

UNITED GRAND LODGE

OF

Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

Quarterly Communication

Holden at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street, London
on Wednesday, the 13th day of September 2017

Present:

MW Bro P.G. Lowndes Pro Grand Master
RW Bro J. Spence Deputy Grand Master
RW Bro Sir David Wootton Assistant Grand Master
RW Bro Sir Michael Snyder Metropolitan Grand Master for London
RW Bro D.P.L. Hodgetts, *LVO* Provincial Grand Master for Guernsey and Alderney
RW Bro R. Merritt Provincial Grand Master for Dorset
RW Bro G. Ives Provincial Grand Master for Lincolnshire
RW Bro N.E. Heaviside Provincial Grand Master for Durham
RW Bro N.J. Thompson, *DL* Provincial Grand Master for Cumberland and Westmorland
RW Bro D.V. Hagger Provincial Grand Master for Leicestershire and Rutland
RW Bro D.F. Macey Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire
RW Bro M.J. Wilks Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight
RW Bro R.K. Dalrymple Provincial Grand Master for Isle of Man
RW Bro A.J. Vaughan Provincial Grand Master for Bristol
RW Bro C.A.S. Hadler Provincial Grand Master for Somerset
RW Bro M.W. Bayes .. Provincial Grand Master for Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire
RW Bro G.G. Dearing Provincial Grand Master for East Kent
RW Bro P.A. Taylor Provincial Grand Master for Shropshire
RW Bro M.G. Peters Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire
RW Bro G. Robertson Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire
RW Bro Sir David Trippier, *RD, DL* Provincial Grand Master for East Lancashire
RW Bro the Rev D.J. Bowen Provincial Grand Master for Herefordshire
RW Bro I. Kingsbury Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire
RW Bro I.J. Yeldham Provincial Grand Master for Suffolk
RW Bro R.C. Vaughan Provincial Grand Master for Worcestershire
RW Bro G. Jones, *OBE* Provincial Grand Master for South Wales
RW Bro P.J. Gower Provincial Grand Master for Hertfordshire
RW Bro D.S. Pratt Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, West Riding
RW Bro J. Gillyon Provincial Grand Master for Yorkshire, North and East Ridings

RW Bro S.D. Hookey	Provincial Grand Master for West Wales
RW Bro J.A. Harrison	Provincial Grand Master for West Lancashire
RW Bro D.H.T. Henderson-Ross	Provincial Grand Master for Gloucestershire
RW Bro J.R.G. Hilditch	Provincial Grand Master for Oxfordshire
RW Bro V. Lee	District Grand Master for Hong Kong and the Far East
RW Bro P.S.A. Bullock	Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire
RW Bro S.C. Pearn	Provincial Grand Master for Cornwall
RW Bro A.S. Varley	Provincial Grand Master for Derbyshire
RW Bro S.M. Blank	Provincial Grand Master for Cheshire
RW Bro P.G. Marshall	Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire
RW Bro M.D. Estaugh	Provincial Grand Master for West Kent
RW Bro R.L. Bass	Provincial Grand Master for Essex
RW Bro S.N. Allen	Provincial Grand Master for Norfolk
RW Bro W.C.M. Dastur	Provincial Grand Master for Cambridgeshire
RW Bro I.M. Chandler	Provincial Grand Master for Surrey
RW Bro C.L. Moore	Provincial Grand Master for Sussex
RW Bro R.G. Davies	Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire
RW Bro J. Lockley	Provincial Grand Master for Staffordshire
RW Bro Sir Frederick Crawford, <i>DL</i> , <i>PSGW</i>	as Senior Grand Warden
RW Bro His Honour I.D.G. Alexander, <i>QC</i> , <i>PJGW</i>	as Junior Grand Warden
VW Bro the Rev Canon M. Wilson	Grand Chaplain
RW Bro the Rt Hon Sir John Chadwick, <i>ED</i> , <i>PSGW</i>	Grand Registrar
RW Bro Brig W.E. Shackell, <i>CBE</i> , <i>PJGW</i>	Grand Secretary
RW Bro His Honour R.M. Hone, <i>QC</i> , <i>PJGW</i>	President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
VW Bro J.H. Newman, <i>OBE</i>	Deputy President, Masonic Charitable Foundation
RW Bro O.A.W. Lodge, <i>TD</i> , <i>PJGW</i>	Grand Director of Ceremonies
VW Bro Col A.D. Mathewson, <i>OBE</i>	Grand Sword Bearer
VW Bro J.C. Pagella	Grand Superintendent of Works
RW Bro Q.C.T. Humberstone, <i>PJGW</i>	Grand Treasurer
W Bro the Rev Dr S.A. Thorn	Deputy Grand Chaplain
VW Bro J.M. Long, <i>TD</i> , <i>PGSwdB</i>	Deputy President, Board of General Purposes
VW Bro G.F. Redman, <i>PGSwdB</i>	Deputy Grand Secretary
VW Bro J.M. Hamill, <i>PGSwdB</i>	Deputy Grand Chancellor
W Bro M.A.J. Gurney	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Dr D.R. Staples	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro E.D.J. Goodchild	Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Air Vice-Marshal A.G.B. Vallance, <i>CB</i> , <i>OBE</i>	Deputy Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro P. Abbott	Deputy Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro K.J. Parkes	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro K.P. Stannard	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro P.W. Tarrant	Senior Grand Deacon
W Bro Dr B.I. Hoffbrand	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro Dr J.W.P. Campbell	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro S. Jones	Junior Grand Deacon
W Bro the Rev E.F. Dowland-Owen	Assistant Grand Chaplain
W Bro the Rev G.P. Waterson	Assistant Grand Chaplain

W Bro P.J. Gillyon	Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro J. da Costa	Assistant Grand Registrar
W Bro A.G. Rayner	Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro S.E.R. Christie	Assistant Grand Secretary
W Bro A.J. Baverstock	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro J.P.B. Bennett	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro M.H. Burrows	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro S.D. Farmer	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro W.G. Hunt, <i>TD</i>	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro P.R. Jones	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro J.D. Judd	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro P. Waring	Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Col I.W.B. McRobbie, <i>OBE, TD, DL</i>	Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro Wg Cdr G.E.P. Pattenden	Assistant Grand Sword Bearer
W Bro C.J. Robinson	Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro P.G. Vosser	Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works
W Bro C.A. Jackson, <i>MVO</i>	Grand Organist
W Bro J.A.L. Parry	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro J.P. Reese	Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro E.L. Chevin	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro J. Lambert	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro G.D. McDonald	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro M.C. Walker	Assistant Grand Standard Bearer
W Bro R.G. Swift	Deputy Grand Organist
W Bro A.G. Smith	Grand Pursuivant
W Bro V.I. Falk	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro J. Flain	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro J.J. Kneller	Assistant Grand Pursuivant
W Bro R.T.G. Bell	Grand Steward
W Bro C.D. Radmore, <i>PAGDC</i>	Grand Steward
W Bro the Rev T.J.N. L'Estrange, <i>PDepGChap</i>	Grand Steward
W Bro M.S. McVeigh	Grand Steward
W Bro Baron C.E. van Randwyck	Grand Steward
W Bro J.R. Soper, <i>PAGDC</i>	Grand Steward
W Bro T.C. Pakrashi	Grand Steward
W Bro S.M. Gentry	Grand Steward
W Bro G.P.W. Foster	Grand Steward
W Bro G.H. Trew	Grand Steward
VW Bro B.A. Vickers, <i>PGSuptWks</i>	Grand Steward
W Bro N.W. Penn, <i>PSGD</i>	Grand Steward
W Bro P.A.C. Jennings, <i>PAGDC</i>	Grand Steward
W Bro S.L. Barter	Grand Steward
W Bro Dr J.D. Dean	Grand Steward
W Bro M. Brooks, <i>PJGD</i>	Grand Tyler

A large number of Past Grand Officers, qualified Past Grand Stewards, and the Masters, Past Masters, and Wardens of many private Lodges.

