

THE NEWARK PASSWORD

Spring 2025



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Company Limited

NEWARK ON TRENT

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Front cover: Blossoms of spring - from the editor's album

Sunday Lunch at Newark Masonic Hall

It's too good to miss!

A friendly gathering of Masons, family and friends

Everyone welcome - Three courses plus Tea/Coffee only £13



Next Lunch

7th March, 6th April, 5th October
2nd November and 7th December
12 noon for 12.30pm

*For bookings, please contact
Pearl Holmes*

Telephone: 01636 682939

We are looking for more volunteers to join the group in organising Sunday lunches, Please contact Pearl Holmes if you can help

Over 20 years
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Weight loss, motivational talk and chair-based exercise suitable for all (women and men), and in one place.

I currently hold meetings at the places shown below and would love you to join me.

Monday 09.30am Manthorpe Church Hall, Manthorpe

Monday 11.45am The Pavilion, Long Bennington

**NEW Monday 6pm Newark Masonic Hall, The Avenue,
London Rd, Newark.**

Wednesday 6pm Millgate Community Centre

Thursday 9am Pelham Street, Newark



**CONTACT TRACY FERGUSON
07871 950256 (m)**



The chairman writes . . .

Brethren

It has been a long and wet winter and some warmer and drier weather is welcomed.

Having said that, the Hall can be a little too hot in the summer for those units who meet into June and September. Therefore, the board have authorised the installation of air conditioning in the Temple, bar and dining room, which can become heaters during the winter without the need to activate the heating system for each floor. It is anticipated that the system will have been installed by the time you receive the magazine.

The new Temple carpet has been laid and the observant of you will notice that the once overtly Craft blue carpet surround which has been present for many years has changed but there are no plans to change the bench seating and dais surround carpet to match.

The main stair carpet has not been repaired with some of the temple surround carpet and enhanced with nonslip edging under Health & Safety Regulations. The company officers name board has been updated and replaced back on the stairwell, and quotes are being obtained for blinds for the stairwell window.

The annex to the dining room will be redecorated during the closed season in the same colour as the rest of the ground floor completing the present ground floor projects.

The brethren are requested to be careful when taking down tables in the dining room and placing them in the new carrier as some damage has been caused.

Unfortunately, it is necessary to increase temple rents to keep pace with inflation and maintain the building and its service charges. Whilst the new extension on the dining room and other alterations have enhanced the building and complied with H&S regulations, it has also attracted an increase in its rateable value and business rates.

The FEST2029 is doing well but there are still a number of members who have yet to donate. It is hoped that each craft lodge attain at least 62% of its membership at the Stewards level to not only obtain an individual honorific jewel, but also a lodge honorific collarette and jewel to be worn by the WM. Please consult your lodge Festival Steward or visit PROVINCIAL FESTIVAL - Masonic Charitable Foundation to donate.

One of the cleaners, Mrs Brenda Middleton, has retired after some 31 years at the Hall. She originally started as a waitress before taking on the cleaning and in recognition and appreciation of her invaluable services to the company, she was presented with a gift, a cheque and I am sure you will all join with me in wishing her a happy retirement.

The name Middleton will however continue in the employment records of the company as her daughter Jane has taken on her mother's duties!

Chairman



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CIPHE





Comment *by the editor*

During more than a decade of my editorship of Newark Password I have continually given any Freemason the opportunity of contributing articles or airing their views, "having their say" mostly in the letters columns of the magazine. In the Spring 2023 issue W Bro Bill Ashley wrote a two page article entitled "As I See It". It proved to be somewhat controversial in certain quarters and I was in a small way reprimanded for publishing it. My view, at the time, was that we are still a country where free speech is sacrosanct and I still hold that view. So much so that when W Bro Bill Ashley asked me if he could produce another article for Password I had a long discussion with him and decided to let him, once again, "have his say". W Bro Bill has some firm views about where and how Freemasonry is heading and there is some merit in parts of what he has written but it is emphasised that this is the view of one man who is a committed Freemason exemplified by his charitable TLC work. He strongly believes we are not doing enough to preserve our Craft to continue in a form which he considers is profound enough in its form to be an influencing part of the 21st century scene.

Whether he is right or wrong is a matter of opinion but he has the right to express his thoughts through what he described to me as a "committed Freemason looking forward". Turn to page 25 and you will find there can be some food for thought in what he has written. It is published in this issue for you to make up your mind on whether he is talking common sense or whether he is heading along a wrong track. Your comments for the Autumn issue will be welcomed.

For my own part I have now been a Freemason for half a century and I would not welcome any change that would detrimentally change what we do and how we do it in the Lodge but there is perhaps room for a tweak in how we appeal to the public. Perhaps aim our membership drive at the middle aged rather than young men starting their careers who in this day and age have little time for joining any philanthropic organisation be it Freemasonry, Rotary, Round Table, Lions, Prouse or whatever else is on offer.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "D. King".



Jigsaw puzzles are a beloved pastime that has captured the hearts of millions of people around the world. But have you ever wondered how this popular game came to be?

It all started with their invention in the mid-18th century by John Spilsbury. John was a London cartographer and in 1767 he created the first jigsaw puzzle as an educational tool. He took a map and glued it onto a piece of wood, then cut it into small pieces along the borders of the countries. The idea was to teach geography to children by having them re-assemble the pieces of the map. Spilsbury's invention was a hit, and soon other educational puzzles followed.

These early puzzles were made from wood, and the pieces were cut by hand with a fretsaw. They were expensive to produce, and only the wealthy could afford to buy them.

However, by the early 20th century, advances in technology allowed jigsaw puzzles to be produced more cheaply and in greater

quantities. Cardboard replaced wood as the primary material, and machines replaced hand tools for cutting the pieces.

