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# Provincial Newsletter

## Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

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### Looking Forward: A Message From W Bro David G Maskell PSGD Assistant Provincial Grand Master



During lockdown our Provincial Membership team have been releasing weekly videos – “Lodge in the lounge” on social media featuring question and answer sessions with various members of the Province from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master to younger newly joined brethren. These vlogs have been very well received both by members and the general public. It is planned to continue these over the summer months, and I hope that you will continue to watch, enjoy and share.

Over the summer months, several Lodges do have social events planned and I would urge you to support these whenever you can. The Trelawny Club is planning a cricket match for late July and they are looking for willing players – skilled or otherwise, so if you fancy a game please give the Trelawny Club secretary a call.

The 2024 Festival continues to run and whilst we have been absent from our meetings, the income for the Festival has understandably slowed down. Again, I would ask that you consider setting up a standing order to support the Festival and achieve your own Festival Jewel. Details are available on the Provincial website or from your own Charity Steward.

Brethren, we are nearly there – now is the time to start looking at our suits to see if they still fit and to refresh our ritual.

Please make contact with brethren within your Lodge, especially the older members or those that you might not have seen for a while. We are all returning anew, and this would be an ideal opportunity for lapsed members to restart their masonry.

We need to encourage everyone to return to our meetings, but it is most important that they feel safe in doing so. If people want to wear masks or sit apart then that is fine. We just need to ensure that everything is done to allow a safe and happy return for everyone.

Let us now look forward to a full return to our meetings within our wonderful Province.

W Bro David G Maskell PSGD

Assistant Provincial Grand Master

Brethren, By the time that you are reading this we will hopefully have been released from all statutory Covid restrictions and can start to plan a return to some degree of normality.

Whilst we have been legally able to hold restricted meetings since May, the majority of our lodge buildings remain closed but are planning to reopen this autumn and it is hoped that we should be able to fully restart our masonry in the Province from September.

Our Provincial Grand Master has planned a restricted Provincial Grand Lodge meeting at Newquay Temple on Saturday 4th September which it is hoped will provide a splendid starting point to the new season. Unfortunately, the meeting this year will have to be by invitation only as we are severely restricted on numbers. We hope that you understand and of course look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible. We are however planning to video parts of the meeting which will be shown on our Facebook and YouTube channels.



# THE FREEMASONS CHALLENGE TROPHY



In the middle of June, the Province of Cornwall were pleased to take part in The Freemasons Challenge. The challenge consists of all University Lodges under the Universities Scheme of the United Grand Lodge of England transporting by foot, a trophy to each lodge under the scheme and in doing so raising money for charity via The Duke of Edinburgh Memorial Fund.

On June 23rd, the Freemasons Challenge Trophy entered our Province and was collect by the Provincial Grand Mentor, W. Bro Eugene Clemence (pictured above, left) and W. Bro Andy Spargo (above right), Chisel Lodge Mentor at Polsen Bridge, Launceston with the Tamar in the background. This was the beginning of the trophy's journey making its way across the county to Falmouth, where the Cornwall University Lodge is located (The Lodge of The Chisel No.9398)

June 24th: Our Provincial Grand Mentor, Eugene C Clemence pictured with the trophy in Falmouth and by the Docks after walking it 8 miles from Playing Place.





June 25th: The trophy was handed to W. Bro Phil Venning PPSGD after riding by motorbike with escort Bro Antony Wilkins, a member of the Chisel Lodge.

The donation link is still live and for those who would like to make a donation to this cause please click the link below:

<https://gtap.uk/19938>

W. Bro Phil proceeded to take the trophy to Exeter so that it could continue on its journey to the Province of Somerset, who were delighted to receive it.

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# Provincial Newsletter

Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

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Do you have a story you would like to submit for consideration to The Provincial Newsletter?