VISITORS

THE GRAND LODGE OF AUSTRIA

MW Bro Georg Semler Grand Master
RW Bro Hans Hauf Immediate Past Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations

THE GRAND LODGE ALPINA OF SWITZERLAND

W Bro Colin Mills Representative of UGLE

THE NORWEGIAN ORDER OF FREEMASONS – GRAND LODGE OF NORWAY

MW Bro Tore Evensen Grand Master
RW Bro Fredrik Hilding Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations

A number of Master Masons not qualified to attend as Wardens.

Grand Lodge was opened in ample form and with solemn prayer at 12.00 noon.



MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I always ask Provincial Grand Masters to let me know if they have particularly good numbers attending and I am delighted to say that there are forty-six Brethren here from Lincolnshire, thirty-five from Durham, twenty-five from Buckinghamshire and twenty from Worcestershire, so welcome to all of them and well done those Provinces. No doubt the other Provincial Grand Masters will later tell me they've got many more but they didn't tell me so.

(Laughter)

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

The Minutes of the Quarterly Communication of 14 June 2017 were taken as read and confirmed.

ORDER OF SERVICE TO MASONRY

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, one of the most pleasant duties that I can have, I am about to perform.

It is to invest two Brethren with the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry, and I call on the Grand Secretary to read the first citation.

GRAND SECRETARY (RW Bro W.E. SHACKELL, *CBE*): Bro Edward Arnold Ford. Bro Eddie Ford was made a Mason in December 1978, at the age of 36, in Andresey Lodge, No. 6408, in Burton-on-Trent in the Province of Staffordshire, serving as its Master in 1988 (and again in 2011). In 2001 he joined Foster Gough Lodge, No. 2706 (the Installed Masters' Lodge for Staffordshire). He was exalted into the Royal Arch in Abbey Chapter, No. 624 in 1995, becoming its First Principal in 2010 (having already served on two occasions as First Principal of Mercia Chapter, No. 3995, which he had joined in 2001). He is also a member of Staffordshire First Principals Chapter, No. 2706.

Bro Ford served a year as a Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1994 on his first appointment as a Provincial Grand Officer and was appointed the Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2001. Subsequently he also served some years as Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Royal Arch before becoming the Third Provincial Grand Principal in 2015. Bro Ford holds the rank of Past Junior Grand Deacon in the Craft, and in April of this year received the Rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer in the Royal Arch.

Bro Ford's outstanding claim to Masonic distinction, however, lies in his work over the past fifteen years as the driving force behind the Masonic Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum in Staffordshire. Soon after the establishment of the Arboretum, the Freemasons of that Province created a Masonic garden on a prime site on the "Millennium Avenue", near the visitors centre.

The Garden was originally dedicated in June 2002, as part of the summer's celebration of "Freemasonry in the Community". It was always the intention that the Garden should be provided with a suitable entrance and in April of this year the imposing symbolic gateway of which the most striking feature is two great pillars, each some nine cubits high, supporting two globes, was formally dedicated.

The whole project was overseen by Bro Ford and involved the bringing together of various disciplines in the planning as well as the execution. Not only were the skills of two separate architects required, but also those of a structural engineer in order to give the site some sure foundation where before it had been mere sand and gravel; and finally an arboriculturist – trees Brethren – was needed to advise on the right trees to plant round the perimeter of the garden to have a chance of surviving in the poor soil, because the yew trees originally chosen had proved unsuitable.

Bro Ford devoted many hours to ensuring the successful completion of the project, and it is undoubtedly due to his hard work, determination and persistence that not only Staffordshire Masons, but those throughout the English Constitution now have a significant stake in the National Memorial Arboretum.

Bro Ford.

(Brother Ford was invested)

(Loud applause)

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I now call on the Grand Secretary to read the second citation.

GRAND SECRETARY: Bro Prof Aubrey Norris Newman. Bro Aubrey Newman was made a Mason in December 1967, just after his 40th birthday, in John of Gaunt Lodge, No. 523, in Leicester, serving as its Master in 1981 (and again in 2000, after putting in a five year stint as Secretary from 1994 to 1999). In 1984 he joined Lodge of Research, No. 2429, also in Leicester, becoming its Master in 1996. In 1990 he became a member of Quatuor Coronati Lodge, No. 2076, the Premier Lodge of Masonic Research, and was its Master in 1998. He was exalted into the Royal Arch in St. Martin's Chapter, No. 3431 in 1984, becoming its First Principal in 1990. He is a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden, as well as a Past Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah, of Leicestershire and Rutland. In 2004 he received the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies, and in 2016 was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon.

As a lecturer, and in due course Professor, in History at the University of Leicester, Bro Newman has had a distinguished academic career and is now an Emeritus Professor of the University. His particular specialities are the Eighteenth Century and British Jewish History up to the present day, in which connection he is a Vice-President (and former President) of the Jewish Historical Society of England. In 1990 he founded what is now the Stanley Burton Centre for Holocaust Studies at Leicester – the oldest holocaust research centre at a British University – of which he remains as Honorary Associate Director. He has the additional distinction of having the annual Aubrey Newman Lecture, instituted in 2006, named after him.

As might be expected from his background, Bro Newman's outstanding contribution to Freemasonry has been in the area of Masonic research, covering such diverse matters as the history of the Provinces, and Jews in English Freemasonry. He was Prestonian Lecturer in 2003 – his topic was "*The contribution of the Provinces to the development of English Freemasonry*" – and for over ten years he has chaired the Editorial Committee of Quatuor Coronati Lodge. Most recently, he was the joint organiser of the highly successful Tercentenary Conference in Queens' College, Cambridge in September 2016, the proceedings at which have recently been

published in a volume (running to over 700 pages) called “*Reflections on 300 Years of Freemasonry*”. Though he is now in his ninetieth year, his researches continue.

Bro Aubrey Newman.

(Brother Newman was invested)

(Loud applause)

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Two very worthy recipients Brethren, it is really a pleasure.

REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

On the Motion of the DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES (VW Bro J.M. LONG, TD, PGSwdB), seconded by the GRAND TREASURER (RW Bro Q.C.T. HUMBERSTONE, PJGW), the following report of the Board of General Purposes was taken as read.