During the inter-war years, and particularly the Great Depression in the USA, jigsaw puzzles became even more popular as a cheap and entertaining form of indoor entertainment. Soon Jigsaws were being produced featuring popular characters, celebrities, scenic landscapes and favourite pets.

Today, jigsaw puzzles are as popular as ever, and the market has expanded to include puzzles for all ages and skill levels. From children's puzzles with just a few large pieces to adult puzzles with thousands of pieces, there is a puzzle for everyone.

They have seen a huge surge in popularity during the COVID-19 pandemic, as people were looking for indoor activities to pass the time. Jigsaw puzzles have come a long way since their invention by John Spilsbury in 1767. From expensive wooden educational tools to

affordable cardboard entertainment for all ages, jigsaw puzzles have become a beloved pastime around the world.

And this was certainly the case with the Ways and Means Jigsaw Fest event held on Saturday the 25th January 2025 at the Masonic Hall.

Numerous pre-loved jigsaws were donated and resold at the bargain price of £2 for a 500 piece and £3 for a 1000 piece jigsaw.

It was a walk down memory lane for many masons and their families, and the ways and Means betterment fund benefitted to the tune of £220.

And whilst Judy Spilsbury (no relation) was busy manning the jigsaw stall, our ever-helpful Ladies put on tea, coffee and cake to allow people to linger whilst they shared their various memories.

And so a great day was had by all, stories told of youthful times past, of overcoming the challenges of Covid and of looking forward to much more puzzling to come.



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The class is low impact and so does not contain jumping or jogging sequences which
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Monday 2pm – 3.15 pm Masonic Hall, The Avenue, Newark, NG24 1ST

I am a qualified fitness, exercise and dance teacher with many years' experience
within the industry if you have any queries just ring me on 01636-812121

fdickins141@gmail.com

Come and join us – you will be made welcome and your first class is FREE



SHRINERS CAME TO NEWARK

Saturday 23rd November was a special day in the history of Newark Masonic Hall as it found itself the venue for a meeting of The Shriners.

The American Order, comprised of regular Master Masons, whose UK branch is based in Dartford, made the trip up the A1 to initiate two candidates, one of whom had travelled in from south Wales, the other being our very own Oliver Rainbow. Uniquely, family and friends are permitted to sit in the Temple and watch the ceremony (except for the secrets) enabling 30 people to enjoy the spectacle and share in the fun.

Fun and fellowship

A little about the Fraternity; Shriners International is the story of individuals who came together in the spirit of fun and fellowship, and who would lay the foundation for a worldwide fraternity and establish a globally recognized paediatric specialty health

care system.

In 1870, a group of 13 Masons would regularly meet in New York City. Discussion would often turn to forming a new fraternity for Masons, based on the tenets of Freemasonry but with the added elements of fun and fellowship.

Walter Fleming, M.D., and Billy Florence, an actor, were among the members of the group. Florence had been on tour in Europe and attended a party given by an Arabian diplomat. The exotic style, flavours and music of the Arabian-themed party led Florence to suggest this as the theme of the new fraternity, while Dr. Fleming and other members of the group then drafted the ritual, designed the emblem and costumes, formulated a salutation and declared that members would wear the red fez. The name of this new fraternity was the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of

the Mystic Shrine.

While the fraternity's first official meeting was in 1871, a meeting in 1872 established the first chapter, Mecca Shriners, on September 26th of that year. Today, there are more than 195 chapters in countries around the world.

Hospitals established

As in all Masonic Orders, charity is at its heart and in 1922 the Ancient Arabic Order of the Nobles of the Mystic Shrine, established Shriners Hospitals for Children, now commonly known as Shriners Children's as its official philanthropy which it continues to support today. It is now one of the largest paediatric sub-specialty healthcare systems in the world, with locations in the United States, Canada and Mexico. In addition, the healthcare system holds hundreds of outreach clinics annually, with medical staff members routinely travelling to places around the world to provide



Shriners picture left to right: Noble Oliver Rainbow, President (WM) Peter Preidel, Noble Josephino Con-Ui, and Nobles David Barden and Jasdev Rehncy

SHRINERS CAME TO NEWARK



Water Buffaloes left to right: Buffaloes Nigel Parry, Oliver Rainbow, Adrian Crampton, Peter Preidel, Grand Poo-Baa Steven Turner, Jan Clements (a lady Mason), Jeremy Prosser, Josephino Con-Ui

paediatric medical care and offer educational programmes for medical professionals. A separate "Transportation Fund" transports a Child, plus a Parent or Carer from anywhere in the World to one of the 22 Shrine Hospitals.

Water Buffaloes

Following the Shriners ceremony, six candidates were initiated into the U.K. Quarry of the Loyal Order of Water Buffaloes by its Grand Poo-Baa Steven Turner. This Order, worked by Shriners Units as well as Lodges, whose membership is restricted to Nobles of The Mystic Shrine was first devised in 2016 when it was conferred on 20 men and one woman at the International Shrine Clown Association held in Sioux City, Iowa, and is based upon the fictitious Fraternity depicted in the Flintstones cartoon which aired on TV throughout the 1960s. The ceremony is set in the quarry, at a bowling alley and includes a special greeting and handshake. In

the U.K. Profits raised from membership of the Order go to the Shriners' 'Sneaker Fund' which was set up to provide comfortable shoes for burn victims after Doctors at the Boston Shriners Hospital had recommended that patients with burn injuries wear sneakers because of the comfort and sturdiness they provide. Funds are also used to support research.

Order of Turtles

The Festive Board, which was the usual Newark fayre of three courses including wine for £15, was enjoyed by members, family and friends alike, during which The Ancient and Honourable Order of Turtles was conferred on all present.

