



CMA Regular Events – 2017-18

If you wish to add an event here please contact the editor of the CMA Newsletter

Email: allandeluca@btinternet.com

New Year's Eve – an event is now being organized to hopefully celebrate the New Year 2018 – further details will be announced soon.

Friday 26th January 2018 – High Beach Lodge No.7266 regular meeting followed by a Traditional Burns Festive Board. Contact W Bro. Dave Hook for further details email: fdhook@btinternet.com

Monday 29th January 2018 – Charity Workshop commencing at 7.30 pm (see further details page 16)

Saturday 10th November 2018 – Annual Fund Raiser of the “Race Night” – book now and do not disappointed.

Email Dave Clarke: davidclarke0403@btinternet.com

Watch this Space !!

Other events will be published here

SUNDAY ROSE CROIX CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT



On the Fourth Sunday of each month, there is a combined Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement at the Chingford Masonic Hall. It is known as the “Richard Shone Chapter of Improvement”. If you wish to attend, why not come along, you will be most welcome. Membership is just £10.00 per annum. The Chapter of Improvement commences at 10.30 a.m. Or contact Mike Claxton: email mikeclaxton@gmail.com for further information.

MONTHLY LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT FOR MARK MASTER MASONS



A Lodge of Instruction of the Mark Degree at the Chingford Masonic Hall is being held on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. Mark Master Masons of any Lodge meeting in the Province of Essex are welcome to attend, we would also welcome members who are in the Mark Degree from other Provinces if they so wished to attend to rehearse the ceremony of Advancement. There may be exceptions to the proposed dates, i.e. Christmas and Bank Holidays. The LOI's are held on the first Tuesday of the Month, at 10.30 a.m. contact W Bro. David Hook on email: fdhook@btinternet.com

Congratulations to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II and H.R.H. Prince Philip, on their Platinum 70th Wedding Anniversary 20th November 2017



Photo: Matt Holyoak/CameraPress

MONTHLY CHINGFORD HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT



There is now a monthly Chapter of Improvement at the Chingford Masonic Hall on the 4th Sunday of every month. It is a great opportunity to sharpen your Royal Arch Skills! There will be at least two preceptors present and all rituals will be welcome and they will rehearse any parts of the ceremony, as required, by the attending Companions. This Chapter of Improvement is free of charge and all Companions and E. Companions are welcome. 10 am for a 10.30 am start.



The Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London new initiative to raise £2.5M for the purchase of 2 high reach platforms for the London Fire Brigade.

Masonic Study Circles Meeting Dates 2018

Chingford Masonic Study Circle – meeting at the Chingford Masonic Hall – 7.30 p.m.

Secretary: W Bro Allan de Luca PPGSwdB
email: allandeluca@btinternet.com

Wednesday, 28th March 2018

A Speaker to be announced

If you have a talk you would like to present at this meeting of the CMSC, please contact the secretary, via the email address printed above

Southchurch Masonic Circle – meeting at the Saxon Hall, Southend on Sea – 8.00 p.m.

2nd Thursday March, May & September,

2nd Thursday December (With Cheese and Wine Buffet)

Maplin Suite – Saxon Hall

Secretary: W. Bro. Robert Vine

Email: Robert.vine@vodafoneemail.co.uk

Telephone: 01702 202076 – mobile: 07799 643240

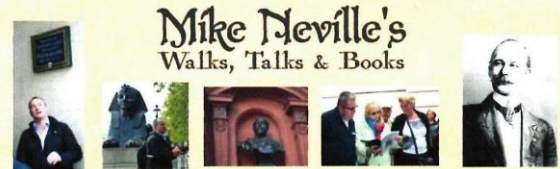
The Philbrick Lodge No.2255 In need of new members

Philbrick Lodge No.2255 is in need of additional members. It is the only “Daylight Lodge” meeting at the Chingford Masonic Hall, and they would like your support. The Philbrick Lodge extends invitations to you to visit the Lodge, particularly those who are able to attend as a paying guest, and is useful for “Retirees” who may wish to attend and not dine. The regular Lodge meetings are held on 1st Wednesday, February, April, October (Installation) and December. Meetings normally commence at either 10.30 am or on occasions at 11.00 am and all business including the Festive Board is completed by 3.00 pm at the latest. The Philbrick Lodge was consecrated on 23rd July 1888, and is a Hallstone Lodge, and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2013. For further information, please contact the Secretary, W. Bro. David Clarke...email davidclarke0403@btinternet.com



Pictured above: The Grand Lodge of Russia gives a fabulous, hand painted Tercentenary gift to the M.W. the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England

Mike Neville's Masonic Walks - 2018



Delve into the history of Freemasonry, its origins, members, successes & scandals, the myths & more..... Family & Friends welcome! Suitable for all ages – slow pace.

£10 per person.

Lunch can be arranged

City of London Tour - 24 + 25 Jun, 7 + 30 Oct 17

- The site of the original Grand Lodge – 300 years ago
- The Old Bailey - Masons & Murder

Crime & The Craft Tour – 9 Sep & 2 Nov 17

- Masonic links to famous cases of murder & treason
- The Krays Twins, Great Train Robbery & more

British Museum Tour - 10 Jun & 16 Dec 17

- Ancient Egyptian influences on Freemasonry
- Exhibits linked to Tubalcain, Nehemiah, Cyrus & more

Masons & The West End Tour – 8 Jul & 4 Nov 17

- Tales of celebrity, scandal, murder & a ghost...
- Oscar Wilde, Mozart, Kipling & other famous Masons

Jack The Ripper, Jack the Mason? – 23 Jun, 30 Sep & 31 Oct 17

- Visit the streets stalked by the infamous killer...
- Who were the Masons involved in the case?

Charity lectures at your Lodge or Chapter

"It was the best lecture, indeed the most useful lecture I have ever heard presented in an open Lodge."

For further information contact – WBro Mike Neville
Author of "Sacred Secrets" & "Crime & The Craft"

[bookings@mike-neville-walks-and-](mailto:bookings@mike-neville-walks-and-talks.co.uk)

talks.co.uk OR

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Crime and the Craft

Masonic involvement in Murder, Treason and Scandal
Mike Neville

Reveals the Freemason involvement in treason, murder, conspiracy, fraud and scandal over the last 400 years

- Masons involved in murder, treason, conspiracy and scandal
- Jack the Ripper and Freemasons: the full facts revealed for the first time
- Kenneth Noye: what was his involvement in Freemasonry?
- Masons and the development of forensic science
- Does your lodge's history contain crime or scandal, a hero or villain?

Press Information

- The author is available for interviews; e-mail mrmikeneville@aol.com
- Please contact the Publicity Department at Fonthill Media, tel. 01453 750505 or e-mail jslater@fonthillmedia.com for further details

Bibliographic Information

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Extent: 400 pages
Illustrations: 99 mono
Rights: World, all languages

Crime and the Craft: Masonic Involvement in Murder, Treason and Scandal reveals the Freemasons who have been involved in murder, treason, skulduggery and scandal from the time of the English Civil War to the 1980s. Nearly every infamous case investigated by Scotland Yard, including Jack the Ripper, Oscar Wilde, Dr Crippen, the Great Train Robbery and Kray twins, is shown to have Masonic involvement for good or bad. For the first time, it is shown that sixty lodges have a link to Jack the Ripper with a known suspect identified as a Mason. Masonic involvement in police corruption, from the Trial of the Detectives in 1877 to Operation Countryman, is uncovered. The true involvement of gangster Kenneth Noye is also revealed as are details of the Mason making secret signs at the judge during a murder trial at the Old Bailey. This fascinating book for the Freemason and historian also describes how members of the Craft have been pioneers in the development of forensic pathology, fingerprint evidence and the use of images to catch criminals. Ultimately, *Crime and the Craft* answers the question: 'Is there a relationship between Freemasonry and crime?'