Please email Brother Sebastian Oakley  
Provincial Communications Officer

[soakley@pglcornwall.org.uk](mailto:soakley@pglcornwall.org.uk)



# CORNWALL MASONIC CHARITABLE FOUNDATION DONATES £55,617 TO CORNWALL CHARITIES



The global pandemic has affected many Cornish businesses, families, friends, and charities since the start of 2020 and due to the various restrictions over the past year charities have not been able to perform their regular fund-raising activities throughout the county.

Unfortunately, due to the global crisis The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall had to cancel its charities presentation day, usually held at King Arthur's Hall in Tintagel. However, The Freemasons of Cornwall are delighted to announce that over the pandemic thus far £55,617 has been donated across 45 Cornish charities to help those in need and provide care for those less fortunate than ourselves. These charities include, but are not limited to:

RNLI: Port Isaac, Newquay, St Agnes, Looe, and Isles of Scilly. National Coastwatch Institution: St Agnes Head, St Ives, Stepper Point and Basspoint. Macmillan Cancer support (Cove-Treliske), Cornwall Hospice Care, Children's Hospice South West (Little Harbour), Lifelites, Cornwall Air Ambulance, Cornwall Blood Bikes, Merlin MS Centre, Oasis Centre Cornwall, and many more worthy charities that provide either service or equipment for those in need who live or visit the county of Cornwall.

Mike Pritchard, Provincial Grand Charity Steward for Cornwall had this to say:

"This tremendous amount of money donated through The Cornwall Masonic Charitable Foundation would not have been possible without the charitable efforts from our members across the 80 lodges within Cornwall. Along with our donations throughout the pandemic The Masonic Charitable Foundation, the national Freemason's charity for members in England, Wales and Overseas and one of the largest grant-making charities in the country kindly provided additional grants of £20,000 to be split between the various charities and boost our total to £55,617".

Alice Merrett, Area Fundraiser at Little Harbour said:

"Children's Hospice South West needs more than £3 million a year to run its Little Harbour hospice in St Austell. Over 140 children and their families are currently being supported by Little Harbour which is why the generosity of groups such as The Cornwall Masonic Charitable Foundation really does mean so much. When a child is diagnosed with a life limiting illness, we offer support to families in a variety of ways including visits to and stays at the hospice, home visits and virtual support – offering a listening ear 24 hours a day. Most importantly we help families make precious memories that they will treasure for a lifetime, but we couldn't do it without the generosity of the local community so thank you."

Debbie Henshaw, Senior Fundraising Manager at Cornwall Air Ambulance, said:

"Illness and injury don't stop in a pandemic. The crew of Cornwall Air Ambulance has continued to work throughout, bringing critical care to people in need across Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. The charity relies on donations to provide this lifesaving service, so we are very grateful to have the support of The Cornwall Masonic Charitable Foundation."

Andrew Bramwell, RNLI Community Manager for Cornwall said:

"The RNLI relies on donations to be able to fund the training and equipment needed by our volunteer lifeboat crew in order to do their lifesaving work. Like many charities we were forced to cancel many of our fundraising events and close our shops due to the pandemic which means our ability to fundraise has been severely impacted over the last 15 months. So, this generous donation from The Cornwall Masonic Charitable Foundation is greatly appreciated and we thank them for their continued support."

# Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Cornwall

## Early Royal Arch Masonry (Part 2)

The piece on early Royal Arch in Redruth which appeared in the January newsletter, pointed out that Cornwall in the early 19th century was not as remote from decisions made in London as might be expected. However, as the story that follows may show it is possible that communications may not have been as efficient as previously stated.

Love and Honour Lodge (now No. 75) had been consecrated in Falmouth in 1751, but it was only after a number of its brethren had been Exalted in Redruth that a petition was made to form a Royal Arch Chapter in Falmouth. This was granted by Charter issued by the Grand and Royal Chapter on 30 January 1810 to Volubian Chapter of Virtue Silence and Peace, No.157. The Chapter worked continuously from 1810 to 1824, when a return was made listing 53 members who had been Exalted.

