warrant was presented by Most Illustrious Brother The Right Honourable the Lord Wigram MVO 33°, Grand Chamberlain, who was accompanied by

# What's in a name?

Rose Croix members hear of two possible reasons behind the name of Tower Chapter

Ill.:Bro. Christopher Noon 31°, Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. A large number of brethren attended the meeting, nearly all of whom dined afterwards. Among those present were the Very Illustrious Brother Trevor Clingan 33°, Inspector General for the District of Lincolnshire and V.:Ill.:Bro. John Boyington 33°, Inspector General for the District of Yorkshire West Riding. They were joined by many other visitors, including executive members of several other Orders, members of other Lincolnshire District Chapters and distinguished guests from other Districts. As well as considering the origin of the Chapter's name, Bro. Joyce also said the Consecration had been held on 12th

June 1918 at the Masonic Hall in Osbourne Street, Grimsby, where the Chapter continued to meet until moving to its current home at Grimsby's Masonic Hall in 1971. The Founder Members included The Right Honourable the 4th Earl of Yarborough, the Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire, who had close links with V.:Ill.:Bro. Fitzroy-Tower. The other Founders were Ill.:Bro. Isaac Newton Woodwiss, and E.:&P.:Bro. Walter Shephard, Frank Barrett, Leslie Kingsford Osmond and George William Goulding. Many prominent local Freemasons also became Members of Tower Chapter, contributing to the quality and strength of the Chapter. At his speech at the festive board, the Grand Chamberlain said how impressed he was with the Chapter and offered congratulations and best wishes for success in the future. The many comments received after the Meeting confirmed that it had been a very happy and memorable occasion, a fitting tribute to the hard work and enthusiasm of the Founders of the Chapter and all those brethren who had subsequently ensured its continued prosperity and success since the consecration 100 years ago.

*Ill.:Bro. David Orrey 30°, Recorder*



Left to right: Ill.:Bro. Graham Ives 31°, V.:Ill.:Bro. Geoffrey Mawer Cooper 33°, V.:Ill.:Bro. Trevor Clingan 33°, E.:&P.:Bro. Lindsay Studd, M.:Ill.:Bro. The Rt. Hon. the Lord Wigram MVO 33°, Ill.:Bro. Steven Dickson 30°, V.:Ill.:Bro. John Boyington 33°, Ill.:Bro. Christopher Noon 31° and Ill.:Bro. Brian Marsh 30° (D.C., Tower Chapter)

# Pushing the boat out with an MCF donation

Supportive sailors in Lincoln have transformed a £25,000 tercentenary donation from the Masonic Charitable Foundation into a specialist pontoon and a safety boat (pictured opposite) to transform the way it can help the disabled onto the water.

The sailors are members of Hykeham Sailability, a charity launched in 2009 to provide opportunities for disabled people in Lincolnshire to sail – but at that time the group had no boats, equipment, sailing expertise, volunteers, or even potential members. Led by non-sailing Sleaford businessman Keven Roberts, who sadly passed away in 2016, the group has secured thousands in funding, inspired and trained

numerous volunteers and instructors, and worked tirelessly to establish what is now a thriving, vibrant Sailability club.

Hykeham Sailability is part of the national Sailability programme run by the RYA, which supports disabled people in learning to sail and sailing regularly. The group's aim is to give both adults and young people the freedom and confidence to get out on the water. Lincolnshire brethren have visited the club to see the equipment bought with the MCF grant. Cover picture: W. Bro Walter Cook, WM of Doric Lodge, and W. Bro Terry Wallhead from Witham Lodge visited the club and ventured out onto the floating platform.

## Outgoing PGM saves best 'til last with £61,000 for jobs project

**A week before stepping down as PGM Graham Ives made a presentation of £61,000 aimed at helping people with learning difficulties into employment.**

The £61,236 MCF grant will allow the Linkage Community Trust and the University of Lincoln to work with partners from the statutory and voluntary sectors to create an online support tool that, over the next few years, is expected to help hundreds of users develop Individualised Career Action Plans. Linkage has been supporting people with a learning disability and or autism to develop their independence for four decades.