Mike Neville is a Freemason who belongs to many Masonic orders and a retired Scotland Yard Detective Chief Inspector. He is an expert on the history of the Craft and crime. Neville is also world renowned for his ability to catch criminals with CCTV using 'Super Recogniser' officers. Consequently, he travels the world assisting police forces and giving lectures in lodges. He is the author of *Sacred Secrets: Freemasonry, the Bible and Christian Faith*, holds the rank of lieutenant colonel in the Army Cadet Force and is the national training officer for music.



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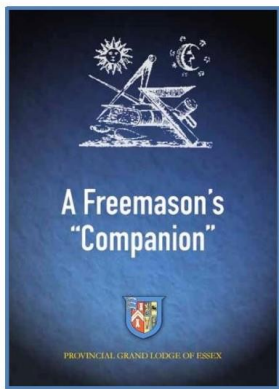
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Email: trade@macmillan.co.uk
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For further information on Mike Neville's walks and books you can log on to his new website:
<http://www.mike-neville-walks-and-talks.co.uk>



The Province of Essex – A Freemason's "Companion" is available online via the "Cube"



This is the third edition the Freemason's "Companion", and has been issued on the appointment of R.W.Bro. Rodney Lister Bass as Provincial Grand Master on 3rd September 2015. This booklet can be downloaded in "pdf format" from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex web site, follow the "Download" menu and you will be directed to the various forms that can be downloaded to include this document.



www.essexfreemasons.org
A password protected website

The Cube Social Network has been designed for Essex Masons. It promotes communications between all Lodges and Chapters in the Province of Essex. It has a social media portal which allows you to communicate with masons across the Province.



The annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter of Essex Thursday, 7th September 2017. If Lodges or Chapters have a regular meeting on this day a dispensation can be applied for and will be granted free of charge.

The New Province of Essex Jewel for the Festival 2022

Pictured left is the new Festival 2022 Jewel which has now been approved by Grand Lodge and will be available to all Essex Masons after the Festival has been launched on 1st



September. You will see that the jewel features the Stewards name at the top. This keeps us in line with other Provinces and is the official name for vice patron. There will be bars for Patron and Grand Patron. To qualify for this jewel as a personal honorific we are hoping that Essex Masons will commit to a regular payment totalling £500 by 2022. Patron level is £1,000 and Grand Patron, £1,500. Gift Aid where applicable should be added. The Province hopes that thousands

of Essex Masons will wear this jewel with pride which will be available - **FREE** of charge - as soon as masons have committed to a regular payment or for those who can - have made a payment for the total amount plus Gift Aid. ¹



The latest edition of "The Square" Magazine, the Independent Magazine for Freemasons September 2017 - Edition



The magazine is available at Letchworths Shop at Great Queen Street and other outlets. It is also available in a variety of electronic formats, for digital access for iPad, iPhone, Android or Computer at £2.95 per issue, or an annual subscription of £9.99. For a "Free Trial Issue" or to subscribe go

to.....<http://exacteditions.com/read/square>

The TLC Appeal

The simple objective is to provide Teddy Bears and soft toys to Accident and Emergency Units, for the medical staff, to give, at their discretion, to children admitted who are in severe distress and where the staff, feel that a Teddy or soft toy to cuddle will help alleviate the stress and assist them in their work. The Children are allowed to take the Teddy home. The idea began following the resuscitation of the wife of an Essex Freemason at an Essex A&E unit after an allergic reaction, which closed her windpipe. They both found the experience the most frightening of their lives and are eternally grateful for the swift and caring attention that she received. Following this incident, the parent discussed with his Masonic Lodge in trying to do something useful as a thank you to the A&E unit and its staff. From that point onwards the idea of "Teddies for Loving Care" was born. Through the kindness of Essex Freemasons, TLC was launched at all A&E Units serving Essex in 2002 and proved a resounding success. It was not long before the word spread and through the support of Freemasons and others TLC Teddies are used at A&E units in almost the whole of England and Wales, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Orange County USA and most recently, Ireland, both North & South. Over 90% of the money needed to relieve these severely distressed children is donated by local freemasons. Additionally, many grateful parents and others see the benefits of what the TLC do and choose to donate or fundraise for the Charity. Absolutely nothing of the money donated goes on administration. The time and facilities are donated by volunteers. The TLC spend less than 1% on fundraising items (such as lapel badges which generate donations) and PR, but every penny of the remainder is used to purchase the Teddies soft toys or urgently needed paediatric equipment for A&E Units. If you require more information and wish to donate, visit the website: www.tlcappeal.org or on Facebook, or email: info@tlcappeal.org.

¹ Essexfreemasons.org



Group Almoners

The Group Almoners looking after Lodges and Chapters at Chingford are W. Bro. Bill Bangs and W Bro. John Mansfield respectively. W Bro Andy Jones and his Deputy W Bro Stephen Gaish for the Loughton Masonic Centre. If you have any questions or queries relating to welfare, assistance for members or their families, annuities etc. please contact them directly. They will then be able to advise you, or will be able to either find out or direct you to someone who will be able to help. They will also be able to help and assist new Almoners in understanding their duties. W. Bro Bill Bangs is the Group Almoner for both Centres.

Contact Details

W Bro. Bill Bangs – Group Almoner
email: Bill.bangs@sky.com

W Bro. John Mansfield - Dep. Group Almoner
email: Mansfieldofcoppens@yahoo.com

W Bro Andy Jones – Dep. Group Almoner
Email:

W Bro Stephen Gaish – Dep. Group Almoner
Email: stevegaish2@hotmail.com

Festival 2022 Craft Beer and Lager Available at the Chingford Masonic Hall

Craft Lager is now available alongside the Craft Beer. It's a proper continental Pilsner lager and every time you buy a bottle, just like the Craft Ale, you will be helping to raise money for Festival 2022. If you drink beer please drink ours. You can buy it a bottle at a time from many centres including Saxon Hall or a pack costs £25. Unfortunately, there is a small increase due to the increase of duty.

ON SALE HERE

CRAFT BEER & LAGER

You can buy a pack of 12 for £25 and we will credit your Lodge or Chapter with £4.80 towards your Festival 2022 total. Take a pack and fill in the envelope

You can purchase a single bottle across the bar and help your Centre cover its costs and still contribute towards the Festival.

Cash welcome as are cheques which should be made out to the Masonic Beer and Sales Company.

CASE OF 12 £25

Every time you buy a Craft Beer or Lager you are helping to raise money for Festival 2022.

THE CRAFT LAGER
ESPECIALLY BREWED FOR FREEMASONS
ALC 4.6% VOL

THE CRAFT BEER
ESPECIALLY BREWED FOR FREEMASONS
ALC 4.3% VOL

FEST 2022

THE MASONIC BEER & SALES COMPANY

A not for profit company run by Freemasons for Freemasons

Packs are available at the Chingford MH.

The Master's Chair – A Companion Volume A History of Essex Royal Arch Freemasonry

W.Bros Brian Wright and Glyn Jarrett have been working for some months to produce a follow up edition of the Masters Chair - this time for the Royal Arch. It will be published in September 2017 to coincide with the Royal Arch Provincial meeting at Grand Lodge and to secure your copy you need to return an order form. You can download the form by going to the following link:-

<http://www.essexfreemasons.org/folder/606/royal-arch-masters-chair>

The "The Masters' Chair – A Companion Volume, is also available from Essex Masons Ltd, 17 Peartree Centre, Peartree Road, Colchester, CO3 0JN. The cost per copy is £20 (post free). You can order by, letter enclosing cheque, or telephone 01206 560396 to pay by debit/credit card.

You can of course call in personally to purchase your copy.