During that period, in 1817, Supreme Grand Chapter came into existence by the union of the Grand and Royal Chapter (as above) with Companions who had been Exalted under the former Antients Grand Lodge. The new regulations of 1817 required all Chapters to attach themselves to, and take the number of, a Craft Lodge. On 31st March 1822 Volubian Chapter applied by letter to be attached to Love & Honour, then No. 110. That letter was signed by John Ellis who was MEZ from 1820 to 1830 and Grand Superintendent for Cornwall from 1848 to 1857.

The Chapter is grateful to E Comp John Hamill who, as Librarian researched the history of the Chapter in 1983. He comments on E Comp John Ellis as follows: "as Grand Superintendent he appears to have regarded the Chapter as his own. His continuing as MEZ from 1820-1830 was quite against the Regulations..... it is quite possible that he continued as Z until 1857!"

In 1857 his son William Rufus Ellis, was appointed MEZ and remained so until 1861.

Recent research in "The Freemason" dated May 8, 1869 records a complaint concerning him. In 1863 he visited Chapter No. 334 in Cape Town and produced a Certificate from Volubian Chapter (then No. 89) that he had been Exalted in 1816. He was subsequently proposed as a joining member, but when the registration document was sent to Supreme Grand Chapter the Grand Scribe E advised Chapter 334 that his name did NOT appear on its Registry as a member of Volubian Chapter.

It is reported that "Comp" Ellis later admitted that his certificate was not a Supreme Grand Chapter certificate but that at the time of his Exaltation (prior to the formation of Supreme Grand Chapter) certificates were issued by the individual Chapter, which was perfectly true.

He further argued that on its formation Supreme Grand Chapter had allowed the retention of the individual Chapter certificates which had already been issued. The Committee of General Purposes did not agree and recommended "that Companion William Rufus Ellis be suspended from his functions and privileges as a Royal Arch Mason during the pleasure of the Supreme Grand Chapter".

So was this a case of Ellis Snr playing fast and loose with the rules, or a genuine oversight, or a breakdown in communication of the latest directions from Supreme Grand Chapter?

We will never know!

Tony Evans, Deputy Grand Superintendent

[ajevans.fal@btinternet.com](mailto:ajevans.fal@btinternet.com)



# HERTFORDSHIRE FREEMASON CELEBRATES HIS 90TH BIRTHDAY IN CORNWALL.



*Left to Right: Geoff celebrating his 90th birthday with the Master of Lodge Trust and Fear Not, Worshipful Brother Peter Reeve*

On Wednesday 26th May Worshipful Brother Geoff Gale celebrated his 90th birthday in the Province of Cornwall. He decided to treat himself to a few days in Falmouth, an area with which he is familiar and which he has previously visited many times. Geoff was the driving force behind the formation of Lodge Trust and Fear Not which was consecrated in 1999 at St. Albans with all members at that time being either serving or retired police officers. Geoff has now retired from Herts Police for longer than he served having spent twenty two of his thirty years as the Village Bobby at Markyate.

The current Master of Lodge Trust and Fear Not is Worshipful Brother Peter Reeve who lives in Bude not too many miles up the coast from Falmouth. He had intended to spring a surprise visit on Geoff on his birthday but by pure coincidence Geoff phoned Peter about another matter and the cat was soon out of the bag. Retired police officer and Cornish Freemason Peter Bradbury who served three years in Hertfordshire before transferring to Devon and Cornwall Constabulary was invited to the celebrations.

Arriving at the waterfront Greenbanks Hotel at 10.15 am the two Peters found Geoff tucking into a substantial Full English breakfast. The banter came thick and fast as one would expect with three retired coppers who are active Freemasons. Birthday cards and a bottle of liquid refreshment were much appreciated by the birthday boy.

After an extended breakfast Geoff was driven to the village of Flushing across the river from Falmouth. Only three hundred yards across the river but a five-mile drive through narrow lanes to get to it! Geoff had drinks and lunch booked with one set of friends and was moving on for an evening meal with more friends at another pub. What stamina! When we left him, he was comfortably established in the village pub looking forward to lunch.