Although much progress has been made in many areas such as social integration, independent living and education, access to employment remains a huge challenge, says Rex Richardson, Director of Care Services at Linkage. "Getting people with autism and/or learning disabilities into employment can be complex and challenging. Succeeding requires a planned and personalised approach, with all partners working together to achieve an identified and shared goal.

"Research shows that the benefits of employment for people with autism or learning disabilities can be immense, improving independence, well-being, reducing isolation and promoting better mental health - as well as providing many employers with a loyal and productive employee," he added.

Graham said: "The Linkage Community Trust does outstanding work providing benefits to job seekers and to employers who obtain loyal and productive employees."

## Mark Festival total exceeds £850,000

Almost 860 dine at Banquet ending a Festival that will be long remembered

**The 150th Mark Benevolent Fund Festival hosted by the Mark Province of Lincolnshire came to a wonderful conclusion with the announcement, by the Grand Secretary Rt. W. Bro. Ryan Williams, that a staggering £853,023 had been raised by the Mark and Royal Ark Mariner brethren.**

Many people had worked hard on the Festival Committee with brethren serving as Lodge Champions, Lodge Festival Stewards, and in helping to arrange a large number of fund-raising events.

The Festival Weekend and the Banquet at the Epic Centre were a resounding success. The staff at the Epic Centre delivered both a delicious meal and efficient service. Many visitors commented on the warmth of the welcome and the high quality of the event.

Almost 860 people dined at the festival banquet, with 487 people requiring coach transport from eight different hotels on 14 coaches. 104 people enjoyed a day-trip to the East Kirkby Aviation Heritage Centre and the International Bomber Command Centre; 37 volunteer stewards helped out and 100 packed lunches were provided!

The festival concluded with a spectacular fireworks display.

The money raised for the Mark Benevolent Fund will go a long way to enable it to continue its charitable work into the future.

The Rev. Trevor John Walker, Provincial Grand Master said the Festival would be long remembered, adding: "I sincerely thank all who have given to the Festival in this most generous total raised. Lincolnshire can be truly proud."

### Alec recalls when lodge fees included a meal and a smoke...

Being presented with his certificate to record 60 years in Freemasonry W Bro Alec Nurse of St Botolph's Lodge in Boston recalled that when he was initiated into the Duke of Connaught Lodge No 1558 meeting at Freemasons' Hall his lodge fees were eight guineas (£8.40p), and the lodge met five times a year, but the fees included a meal with wine, cigarettes and cigars. A ladies' night at the Connaught Rooms cost £1.50p. He later moved to Buckinghamshire and joined a Lodge in Aylesbury and then to Dorset before coming to Lincolnshire around 2005.



E. Comps Ray Wade (centre) and Dave Metcalf (right) of St Lawrence Chapter 2078 were shocked to receive field promotions from former Grand Superintendent Graham Ives when he visited to Chapter for its Centenary meeting. Both E. Companions were promoted from PProvGReg to Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah (PPrGSN). The Centenary meeting was commemorated by Comp Peter Cooper, who produced an illuminated document listing those who had been present. Peter, who is now 80, is still very active in Scunthorpe Freemasonry.

Members of the Lincolnshire Provincial Social Committee have re-affirmed their liking for Hemswell Court near Caenby Corner by booking next year's Sunday Lunch there as their fourth visit to the venue. They'll meet on June 9th, with the event once again being co-ordinated by Barry Topliss.

An exhibition called *Brothers In Arms – Peace Through Sacrifice* showing rare photographs from the Boer War and the two Great Wars is open until the New Year at Freemasons' Hall in London. Viewings must be booked – contact Keith Gilbert [kgilbert.bia@ugle.org.uk](mailto:kgilbert.bia@ugle.org.uk)

Assistant PGM Bruce Goodman was given a surprise at St James Lodge when the PGM gave him a Certificate of Merit for his services to Freemasonry.