Famous Turtles include the 35th President of the United States of America John F Kennedy, who when asked during an interview 'Are You A Turtle?', replied with one of the two acceptable answers which would be recognised by members.

The Order of Turtles began as a drinking club formed by WWII pilots for humorous reasons in an officers' club while stationed in England. It was not meant to be serious, it had no constitution or by-laws, and was a relief from the horrors and dangers the airmen saw every day on their missions. It spread after the War to include members from the Masonic fraternity and other organisations.

To gain admission, one must correctly answer usually three or four questions from a list, each of which suggests a vulgar, lewd, or salacious answer, but the correct answer is innocuous. If the member is unable or unwilling (due to its vulgarity) to provide the correct answer, they owe to each other turtle present a drink of the recipient's choice, although this is no longer enforced.

The Shriners will return to Newark again on November 22nd 2025. Book your places now and join in the fun!

Miscellany

Working Party

At the end of the Pro Grand Master's Quarterly Communication address in December he closed by saying:

"Brethren, I wish to announce there will also be a working party, to be led by Right Worshipful Brother Anthony Howlett-Bolton, Provincial Grand Master for Berkshire, dealing with a thorough revision of the Book of Constitutions so it is appropriate for the current century. This working party will commence work early next year."

"Yes if"

He continued: "Brethren, at this Quarterly Communication two years ago I emphasised the need for us all to adopt "yes, if" when dealing with issues and challenges and being willing to innovate and learn. I hope you have seen today Grand Lodge is doing just what it says we need to do. I very much hope you will all go back to your Lodges and Chapters realising "yes, if" is more than just a phrase, it is an approach we all can and should adopt. I am confident with your support and full engagement we can and will succeed".

FMT goes digital

From this year Freemasonry Today (FMT) will evolve into a fully digital publication - FMT Live.

Expect richer content, enhanced experiences, and more ways to connect and engage - all delivered straight to your inbox instead of your postbox.

As we approach the end of 2024, the Winter issue will be the final printed version of FMT, as we transition to a fully digital format in the new year.

We're committed to create a publication that spotlights the most impactful stories from both Provinces and Districts. At the

same time, in today's climate of rising costs, we need to manage our spend carefully and responsibly. Embracing a digital format is a crucial step in achieving both these goals.

From 2025, the benefits you'll enjoy are:

Digital Access Everywhere:

Access the complete FMT instantly on any device - phone, tablet, or desk. Simply click to explore a wealth of masonic content at your convenience.

Enhanced Digital Features:

- A curated newsletter delivering timely updates directly to your inbox
- An interactive webpage with embedded videos and dynamic content
- Searchable articles to find relevant content quickly wherever you are

Traditional Quality, Modern Delivery:

All the insightful articles and compelling stories you value, now delivered in a timelier and more accessible format. The digital platform allows for deeper engagement through multimedia content while maintaining FMT's high editorial standards.

What does this mean for you?

As long as your email address is up to date, you can look forward to receiving the new and improved FMT directly to your inbox.

Visiting overseas

At this time with the holiday season on the way brethren are reminded that they should not make any Masonic contact overseas without having first checked with Grand Lodge that there is recognised Freemasonry in the country concerned and, if so, whether there is any particular point to be watched.

Brethren should also be aware of the Masonic convention that communication between Grand Lodge is through Grand Secretaries and direct contact may only be made with permission from Grand Lodge.

It is strongly advised that the first enquiry should be through the Provincial Grand Secretary.

Miscellany

There's no harm in enjoyment

The following is taken from an address by the ME Pro First Grand Principal, at a Royal Arch Supreme Grand Chapter Regular Convocation.

"You may have seen that, after my address at Quarterly communications in June, I have been accused in the National Media of suggesting that Masons are all grumpy and boring – a misrepresentation. At least I consider it a misrepresentation, but, if any of you think otherwise, I apologise. I said that if an amusing incident occurs at one of our meetings, it should not be frowned upon as it had sometimes been in the past. It is not a capital offence to smile during meetings. Whilst I am not suggesting we should turn our meetings into a pantomime, there is no harm in us being seen to enjoy ourselves.

I believe this to be particularly so in the Royal Arch, as our Exaltation Ceremony is one of the finest and, in my experience, candidates derive great enjoyment from it. I think this is particularly so when the new format of the ritual is used which involves more of the Companions and has the benefit of changing the voice which the candidate hears which I always feel refreshes his interest"

How it all works

The United Grand Lodge of England currently has around two hundred thousand members meeting in 6,800 Lodges, which are grouped as follows:

Lodges meeting in London (an area generally within a 10-mile radius of Freemasons' Hall), are administered by the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London, which is headed by the Metropolitan Grand Master.

Lodges meeting outside London, and within England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, are grouped into 47 Provinces, whose boundaries correspond to those of the old Counties, with each headed by a Provincial Grand Master.

Lodges that meet outside England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands are grouped into 33 Districts, with each headed by a District Grand Master, five Groups (ie: currently too small to make up a District), with each headed by a Grand Inspector, and 12 Lodges abroad which are directly administered by Freemasons' Hall.

The United Grand Lodge of England publishes a Masonic Year Book annually which lists all committees and boards, details for all of its administrative groupings, and all Grand Officers and senior Provincial and District Officers.

It also publishes triennially the Directory of Lodges and Chapters, which lists all lodges and their meeting dates and places. Both publications can be purchased from Freemasons' Hall.

Good reading

Brethren are reminded that there is always a good selection of books on all subjects just to the right of the stairs in the Masonic Hall. Choose your book and put a donation in the receptacle provided.