To the United Grand Lodge of Antient, Free and Accepted Masons of England

BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES

Meetings in 2018

1. In accordance with the requirements of Rule 225 of the Book of Constitutions, notice is hereby given of the dates upon which the Board of General Purposes will meet in 2018:

13 February	17 July
20 March	18 September
15 May	13 November

ATTENDANCE AT LODGES UNDER THE ENGLISH CONSTITUTION BY BRETHREN FROM OTHER GRAND LODGES

2. The Board considers it appropriate to draw attention to Rule 125 (b), Book of Constitutions, and the list of Grand Lodges recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England, which is published in the Masonic Year Book, copies of which are sent to Secretaries of Lodges.

3. Only Brethren who are members of Lodges under recognised jurisdictions may visit English Lodges. They must produce a certificate (i.e. a Grand Lodge certificate or other documentary proof of Masonic identity provided by their Grand Lodge), should be prepared to acknowledge that a personal belief in T.G.A.O.T.U. is an essential Landmark in Freemasonry, and should be able to produce

evidence of their good standing in their Lodges. It is the Master's responsibility to ensure that the requirements of Rule 125 (b) are met.

4. It is particularly noted that the hazard of admitting a member of an unrecognised constitution arises not only in connection with overseas visitors, or individuals resident in this country who belong to an unrecognised constitution overseas, but there are also Lodges of unrecognised constitutions meeting in England, and care must be taken that their members are not admitted to our meetings.

ATTENDANCE AT LODGES OVERSEAS

5. Brethren are reminded that they are permitted to visit Lodges overseas only if they come under a jurisdiction which is recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England.

6. A list of recognised Grand Lodges is published annually, but as the situation does change from time to time, Brethren should not attempt to make any Masonic contact overseas without having first checked (preferably in writing) with the Grand Secretary's Office via their Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretary, that there is recognised Freemasonry in the country concerned and, if so, whether there is any particular point which should be watched.

7. The Board recommends that the terms of this warning should be repeated:

- a. verbally in open Lodge whenever a Grand Lodge Certificate is presented, and
- b. in print once a year in a Lodge's summons.

8. Brethren should also be aware of the Masonic convention that communications between Grand Lodges be conducted by Grand Secretaries. They should therefore not attempt without permission to make direct contact with the Grand Secretary of another Constitution. This does not preclude direct contact on a purely personal level between individual Brethren under different Grand Lodges.

PRESTONIAN LECTURES

2018

9. The Board has submitted a nomination to the Trustees of the Prestonian Fund and they have appointed W Bro C.P. Noon as Prestonian Lecturer for 2018. Bro Noon states that the title of his Lecture will be: *A Good Workman Praises his Tools: Masonic Metaphors in the Ancient World.*

10. Arrangements for the delivery of the Lectures to selected Lodges will be considered by the Board in November and applications are now invited from

Lodges. Applications should be made to the Grand Secretary, through Metropolitan, Provincial or District Grand Secretaries.

11. The Board desires to emphasise the importance of these Lectures, the only ones held under the authority of the Grand Lodge. It is, therefore, hoped that applications for the privilege of having one of these official Lectures will be made only by Lodges which are prepared to afford facilities for all Freemasons in their area, as well as their own members, to participate and thus ensure an attendance worthy of the occasion.

AMALGAMATION

12. The Board has received a report that Merlin Lodge, No. 6156 has resolved to surrender its Warrant in order to amalgamate with Prudence Lodge, No. 4127 (Cheshire).

13. The Board accordingly recommends that the Lodge be removed from the register in order to effect the amalgamation. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 3 of the Paper of Business.

IN MEMORIAM

14. The Board of General Purposes regrets to record the death of the following Present and Past Grand Officers reported up to 18 July 2017:

RW Bro D.N. Hayden, PDistGM, Orange Free State
 W Bro V. Outram, PSGD
 W Bro E.P. Donnison, PSGD
 W Bro G.M. Dingwell, PJGD
 W Bro D. Walton, PJGD
 W Bro Nana F. Mensah, PJGD
 W Bro P.A. Simkins, PJGD
 W Bro His Honour M.B. Goodman, PJGD
 W Bro A.E.P. Jones, PJGD
 W Bro R.D.W. Knott, PJGD
 W Bro the Rev M. Price-Roberts, PJGD
 W Bro M.D. Spear, PJGD
 W Bro W. Burns, PJGD
 W Bro A.V. Woodman, PJGD
 W Bro the Rev Canon R.H. Gill, PAGChap
 W Bro the Rev C.A. Fox, PAGChap

Death of Grand Officers (*continued*)

W Bro the Rev I.C. Hunt, PAGChap
 W Bro the Rev K.A. Steele, PAGChap
 W Bro E.T. Urwin, PAGDC
 W Bro G. Nichols, PAGDC
 W Bro K. Amos, PAGDC
 W Bro M. Cockayne, PAGDC
 W Bro A.C. Ireland, *ERD*, PAGDC
 W Bro Dr R.R. van der Veen, PAGDC
 W Bro Maj P. Mahajan, PAGDC
 W Bro P.F. Jones, PAGESuptWks
 W Bro G.M. Griffiths-Shaw, PGStB
 W Bro P. Aldworth, PGStB
 W Bro R.A. Rose, PGStB
 W Bro P.E. Love, PGStB
 W Bro J.G. Figov, PGStB
 W Bro R.S. Hance, PGStB
 W Bro R.K. Wahl, PGStB
 W Bro E.A.E.B. Ayres, PGStB
 W Bro A.B. Duthie, PGStB
 W Bro P.J. Van De Pol, PGStB
 W Bro D. Pickover, *MBE*, PGStB

ERASURE OF LODGES

15. The Board has received a report that twelve Lodges have closed and have surrendered their Warrants. The Lodges are:

United Temperance Lodge, No. 3107 (Cheshire)
 Garden City Lodge, No. 3112 (London)
 Edric Lodge, No. 4299 (Middlesex)
 Theobalds Lodge, No. 4726 (Hertfordshire)
 Wealdstone Lodge, No. 5236 (Middlesex)
 Streatham Vale Lodge, No. 5623 (Surrey)
 Pymmes Park Lodge, No. 6193 (London)
 Tamesa Lodge, No. 6806 (Surrey)
 Lodge of Reliance, No. 7476 (West Kent)
 Eros Lodge, No. 7783 (London)
 Lodge of United Endeavour, No. 7854 (London)
 Grays and Orsett Daylight Lodge, No. 9766 (Essex)

16. Over recent years, the Lodges have found themselves no longer viable. The Board is satisfied that further efforts to save them would be to no avail and therefore has no alternative but to recommend that they be erased. A Resolution to this effect appears at item 4 of the Paper of Business.

EXPULSIONS

17. As required by Rule 277 (a) (i) (B), Book of Constitutions, Appendix 1 shows Brethren recently expelled from the Craft.

REPORT OF LIBRARY AND MUSEUM TRUST

18. The Board has received a report from the Library and Museum Charitable Trust which appears in Appendix 2.

FREEMASONS' HALL, LONDON
18 July 2017

(*signed*) A.C. WILSON
President

DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES: MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, I do not believe that there is anything in the Board's Report which calls for further comment from me. I therefore move that the Report of the Board of General Purposes be adopted and entered in the Minutes.

The Motion was seconded by GRAND TREASURER and was agreed to.