# Masons met in mosque in Jerusalem

**A carefully-folded scrap of paper telling a decades-old masonic story spanning the globe has been discovered in an old regalia case.**

The case was passed to Peter Brooks, one of Lincolnshire's APGMs. It had belonged to a Bro Thomas Jackson, the grandfather of his wife Jackie, who had been raised in Harwich-based Lodge Star in the East 650 in 1915.

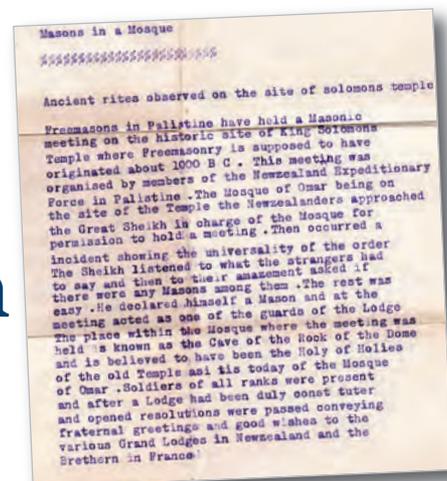
The undated document, pictured right, tells the story of brethren from New Zealand holding a Masonic meeting in a mosque in Palestine.

It reads: "*Ancient rites observed on the site of Solomon's temple.*

*"Freemasons in Palistine (sic) have held a Masonic meeting on the historic site of King Solomon's Temple where Freemasonry is supposed to have originated about 1,000BC.*

*"This meeting was organised by members of the Newzealand (sic) Expeditionary Force in Palistine. The Mosque of Omar being on the site of the Temple, the Newzealanders approached the Great Sheikh in charge of the Mosque for permission to hold a meeting. Then occurred a incident showing the universality of the order. The Sheikh listened to what the strangers had to say, and then*

*to their amazement asked if there were any Freemasons among them. The rest was easy. He declared himself a Mason and at the meeting acted as one of the guards of the Lodge. The place within the Mosque where the meeting was held is known as the Cave of the Rock of the Dome and is believed to have been the Holy of Holies of the old Temple as it is today of the Mosque of Omar. Soldiers of all ranks were present, and*



*after a Lodge had been duly constituter (sic) and opened, resolutions were passed conveying fraternal greetings and good wishes to the various Grand Lodges in Newzealand and Brethren in France."*

Peter, a member of Doric Lodge 362 in Grantham, said: "Subsequent research has revealed that the New Zealand Expeditionary Force Masonic Association was formed by Colonel George Barclay in 1917, developed from an informal meeting of New Zealanders near Armentières in June 1916. The meeting referred to in the letter took place in April 1918.

"Lodge Star in the East is still active, and we have sent the document back to them in Harwich, along with a centenary booklet from 1955 and a summons dated 1934 – which they were delighted to receive." The Mosque of Omar, which is also known as the Dome on the Rock, stands on Mount Moriah, in Jerusalem. It is the place where Abraham is said to have prepared to sacrifice Isaac, and where Mohammed ascended to heaven to meet Essiah and Jesus, and as such is a very holy place to both Islam and Judaism.

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Provincial Almoner John Grimwood stepped up to offer his 1937 Hudson car (that's it in the picture) as a part of a 'chain of transport' that ferried Simone Enefer-Day, pictured, Chief Executive of the Lifelites charity, on a nationwide fundraising tour of every Province in the UK. She collected a donation of £10,000 from Lincolnshire. Lifelites, based in Great Queen Street in London, provides specialist entertainment, educational and assistive technology packages to more than 10,000 children and young people with life-limiting, life-threatening and disabling conditions at every children's hospice in the UK.



The Horncastle, Spilsby and Skegness Masonic Charity Group has held another fund raiser on the two-mile Kirkby Green Light Railway at the home of W Bro Stuart Ravell and his wife Helen. Many different locos were on show, pulling passenger cars on two miles of track – with the steam hauled ones tailed by a water tender guarding against fire in the tinder-dry conditions.