The Master's Chair
A Companion Volume

A History of Essex
Royal Arch Freemasonry
1716 - 2016

More than 350 pages
Size and quality to match the original book
Cost: £20, inclusive of post and packing

PLEASE NOTE!
THIS IS A LIMITED EDITION

Due to storage problems, we will print only what we need to fulfil orders received by 31st May 2017

ORDER FORM

Please reserve me copies of The Master's Chair Companion Volume @ £20 per copy. I enclose cheque payable to Essex Mason Ltd for £

Name: ADDRESS:


Send to Essex Mason Ltd, 17 Peartree Business Centre, Peartree Road, Colchester CO3 0JN

Brethren All, do you live near Chingford? The Chigwell Lodge No.453 is in need of members.



Chigwell Lodge 453 was consecrated in 1838, almost 180 years ago. We are a small friendly lodge which will welcome new members and visitors alike. We meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall on the second Thursday in June (Installation), September and November, and on the fourth Thursday in April. The joining fee has been waived for new joining members. Please contact us on 07593 811397 for more information.

Forthcoming events at the Chingford Masonic Hall



**New Year's Eve
2017 Ball**

Sunday December 31st
From 7.30 - 10pm
Chingford Masonic Association
Presents a Fantastic New Year's Eve Ball
featuring
The Sounds Electric Road Show
With Guest DJ's
Tickets just £25.00 Each
**Including Welcome Glass of
Prosecco & Finger Buffett**

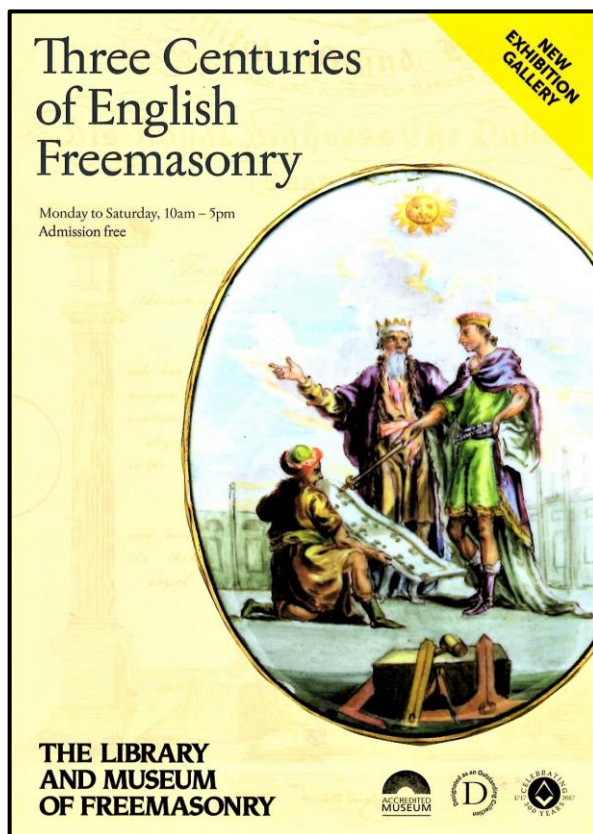
For Tickets Contact
W. Bro Ian Rettle on
07973-425035
ian.rette@btinternet.com
Or Ask Behind The Bar

**Are YOU a Past Active or currently an Active
Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies?
You are eligible to join the Essex ADC Lodge**

The Old Parkonians Lodge No 4709 meets at Chingford Masonic Hall, originally a Lodge for old boys of Park Higher Grade School, later known as Ilford County High School for Boys, it is now a Lodge for members of Essex who are or have been *active Provincial Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies*. The concept of Lodge is where past and active Provincial Assistant Grand Directors of Ceremonies can meet up with the team of their year, network with older and newer ProvAGDC's and will become a Centre of Excellence for ceremonial work where any Lodge Director of Ceremonies can visit and seek guidance for their role.

If you wish to join, please contact W. Bro. Craig Clarke, email: caroleandcraig@hotmail.com (Lodge Secretary) for a joining form. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact W. Bro. Peter Low at peterlowuk@me.com or W. Bro. Dave Clarke davidclarke0403@btinternet.com

**Exhibition at the UGLE Library & Museum,
and it is really worth a visit especially in the
year of the Tercentenary of Freemasonry
2017**

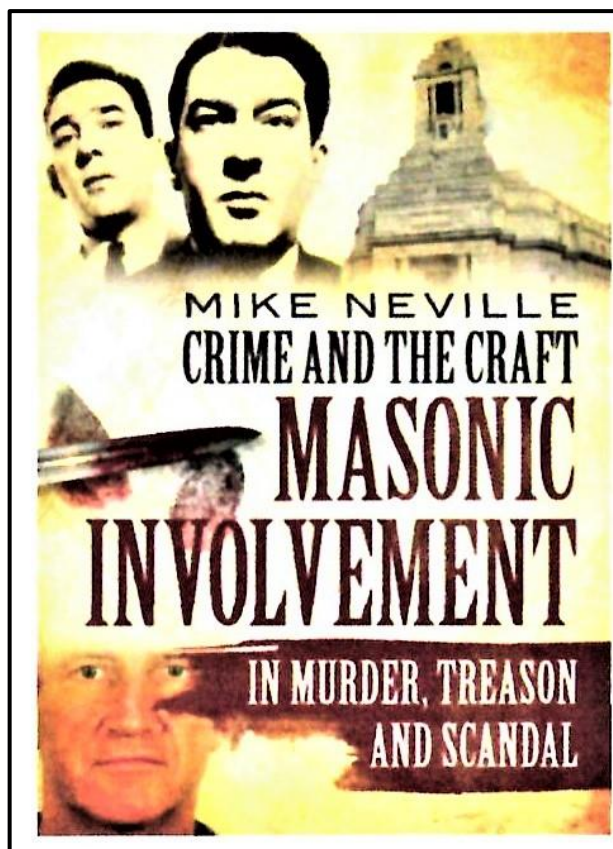


**Three Centuries
of English
Freemasonry**

Monday to Saturday, 10am - 5pm
Admission free

**THE LIBRARY
AND MUSEUM
OF FREEMASONRY**

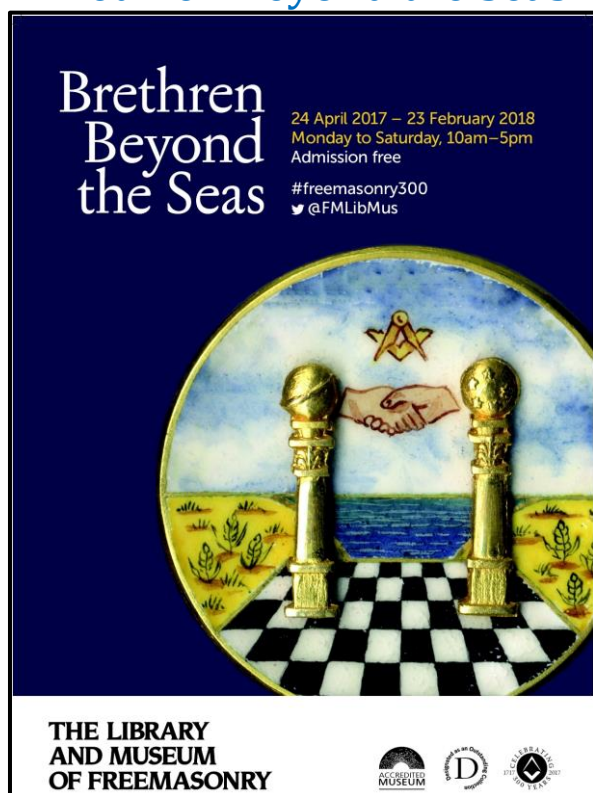
NEW
EXHIBITION
GALLERY



MIKE NEVILLE
CRIME AND THE CRAFT
MASONIC
INVOLVEMENT
**IN MURDER, TREASON
AND SCANDAL**

Mike Neville's book "Crime and the Craft – Masonic Involvement" is now available to purchase at £22.00 (£18.99 per book plus postage and packing). If you wish to purchase a copy, please email Mike, at MrMikeNeville@aol.com and he will provide you with the bank details if you wish to pay electronically. Or payment by cheque for £22.00 payable to "G. Neville" at 14 Melrose Crescent, Orpington Kent BR6 9NT. In either case let Mike know what message you want (or not) when he signs and where you wish the book to be sent. Mike is available to give a lecture on the book, and will be pleased to hear from you. The "cost" is a donation to a charity of his choice. W Bro Mike appeared in an interview discussing his book on London Live, Sunday 30th July 2017.