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, the Board's Report lists the names of those Grand Officers whose deaths were reported up to 18 July. Since the report was prepared, we have learnt of the death of RW Bro the Rev Peter Hemingway, PSGW and Third Grand Principal in the Royal Arch from 1991 until 2002, and I had the honour to represent the First Grand Principal at his funeral last week. I now call on you to stand in memory of those departed Grand Officers and other members of Grand Lodge.

The Brethren stood in silence.

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

AMALGAMATION

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES moved the removal from the register of the Grand Lodge of the Merlin Lodge, No. 6156 (Cheshire).

The Motion was seconded by the GRAND TREASURER and was agreed to.

RESOLUTION FOR THE GRAND LODGE

ERASURE OF LODGES

The DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES moved the erasure from the register of the Grand Lodge the following Lodges:

United Temperance Lodge, No. 3107 (Cheshire); Garden City Lodge, No. 3112 (London); Edric Lodge, No. 4299 (Middlesex); Theobalds Lodge, No. 4726 (Hertfordshire); Wealdstone Lodge, No. 5236 (Middlesex); Streatham Vale Lodge, No. 5623 (Surrey); Pymmes Park Lodge, No. 6193 (London); Tamesa Lodge, No. 6806 (Surrey); Lodge of Reliance, No. 7476 (West Kent); Eros Lodge, No. 7783 (London); Lodge of United Endeavour, No. 7854 (London); and Grays and Orsett Daylight Lodge, No. 9766 (Essex).

The Motion was seconded by GRAND TREASURER and was agreed to.

MOTION PURSUANT TO NOTICE

AMENDMENT TO THE BOOK OF CONSTITUTIONS

On the Motion of the DEPUTY PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF GENERAL PURPOSES, seconded by the GRAND TREASURER, the following amendment to the Book of Constitutions was approved:

Rule 153(b) amended to read:

“(b) The Treasurer, if available to do so, shall make such payments as are duly authorised, or have been sanctioned by the Lodge. All cheques must bear the signature of the Treasurer and (unless the Lodge resolves to the contrary) at least one other member authorised by the Lodge, provided that if it be impracticable for the Treasurer to sign any cheque it shall be sufficient for such cheque to bear the signature of two members authorised by the Lodge.”

IMPROVEMENT DELIVERY GROUP

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, we are now to receive a presentation on the work of the Improvement Delivery Group, and I now call on the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro Sir David Wootton.

MW Pro Grand Master and Brethren, we all have our own view of what we see in Masonry. For me, it's five things:

We're all volunteers: none of us have to be Masons or do what we do. The magnificent total which the Pro Grand Master will later announce for the North Wales Festival on Saturday was all the result of volunteering: voluntary time, voluntary effort, voluntary money;

What we now call "social inclusion": bringing together people of different origins, backgrounds, occupations, interests, locations, opinions, faiths; people who would not otherwise meet; in a common activity in which all are fundamentally equal;

Our purposefulness: when we meet, there's a purpose, whether it's a Masonic meeting, ritual; or charity or a community project; the best recent example I saw, the Jurassic Coast Youth Adventure organised by Dorset, two-hundred plus children in need from all over the country taken on a week's healthy activities by the sea. Whatever it is, we want to do it well, and we do;

The practice of every moral and social virtue: words cited by the Bishop of Worcester, not a Mason, at the Worcestershire Provincial Tercentenary Service on Sunday in a sermon that would inspire every Mason. Our, if you like, moral code, best illustrated in the Charge to the Initiate, is a huge asset which will play increasingly well with younger generations for whom such things are in short supply;

The social side: we do do the best parties, don't we, getting to know each other informally, in friendship, and it works because of the other factors I've mentioned.

All of this contributes to member's personal development; the Craft is about developing ourselves as good people, making good men better.

We all sense a steady move to greater openness: the Sky TV programmes; publicity in the right way for our charity and community activities: the word "Freemasons" on the London's Air Ambulance; wearing regalia in public: all in the right direction.

Recognising Masonry's good things but sensing that the make-up and profile of our membership – age, number – were going in the wrong direction, the Board of General Purposes – BGP – set up the Membership Focus Group – MFG – under the inspired leadership of RW Bro Raymond Reed, PProvGM, Buckinghamshire,

to find out what was happening to today's membership, to assess the likely affect on tomorrow's and, if we didn't like that – which we didn't – to decide what to do.

Deciding what to do is called STRATEGY – YES! The MFG produced, and everyone adopted, *Strategy: The Future of Freemasonry 2015-2020*, which I know we've all read and like.

Thoughts then turned to implementing the Strategy. 'Ooh, the MFG said, could be difficult – better get someone else to do it', and so was born the Improvement Delivery Group – IDG (I hope you're keeping up with the jargon, Brethren) to Deliver the Improvements which should flow from the work of the MFG.

I was out of the room at the time, so they made me Chairman. (*Laughter*) Also out of the room was Provincial Grand Master for South Wales and Third Grand Principal, RW Bro Gareth Jones, so we made him Deputy Chairman.

Strategy is no good unless it is accepted, understood and embraced by the membership – remember we're all volunteers. The IDG had to show that it was including the Craft and the Royal Arch, and all areas of the country, and Head Office. So, in addition to Gareth and me:

RW Bro Michael Ward, PSGW – London; RW Bro Jeff Gillyon, ProvGM, Yorkshire, North and East Ridings; RW Bro Stephen M. Blank, ProvGM, Cheshire; RW Peter Taylor, ProvGM, Shropshire; RW Bro Tim Henderson-Ross, ProvGM, Gloucestershire; W Bro Charles Cunnington, PDepGSwdB – Derbyshire; RW Bro Ian Yeldham, ProvGM, Suffolk; RW Bro Mark Estaugh, ProvGM, West Kent; RW Bro Stuart Hadler, ProvGM, Somerset; RW Bro Gordon Robertson, ProvGM, Buckinghamshire, who leaves us on retiring as Provincial Grand Master and is replaced by RW Bro James Hilditch, ProvGM, Oxfordshire; RW Bro Raymond Reed, PProvGM, Buckinghamshire;

from Head Office:

Grand Secretary, RW Bro Willie Shackell, PJGW; Assistant Grand Secretary, W Bro Shawn Christie; and now Chief Executive, W Bro David Staples, DepGDC.

Brethren, in light of all they do, I would like all those I've named to stand and be recognised. (*Applause*) Thank you.

To pick up the work of the MFG we formed Working Groups matching the elements of the Strategy. The Strategy talks about effective governance at all levels; a leadership development programme; the attraction and retention of members; and the sustainability of masonic halls. Thus...

Gareth Jones is leading our Governance Group looking at who and what does what, the roles and responsibilities of each office and body, what they and

what they're not, and how we ensure that people understand what their roles and responsibilities are and aren't, and what is expected of them. From the esteemed ADELPHI2 we have lots of lovely statistics which will help show how Provinces and Districts are doing in terms of membership and help them to direct their efforts where they are needed.

Leadership – Michael Ward – aims to equip office-holders for their roles. Workshop sessions for Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents; workshops for Deputy Provincial Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents; next week the first training session for secretaries. We now have a UGLE training officer, Andrew Kincaid, to devise and roll-out training courses for all different roles. This not about imposing uniformity – you will do it this way – but helping people to see what's involved and how to do the job well.