Group Chairman W Bro Paul Daubney thanked Stuart and Helen, as well as the Charity Stewards and their families of the Horncastle, Spilsby and Skegness Lodges for their help in putting on the event.

- Stuart and Helen open their light railway several times a year for the local church and other groups with the help of our brethren. However, they are always looking for more volunteers station staff, engineers or drivers. Contact Masonic Lincs if you'd like to be involved; we'll pass on details.

## Luncheon Club makes three presentations

**Lincoln Masonic Ladies' Luncheon Club has made three presentations:** £230 to St Francis School raised from a Fashion Event sponsored by Marks and Spencer; £500 for the Building Fund at the Nightingale Rooms, where the club meets; and a bouquet to club member Doreen Wortley, who was celebrating her 95th birthday. Doreen was a founder member when it was formed in June 1996, and is a regular attender with her daughter June, a former Treasurer. When the Lincoln Masonic Hall was opened Doreen presented a clock in memory of W Bro Cyril Wortley, a Past Master of Witham Lodge.

- The Lincoln Ladies' Luncheon Club meets at noon on the third Wednesday of each month. If you'd like to join, you're invited to contact June Wright by ringing 01522 807077 or emailing [derek.wright33@ntlworld.com](mailto:derek.wright33@ntlworld.com). Those who can't attend regularly are welcome to come as guests up to three times a year.

- Castleby Ladies was formed by wives of Horncastle and Spilsby Freemasons during the 1990's. Its aim was to provide an opportunity for the ladies to meet and get to know each other. Since then many friendships have been forged. In recent years membership has been widened and Masons' wives and partners from further afield have been welcomed. Meeting at Abbey Lodge, Woodhall Spa, on the second Tuesday of April and September, the ladies enjoy a meal before hearing a guest speaker on subjects as diverse as the work of The Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, The Lindsey Blind Society, The Nomad Trust, Fashion Jewellery, Cooking and Baking and Financial Services Advice.

There is no cost to membership except for the price of the meal. New members are always welcome. For more information please contact Sue Murfin on 01526 353349.

- Similar groups operate in Spalding, Grantham, and Sleaford. Are you part of one of those, or other groups? Can Masonic Lincs help you source members? If so email [stuart@wordsmen.co.uk](mailto:stuart@wordsmen.co.uk) or ring 01724 352156.

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# Fun times at fun day



# Masonic motorcycle club moves into a higher gear

Members of the Lincolnshire Masonic Motorcycle Club rode to Scunthorpe for a meeting to discuss their programme for the year ahead – and to share a fish and chip lunch.

Led by Chris Jones (seated right), who is currently WM of the Round Table Lodge of Lincolnshire as well as LMMC secretary, the club brings together Masons in the Province who have a passion for motorcycling. The Club was established in 2017 with a view to creating touring opportunities. So far, the Club has recruited more than 40 members, from which groups of up to a dozen riders have visited Lodges in Scotland, Switzerland and Germany. Said Chris: “Next year we would like to extend that by including Norway and Luxembourg. The touring has been fantastic, but the visiting has been



even more so, creating many contacts and friendships.”

Chris and his fellow club members have ambitions for the fledgling organisation, and are actively considering the possibilities not only of forming a Blood Bikes organisation in the Province to support the emergency services, but also a motorcycling lodge. Masons and non-masons are encouraged to join, said Chris. One member joined as a non-mason, but has since joined a Lodge at Cleethorpes.

● If you'd like to join the club, or at least know more about it, Chris would love to hear from you at [chris@build-a-future.com](mailto:chris@build-a-future.com)

## Hospice donations

Lincolnshire hospices have been given more donations from the MCF as follows:

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# MCF helps talented girls 'keep dancing'



**Dancing sisters Summer and Paige Donkin have secured some of the top places at this year's British Classical Ballroom Championships in Blackpool.**

Taking to the floor in the town's Winter Gardens, almost in the shadow of the famous Blackpool Tower, the North Lincolnshire pair came third in All Girls 2 Dance and fourth in the Classical Modern.