It is also a good idea to bring along books that you have finished with - it all helps to swell the Hall Funds.

DISCLAIMER

Whilst the editor believes in allowing and encouraging free speech for any brother who may contribute to Password any such views are not necessarily the views shared by the editor or Freemasonry in general.

Brotherly love, relief and truth

Freemasonry often uses somewhat dated language throughout its rituals, thereby adding to the poetic flow of its ceremonies and addresses. However this can lead to many Masons wondering what the current meanings of certain impor-

the Craft to those in need of help, both within and without Freemasonry. Helping a Lodge/Chapter member in times of ill health and difficulty is equally as important as a donation to a well deserving charity by a Lodge,

actions best kept "in house"? (This is a possible subject for a further "Nugget".)

Surely, Truth within Masonic circles must demand complete transparency – "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" is required at all times. Being "economic with the truth" seldom stands the test of time. The truth can hurt but can be delivered in a calm, quiet and private way if it is going to possibly cause pain or concern to a fellow Brother. The truth can also be "good news" and can then be given in a whole hearted, cheerful manner and often in public.

We are instructed not to enter a Lodge if we are at variance with or entertain any animosity towards, another Brother. What a sad situation! Surely such differences should be finalised in a peaceful manner well before entering a Masonic meeting.

In conclusion, these three major Tenets are vital in demonstrating to all that we are a loyal and caring society determined to help others, both within and without our organisation.

These Tenets also show that we have beliefs and standards and that we try hard to live up to them on a daily basis.

Bro Chris Byrom
East Lancashire Centurion
Lodge No 2322 at
Manchester.

The key tenets of Freemasonry

tant words and phrases are. Tenets are principles, beliefs or doctrines generally held to be true, especially ones that are held in a common belief by members of an organised society. Thus the key Tenets of Freemasonry are our grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

With regards to Brotherly Love, who is my brother and what is love? Within Freemasonry, it must be agreed that all our members are Brothers to each other but, perhaps, all those who are not in the Craft also deserve to be so regarded. Love is surely deep affection and a concern for all our fellow Freemasons, be they in our Lodge/Chapter, Province or the United Grand Lodge of England, be that by word of encouragement or by deed.

Relief is the assistance given to all by members of

often at its annual installation meeting. Major financial assistance to both Masonic and civilian deserving causes usually emanate from Provincial and Grand Lodge charities; these often substantial amounts are a result of donations from individual Masons and thus reflect well on all our charitable efforts. That such benevolent activity is seldom reported outside Masonic circles is a matter for debate. Should the media be made aware of our many charitable efforts or are such actions best kept "in house"? (This is a possible subject for a further "Nugget".)

Surely, Truth within Masonic circles must demand complete transparency – "the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth" is required at all times. Being "economic with the truth" seldom stands the test of time. The truth can hurt but can be delivered in a calm, quiet and private way if it is going to possibly cause pain or concern to a fellow Brother. The truth can also be "good news" and can then be given in a whole hearted, cheerful manner and often in public.

Brotherly love, relief and truth



Brian Rollitt Memorial Quiz Night

The Avenue, Friday 24th October 2025 – 6.30pm for 7pm

Join us for our regular October Quiz, organised for many years by Brian Rollitt and now by Quiz Master Extraordinaire Chris Ward.

The questions will be challenging, many of us will be intellectually challenged, But.....additionally

the bar will be open, the company will be first class and the food will be filling!

**Nicholson's Steak Pie, Mash, Peas, Gravy & Mint Sauce
Seasonal Dessert**

Come along and have a go!

- Sign up by contacting Chris Ward at kryssy48@gmail.com or mobile 07904841999.
- Max 8 to a Team or come on your own! (We will create Teams based on confirmed bookings).
- Proceeds to the W&M Committee (Hall Refurbishment).
- Pre-payment required as meals will need to be pre-ordered – by 17.10.25 please!
- Payment by BACS: The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee
Sort Code: 05-06-41. Account No: 29611983. Ref: OCTQUIZ (your surname)

**Tickets
£14**



**Tickets
£14**

FACEBOOK FOR ROYAL ARCH

A Facebook group specifically for Nottinghamshire Royal Arch has been created for use by the Province to ease communications with the companions, but also for use by Companions and Chapters to share what is going on in your Royal Arch lives. This may be to advertise what is happening in your Chapters with your members but also to attract also potential visitors. You never know; you may attract joining members.

This has already been shared with your Chapter MEZ and Scribe E so that they can think about how your Chapter may decide to use this new platform, so look out for any communications and guidance from them.

While the group can be found by searching on Facebook, it is private so that only approved Royal Arch companions can become members, view content and submit posts.

Remember that all content must comply with the UGLE Social Media Guidelines, which are very clear and informative and attached for information. Key aspect from the guidelines to remember are:

⑩ The Group is for Masonic purposes. If the content is not about Masonic topics, or not involving Freemasons, it does not belong on Masonic social media channels, and as such it won't get approved for posting.

⑩ Do not share personal contact details without permission, remembering that private messaging between members will be possible. Published details should be limited to who to contact to book in to attend an event.

While the Province will use the Group to send messages and updates to the Companions, it has been created primarily for your use, and you will only gain the benefits for your Chapter and the wider Royal Arch community if there are regular posts to keep people informed of your activities. Between the Chapters we are hoping for daily posts to keep the group relevant and interesting.

As this is a private group, and there are social media guidelines to be complied with, it will be administered by the RA Provincial office team who will:

⑩ Review requests for membership to ensure they are from genuine Royal Arch members of the Province

⑩ Review and, if approved, release posts, hopefully within 24 hours depending on other Masonic commitments. (If you have an urgent message to cascade please contact us)

There is currently only limited content on this new Facebook Group, so if you want to request access to use this great new tool and add content please go to the site using this link. Notts Royal Arch Masons (Don't worry - we will be updating the Group profile picture to make it more attractive!)