Brethren Beyond the Seas



In June 1917, in the midst of the 1914-1918 War, the United Grand Lodge of England celebrated its 200th anniversary. The War had undermined the original ambition to stage a major imperial and international event but the celebrations were attended by a number of overseas Freemasons and the Grand Master thanked "Brethren Beyond the Seas", praising their support for Britain in the war effort. After the formation of the first Grand Lodge in the world in London in 1717, Freemasonry spread from Britain into Europe and then, following trade and expanding empires, across the world. As countries within the British Empire gained their independence from the late 1700s, they established their own masonic jurisdiction or Grand Lodge. In the period of the First World War, the relationship between the English Grand Lodge and these overseas "daughter" grand lodges developed and strengthened.

For the individual countries, the experience of fighting in the war was often a landmark in the creation of their national identity. For the individual fighting men, the experience of travelling to foreign countries, the comradeship and the trauma of war were significant in their personal development. This exhibition explores the development of many of the Grand Lodges within the British Empire and marks the contribution of their forces to the First World War. It features objects, books and documents from across the world. ²

Admission to the exhibition is free of charge

24 April 2017 – 23 February 2018

Monday to Saturday, 10am–5pm

This edition of the CMA Newsletter, and other editions (59, 60 & 61) are published on the Provincial Website "The Cube" and we hope you enjoy its contents. If you wish to have something included in this Newsletter please do not hesitate to contact the Editor: W Bro Allan de Luca email: allandeluca@btinternet.com

Essex Charities receive £80,000 from MCF

Eight charities across the County have received £80,000 from the Provincial Grand Master Rt.W Rodney Lister Bass, their share of a £3 million Community Awards Fund, set aside to celebrate 300 years of modern Freemasonry and charitable giving at a special ceremony held at Braintree. The money was raised by Essex Freemasons and donated via the Masonic Charitable Foundation proving yet again what's raised in Essex, stays in Essex, especially while we are in Festival. The eight Essex Charities are:

Colchester Hospitals Charity Time Garden Appeal. They have set up a working group to develop an outside area of the hospital to provide a place for quiet contemplation, peaceful reflection and privacy for patients who are dying, and their relatives. To provide an alternative space to the busy clinical ward areas will cost £160,000. **Received a grant of £25,000 and a commemorative trophy**

Southend Blind Welfare Organisation.

In the mid 1950's a group of local people thought that there was the need for a Local Charity that would give help and support to the growing number of people in Southend who were Blind or Partially Sighted. **Received a grant of £15,000**

Special Needs and Parents (SNAP) – based in Brentwood.

SNAP (Special Needs and Parents) helps Essex families who have children aged 0-25 years with special needs and disabilities. **Received a grant of £15,000**

Equal People – based in Rayleigh.

Equal People Performing Arts is a fully inclusive performing arts studio centre. It has created a safe and dignified space where disabled and non-disabled children and adults can work together in all aspects of the performing arts. **Received a grant of £6,000**

² Source – UGLE Library & Museum Web Page

Mersea Island Festival Trust.

Offer youth Groups and families with disabled young people with opportunities to try out new activities, make new friends and have loads of fun! Over 300 people come from all over the UK and sometimes abroad. **Received a grant of £6,000**

Essex Boys and Girls Clubs – based in Chelmsford.

Essex Boys and Girls Clubs is a registered UK charity. They work to enable young people aged 11-25, in Essex and East London, to reach their potential. **Received a grant of £4,000**

YMCA Essex – based in Colchester and Chelmsford.

YMCA - we seek to build lives, hope and futures for children, young people and families with childcare and youth services. Their work includes a Nursery for babies and children aged 3 months – 5 years. **Received a grant of £4,000**

Grapevine, Essex – based in Billericay.

Grapevine Essex was established in 2012 to provide supported recreational and educational activities for adults with learning disabilities living in Essex. **Received a grant of £4,000** 3

THE LODGE

When to the Lodge we go, that happy place,
There faithful friendship smiles in every face;
What though our joys are hid from public view,
They on reflection please, and must be true.
The Lodge the social virtues fondly love –
There wisdom's rule we trace, and so improve;
There we, in moral architecture skilled,
Dungeons for vice, for virtue temples build;
While scepter'd Reason, from her steady throne,
Well-pleased, surveys us all, and makes us one.

The above was published in "The National Freemason" - Washington D.C. in June 1863, with a note that the poem was written some 93 years previously, therefore it was written circa 1770.

Freemasons and Pirates

An interesting news item caught my eye in the Morning Chronicle dated 5th September 1823 of a pirate who was a Freemason, helping his fellow brother who was in difficulty, as follows:-

An American Captain, named Harris, who was lately captured off Cuba by Pirates, has published a narrative of the outrages committed by them, to which a note is added, stating that "he was indebted for his life to the circumstance of his being a Freemason, having met with several Masons among the Pirates, who interceded for him." It is strange that Freemasons should be found amongst Pirates, but much more strange is it, that men who have abandoned the laws of God and Nations, and who shrink not at murder, should respect the bonds of Freemasonry, and succour

a brother in distress! Another reference of Pirates who are Freemasons is from a book "Born in Blood" which includes the following reference, "There is some speculation that the Barbary Pirates, who gained worldwide notoriety by plundering European shipping well into the 19th century, were founded by seagoing Templars with revenge on their minds. Many of the order's ships were galleys, which were particularly suited for piracy. One of the more mysterious tenets of the Freemasons can be found in the initiation of a Master Mason. The initiate is told his degree "will make you a brother to pirates and corsairs." In 1813, a merchant ship, captained by a Freemason, was captured and boarded by pirates. In desperation, the captain rendered the Grand Hailing Sign of Distress of a Master Mason. The pirate captain apparently recognized the secret sign and allowed the merchant ship to proceed unharmed." A reference is made in the book "Born in Blood", that in "The Old Charges of Freemasonry" and in the lecture, that sums up the initiation of a new Master mason, the newly admitted candidate is told that this degree "will make you a brother to pirates and corsairs. A statement that makes no sense at all in the context of a society descended from medieval stonemasons." 4



A brand-new lapel badge, has been launched by the Essex Provincial Almoners Team to help raise funds for The Essex Provincial Charity Fund. It costs just £3 and most Group Almoners and Deputy Group Almoners have some, as does the PGA and DepPGA.

If you see us on your travels, please buy one. The Essex Provincial Charity Fund is available to provide financial assistance to Essex Brethren, widows and dependants in time of immediate need and before the MCF can help. In buying a badge you will be helping Essex Masons, their families and masonic widows.