W. Bro Geoff was founding master of Lodge Trust and Fear Not in 1999, appointed PPJGW in 2013 and was presented with his Certificate of Service in 2019.





**GRANVILLE LODGE No. 3405**

**YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO**

**AFTERNOON TEA**

at

**THE MASONIC HALL BUDE ON**

**SUNDAY 1<sup>st</sup> AUGUST**

**TEA AND COFFEE WILL BE SERVED TOGETHER WITH A SELECTION OF  
SANDWICHES & CAKES**

**TEA WILL BE SERVED FROM 3.00pm**

**Cost per person £8.50 which includes a FREE drink on arrival**

**There will be a raffle in aid of The 2024 Festival**

**Wives, Partners, Friends & Family All Welcome**

**PLEASE BOOK WITH**

**W.BRO. PETER REEVE**

**01288 353811 or email:- [reevepeter@btinternet.com](mailto:reevepeter@btinternet.com)**

# REPORT FROM THE PROVINCIAL COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER



Dear Brethren,

In my last report I outlined the structure for the new Provincial Communication Team and that we were working on obtaining members willing to help. I am happy to report that this structure has now been completed with all the positions being filled. Four Communication Representatives are responsible for up to 20 lodges each within the DPGM and APGM's list of responsibility. Three Assistants have been chosen to help and represent the Province on the Provincial Exhibition Stand or Gazebo, along with being able to assist the PCO and the 4 Comms Reps on an "as and when needed" basis.

This new structure is illustrated below:

**PCO:** Sebastian Oakley

**Communication Representatives:**

Mike Eslick – Area: David Leaty

Simon Mann – Area: Roger Cargeeg

Phil Venning – Area: David Maskell

Andy McCallum – Area: Micheal Williams

**Assistants:**

Howard Pickett

Stuart Hookway

Simon Taylor

I believe this team has a good mix of professional and masonic experience. Furthermore, willingness, discipline, and enthusiasm to promote the charitable efforts of Cornish Freemasonry to the public and our members.

This leads us on to the current exposure that PGL Cornwall has received within the regional press. Since January 2021 we have had 30 pieces of content featured or produced within the region's best media outlets, these include: BBC Radio Cornwall, Bodmin Voice, Cornish Guardian, Newquay Voice, Saltash Voice, St Austell Voice, Western Morning News, West Briton and In Your Area.

These have been deployed in many formats of media, from mentions on BBC Radio Cornwall, obituaries, and mostly our own in-house press releases being published. Each week I am in communication with The United Grand Lodge of England regarding our presence within the media and their weekly PR update on how well Provinces are performing.

As of today (14th May) I am pleased to announce that The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall has received £44,908.03 worth of publicity within the media in the last five months. I am sure we can all agree this is a tremendous achievement for PGL Cornwall. I would like to thank the Brethren who answered the calls for imagery and copy to be sent to the Provincial Communications Team covering their charitable efforts.

Within this wonderful achievement I would like to highlight that currently our best performing content over the past 5 months has been The Trelawny Club's Easter Egg Appeal which was published in the West Briton and Western Morning News and gained a total of £9,830.01 in promotional value for the Province. Many congratulations to all of those involved within this appeal and getting the images and copy sent over in a fast and professional manner.

Our Facebook page continues to grow month-on-month and currently stands at 3,640 likes and 4,085 followers in total. PGL Cornwall is now leading in these areas above the Provinces of Devonshire, Somerset, Bristol, Cheshire, Derbyshire, West Lancs and East Lancs. Within RCG 9 Cornwall is currently placed 3rd behind Hampshire & Isle of Wight and Dorset with 4,000 and 8,900 likes, respectively.

This concludes my report and I leave you with this thought:

The media and public opinions are changing in regards to Freemasonry, this great achievement will only continue if we all embrace technology and speak up for what we do as Freemasons, something which we might not have done in the past. So, if you need help please do not hesitate to ask, it is what we are here for.