The performance delighted grandparents Terry and Elaine Cox, who are the girl's legal guardians, and put a huge amount into supporting the girls' dancing efforts.

Backed by support from the Masonic Charitable Foundation and Terry's Masonic friends, the family travels all over the country to compete in events. Terry, a member of the Isle of Axholme Lodge 1482 in Crowle near Scunthorpe, said the family was hugely grateful for the support they've been given by the Masonic Charitable Foundation and individual Freemasons.

He said: "Lessons cost hundreds of pounds, and the dresses can cost hundreds of pounds, and then there's the hair and makeup, the shoes, and the travelling." Terry says the girls, aged 9 and 10, have been through a tough time in their early years. "But they're getting over it," he said. "It can be hard work to get them to focus, but we have got them there eventually. Although they're not over their problems yet, they've achieved a lot – but we don't think they grasp just how good they are."

The atmosphere of a dance competition is exciting, said Terry, and the girls loved it when they were there. "It's not just the dancing, but the dressing up, and having their hair done, and wearing makeup," he said.

Terry and Elaine have been legal guardians for Summer and Paige for about five years, and the girls have been dancers for more than three.

"We wanted to find something we could all do together," said Terry. "Dancing seemed to fit the bill. My wife and I have danced, but never in competition, though we have taken the girls to social dances when we've been able to dance together, and it keeps us together," he added. It also keeps the house full of trophies. "They're everywhere," said Terry. "The girls dance as a couple, so when they win something, there are always two more trophies to come home.

Two major milestones lie ahead – a competition in the Blackpool Tower Ballroom in February next year, and making an application to the Masonic Charitable Foundation's TalentAid scheme.

The scheme has been designed to support the children and grandchildren of Freemasons with funds to cover ongoing costs like sports coaching, advanced music lessons and the purchase of one-off items such as a musical instrument or sports equipment. "Some of the money we get from the MCF is dedicated to their lessons with Jayne Burnett at the La Danza School of Dance, which are £200 a week, and we're very grateful for that. If we could get support from TalentAid, that would be wonderful.

"The girls dance to a very good standard at the moment, but it will be expensive to get them to the next level. Extra money would be a big help in making sure the girls can reach it. In the long term having a sponsor would be ideal; it would help them to 'keep dancing'," he added.

## Social Committee diary 2019

### Chelsea Pensioner Talk & Lunch

Grantham Masonic Hall. May 19th

Contact: Mrs Sue Alexander South  
Lincolnshire Ladies Group (07855 785517)

### Provincial Quiz

Masonic Centre, Lincoln. May date tba

Contact: Kevin Bradley (01522 876165)

### Sunday Lunch

Hemswell Court Hotel, Hemswell Cliff

June 9th at 12 noon - £21

Contact: Barry Topliss (01205 367128)

### Hog Roast and Provincial Raffle

Surfleet. July 7th

Contacts: Mrs Elizabeth Lilley (01775

712779) Martin Pettit (01522 543651)

### Coarse Angling Competition

Westwood Lakes, Boston August 16th

Contact: David Wootton (01529 415202)

### Ladies Festival Weekend

Royal Hotel, Scarborough October

11th/12th/13th £160 pp

Contact: Derek Butcher (01754 810511)

Trevor Clingan (01754 766890)

**In progress:** Clay Pigeon Shoot. Date in June to be announced. Contact: Martin Reeve (01754 811990)

## 2020

### Tribute Band Concert

Quo Tribute 'Counterfeit Quo' April 18th

Performing Arts Centre, Lincoln University

Contact: Barry Topliss (01205 367128)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS, 2019

February 10th; Grantham (including AGM)

April 14th; Gainsborough



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# Light Blues go marching on

Lincolnshire Light Blues have had a busy first year with events ranging from a comedy evening, a curry night and summer ball as well as competing in Boston's Dragon Boat Festival. Membership has continued to grow throughout the year with further events already planned for 2019.