³ Source - <https://essexfreemasons.org/blogs/7/545/essex-charities-receive-80-000-from-mcf>

⁴ John J. Robinson – "Born in Blood" published 1989 – New York

The West Essex Hospice Movement & Essex Freemasonry

The West Essex Hospices Appeal is a small Essex based charity that was formed on the 23rd May 1989 by four enthusiastic Freemasons, their vision was to offer continued and lasting support to the then, fledgling hospice movement in West Essex as well as ensuring Essex Freemasonry proactively engaged with the local community. The fundamental function of the Founders and subsequent Trustees over the last 25 years has been to encourage the support of Freemasons to raise funds for the provision of comforts to patients in hospices serving West Essex. The West Essex Hospice Appeal donations enable the hospice Family Support Service Departments to assist in alleviating hardship experienced by the families of those suffering from life limiting illnesses at their time of need in a very practical and immediate way. Freemasons donations currently support Saint Francis Hospice, Havering Atte Bower; The Margaret Centre located at Whipps Cross University Hospital; St Clare Hospice, Harlow & Haven House Children's Hospice, Woodford Green.



Pictured is Bro David Richardson of St Laurence Lodge 5511 based in Upminster, receiving a Gold Champion Supporters Certificate from Chairman of the Trust & Assistant Provincial Grand Master Peter Hollingsworth after the Lodge donations to the West Essex Hospices Appeal exceed a cumulative £2400.

If you would like further information on the works of the West Essex Hospices Appeal, please visit the website www.WEHA.org.uk or contact Trustee Phillip Walker, Email: Phil.Walker@WEHA.org.uk You can also follow the West Essex Hospices Appeal on Twitter @WestEssex ⁵

"Be very cautious whom you recommend for Initiation: one false step on this point may be fatal, if you introduce a disputatious person, confusion will be produced, which may end in the dissolution of the Lodge. If you have a good Lodge, keep it select. Great numbers are not always beneficial" – Dr. Oliver

⁵ Source – Essex Freemasons – Open Group "FaceBook"

New Provincial Grand Master Installed for the Province of Essex of the Masonic Order of Athelstan



Pictured above, The Provincial Grand Court of Essex meeting at Letchworth Masonic Hall on the 16th November 2017, attended by The Grand Master M.W. Bro. Paul W Johnston and Assistant Grand Master Roy W Leavers.



R.W. Bro Brian Vickers (pictured above) retired and stepped down as the Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Essex of the Order, and R.W. Bro Peter Ernest Ribi was installed as the new Provincial Grand Master and W. Bro Richard James Goodwin as Deputy Provincial Grand Master.



Pictured above – R.W. Bro Peter Ribi (left) as Provincial Grand Master for Essex, The M.W. Grand Master, M.W. Bro Paul W Johnston PGHCh GCSM (centre and seated). V.W. Bro Richard Goodwin PGSwdB (right) Deputy Provincial Grand Master. ⁶

⁶ Source - The Masonic Order of Athelstan Facebook and the Website for the Masonic Order of Athelstan – Photographs by W. Bro R Tuthill KSM



The Largest Gathering of Grand Masters from all corners of the world on 30th October 2017 at Freemasons Hall



For the United Grand Lodge of England's Tercentenary celebrations, Grand Masters from over 130 foreign Grand Lodges were welcomed by UGLE's Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, a truly historic event in Freemasonry.

Dressed in their formal Regalia, they brought kind words, greetings – and some brought gifts to commemorate the Tercentenary – for the Grand Master, which the *Library and Museum of Freemasonry* will soon be putting on special display for visitors to see. Events were then set to continue into the evening when the Grand Masters, along with their guests, attend a reception held at the Mansion House, with a welcome by the Lord Mayor of London Andrew Parmley and Pro Grand Master Peter Lowndes.

As many of the brethren will know, VW Bro Brian Vickers (pictured right at the front of the line) is a familiar face at the Chingford Masonic Hall being a member of various orders, and is a Founder and Honorary Member of the Fiducial Lodge No.8753 and is pictured right, here in his office as a Grand Steward at the gathering of Grand Masters from all corners of the world on the 30th October 2017, and no doubt he will not mind me mentioning that he celebrated his 83rd Birthday on 31st October 2017.⁷



Pictured above: The Grand Stewards at the Royal Albert Hall processing in at the Tercentenary Celebrations without their wands.

At the Albert Hall, there was a film crew on hand to record the events of the Tercentenary celebrations and an anecdote has been passed to me that during the

⁷ *Freemasonry Today - Online*

rehearsals for filming, the Film Director was not happy with the white wands the Grand Stewards were carrying and was affecting and distorting the film quality, so the order was given, by the director of the film to dispense with the wands, so for the first time the Grand Stewards paraded into the Main Temple without their white wands.

Chingford Masonic Study Circle meeting Held on Monday 6th November 2017

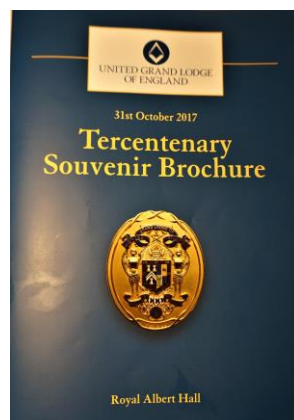
The regular meeting of the Chingford Masonic Study Circle was held at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Monday 6th November with a good turn-out of members in attendance. There were two additional joining members, which helps boost the Study Circle membership. The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a talk by W Bro Richard Burrell, Tilbury Lodge No.2006 entitled *“Was the life of former Iraqi Prime Minister Dr. Fadhel Al Jamali saved by Freemasonry?”* W Bro Richard declared that he was an enthusiastic collector of English coins, and that had come across Past Masters jewel that was for sale, and at one time belonged to Dr. Fadhel Al Jamali, which had prompted him to write the subject matter on today’s presentation paper, and to investigate further, the interesting life and that of his Masonic career. The talk was accompanied by an excellent slide presentation. During his interesting life, Jamali, he served twice as Prime Minister of Iraq and in 1958 was been arrested for Treason and a death sentence was imposed, but was later commuted to 10 years imprisonment, after demands from important international figures, he was released in 1961 having served three years. One of the charges against Jamali was that he was a Mason, and he was a member of the Dar Es Salaam Lodge, meaning “Place of Peace.” Dr. Fadhel Al Jamali, who was born in 1903 lived well into his 90’s. There were several questions asked on this interesting subject, and were answered by W Bro Richard in a very knowledgeable manner. The chairman, W Bro Dennis Jane, of the CMSC was pleased to present W Bro Richard with a cheque payable to the “Tilbury Lodge Charity Stewards Account” for disbursement to a Charity or their choice. W Bro Allan de Luca donated two books for the CMSC Library book-case, which is located in the ante-room to the Main Temple.



Pictured above: W Bro Richard Burrell



Pictured above: W Bro Dennis Jane, Chairman of the CMSC presenting a cheque to W Bro Richard Burrell to his preferred Charity. With the Tercentenary of Freemasonry being recently celebrated, W Bro Dennis Jane brought along two brochures that have been published by UGLE in celebration of the occasion.



For those brethren who are postage stamp enthusiasts, there is a special edition of six Masonic Stamps issued by the Isle of Man Post Office marking three hundred years of English Freemasonry.

The stamps have taken architectural elements from the lodges of England and the Isle of Man as inspiration for the background illustrations. The main features of the stamps are the badges of office of the active officers within the lodge and various symbols within the stamps relate to the tercentenary, as well as the 50th year of office of His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.