Yours sincerely and fraternally,

Brother Sebastian I.B.B. Oakley

Provincial Communications Officer

E: [soakley@pglcornwall.org.uk](mailto:soakley@pglcornwall.org.uk)

# CORNWALL FREEMASONS TO BECOME STRATEGIC PARTNER OF THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD



More than 30,000 young people with disabilities and special educational needs will be able to take part in The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, thanks to a grant of £300,000 from the Freemasons.

The Freemasons in Cornwall have become a strategic partner of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award (DofE), funding a new national programme to upskill its team and volunteers. The programme will also help enrol more schools and clubs, to ensure all young people have access to DofE.

To make it possible, the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and the Masonic Charitable Foundation (MCF), the Freemasons' charity, have teamed up to enable the charity to reach at least 30,000 young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) by 2024. The ambition is to increase the number of centres, such as schools and youth groups, offering DofE to young people with SEND and train hundreds of Leaders – trained individuals supporting groups of young people through their DofE journeys.

At least 15,000 young people will achieve a DofE Award sponsored by the 200,000-strong UGLE Freemasons, to support The Duke of Edinburgh's Award.

The programme has been designed to make DofE participation possible for students with diverse difficulties and disabilities. It will help the students to build crucial personal life skills, develop employability skills and become more independent, and aims to offer students the same experiences available to their peers in mainstream education.

The impact of achieving a DofE Award is remarkable and will be life-changing for young people with physical or learning difficulties, who are often excluded from adventurous activities due to a lack of accessible equipment, facilities, trained support staff and funding.

The programme aims to increase the opportunities for young people with special needs, as well as increasing the number of specialist Leaders by providing bespoke training to adults supervising young people with special needs. The aim is to have 240 more adults trained to support young people with SEND by 2024.

The initiative also includes a plan to offer support to new delivery partners that work with young people with SEND, to encourage them to offer the DofE.

His Royal Highness, The Duke of Edinburgh, who founded the DofE in 1956, was himself a Freemason, having been introduced to Freemasonry in 1952 at the age of 31 by his father-in-law King George VI. Throughout his 99 years, he was associated with some 992 charities, either as president, patron or honorary member.

Dr David Staples, chief executive of the UGLE, said:

“Prince Philip was well known for his charity work, having been involved with numerous organisations. At UGLE, we looked for a project that would honour Prince Philip's memory. Helping young people with special educational needs and becoming a strategic partner of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award is therefore a great honour for us.

“Helping the DofE was an easy decision as Freemasonry's core values are charity, integrity, respect and friendship,” he added.

Stephen C Pearn, Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall said:

“Becoming a strategic partner of The Duke of Edinburgh's Award means that the Freemasons of Cornwall can help young people who have previously been unable to participate in the scheme”

Caroline Glen, Director of Fundraising, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award, said:

“We're very grateful to the Freemasons for their generous grant, which will give many thousands of young people with disabilities and special educational needs the chance to take part in the DofE and gain its life-changing benefits. This is a wonderful and very practical way to continue The Duke's amazing legacy and to spread the benefits of the DofE further than ever before.”

The Freemasons work on average 18.5 million hours each year as volunteers in various areas, including driving vulnerable people to the hospital, preparing meals, taking care of people at risk, organising care packages, and producing scrubs, personal protective equipment (PPE) and hand sanitiser.

They also donated more than £1m last year to the Covid-19 support effort, with the funds being used to help communities in various critical areas, including food banks, support for unpaid carers, PPE, supplies for hospitals and hospices, support for women's refuges, and funds for NHS workers, ambulances and equipment.

As well as the late Duke of Edinburgh, the Freemasons can also count other Royal Family members among their number, including HRH The Duke of Kent, who is the longest-serving Grand Master of the UGLE.