Provincial promotions

In previous years Provincial Rank and Promotions have appeared in the Spring edition of Password. This has meant that Password has not gone to the printers until April and the printed copies not available until many lodges and side degrees have adjourned for the summer recess. In future a record of achievement to Provincial Grand Rank and promotions will appear in the Autumn issue.

CHARITY IN FOCUS

Newark Masonic Hall Charity Committee

Teddies for Loving Care charity would like to hear from anyone in one of the Newark Lodges or side



orders who would like to join them as the Newark Liaison Officer. Anyone interested should contact the Secretary W/Bro John Pawlik. The work would entail keeping contact with Newark Hospital and keeping them supplied with Teddy Bears for the A&E department. A hospital visit can be a frightening experience for a young child, especially in an emergency situation. Teddies for Loving Care (TLC) is a way of providing much-needed comfort to children in A&E departments, helping to reduce the shock and distress of their experience.

Every child that receives a teddy gets to take it home. Since its inception in 2001, 3.5 million teddies have been distributed to hospitals throughout England and Wales. TLC would welcome charitable contributions.

In October 2021 the United Grand Lodge of England signed the Armed Forces Covenant.

It was signed at Freemasons Hall lead by His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent and co signed by the Army Reserves Director Major General Simon Graham on behalf of the Ministry of Defence.

The Duke of Kent said "We are proud of our long standing relationship with the Armed Forces, and will continue to promote their welfare, support and respect amongst our members.

Care after Combat is a local charity situated at the top of Beacon Hill Road in Newark. Care after Combat is a Charity dealing with serviceman



and ex-service men and women who have offended and are currently imprisoned. The Charity wants to increase their office space and furnish it. An approach was made by us to MCF (a Major grant from MCF is worth £60K payable over three years) for funding this project but despite the apparent goodwill of the covenant disappointingly no funding has been forthcoming.

Last year the Charity Committee gave £500.00 to a local group in Newark working with young adults with learning difficulties. The

cheque was presented by Mrs Julie Crampton a member of the Newark Charity Stewards committee when we visited them.

At our last meeting £250.00 was given to a small group of singers known as The Voices. They are a voluntary group of singers who sing at OAP homes and other such organisations. The money will be spent on obtaining further sheet music to improve their repertoire and for people's further enjoyment.

The Committee has also given £1,000.00 to the Men in Sheds Collingham charity. Known now as Sheds Collingham as they now include Ladies.

At our next meeting we are hoping to have further discussions concerning the possibility of providing more durable seating and picnic tables at Sconce Hills Park

The committee gratefully acknowledge the financial contributions received from a number of Newark Lodges. Without such contributions we would be unable to identify and where appropriate continue to support local good causes.

Thank you.

Ken Purslow.
(Magnus Lodge 3441).
Committee chairman

Josh's Gardening Services

- Garden clearance, maintenance
- Lawns mowed and edged
- Hedges trimmed, topped and removed
- Bushes and shrubs cut and pruned
- Trees lopped, topped and felled, stumps removed. Planning applications for tree work in conservation areas
- Bramble, brush and overgrowth cleared
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Advertisement feature



◀ Two diseased trees – one with canker, the other with an invasive fungal infection – in a conservation area, in Farndon. A report was submitted to N&SDC on 27 December with an application to fell the trees, permission was granted and the trees felled 06 January



▲ Replace this... ...with this ▼



▲ A much-needed trim restored this rather runaway conifer hedge to its former glory



◀ Mrs Judith Wetton, School Lane, Farndon: Josh started tending my overgrown garden during lockdown. Since then, he's transformed it. This fence is his latest handiwork and it's really excellent. I'm so pleased with it! Everything Josh does is done very well and with great care. He's a real professional. I'm very happy to recommend Josh's Gardening Services

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WAYS & MEANS

Brethren All,

First and foremost, thank you to you as Newark Freemasons, friends and family for so enthusiastically supporting our various social events over the last twelve months or so.

Your willingness to buy a raffle ticket is never taken for granted and thanks to your support it is likely that the Ways & Means Committee will be able to donate over £7000 to the Newark Masonic Hall Co. Ltd later in the Spring, all of which goes towards improving the Newark Masonic Hall where we all spend so much of our time in fraternal fellowship!

In 2024, we held 12 Saturday Socials, 6 Sunday Lunches, 2 Come Dine With Us events to celebrate St George's Day and a Summer BBQ at The Brownlow Arms, the annual Valentines' Race Night, the ever popular Quiz Nights, Fish & Chips in May and The Brian Rollitt Memorial Quiz in October and then a Christmas Raffle.

Additionally, many of you support the 200 Club which is a

mainstay of our fundraising throughout the year – please contact Bryan Spilsbury should you wish to become a member and further support the Hall!

In 2025 to date, we have also enjoyed a Come Dine With Us evening at The Baseri, where the food & service was first class and complemented our January Saturday Social with a jigsaw sale which raised a superb £220 – an event we plan to repeat later in the year.

At time of writing, final preparations are underway for our 11th Valentines' Race Night which I am pleased to say is once again "fully booked!" and which has already raised some £17000 over the last 10 years.

Of course, we must also mention the purchasing of the new carpet in the Temple, entirely funded by Newark Masons, friends and family at a cost of c.£12000.

Once again, Thank you, Brethren All!

As you might imagine, we are striving to keep this momentum going and with this in

mind we would benefit from some additional help!