**Annual Remembrance Sunday
Poppy Wreath Laying ceremony
Sunday 12th November 2017**



On Sunday 12th November 2017, outside of the Cenotaph in London and throughout the rest of the United Kingdom, services of remembrance have been held in many towns and villages and more especially in Chingford. Many of the “great and good” of the Borough were in attendance,

especially the Rt. Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, who as M.P. for Chingford and Woodford Green annually attends the ceremony of Remembrance and laid a wreath of poppies at the Chingford War Memorial, as were brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall along with their partners and family to participate in the Remembrance Service. W. Bro. Tony Curtis, Company Secretary of the Chingford Masonic Hall laid the poppy wreath on behalf of the brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall. ⁸



Pictured above: W Bro Tony Curtis, P.M. Spero Lodge No.6825 and Company Secretary of the Chingford Masonic Hall, accompanied by W Bro John Bold, Chairman of the CMA

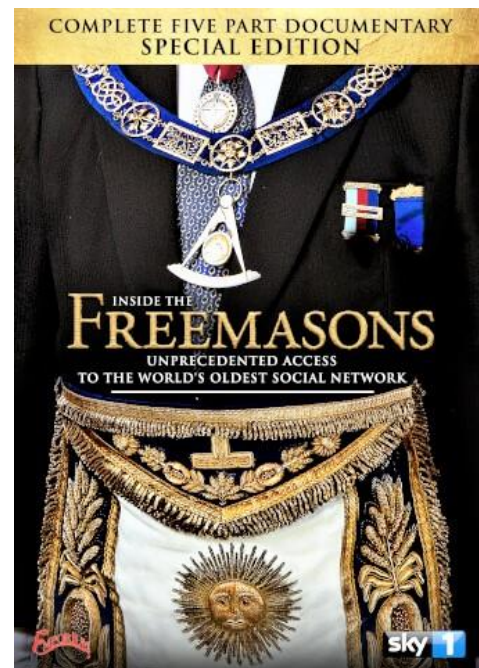


Pictured above: Brethren from the Chingford Masonic Hall at the Chingford War Memorial Sunday 12th November 2017

At the Loughton War Memorial, the Loughton Masonic Hall Chairman, Barney Bannington laid a wreath on behalf of Loughton Freemasons.

The first occasion that a number of Brethren from the Chingford Masonic Hall attended the Chingford War Memorial, was on the 9th November 2008, when the Poppy Wreath was laid on behalf of the brethren by W Bro Ted Kilmartin, Past Master of the Fiducial Lodge No.8753, and who passed to the Grand Lodge above on the 8th June 2016.

“Inside the Freemasons DVD”



This five-part documentary series was shown on Sky 1 from Monday 17th April to Monday 15th May 2017, and is now available on a DVD – and is available at the Letchworth’s shop in UGLE Great Queen Street. £14.99 per copy. Can be ordered online by the following link:-

<http://letchworthshop.co.uk/masonic-dvd/1282-inside-the-freemasons-dvd-pre-order.html>

⁸ Photographs – courtesy W Bro David Hook

**CMA – “Night at the Races”
Raises a Magnificent sum of £2000
Saturday 18th November 2017
At the Chingford Masonic Hall**

The success of the race night held on 18th November 2017, through your support and the numerous other Lodges and Chapters, together with those who attended the race night itself – the magnificent sum of **£2,000** has been raised. Since 2002 the Race Night has raised in excess of **£24,000!**

W Bro Dave Clarke, on behalf of the Chingford Masonic Association would like to take the opportunity of thanking those Lodges and brethren for their sponsorship. Their support will ensure we can continue to provide financial assistance to the annual Christmas lunch held for wives of departed brethren and other worthy causes.

Thanks to the following Lodges, Chapters, L.O.I.'s and individuals for sponsoring races:-

Architrave Lodge & LOI
Chingford Meridian Lodge & LOI
High Beach Lodge
Goodwill Lodge
Philbrick Lodge
Chingford Lodge & Chapter
Aeronautical Lodge
Warner Lodge & Chapter
Chingford Lodge of MMM
Connaught Water Lodge
Old Parkonians Lodge
Fiducial Lodge
Waltham Abbey Lodge
Old Esthameians Lodge
Oaks of Fairmead Lodge
Iceni Chapter
Chews Dog Training

Along with thanks to the numerous individuals and in particular the following horse sponsors:-

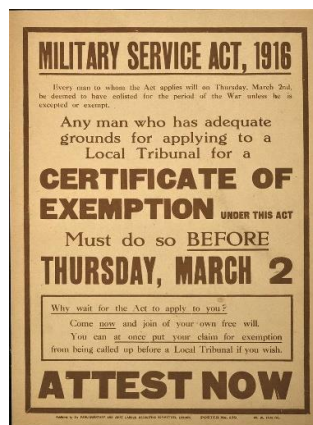
Chingford Meridian LOI
Architrave LOI
D Jane/G Rippin/J Bradley/R Sargent
Chingford Lodge & Chapter
Connaught Water Lodge
K Smith/A Wright/K Elmes/B Newton
Aeronautical Lodge
Waltham Abbey Lodge Warner Lodge
Chews Dog Training

**For your diaries the date of the next Race Night is
Saturday 10th November 2018**



**WW1 on the Home Front
“On War Service” Badge**

During 1914, men would rather enlist than suffer unemployment, and to help with the loss of labour because of men enlisting, it was suggested by some firms, and approved by Winston Churchill, who was the First Lord of the Admiralty, to issue a badge in recognition of their service, hence the “On War Service” [OWS] Badge was issued. The problem of supplying troops with arms and equipment continued and eventually badges were issued to all who were doing war work, saving these men from the “*White Feather treatment*” and loss of face. Women did not need to have a badge to avoid the “*white feathers*” but it was considered appropriate recognition of their work at the time. In the early stages of the First World War the British munitions industry had great difficulty producing the weapons and ammunition needed



by the armed forces. In 1915 the government passed the Munitions of War Act that gave it the power to take direct control of the industry. David Lloyd George, Minister of Munitions, announced that normal trade union activities in this industry was now

forbidden. Lloyd George was also given power to force the industry to accept unskilled workers. Many of the workers that Lloyd George directed to the munitions industry were women. After the introduction of compulsory military service at the beginning of 1916 the dynamics of the whole “OWS” situation stepped-up a notch and the situation became even more complicated, confused, and liable to abuse. At the same time the army had expanded enormously, the length of the British front in France had extended from Flanders down to the Somme, and the need for a vastly increased supply of not only munitions but all sorts of “war material” was pressing in the extreme. Conscription during the First World War began when the British government passed the Military Service Act, and came into force on the 2nd March 1916. In the mean-time the Ministry of Munitions had written to all trades unions advising that if they had members who were skilled men but not badged or employed in-war work, then these men should report to a

Labour Exchange at once and enrol as “War Munitions Volunteers”. The exchange would then see if an opening can be found for them in some place which would qualify them for badging. On the 13th of June, 1916 it was announced that men who had applied for badges before May 1st were not to be called to the colours until their cases have been decided by the Ministry of Munitions, and on the 15th of May 1916, it was decreed that no man whose work in any way involved “heavy shell” (defined as 4½ inch and above) should even be considered for de-badging, and on the 19th of June it was decided that temporary badges and certificates should be issued to all new badging applications pending proper decisions.

The explanation greatly revolved round the passing of the 2nd Military Service Act in May 1916 requiring all married men of military age to serve in the forces. Prior to this they had not needed the protection of badges so there had been wholesale applications. The withdrawal of the list of Certified Occupations (companies with “blanket” exemption) in the spring had exposed a whole raft of men who now needed badge protection, and increased demands for munitions had shifted the balance in the steel and projectile industries. The prevarication of employers taking no action was widespread, until a recruiting officer had started to call-up their employees, and was cited as a major factor in the increased demand for badging. On the 1st July 1916, the battle of the Somme had begun and terrifying losses overseas were increasing concerns that the supply of men to the army were again being jeopardized by inappropriate badging, and on the 20th of July 1916 the committee of the “On War Service” Badge, decreed that all married men and single men over 30, were recommended for de-badging due to their employer’s revised status (i.e. ceasing to do critical war work) were to be offered a transfer to another workplace where they could stay badged. The new act specified that single men aged 18 to 40 years old were liable to be called up for military service unless they were widowed with children or ministers of a religion. The government also gained the right to re-examine men previously declared medically unfit for service. There was a system of Military Service Tribunals to adjudicate upon claims for exemption upon the grounds of performing civilian work of national importance, domestic hardship, health, and conscientious objection. Men who could not satisfactorily demonstrate a conscientious objection, and who persisted in their refusal to serve, (the “absolutists”) suffered financial penalties, with many men being sent to prison. In April 1917 the Act was modified once more. Home Service Territorials were to be examined with a view to drafting such men into service abroad. Men who had

left military service on account of wounds or ill-health were to be re-examined to determine whether they were fit to resume service; and a revised list of reserved occupations was published. With the demand for human war material apparently insatiable a fourth version of the Act was passed in January 1918. This enabled the government to quash all exemptions from military service on occupational grounds at its own discretion; and where exemptions from service had been withdrawn the standard two-month grace period was abolished. In April 1918, at the height of the great German Spring offensive on the Western Front, a fifth version of the Act was published. Its most notable provision extended age eligibility so that men aged from 17 to 51 could be called up. In addition, the act was, for the first time, to be applied to men in Ireland, the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man (although the policy was never actually implemented in Ireland.)