## MOLESWORTH LODGE NO.1954 (EC) VISITS MOLESWORTH LODGE NO.611 (IC)



On the 21st February 2019 eight Lodge members travelled to Dublin to attend a meeting of Molesworth Lodge 611 (IC) that was arranged by W.Bro. Tony Molesworth. The intrepid travellers are pictured above in the Chapter room in the Grand Lodge of Ireland; from the left they are: W.Bro. Gerald Jeffery, WM; W.Bro. Ian Holding, Mentor; W.Bro. Tom Bickerstaff, Tyler; W.Bro. Dennis Cooke, W.Bro. David Ward, Secretary; Bro. Jeff Drake, Charity Steward; W. Bro Tony Molesworth, SD; and W.Bro. David Couch, ADC.

That evening Brethren and ladies went to the oriental district of Dublin and enjoyed a Chinese meal. The following day having explored the city, Masonic duty called the Brethren to Freemason's Hall which is situated in Molesworth Street. An impressive building especially the interior with its labyrinth of corridors leading to various rooms. Having inspected the museum the Brethren were shown around the building by the Junior Grand Warden, RW Bro. Leslie Evans.

It was interesting to note that Mark Master Mason, The Royal Arch Chapter, The Council of Knight Masons, Order of the Temple, Prince Masons and the Ancient and Accepted Rite degrees have a dedicated Lodge Room within the building.

An Irish Mason's encounter with a Royal Arch Chapter is in a Lodge of Mark Master Masons, where the degree of Mark Master Mason is conferred. The newly made Mark Master Mason is then eligible to become a Royal Arch Mason. The last room shown to the intrepid travellers was the Grand Temple where Molesworth Lodge 611 meeting was held.

It is a very impressive room as can be seen from the picture below, and Molesworth Lodge No.1954 visitors were privileged and honoured to have attended a meeting in the Grand Temple.



There are similarities both in the layout Lodge Room, how the ritual is conducted and its wording to that of the English Constitution. The fundamental principles, however, remain the same; Brother Love, Relief and Truth.

The following page shows a diagram of the Lodge Room layout in Irish Freemasonry, and it can be seen a significant difference in the position of the Lodge officers compared those in Molesworth Lodge. The D of C replaces the IPM, and the SD is to the immediate right of the WM and when required to undertake floor work always walks behind the WM, never in front of him. The V of SL is placed on the altar which is some distance in front of the WM. Also on the altar are the three candles together with the WTs, unlike in our Lodges the candles are next to the WM, SW and JW's pedestals with the WTs on floor.

In addition to members of Molesworth Lodge No.1954 attending the meeting on Friday 22nd February 2019 the Junior Grand Warden was also present who was saluted with eleven which was in form of claps, not as in English Freemasonry when the 1st degree sign is used. The main business of the evening was a candidate for initiation which is the first item on the agenda. This ceremony only involved three Brethren. The Treasurer, DC and the WM with the Deacons acting as escorts throughout the ceremony. The Treasurer undertook the work up to the obligation, the WM gave the obligation and the rest of the ceremony was conducted by the DC, the presentation of the tools and the Charge. There is no chisel in the 1st degree WT's, the rationale being that the initiate has only just come into Freemasonry. The chisel is introduced later when the candidate is more accustomed to the order.