Jeff Gillyon's Masonic Halls Group have published the Masonic Halls Centres of Excellence Guide, now available, best electronically, and those responsible for the management of masonic halls are strongly encouraged to use it: you will find it very useful. It is now in the charge of VW Bro John Pagella, Grand Superintendent of Works, who has formed a Steering Group to manage the Guidance Manual and keep it up to date. There will be an annual meeting for all Provincial Grand Superintendents of Works.

The five Provinces in Regional Communications Group 1 – that's the North of England – on the initiative of W Bro Gordon Brewis, PAGDC, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works for Durham, have recognised the need for professionally qualified Provincial Grand Superintendents of Works and arranged for them to meet so that the adoption of best practice can be recommended uniformly across all those Provinces.

The Guidance Manual is not a book to be read from cover to cover: it is a reference tool, to be consulted as circumstances lead. It is guidance, support and advice: a guide to best practice. It can't give definitive advice on, for example, legal issues, because so much depends on individual circumstances.

We want our halls and centres to be at the centre of the local community. Maybe we should refer to them as Masonic Community Centres.

Our Membership Group, headed by Peter Taylor, has circulated for comment the Membership Pathway, the product of several years of devoted effort, and parts well piloted in ten Provinces and one-hundred and ten lodges. Its purpose is to help lodges attract and retain the right members in the right place: to show what we need to do to attract the members we want to join us, stay and enjoy the full Masonic journey.

Again, it is not a book, you do not read it cover to cover, you look at the parts you want as and when you need to.

The Pathway will be launched at the Provincial and District Rulers' Forum – PDRF – on 18 October and then rolled out. So no-one should worry that they will be presented with it and then left on their own. Roll-out will be organised for you: to Regions and Provinces from January to March next year, and then to lodges... and there will be a folding leaflet on the front of *Freemasonry Today* in December.

There is much demand from Masons to know more about Masonry, its origin, history and meaning. Stuart Hadler's Education Group is creating an online store of Masonic learning materials, readily accessible in a Virtual Learning Environment. It will be tested later this year, introduced to a number of pilot Provinces in the new year, and full roll-out will be in later in 2018. What the group want is more materials to include, so contributions welcome, please.

In parallel to all this continues the excellent progress of the Universities Scheme, of which I am honoured to be the President. Existing and new lodges, and chapters, here and in Districts, recruit among students at universities and equivalent across the country and outside the UK, and do so very successfully. There are still a number of universities in this country not represented in the scheme, and we are addressing that.

I would like to thank all who are involved in the scheme, all volunteers, for all they do, and in particular the Chairmen: the founding Chairman, RW Bro Oliver Lodge, PJGW, now moonlighting as the Grand Director of Ceremonies; W Bro Edward Lord, PJGD, current Chairman who retires after eight distinguished years at the Scheme conference in this building on 4 November; and Chairman-Designate W Bro Mark Greenburgh, PAGReg, who takes over on that date, and I would ask them to stand and be recognised too. (*Applause*)

Many Provinces and Districts have New and Young Masons' Clubs, with a wide variety of imaginative names, and those Provinces and Districts that don't will. These clubs are an excellent way of those newer to Masonry getting to know more other newbies, and building essential camaraderie. The clubs are holding their conference on 14 October in Birmingham under Gareth Jones' leadership.

All this, the IDG and others, is about creating our future, which is in our hands and which we are doing. The figures already show that it is working: in many areas there is a discernible shift in the trend of the numbers, rate of loss of members declining and membership going up in some Provinces and there will be more of that.

I have illustrated this talk with scenes from the everyday life of an Assistant Grand Master. Here's the last one. In his sermon at the Durham Tercentenary Service

last Thursday – I'm into clergy this morning, Brethren – the Dean of Durham, also not a Mason, said he saw masonry as a confident, open and engaged fraternity with strong foundational values. Perfect, Brethren.

We can do this, Brethren, we can do this.

Thank you, very much.

(Applause)

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I hope you will agree that was a particularly positive and illuminating talk on the IDG. Thank you, Assistant Grand Master and thank you all members of that committee for all the work you do.

Progress has been made in virtually all the strategic objectives and as the Assistant Grand Master implied the most important aspect of all, of reversing the decline in membership just seems to be starting and certainly some Provinces and Metropolitan Grand Lodge have gone the other way and are actually showing increases. Let's get that completely across the board in the next year or two Brethren. So thank you David again.

Brethren, before I go on to the main welcome I would like to introduce to you the new Chief Executive and to be Grand Secretary, David Staples who – to use the Assistant Grand Master's word – is moonlighting as a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies currently, there he is.

(Applause)

He's the one who will bullying you from now on.

ANNOUNCEMENT

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I have to announce that the MW The Grand Master has made the following appointment:

W Bro Alan Lennox Ellicott Simmonds, as District Grand Master for Namibia, in succession to RW Bro Dr Michael Roberts, who will retire on 10 November. Bro Simmonds will be installed the next day.

WELCOME

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, I would like on your behalf to welcome some distinguished Brethren from overseas who are with us today.

From the Grand Lodge of Austria, we have, the Grand Master, MW Bro Georg Semler; he is accompanied by RW Bro Hans Hauf, Immediate Past Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations;

from the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland, our Representative at that Grand Lodge, W Bro Colin Mills;

from The Norwegian Order of Freemasons – Grand Lodge of Norway, the Grand Master, MW Bro Tore Evensen; he is accompanied by the Grand Secretary for Foreign Relations, RW Bro Fredrik Hilding; and

from France – but here in his capacity as a Past Junior Grand Warden of this Grand Lodge – RW Bro Jean-Claude Tardivat.

From our own Constitution, we have, from Hong Kong and the Far East, the District Grand Master, RW Bro Vivian Lee; he is accompanied by RW Bro David Fok, Past District Grand Master, and four other Brethren;

from Nigeria, W Bro the Hon Justice Peter N.C. Umeadi, PAGReg;

from Eastern Archipelago, W Bro David M. Thomas, PAGDC, Past Assistant District Grand Master;

from North Island, New Zealand, W Bro Allan J.M. Macdonald, PAGDC, Past District Grand Charity Steward;

from Trinidad and Tobago, W Bro Stephen B. Cobham, Past District Senior Grand Warden; and

from Barbados and the Eastern Caribbean, W Bro J.W. David L.G. Clarke, CVO, Past District Grand Superintendent of Works.

I have had no notice of any other distinguished visitors from overseas. However, I extend on your behalf a very warm welcome to all Brethren who have travelled a long distance to be with us today.

PRO GRAND MASTER'S ADDRESS

MW PRO GRAND MASTER: Brethren, we have all returned from the summer break which I hope you have been able to enjoy. The Tercentenary celebrations have continued unabated and it has been an extremely busy period since our last meeting.

In June, the Grand Master unveiled a plaque on the outside of this building, erected by the Time Immemorial Lodges, and he was then declared their Worshipful Master at a splendid ceremony in the Mansion House. This was particularly appropriate as, one hundred years before, his great uncle and godfather, the Duke of Connaught, had received a similar honour.