To keep things fresh and hopefully in tune with Hall membership, we would welcome representation on our Committee from younger, newer Brethren who we believe will bring a some new ideas to the table.

We meet at 10am – 11.30am on the last Saturday of the month to discuss our plans moving forwards in a very sociable environment and if anyone would like to join us regularly or just occasionally, I can assure you of a warm welcome.

The Ways & Means Committee is informal and relaxed but we all want to help make a difference and support our Masonic Hall.

If you want to get involved... then simply turn up! Hope to see you there!

Kind regards,
Paul Simpson

Chairman, The Newark
Masonic Hall Ways & Means
Committee

SATURDAY SOCIAL

The Ways & Means Committee invites all Newark Masons, partners, friends & family to join them for the Saturday Socials at The Newark Masonic Hall.

The bar is now open from Midday to 3pm on the last Saturday of each month every month to provide the opportunity to catch up with friends you haven't seen for a while and hope you may drop in and say hello

See you there!



FAMOUS FREEMASONS

Harry Houdini

1874 to 1926

When it is said that Freemasons are men that come from all walks of life, the notion is entirely true. For centuries, men across the globe have come together to share in the joys of brotherhood and learn from the Masonic teachings. These men are doctors, labourers, politicians, scientists, musicians, and even magicians, perhaps the most famous of which is Harry Houdini..

Born on March 24th, 1874 in Budapest, Hungary, Eric Weiss and his family were subject to an onslaught of anti-semitism. A few years later, Eric's father accepted a job as a rabbi and moved the family of five boys to Appleton, Wisconsin. Eric's father's conservative views were not in sync with the Wisconsin culture, and after a series of moves, the family ended up in New York. The Weiss family did not have a lot of money, and Eric did not have any formal education. He longed to make a name for himself. At age 17, he had become very interested in magic, following the work of magician Jean Eugene Robert-Houdin.

It was not overnight success for the young magician who named himself Houdini, adding an "i" to his beloved role model Houdin's last name. It was hard work, and it took many years, mentorships, and training before his illusions became a success and his talents were honed.

When talking about magi-

cians, even today, Harry Houdini always comes up in the conversation. His talent was awe-inspiring, and in the years following his death, no one has been able to match his skill, resilience, and passion for the art of illusion and magic. He helped to make up the rich and unique story of Freemasonry, woven throughout the halls of every Lodge and in the hearts of every Mason

Harry Houdini is most commonly known for illusions like his suspended strait-jacket escape, buried alive trick, and the "Houdini Upside Down." However, many people do not know the man behind the magician, Freemason Eric Weiss. Learn more about the illusionist who brought magic into the hearts of millions: Harry Houdini was initiated into St. Cecile Lodge in New York in 1923 and was passed and raised in July 31 and August 21 in 1924. He was proud to be a Freemason and even held a performance for the Scottish Rite Valley of New York. The event was attended by 4,000 people in the Scottish Rite Cathedral and raised money for Freemasons in need. Houdini became a Shriner a few weeks before his unfortunate death in October 1926. Houdini is among a cohort of Masonic magicians like Harry Keller, Howard Thurston, and Harry Blackstone. Today, there is even an "Invisible Lodge" for Freemasons who wish to be-



come magicians or learn about the artform.

Houdini was still regularly performing stunts at the time of his unfortunate passing. Houdini had long claimed he could withstand any punch to the abdomen and incorporated it into his performances. In 1926, in his dressing room at the Princess Theatre in Montreal, witnesses saw Jocelyn Whitehead, a student of McGill University, repeatedly punch Houdini, which caused him a great deal of pain. He performed despite the pain in his abdomen and did not seek medical attention. Rather than listen to his doctor Houdini continued his tour, performing for the last time on October 24, 1926, at the Garrick Theatre in Detroit, Michigan. When he took to the stage, he had a fever of 104° and passed out during the show. He was revived, finished the performance, and then was admitted to Detroit's Grace Hospital. Harry Houdini died there on Halloween, 1926, at the age of 52.

FAMOUS FREEMASONS

Sir Alexander Fleming

1881 - 1955

Alexander Fleming was born at Lochfield Farm, a little north of Darvel in East Ayrshire. He was educated at Loudoun Moor School, Darvel School, and then Kilmarnock Academy before leaving at the age of 16 to work in a shipping office. At the age of 20 he inherited money from an uncle and in 1901 he enrolled as a medical student at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, in London. He graduated in 1906 and was planning to follow a career as a surgeon when, by chance, he instead became an assistant bacteriologist to Sir Almroth Wright, a pioneer in vaccine therapy and immunology at St Mary's. From 1908 he lectured at St Mary's.

During the First World War, Fleming served as a captain in the Army Medical Corps, spending much of the war in army hospitals in France. Here he continued his work on the limited effectiveness of the antiseptic agents then available and ways of improving them in the testing conditions of the western front.

On 23rd December 1915, he married a nurse, Sarah McElroy. After the war, Alexander Fleming returned to St Mary's, where he became Professor of Bacteriology in 1928.

Discovery

That same year, while studying the influenza virus, Fleming noticed that mould had developed accidentally



on a set of dishes being used to grow the staphylococci germ. The mould had created a bacteria-free circle around itself. Fleming experimented further and named the active substance penicillin.

Knighthood

This discovery would change the world of medicine forever and cement Fleming's place as one of the world's most famous scientists. In 1944, Fleming was knighted by King George VI and won the Nobel Prize a year later.

In 1909 at the age of 27, Fleming was initiated into Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682, which met in London. He served as Senior Warden in 1922 and Master in 1924.

He became a joining member of London Scottish Rifles Lodge No.

2310 in London in 1911 and Misericordia Lodge No. 3288 in London in 1925, where he served as Master in 1935.