Recognition of work of national importance also diminished, and in the last year of the war there was some support for the conscription of clergy, and conscription lasted until mid-1919. Standard forms were issued to such employers and men, and Labour Exchange appointments made where necessary. The same month new rules were issued under the Defence of the Realm Act (DORA) requiring that all persons who employ one or more male persons of military age were to keep a schedule of those men, and prominently displayed on the premises, this form included name, address, badge number and several other details.

The women’s “On War Service” triangular brooch was introduced in May 1916. It was available for women “engaged in the manufacture of munitions of war or other urgent war work”, which included women employed full-time in canteens “etc” of such establishments, skilled and unskilled workers, clerical staff in the approved companies, charladies, and cloakroom attendants. A woman could not be given a badge until she had two months on the job training and badges were not to be issued to girls under 16. No individual certificates were issued with the women’s badges and the employer could control allocation and re-allocation of badges. Each badge had a serial number on the back.

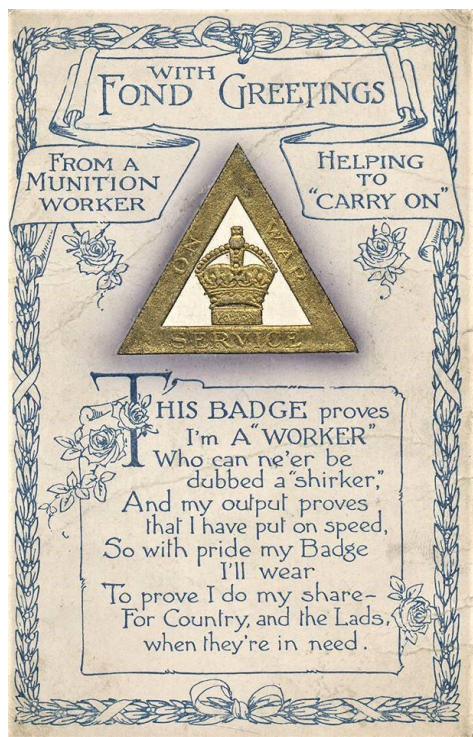


Pictured left: “On War Service” Badge. A triangle, a symbol well known to Freemasons

They were basically left to their own devices in this respect although the same rules as for the men’s badges

applied regarding illegal wearing and handing in when leaving employment or coming off war work. The work was extremely dangerous, and accidents at munition factories resulted in over 200 deaths during

the First World War. Others suffered health problems such as T.N.T. poisoning because of the dangerous chemicals the women were using. Another ever-present hazard of the “munitionettes” work was the risk of explosion. Many munitions workers found that it turned their skin yellow, caused nausea and chest pains. At lunchtimes, the women had to be separated in the cafeteria because everything they touched turned yellow. They were called the “Canary Girls” because of their bright yellow skin and green or ginger-coloured hair. Explosions at British munitions factories during World War I included the 1917 Silvertown explosion, which occurred on Friday, 19 January 1917 at 6.52 pm. Approximately 50 tons of T.N.T. exploded, killing 73 people and injuring 400 more, as well as causing substantial damage in the local area. The explosion was never satisfactorily explained until the release of the official report, which remained “secret” until the 1950’s. A fire started at a chemical works, owned by Brunner, Mond & Co., which was adapted for the production of T.N.T., a highly explosive substance.



T.N.T. was ordered by the government since explosives were in great demand on the Western Front. The company had resisted this development as the surrounding area was densely populated. Even handling T.N.T. was hazardous. A large part of the factory at Silvertown was instantly destroyed together with several nearby buildings and streets. The flour mills and silos on the south side of the Royal Victoria Dock were badly damaged. Across the river on the Greenwich Peninsula, now the site of the Millennium Dome, one of the gas holders exploded. An inquiry into the incident judged that Silvertown was a totally unsuitable place for a T.N.T. plant and

castigated Brunner, Mond & Co for negligence in the running of their works. At the time, the government tried to play down the disaster. This was partly because they did not want people to panic and also because they did not want the enemy to know about the development of weapons. A subsequent government enquiry concluded the explosion was the result of an accident not sabotage. A memorial was commissioned by the company, Brunner Mond, in the 1920s inside the entrance to the factory location and it also serves as a memorial to World War I and World War II. It is now located in the middle of the Royal Wharf development.

In 1918, the National Shell Filling Factory, Chilwell, Nottingham, was destroyed in an explosion of eight tons of T.N.T. on 1st July 1918. In all 134 people were killed, of whom only 32 could be positively identified, and a further 250 were injured. The unidentified bodies are in a mass grave in St. Mary's Church, Attenborough. The blast was reportedly heard twenty miles away.



On the 16th December 1915, King George V had paid a visit to the Chilwell factory and was impressed by what he saw. However, note the workers being placed some distance away from the King. A memorial to those who had died in all explosions at the site was unveiled by the Duke of Portland on 13th March 1919. It takes the form of a small obelisk above a massive pyramidal base. There is an inscribed stone, with a curiously statistical approach to commemorating the factory's achievements as well as the dead. On the fiftieth anniversary of the explosion, the memorial was restored and unveiled on 20th June 1968, and plaques were added with the following text in recognition of the bravery and fortitude of the employees.

"To the Glory of God and in memory of those who gave their lives in two World Wars.

At the going down of the sun and in the morning, we will remember them, their name liveth for evermore."

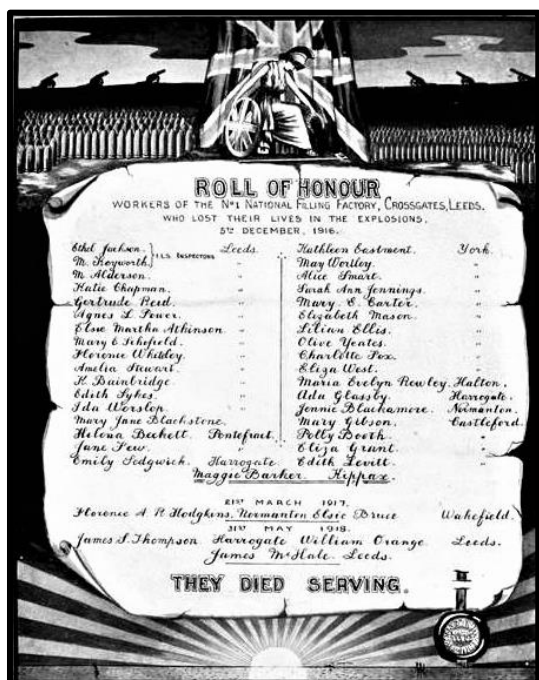
From the beginning of 1916 till the end of the war the Admiralty and War Office (Ministry of Munitions) the men and women's badge schemes seem to have sustained without major revision. During March 1920 there is correspondence from the War Office to the Ministry of Munitions asking what arrangements, if

any, had been made for withdrawal of badges of civilian employees of the Ministry to be disposed of as scrap, or were they to be retained by the employees?