Our PGM David Wheeler is keen for the club to keep growing, and encourages all new and young Freemasons below provincial rank to join a club local to them, or even consider starting their own. Boston's Club is now well established; Bourne and the surrounding area has started one, and is actively welcoming new members.



On Saturday 3rd November, representatives from Boston, Bourne and the Light Blue Club Focus Group joined brethren at Lincoln Masonic Centre to hear an explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board after which W Bro Phil Featherstone from Boston challenged Lincoln brethren to a paintball competition in the New Year. The challenge was eagerly accepted - if anyone else is interested in joining in, or even entering their own team, they are invited to contact Phil - please see below for contact details.

Other events planned at time of going to print include ten pin bowling, a further comedy night, social evenings and a summer barbecue. For details of these and to keep up to date with upcoming events, please see the links below.

Twitter: @LincsLightBlues

FaceBook: @LincsLightBlues

Website: [www.LincsLightBlues.org](http://www.LincsLightBlues.org)

Lincolnshire Light Blues is for Freemasons below provincial rank. If you are an Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft, Master Mason or Past Master you are eligible to join. The aim is to enable members to interact socially with junior brethren and non-masons from across Lincolnshire and beyond.

Contacts:

Boston: Phil Featherstone 07876 522936

Bourne and surrounding area:  
Michael Haynes 07921 613254  
Lincoln: Mike Clay 07711 861074

Other enquiries (Focus Group):  
Jez Hyland 07957 603604  
Adrian Joyce 07967 133372  
Gideon Hall 07824 808116  
Paul Ellis 07986 105466

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Stone occupies an important position in Freemasonry as a symbol in several degrees.

It appears in the Craft as the rough and perfect ashlar as often exhibited on the Wardens'

pedestals; in the Mark degree as the keystone and in the Holy Royal Arch as the arch stone or altar stone and of course all in connection with the building of King Solomon's temple. It is thus how the Craft, Holy Royal Arch and the Mark degree are closely connected.

Operative stonemasonry, as a major trade, began to evolve in the early 11th century with Saxon builders and intensified in the

centuries following the Norman Conquest. By the 14th century building had reached a scale that required the trade to be regulated in its customs and practices. The first regulatory body, the Masons' Company was granted a Coat of Arms in 1472 and these Arms were later adopted by the first Grand Lodge soon after its foundation in 1717, and still form one half of the Arms of the present United Grand Lodge of England.

Although the origins of speculative Freemasonry are unclear, it is evident that it has borrowed heavily from the medieval operative stonemasons' trade in a number of respects – including the symbolism of working tools and gauges in the Craft and other Masonic Orders, and the use of marks in speculative Mark Masonry.

Operative stone masons indented the stones they had prepared with their own unique marks, serving two useful purposes – it established a craftsman's entitlement to wages and, in the event of faulty work, enabled the foreman or overseer to identify the workman responsible. The practice of 'marking' stones continues today, and each stonemason at Lincoln Cathedral still carves his own distinctive mark on his work. V.W. Bro. Trevor Kitchen would always present a candidate being advanced in the Mark degree with this laminated sheet of stonemasons' marks in Boston Stump.

As we know, the first Grand Lodge was founded in 1717 at the Goose and Gridiron Alehouse in St Paul's Church Yard in the city of London, and this marked the start of organised Freemasonry. At this time of early freemasonry, the three Orders of the Craft, Royal Arch and Mark were being worked freely in Lodges. The earliest records of a speculative Mark degree being worked comes from the Royal Arch Chapter No 257 in Portsmouth in 1769, Minutes of our own Witham Craft Lodge No 297 in Lincoln includes the reference, in 1798, "Several brethren expressing a wish to be acquainted with the degree of Mark Mason, were advanced to that degree."