The other Rulers and Past Rulers have covered cathedral services commemorating our Tercentenary from St David's in West Wales to Norwich in the East, from Salisbury and Exeter in the South to Durham in the North and many in between. You have arranged dinners, a race meeting, car rallies, choral events, concerts, family fun days and digging for fossils – all splendidly organised. Thank you all very much.

I was privileged to visit our Districts in the Eastern Archipelago and Sri Lanka and witness at first hand the charitable work that they have been involved with. In Kuala Lumpur I visited the site of, what I believe will be a splendid new home for the elderly and in Sri Lanka the District have raised funding to bring drinking water to an outlying village and three schools in their area. Together with the Masonic Charitable Foundation they are also supporting the relief efforts following the flooding caused by the unprecedented May monsoon.

These visits, however, felt like short trips compared to our Assistant Grand Master who I feared was in danger of meeting himself coming back as he flew to Buenos Aires on 4 August for a meeting of our District of South America, Southern Division, and then on to Chile for talks with their Grand Master before flying back to Heathrow on 8 August for onward travel to our District of Madras. He tells me it was a training run for his November visit to our Districts of New Zealand, North and South Islands, and including our Inspectorate in Fiji and Vanuatu, and then coming back for a dinner in Blackpool. (*Laughter*) This makes it sound as though the Deputy Grand Master has been sitting at home doing very little. (*Laughter*) This is far from the truth and he made many District visits in the early part of the year which you have already heard about, and he has added untold miles to his car travelling around this country.

I, Brethren, am greatly looking forward to visiting our District of Ghana later this month followed by Cyprus next month, and then the Inspectorate in Portugal in November. It really is very humbling to witness your splendid efforts in support of Freemasonry. I have mentioned the Districts specifically, but there has also been extraordinary work carried out in all the Provinces. Well done everyone.

Brethren, in June I mentioned the phenomenal response you made to the Manchester bombing and the Grenfell Tower fire. I can confirm that East Lancashire gave the Red Cross in Manchester over £226,000 for the victims and that the Metropolitan Grand Lodge gave £100,000 to the Grenfell Tower Appeal – thank you for your generosity. Well done too, to North Wales, whose Festival with the RMTGB raised £3.1 million at £899 – lets call that £900 – per member. An exceptional result. (*Applause*) Brethren, as you would expect, our thoughts are very much with our Brethren in the Caribbean at the moment and we are in touch with them.

Thank you, also, for all your efforts with the MCF Tercentenary grants and public vote. The public vote closed on 31 July and I can report that over 150,000 votes were cast across UGLE for the 300 charities to be awarded grants and most of these votes – over 80% – were from the general public. I know that the MCF has scrutinized these votes and has announced its award recipients. Congratulations to all involved.

This project would not have been as successful without the exhaustive use of all social media outlets, but I must here issue a caution on its use. Last year we issued a very comprehensive instruction on the use, values and dangers of social media. One of the key points made was that you should ensure that anyone who you post on these sites should have agreed to being shown. We recently had an unfortunate incident when this did not happen. Brethren, this is an invasion of privacy and it could have resulted in the person losing his job or any other position. Yes, we need to be open and we want to promote our activities, but we must protect our members' wishes. A little common sense goes a long way.

Our main event in the next two months is at the Royal Albert Hall where we shall be welcoming over one-hundred and forty Sovereign Grand Masters from overseas and which, I am advised, will be “edutainment” – and it is in Chambers Dictionary – you will leave, having been educated and entertained and feeling proud to be a Freemason and proud of what Freemasons have achieved in the last three-hundred years.

Shortly after that, on 8 November, we shall be celebrating 50 years of our Grand Master also being our First Grand Principal when he will preside at the meeting and invest those awarded Grand Rank in celebration of his achievement.

Brethren, there is still a lot to this year left. Let's give it a final push to ensure that it is a year to remember which I have no doubt it will be, we will remember it with pride, and a year to use as a springboard for the future.

Thank you, Brethren.

(*Applause*)

At the close of the proceedings, the first verse of the National Anthem was sung.
 The Grand Lodge was closed in ample form and with solemn prayer.
 The meeting closed at 12.54 p.m.

RECORDED ATTENDANCE AT THE GRAND LODGE

Grand Officers (including Present Grand Stewards)	556
Masters, Wardens and Past Masters	424
Master Masons not qualified as Wardens	114
Visitors	5
Total	<u>1099</u>

*APPENDIX 1***EXPULSIONS FROM THE CRAFT**

The following list shows Brethren expelled from the Craft with the Lodges (Chapters) of which once a member.

Name	Lodges (Chapters)
30 May 2017	
Anthony Blenkinsop	L4698, L7280 (C6563)
Tony John Gaul	L4969
Graham Hayward	L1708
Trevor Hyatt	L8339
Jeremiah Nanquil	L8631*
Jeremy David Palmer	L6396, L6992
Duncan Charles Haslar Young	L7672
Jeffrey Barry Zimmel	L4333, L7894 (C6144)
14 June 2017	
Raymond Owen Baguley	L1256

**Amended from 13 September Paper of Business.*

APPENDIX 2

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE LIBRARY AND MUSEUM CHARITABLE TRUST FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 JANUARY 2017

For a copy of the full Annual Report and Accounts please write to the Director.

THE YEAR REVIEWED

On 29th September 2016 the new gallery exhibiting Three Centuries of English Freemasonry was opened by The Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent. The adjacent lodge room was named the Kent Room. This new 200 sq m exhibition gallery explains Freemasonry's values of sociability, inclusivity, charity and integrity and its history and development. The exhibition used objects, books and documents from the Library and Museum collections, many of which had not been on display before. The exhibition includes audio visual material and visitors also have access to an audioguide in various languages and a guide book. The exhibition has been a very successful addition to the Library and Museum and has made a significant contribution to increasing visitor numbers.

Temporary exhibitions continue to be important to highlight aspects of the collections. *Spotlight: Freemasons and Entertainment* (June 2015 - February 2016) drew on material from over twenty Lodges associated with theatre, music and entertainment from the 1700s to the 2000s. *Healing through Kindness* (March 2016 - April 2017) marked the centenary of the formation of the Royal Masonic Hospital and drew on documents and objects newly catalogued by Library and Museum staff to tell the story of the Hospital until its closure in the 1990s. As the Hospital building remains an architectural landmark of West London, the exhibition attracted a great deal of interest. Nurses and other staff who trained or had worked at the Hospital formed a particularly active group of visitors. Staff took the opportunity to capture these memories of the Hospital to supplement documentary resources. *Brethren Beyond the Seas* which opened in April 2017 celebrates the development of Freemasonry throughout the British Empire.

The opening of the new exhibition gallery has also facilitated a redisplay of the permanent collections within the museum area. Both overhead lighting and lighting within individual display cases has been enhanced to support this.

The Library and Museum's collaboration with Ancestry UK, which has published online the membership records for more than 1.7 million names of past Freemasons, has widened access to membership records up to 1920s. Over 0.5 million views of the information available on Ancestry were recorded during 2016. The Library and Museum organised free study days for family historians to improve familiarity with

the Masonic records on line and encourage use of other archive and library resources to supplement that information.