Pictured above: Women Munition workers at the Chilwell Filling Factory.

The Ministry of Munitions replied to the effect that no instructions had been issued and it was not intended that any such instructions would be issued (no mention is made of the commercial companies), and the point at issue failed, due to lack of support and the only further relevant reference is a scribbled and rather anonymous note on a War Office folder; “... it seems to me quite useless to attempt to get in the old War Service Badges ... I cannot conceive any advantage which would accrue from getting in the badges, except that we may have a few more tons of brass scrap to dispose of.”



Pictured above: A “Roll of Honour” in memory of those who lost their lives in an explosion on 5th December 1916, at the Crossgates Filling Factory in Leeds, along with other deaths in 1917 and 1918

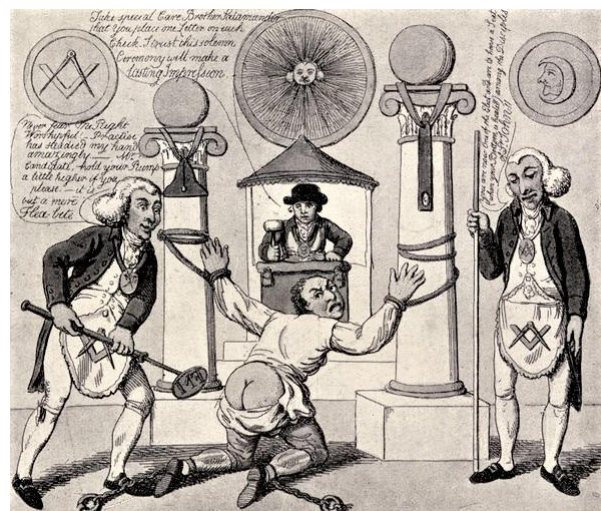
⁹ Article from various sources, including the “Armourer Magazine” and the National Archives

It is probably the reason why that these badges can be found in charity and second-hand shops, although for the badge collector enthusiast, there are plenty for sale on Ebay, and no doubt is considered a valuable artefact of the exceptional work the women did on the “Home Front” during the First World War, and long may they be remembered, especially those who died in their service to the country.⁹

Article and Research – Allan de Luca

Masonic Humour

“How to make a Mason” - 1800, from the book “The Freemason” by Eugen Lennhoff, published 1932



The top narrative: From the Worshipful Master – “Take care Brother Salamander that you place one letter on each cheek. I trust this solemn Ceremony will make a lasting impression.”

Narrative below: Brother Salamander replies – “Never fear, Mr. Right Worshipful – Practise has steadied my hand amazingly. Mr Candidate hold your rump a little higher if you please – it is but a mere flea-bite.”

Narrative by the D.C. – “You are now one of the elect and are to have a seat (when your bottom has healed) among the Disciples of St. John.”

The CMA Committee and members wish all the Brethren and their families a Happy Christmas and a Healthy & Happy New Year 2018



CHARITY

WORKSHOP

Followed by a short Charity communications talk which will be given by Peter Low

CRAFT & CHAPTER CHARITY STEWARDS

*Collect the NEW Charity Stewards Handbook
for your Lodge or Chapter*

At CHINGFORD MASONIC HALL

On Monday 29th January 2018 at 7.30pm

The Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Colin Felton, has requested that workshops be held at Colchester, Harlow, Saxon Hall, Braintree, Loughton and also at Chingford. You are therefore cordially invited to attend a forthcoming workshop at Chingford Masonic Hall on Monday 29th January 2018 7.30pm start.

The object of the workshop is threefold:-

1. A brand New Charity Stewards Handbook is to be launched at Chingford on that evening and United Grand Lodge has asked that the Province make every effort to see that all Charity Stewards receive one.
2. At the workshop it is expected that we will have United Grand Lodge/Masonic Charitable Foundation representatives there. You may well find out information that you are not aware of, also if you have any questions it's a good time to ask.
3. After the workshop a short communications seminar will be given by Peter Low. As Charity Steward of your Lodge/Chapter it is anticipated that you will attend or send a representative in your place to collect the new Charity Stewards Handbook.

Given the large number of Lodges and Chapters which meet at Chingford Masonic Hall, there are three Charity Committee Co-ordinators and they are Frank Mercer, Malcolm Careford and Gerry Austin.

They will be dealing with specific Lodges/Chapters and whose contact particulars are detailed below. Chingford Lodge/Chapter Co-ordinators are; Lodge/Chapter Nos. 453 to 4367 Co-ordinator W Bro Malcolm Careford. malcolmcareford@yahoo.co.uk.

Mobile 07443 492642 Landline 0127 784 7364
Lodge/Chapter Nos. 4541 to 7266 Co-ordinator W Bro Frank N Mercer. franknmercerc@blueyonder.co.uk
Mobile 07984 243606 Landline 0208 363 4143
Lodge/Chapter Nos. 7312 to 9729 Co-ordinator W Bro Gerry Austin. gerryaustin10@msn.com
Mobile 07719459364 Landline 0170 787 4226

**Your Co-ordinator is also contactable for any general 'charity' questions you may have.
Please let your respective Co-ordinator know if your Lodge/Chapter is to be represented.**

¹⁰ The Era – Sunday 28th November 1875

A Masonic Character Captain Matthew Webb (1848-1883)



Captain Matthew Webb is the first recorded person to swim the English Channel without the use of artificial aids for sport purpose.

On 25 August 1875, Webb swam from Dover to Calais in less than 22 hours. A year earlier, he became the first person to win the Royal Humane Society Gold Medal for trying to save

a man who fell overboard the SS Russia. After his record swim, Captain Webb basked in national and international adulation, and followed a career as a professional swimmer. He licensed his name for merchandising such as commemorative pottery, and wrote a book called *"The Art of Swimming."* Captain Webb's picture appeared on boxes of Bryant and May matches, and is said to have inspired the physical appearance of the Inspector Clouseau character portrayed originally in the *"Pink Panther"* films by Peter Sellers. He participated in exhibition swimming matches



and stunts such as floating in a tank of water for 128 hours. In 1909, Webb's elder brother Thomas unveiled a memorial in Dawley, Telford. On it reads the short inscription: *"Nothing great is easy."*

Captain Webb was Initiated on Thursday 25th November 1875 in the Neptune Lodge

No.22, at the Guildhall Tavern, Gresham Street, London, which had been chosen by Captain Webb for his initiation into the ancient rites of Freemasonry. At the banquet following the ceremony, at which, over seventy brethren were present, and in reply to his health, which was proposed amidst loud cheers, Captain Webb gracefully acknowledged the compliment paid to him and expressed a hope that he might achieve the mastery of the secrets of the Craft as successfully as he had battled with the waves, in which case he had no fear for the future. ¹⁰

His final stunt was on the 24th July 1883, and the Chelmsford Chronicle reports his "melancholy fate" as having drowned in his attempt to swim through the whirlpool and rapids. Captain Webb on entering the rapids was almost turned over by the force of the water. He swam the rapids, however, with great determination, being now and again caught sight of by a few spectators. When last seen he was entering the whirlpool, and at first appeared to be doing well, but very shortly afterwards he threw up his arms and disappeared. He was not seen again. Captain Webb was strongly urged not to attempt a feat universally declared to be impossible. ¹¹ The post mortem examination of the body of Captain Webb, showed no symptoms of drowning, with death being probably due to the nervous shock experienced in the Rapids. Webb was interred in Oakwood Cemetery, Niagara Falls, New York.

¹¹ Chelmsford Chronicle – Friday 27th July 1883