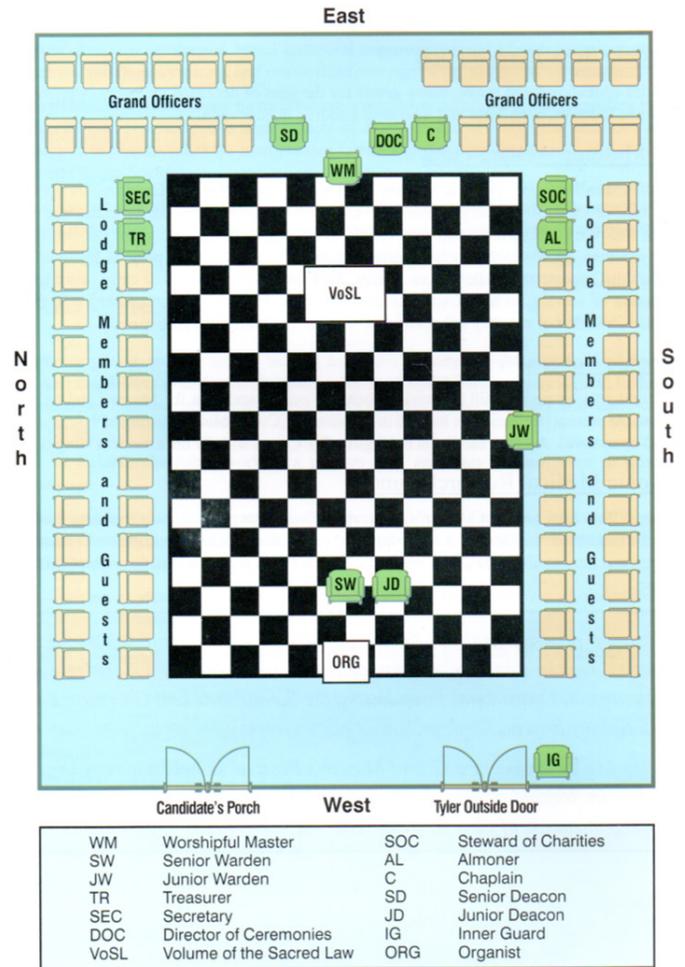
Following the initiation the rest of the agenda carried out with the Secretary as follows: Item 2, Roll Call; 3, Minutes; 4, Correspondence; 5, Charities collection; 6, Dues and arrears; 7, Almoners report; 8, Steward of Charities report; 9, Report of the Metropolitan Board representative; 10, Any Other Business.

Then followed the risings which was given with the WM seated, and visitor's greetings was given on the 2nd rising. It was at this juncture that an Alms Bowl, made from Western White Cedar, Oak with the Forget-Me-Not of Blue lapis Lazuli and finished with Shellac was presented. The inscription on the back was of pyrography that read "Molesworth Lodge 1954 (EC) visit to Molesworth Lodge 611 (IC) and dated 21st February 2018.

The Lodge was closed at 2100 and the Brethren retired, no Alms collection, to the Refectory for the Festive Board where we were lavishly entertained. As for the meal, suffice it to say that we enjoyed their company, the meal and the wine. We left fully refreshed, and the better for having received their practical demonstration of the tenets of the craft, and the spirit of Brotherhood that obviously prevailed on our visit to Molesworth Masonic Lodge No. 611.

Whilst we were at Lodge the ladies had arranged an evening meal in the Temple area of the city. The Saturday was spent visiting the sites and retail therapy with an evening meal arranged in an establishment near the river Liffey. On Sunday we took advantage of the DART (Dublin Area Rapid Transport) which stretches the full length of Dublin Bay and journeyed to Greystones in County Wicklow.

## Diagram of Lodge Room Layout



After three hectic days, most decided to dine in the hotel whilst the more adventurous went back to the Oriental area to sample Vietnamese cuisine. Monday was our flight back to Newquay arriving at 3pm.

By GJ Jeffery, PPGReg WM of Molesworth Lodge No.1954



# NEWS FROM SAINT ANDREW LODGE NO. 1151



Many will remember March 2020 and the first lockdown following the arrival of Covid 19 – a time of fear and bewilderment for all of us. Could we ever have imagined not attending Lodge for such a long period of time? We are physical beings, existing with and for one another within the brotherhood of Freemasonry. So many questions were asked at the time: how can we greet one another, perform our rituals, share a meal, express our values, participate in the wider community, attract future members, nurture our new members, and ensure that our federation continues to survive? Would our wives/partners cope with us being home every evening of the week!! Social distancing and the direction to stay at home brought with it a sense of isolation.