He was awarded London Grand Rank in 1934 and was appointed Senior Grand Deacon by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1942. He was also promoted to Past Senior Grand Warden in 1948.

Sir Alexander Fleming died of a heart attack in 1955. His ashes were interred in St Paul's Cathedral. He is widely remembered for his discovery of penicillin and the laboratory at St Mary's Hospital is now home to the Fleming Museum. His name also lives on in the Alexander Fleming Middle School near Los Angeles in California.

MEMBERSHIP CRISIS

THE ELEPHANT IN THE LODGE



▲ WBro Bill Ashley,
Charity Steward,
Newton Lodge 1661

For as long as I can remember, at every lodge meeting attended by a Provincial Officer he's talked about the membership crisis facing Freemasonry and the need to fix it. But at a meeting of Newark Lodge 8332 in 2023 a senior Provincial Officer went further, saying that a senior Grand Lodge Officer had visited Province and told its Officers that, "Declining membership must be fixed and if you can't do it we'll find someone who can!" and, as if identifying a reason for falling membership, "some lodges still haven't signed up to Pathway". At a meeting of Newton Lodge the following month, the same senior Provincial Officer again talked about falling membership.

This Provincial Officer's account of the visit by UGLE tells us that the membership crisis is getting worse but not why or what to do to fix it.

Despite oft-repeated warnings, I've never heard a Provincial or Grand Lodge Officer explain why [they think] membership is in decline ** or

what to do to fix it but that it is, is self-evident – the numbers speak for themselves. My lodge has shrunk by half in the last decade, two-thirds since its heyday. Some lodges may be holding their own but many aren't and failing lodges such as mine don't seem able to emulate thriving ones because we also face the demographic crisis of an aging membership.

[According to an Oct.2024 RMBI report, half of Masons today are over retirement age, projected to be two-thirds by 2035, compounding the crisis of declining numbers with the crisis of increasing age.]

And all this has led, at Newark Masonic Hall at least, to a financial crisis that has severely tested the harmony of the lodge. [The RMBI report accepts the need for change because declining numbers has led to a reduction in income and our charitable funds available.]

We won't halt the decline, let alone reverse it, if we fail to identify and address the underlying causes.

The Pro Grand Master recently stated the aims of UGLE's 7-year 'Strategy for Freemasonry: 2022 and beyond' are, "To cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large, and as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join". People will only aspire to join Freemasonry:-

- (i) if they're aware of it,
- (ii) it has a clearly-stated purpose they can aspire to,
- (iii) how that purpose is actioned is clearly communicated to them, and
- (iv) they can see by results

that Freemasonry can and does make a real difference in modern society.

In my opinion, Freemasonry fails on all counts.

I wrote a highly contentious article about this very subject for the Spring 2023 edition of our Masonic magazine *The Newark Password*. It posed a serious question: "What is the purpose of Freemasonry?" for which no-one, not even the Pro Grand Master, gave a cogent answer. If so, what is there for people to aspire to in a world where the values Freemasons claim to embody are in such high demand but short supply? [The best answer was, "to make good men better".]

Need for change

The thrust of these articles is two-fold: firstly, the need for change without losing those key, individual and collective principles – Integrity, Friendship, Respect and Charity – which are the foundation stones of Freemasonry; and, secondly, to give Freemasonry a purpose which in my opinion is practical and direct intervention in society to advance Social Justice that would bring Freemasonry out of the shadows into the public arena and replace its dated image of being inward-looking, secretive and self-interested with one of being outward-looking, altruistic, socially-motivated and concerned for the welfare of those less fortunate that would motivate people who want to support a good cause, to aspire to join Freemasonry.

Firstly, change or, more accurately, resistance to it. Approaches the lasting damage [I

MEMBERSHIP CRISIS

The elephant in the lodge

think] secrecy has had on Freemasonry, I'd advocate for far greater openness without which we can't demonstrate the benefits of Freemasonry to others.

In his book, 'The Craft: How the Freemasons made the Modern World' by Prof. John Dickie of UCL, it says, 'Insiders call it 'The Craft'. To the rest of us, Freemasonry is mysterious and suspect.' Whilst the secrets of a Mason have symbolic value in that his willingness to keep those secrets is a measure of his honour as a man and his fidelity as a Mason – something I'd uphold – they have no tradable commercial value, so protecting our secrets doesn't deny 'Outsiders' joining in a Masonic orgy of gain, influence and self-interest. So why not be open about Freemasonry?

Proposer and seconder

I'd known my proposer for 5yrs, my seconder for 20yrs, but until they approached me I had no idea either was a Mason. [I knew very little about Freemasonry and what I thought I knew was probably wrong.] That's 20years of my membership squandered! By contrast, I proudly tell everyone I meet – if the opportunity arises – that I'm a Mason. And having told literally hundreds of people in recent years whilst I've been fundraising for our Masonic charity TLC Notts that I'm a Mason, I've had a hostile reaction from less than 1%. In fact, most people are fairly incurious about Freemasonry per se but are genuinely surprised and warmed to learn about the charitable work we do irrespective of any negative preconceptions they may have held.

So what would I change? In my lodge which was founded

in 1877, change is a difficult subject despite membership being in decline, with some old Masons – that is, old both in years and in Masonic years – refusing to countenance change. We have too few young applicants wanting to join our lodge and the few who do, we often fail to keep. Who are we saving Freemasonry for if not young Masons? So how do we attract new members in the first place? And how do we make Freemasonry sufficiently relevant and appealing to them so that, having joined, they stay and they become regular and enthusiastic participants?