Differences and disputes about certain practices and principles between the Antients and the Moderns Lodges the Act of Union was signed in 1813 when the present Grand Lodge of England came into being.

The United Grand Lodge of England gave this clear statement: "Pure and Ancient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, namely, those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch." So, what had been considered by many lodges that the three Orders were closely related as a set of 'Solomonic' degrees,

# Making their mark

Derek Bontoft explores the role of stone in the history of Freemasonry

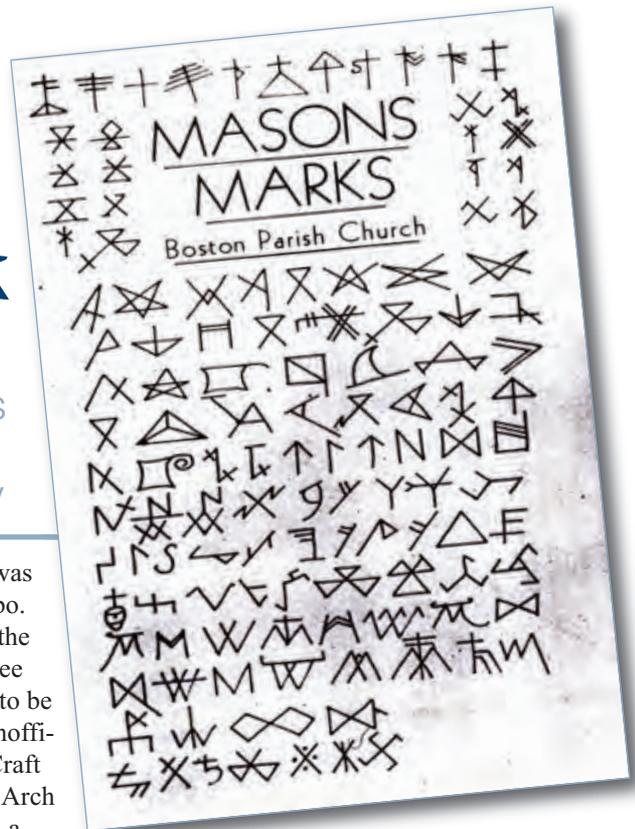
the Mark was left in limbo. However, the Mark degree continued to be worked, unofficially, in Craft and Royal Arch Chapters – a

very unsatisfactory state of affairs, and led to the eventual establishment of a separate Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in 1856.

In Scotland, the Mark degree is conferred in a Craft Lodge as completion of the Fellowcraft degree or in a Royal Arch Chapter as a prerequisite for exaltation to the Royal Arch. In Ireland, the degree of Mark Master Mason is required to join a Holy Royal Arch Chapter and they share the same Warrant.

In the USA, in the York Rite, the Mark degree takes place within a Royal Arch Chapter, it is the first of four degrees culminating with the Holy Royal Arch.

The Craft, The Holy Royal Arch and the Mark degrees have thus been strongly linked through history and stone, they enjoy a good working relationship in Lincolnshire and long may they continue to prosper.



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## The Old Library Residential Home



The Old Library Residential Home is a specialist dementia care home providing quality Relationship centred care to 24 older people. It is a family run home which has been established for 20 years. The Old Library has been fully refurbished according to the most current dementia Research & our care is provided according to the principles of the 'Bee Inspired' Dementia Care Programme, which is an innovative way of working with people who have dementia.

- Short or Long term respite/day care
- Privacy and dignity
- Seaside location close to amenities
- Full Social Programme with regular events and activities according to the individuals need/ability
- Fully compliant with Care Quality Commissioner
- Kitchen 5 star rated by environmental health
- Dementia Champion Programme



To view our latest CQC Inspection Report and for more information visit us online at: [www.the-old-library.co.uk](http://www.the-old-library.co.uk)

**Telephone: (01472) 601364**

Isaacs Hill, Cleethorpes, NE Lincolnshire DN35 8JR

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