Our Almoner immediately wrote to our widows reassuring them that we were there to help and advice, particularly during the Covid crisis. Our Almoner was able to draw alongside them, sharing their feelings of isolation and disconnection. We all felt wounded but there was some sort of solidarity as a result of our shared experience. Images on the television can remind us what we are missing but are a comfort and a lifeline to others. It's good to have "telly friends" but, like a zoom meeting, the screen does not replace the essential ingredient of personal human contact.

It was appreciated that, because of the pandemic, our local charities were losing their regular sources of income (through their shops and fund-raising events), and since April 2020 our Charity Steward has encouraged the brethren to continue with their regular charitable giving through masonry and otherwise. In addition he suggested that members should make a monthly donation to a chosen 'charity of the month' whilst masonic activities were in suspension. Live giving from the heart has totalled £4,146.75 which has been distributed between eleven local charities.

Further, the Lodge paid for the ingredients for some 40 Christmas lunches. The preparation, cooking and distribution of the dinners to those on the Tywardreath/Par area on their own at Christmas was organised by one of our Brothers. During lockdown many have experienced poor mental health which has been helped through shared physical exercise at Par Running Track, often accessed through the local medical practice by way of prescription. It is hoped that we will be able to support this initiative in some way. We are also hopeful that our annual 'Summer Extravaganza', planned for the end of July, will be able to go ahead.

Looking ahead to a re-opening of the Lodge, we have two candidates for Initiation and one adjoining member. A warm welcome awaits them! The suspension of meetings has enabled us to carry out improvement work to the lodge building. In particular the car park has been extended and is at present used during the day to give extra staff car parking for the next door primary school. A further handrail has been installed beside the steps leading up to the front door of the lodge, improvements have been made to the bar and the Master's and Wardens' chairs have been reupholstered, together with the kneeling stool and various other chairs.

Work is currently being carried out to improve the ventilation in the temple and also fire safety.

We are by no means out of the woods yet and re-opening of the lodge and the resumption of masonic activities must, of necessity, proceed with caution in a way that has regard for the safety of all those who use the hall. We hold on to the hope of re-opening in the not too distant future, remembering that 'deferring our hope stretches our desire'. As we continue our journey of preparation for the re-opening of the Lodge and the approaching Installation season it is time to dust off that little blue book and make the DC happy, if indeed that is ever possible!

Many lessons have been learned over the past eighteen months. We have had time to reflect and revalue our lives; time to slow down and recognise the love and beauty of all mankind and the whole of creation; time to be truly content with the gifts we have and to be thankful for them. Perhaps the pandemic has brought us nearer to the centre. Much love and kindness has been expressed since March 2020, and for those who have suffered loss we offer our thoughts and prayers.





# Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

Annual Meeting on Saturday 4th September at Newquay Temple

(By Invitation Only)



The Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall, Right Worshipful Brother Stephen C Pearn has planned a restricted Provincial Grand Lodge meeting to be held at Newquay Temple on Saturday 4th September.

It is hoped this will provide a splendid starting point to the new masonic season within the Province of Cornwall.

Unfortunately, the annual meeting this year is by invitation only as we are severely restricted on numbers.

We hope you understand and of course look forward to seeing you all as soon as possible.

The Provincial Communication Team are planning to video parts of the meeting which will be shown later in the day on the Provincial Facebook, Twitter, and YouTube accounts.

Official hashtag for the day: #PGLCornwall

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# Provincial Newsletter

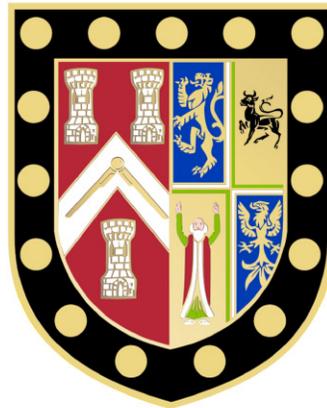
## Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

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If you have a story you would like to submit for consideration to The Provincial Newsletter

Please email Brother Sebastian Oakley, Provincial Communications Officer

[soakley@pglcornwall.org.uk](mailto:soakley@pglcornwall.org.uk)



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