Donations of regalia, books and artefacts have continued to enable the Library and Museum to expand its collections and the Council is grateful for the generosity of all donors. Of particular note during the year was the acquisition of two pieces of Herculaneumware ceramics commissioned for a lodge in Liverpool in 1813, a purchase supported by the Gough Charitable Settlement, and the purchase at auction of a rare reverse glass painting of the Prince of Wales (later George IV) as Grand Master. The London Grand Rank Heritage and Education Trust supported the acquisition of a number of books from the collection of the Charlesworth Masonic Library.

The Library and Museum continues to respond positively to loan requests. During the year material was sent on loan to the Royal Borough of Windsor Museum and the Warrington. Masonic Museum. Discussions were initiated for several loans to support Tercentenary celebrations across the country and abroad in 2017.

Members of staff spoke at Masonic Lodges around the country and at meetings of family history societies and local and specialist history groups. Three staff presented papers at a major conference on the history of Freemasonry held in Cambridge in September 2016. Staff regularly provide articles for provincial Masonic newsletters, for *Freemasonry Today* and for professional publications including the *Journal for Research into Freemasonry and Fraternalism*. A major publication, *Treasures of English Freemasonry*, was published in March 2017. Library and Museum staff organised the photography of over one hundred objects and books for this and supported the editorial content.

FINANCIAL REVIEW

As at 31 January 2017 the consolidated net assets of the Library and Museum Charitable Trust were £1,919,243 (2016:£1,731,458) and total reserves amounted to £1,896,246 (2016: £1,708,461) including free reserves of £669,735 (2016: £531,007). All the profits from the Library and Museum's trading subsidiary, Letchworth's (Freemasons' Hall, London) Limited ("Letchworths") are gift aided to the Library and Museum. In 2016/17 this represented a contribution of £59,669 (2016: £70,757).

The activities of the Library and Museum are funded by donations and fees charged for genealogical research. The Friends of the Library and Museum enables individuals (whether Freemasons or not), Lodges and Chapters to support the Library and Museum by way of an annual subscription. Friends receive regular Newsletters. The Friends scheme is open to all those interested in developing their understanding

of the varied collections of the Library and Museum and who wish to contribute to their development and care.

2017

Loans have already been made to exhibitions in Reading, Hull, Nottingham, Vienna, Kendal and Chatsworth House in Derbyshire. Library and Museum staff have supported a range of open days at London Masonic centres. *Rough to Smooth*, an exhibition by the Tercentenary artist in residence Jacques Viljoen and eight other artists, was held at Freemasons' Hall from 24th June to 1st July.

APPENDIX 3**REPORT TO THE UNITED GRAND LODGE OF ENGLAND FROM THE TRUSTEES OF THE FREEMASONS' FUND FOR SURGICAL RESEARCH FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 2016**

The sole object of the Fund is to apply monies to further research in the science of surgery in conjunction with the Royal College of Surgeons of England ("the College"). The Fund was created in 1967 as a charitable foundation with money raised by contributions from Freemasons of the English Constitution to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the first meeting of Grand Lodge. The governing instrument is a Declaration of Trust dated 8 May 1967 and in addition the Trustees have regard to guidance in respect to public benefit given by the Charity Commission in accordance with the Charities Act 2011.

STRUCTURE AND GOVERNANCE

The Patron of the Fund is MW Bro HRH Duke of Kent, KG, Grand Master, in whom is vested the power to appoint new Trustees. The Trustees of the Fund in 2016 were RW Bro Anthony West, DL, PJGW (Chairman); RW Bro Anthony Wilson, DL, PSGW, PresBGP; RW Bro the Rt. Hon Lord Ribeiro, Kt, CBE, FRCS, PJGW; W Bro Robert Mackay, PAGDC; W Bro Julian Soper, PAGDC; W Bro Jolyon Berry, PAGReg and W Bro Antony Narula, FRCS, PProvGStB (Nottinghamshire). The Secretary to the Trustees is W Bro Michael Messent, PAGReg.

The Trustees met twice in 2016 and reviewed investment performance, considered grant requests and undertook a review of the documented policy on the major risks to which the charity is exposed and a review of the documented investment policy.

The independent examiners are Dixon Wilson of 22 Chancery Lane, London, WC2. They have drawn up accounts for 2016 which were approved by the Trustees in May 2017.

The investment advisors to the Trustees are Cazenove Capital Management (a trading name of Schroder & Co Ltd.), 12 Moorgate, London, EC2.

GRANTS

In each year the Trustees assess the amount of the grant which it is judged may properly be made from the fund to the College, the decision being made on advice from Cazenoves and having regard to the Trustees' investment policy, which is to maintain the value of the Trust's capital whilst generating a stable and sustainable return to fund grant making in the long term.

In 2016 the Trustees resolved to grant the College the sum of £220,000 (in 2015 £220,000). This payment brought the total amount granted to the College, since the

inception of the Fund, to the sum of £4,905,308. The grant made in autumn 2016 enabled the College to meet the funding costs associated with four surgeons, one of whom was attributed to The Royal Arch and three to Grand Lodge in accordance with an agreed protocol.

In each autumn it is the practice of the Trustees to meet with senior members of the College and to receive personal oral presentations from current Research Fellows, and at that same meeting to select from a short list of applicants the appropriate recipients for grants in the ensuing year.

RECENT DEVELOPMENTS

After its establishment, the Fund did not receive any additional funding, but by virtue of prudent investment and making grants of an amount in keeping with available income, the capital value of the Fund grew to a figure of £3.7m as at 31 December 2013. The Trustees were delighted when the Supreme Grand Chapter resolved to launch an appeal for the work of the College in recognition of the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the Royal Arch. The generosity of the Royal Arch Masons, and Freemasons generally, resulted in the sum of £2,424,900 being raised, greatly exceeding expectations. It was decided that the funds raised by the appeal should be invested and administered together with the Grand Lodge 250th Fund and so in April 2014 this money was transferred to the Fund. In order to reflect these important changes, it was decided that the name of the Fund be changed to '**The Freemasons' Fund for Surgical Research**' with effect from the 1st January 2015 and that in future fellowships will be attributed to the Craft and the Royal Arch in proportion to the contribution made to the Fund at that time, so that there will be two Royal Arch Fellows in every five fellowships supported.

FREEMASONS RESEARCH FELLOWS REPORTS

A summary of the work undertaken by the Fund's Research Fellows who were appointed in the autumn of 2015 and who completed their work in the autumn of 2016 is set out below.

Ms Vanessa Brown, Royal Surrey County Hospital

Improving postoperative recovery in bowel cancer

Bowel cancer is the second most common cause of cancer deaths in the UK, with over 40,000 new diagnoses a year. Bowel cancer is a disease of the elderly, in 2012-2014, 44% of bowel cancers were diagnosed in people age 75 and over in the UK, with approximately 16,000 people dying annually from the disease.

Surgery is the most effective way of curing bowel cancer, but major surgery generates a stress response which places extra demands on the body and increases

the amount of oxygen required by the body to function after an operation. Patients who are unable to meet the increased oxygen requirements after an operation tend to suffer complications.

Supplementing diet with nitrate rich beetroot juice has been shown to reduce the amount of oxygen required to perform a set amount of exercise. It also enhances exercise tolerance and performance in professional athletes. The way this occurs is unclear but studies have shown that nitrates improve the efficiency of oxygen use at a cellular level and helps divert blood flow to areas of the body that need more oxygen.

Cardiopulmonary exercise testing (CPX) is an established, non-invasive and safe method of assessing patients' fitness prior to surgery. Patients exercise on a bike until exhaustion with their heart and lungs monitored continuously. The results gained from CPX testing can predict complications and length of stay in patients undergoing surgery.

One of the numbers calculated during CPX is the anaerobic threshold (AT). This is the point at which energy production without oxygen begins once oxygen levels can no longer meet demand. The AT can predict short and long-term outcomes after surgery and postoperative complications. Patients with colorectal cancer have a lower AT, which increases after cancer removal. I have undertaken the first study in patients undergoing surgery to see if outcomes can be improved by determining if nitrate loading with beetroot juice improves the AT in patients with colorectal cancer and decreases the rate of post-operative complications.

In a double blind randomised controlled trial, we have shown that we can improve patients' fitness before surgery with just 7 days of nitrate supplementation with beetroot juice. Physical fitness improved without an increase in actual physical activity by over 7%. There was also a tendency towards a lower rate of complications. There was no significant change for the patients receiving the placebo. Major surgery for colorectal cancer can be exhausting and some patients may take months to recover. Beetroot juice could easily be added to the pre-operative regime to increase patient fitness before surgery, which will hopefully improve and shorten their recovery time.

Mr Mohammed Chowdhury, Cambridge Hospital Trust

Predicting blood vessel disease

Peripheral arterial disease (PAD) affects 5% of males over the age of 65 years. This serious condition occurs when arteries become narrowed or blocked with fatty substances called plaques, and blood flow to vital parts of the body is restricted, including the heart, the brain and the legs. These patients can present with cramping, night pain or tissue loss.

The primary treatment strategy in PAD is increasingly moving towards a less invasive first approach of removing the narrowing or blocking of the artery. The weakness of the technique is restenosis (where the blockage or narrowing of the artery reoccurs), resulting in repeat illness and/or surgical procedures. In addition, the result of treatment is variable. These patients face the risk of disease progression, which can ultimately lead to limb loss and increased rates of death.

CT imaging is able to measure inflammation and calcium build-up within the arteries of the leg and this technique will allow us to identify those requiring aggressive treatment to reduce such inflammation/calcification, and provide a platform for testing effectiveness of new drugs.

My project has investigated why arteries become narrowed and why they re-narrow after treatment. By illuminating the underlying biology of PAD, I believe using imaging will provide better prediction of restenosis risk and help track the effectiveness of drug therapy and surgery, and ultimately guide effective treatment.

Since receiving funding from the Freemasons and undertaking my work my team has now received 3 years funding from the British Heart Foundation in order to continue and develop the project.

Mr Peter Szatmary, Liverpool Hospital

Management of acute pancreatitis

Acute pancreatitis (AP) is a common inflammatory condition of the pancreas affecting between 10 and 30 people per 100,000. All patients experience significant pain, but while most recover spontaneously, around 1 in 20 develop severe disease. In these cases, there is a chance of death, or the prospect of multiple surgical procedures, months of hospitalization and a future of chronic pain, malnutrition and diabetes severely limiting their quality of life. Current assessment strategies are highly effective in predicting severe disease from 48 hours after admission, but much less so early on in the presentation.

Neutrophils are first responder cells in the body's immune system. They are recruited in large numbers within minutes to hours into the pancreas during an episode of pancreatitis, where they have been shown to make the disease worse. Newly identified functions of neutrophils that protect from infection and injury in other diseases appear to contribute to injury to the pancreas. Modulation of these functions could lead to the development of new therapies.

A property of neutrophils identified in other diseases (the ability to release fishing net-like structures called neutrophil extracellular traps or NETs) may at least in part be responsible for causing organ damage. My project aimed to test this hypothesis

and investigate whether inhibiting NET formation and/or promoting their breakdown can help treat acute pancreatitis.

By measuring inflammation pathway-specific markers in patient's blood, this project was able to demonstrate similar effectiveness to current strategies but 24 hours earlier, widening the window for potential therapy. It further demonstrated that modifying these pathways is effective in reducing severity of the disease in experimental models, paving the way for future clinical trials.

Work carried out in this project has identified a novel biological identifier (biomarker) for disease progression, which improves our ability to identify patients as having severe disease earlier and more effectively than our current best marker. This means patients can receive therapy that is more intensive sooner, thus leading to a greater probability of success.

This project has confirmed NETs as an important process in AP and identified currently available substances as effective therapies in experimental disease models – an essential first step prior to future clinical trials. Unexpectedly, this project has also revealed links to pancreatic cancer progression and has resulted in a spin-off project to investigate this link, which has attracted separate research funding.

Mr Tom Wiggins, Imperial College, London

Earlier diagnosis of oesophageal cancer

Cancer of the gullet (oesophagus) and stomach (together termed gastro-oesophageal cancer) affect over 21,000 patients per year in England and Wales, with the UK having the highest incidence of this cancer worldwide. Oesophageal and gastric cancer have overall five-year survival rates of only 15% and 19% respectively in the UK. This compares unfavourably with 5-year survival for breast cancer (87%), bowel cancer (59%), bladder cancer (54%) and ovarian cancer (46%). At the time of clinical presentation, the majority of gastro-oesophageal cancer cases have advanced disease and only a minority can be treated with curative intent. Late diagnosis is in part due to the non-specific symptoms associated with this condition.

The diagnosis of oesophageal cancer can be challenging in primary care with around 25% of oesophageal cancer patients visiting their primary care physician three or more times prior to referral for further investigation. The development of non-invasive biomarkers aims to identify patients at early stages of the condition prior to disease spread. Previous studies have established phenol as a potential biomarker in exhaled breath or urine. However, the biological mechanism responsible for these changes remains unknown.

The use of breath or urine analysis as non-invasive tests for the diagnosis of gastro-oesophageal cancer will not be widely adopted unless it is possible to explain the

underlying mechanism responsible for the changes seen. Establishing the cause of increased phenol production will help to introduce these non-invasive methods for classification of cancer risk into clinical practice. This would allow services to be directed towards those at greatest risk.

This project has identified a link between dysfunctional amino acid breakdown and phenol production within the stomach. It has also identified that phenol is transported within the blood prior to excretion by the kidneys or lungs, where it can be measured non-invasively within exhaled breath or urine.

Further work will include a detailed examination of how the bacteria present within the stomach affect phenol production, and to examine the unique chemical fingerprints that specific cellular processes leave behind within exhaled breath. It will also be necessary to establish how the phenol is altered in conditions which are considered precursors of cancerous change, and establish how this profile might be altered by other treatments such as chemotherapy.

LIST OF NEW LODGES FOR WHICH WARRANTS HAVE BEEN GRANTED BY
THE MW THE GRAND MASTER SHOWING THE DATES FROM WHICH
THEIR WARRANTS BECAME EFFECTIVE

DATE OF WARRANT/ NO. AND NAME OF LODGE	LOCATION	AREA
<i>14 June 2017</i>		
9948 Bahamas and Turks Tercentenary Lodge	Nassau	Bahamas and Turks
9949 Yuma Lodge	Long Island	Bahamas and Turks
9950 Derbyshire Motorcycle Lodge	Ilkeston	Derbyshire