Having talked to young Masons and shared notes with others who have, there's a pattern emerging about what young Masons are looking for and hope to find in Masonry and why it often fails to meet their expectations or puts them off to the extent that they either don't join in the first place, or join but don't engage or don't stay, and what could be done about it, but no-one asks for our input and there's no forum to share it. Worse still, there's a risk that such a forum would become an echo chamber where young Masons are forced to listen to the opinions of Masons who've presided over the decline for decades but not fixed it.

Same threats

Has UGLE or Province done their own investigation to understand why? Evidence ** suggests not. Freemasonry and the Church are facing the same existential threat for similar reasons, but knowing this is of no use unless we understand why and formulate a response that probably calls for real changes to meet today's challenges.

I could suggest changes – some structural, others cosmetic – to make Freemasonry more attractive and relevant to young people without losing its key principles, but I see

no point in elaborating on them here unless there's a willingness to consider, embrace and implement change, but this would at best slow the decline. The most fundamental thing I think must change is our attitude towards openness – that is, as opposed to secrecy which has stigmatized Freemasonry and is so toxic and self-destructive. So, whilst we may see ourselves as special, exclusive, even superior, many non-Masons suspect that Masons are elitist, sinister, even subversive.

Openness

Openness would require and force change. Consider the first degree obligation and the punishment for breaking it: It shows an obsessive paranoia and is couched in the most arcane language. Whilst I can imagine the strident objections of many traditionalists to changing it, imagine if it had been different from the outset. Would any Mason today be in favour of changing it to its present wording? Probably not!

One aspect of this new openness would be to tell candidates, in detail, who Masons are, what we stand for, what Masonry involves and what's expected of them, so Initiates join the Craft with eyes wide open – along the lines of UGLE's 'Members' Pathway' – rather than finding out after the event it's not for them. This presupposes we know who we are, what we stand for and most importantly, what we want the world to know us for.

Step 10 of Pathway 'Retaining Members' states: 'Seniority brings with it a responsibility to lead by example... Be alert to discouraging or negative exchanges that undermine confidence of members and the harmony of the Lodge' yet what's more demoralizing and likely to undermine confidence than repeatedly being told you belong to a failing or-

MEMBERSHIP CRISIS

The elephant in the lodge

ganisation? So, what would give Freemasonry greater relevance in the modern world that it would attract new members?

Secondly, we need to reinvigorate and fortify Freemasonry by giving it a real purpose which is to advance:

SOCIAL JUSTICE

Charity and Social Justice are flip sides of the same coin. Masons could empty their coffers donating to desperate causes but still make no real dent in today's societal problems... nay, evils. I propose the purpose of Freemasonry is to advocate for social justice for all. How? By speaking to power with a single, clear, collective voice of 250,000 Masons in 9,000 lodges, by lobbying our constituency MPs to persuade government to put in place policies enforced by law that alleviate poverty and ensure a fairer, more just society. There are myriad worthy causes of a strictly societal, non-political nature that Masons should support. Doing so would demonstrate the proof of Masons being good men to others and encourage good men and women to join because they see that Masons care and make a real and tangible difference in society.

By 'worthy causes of a strictly societal, non-political nature' I mean initiatives that help lift people out of poverty and live better lives with greater dignity without working for, or against, any political agenda; effectively, policies that government should enthusiastically embrace, in particular ones that have wide-spread popular support, cost little or nothing to implement, and meet other challenges whilst ad-

ressing serious societal problems. For example, take clothing poverty as highlighted by Nottingham-based charity Sharewear: Freemasonry could empty its coffers to alleviate this one problem whilst neglecting every other desperate cause, but still make no real difference for the vast majority of the 15M+ people in clothing poverty even with a year-on-year campaign, whilst the underlying cause would still go unresolved. As well as clothing poverty, we're aware of the need to embrace sustainability through recycling and by reducing waste and pollution. Meanwhile, textiles represents the biggest source of pollution in UK with 350,000 tonnes of unsold clothing sent to landfill annually, more incinerated and still more sent to developing countries, which is a profligate waste and obscene statistic in itself, a brutal affront to civilised society that defies decency and commonsense, and is contrary to those societal values all Masons worthy of the name should stand for.

So what might social justice look like in this instance? A law stating that unsold new clothes must be donated to charity for distribution to people in clothing poverty, possibly for a modest tax credit, or a hefty, punitive tax charge for deliberately damaging or disposing of clothes that could go to families in need.

VAT on charities

Another injustice is charities paying VAT on purchases. I only realised this was a fact when our TLC committee was discussing fund-raising and how to make our funds go further. It came as a shock to me and to every other committee member (and everyone I've asked since) who, without exception, is appalled to learn that

donations made in good faith out of taxed income are taxed again because charities can't reclaim VAT on purchases even of items that help alleviate the distress of unfortunate people these charities support. Take Me & Dee's Hope elephant which has a voice recorder in its ear. Hope is given to terminally ill children who record messages for their family to listen to after the child is gone. Me & Dee pays VAT on it whilst founder, Maria Hanson MBE has never taken a salary despite running the charity since its inception in 2006. It's iniquitous that Me & Dee pays VAT on a therapeutic aid for dying children and their families. Likewise, TLC pays VAT on teddies donated to hospitals that doctors and nurses give to frightened children, to calm them down making them easier to treat. I would argue that TLC's teddies are diag-



nostic aids, rather than toys, and should not be taxed. In fact, I think all



charities should be exempt from paying VAT and that Freemasonry, in conjunction with other charities that want to take part, should campaign to bring this gross injustice to people's attention so we can all lobby for a fairer system. And there are many other worthy causes we could champion.

NB: I'm not talking about partisan issues that might divide brothers along party political lines and cause discord in the lodge; I'm talk-

MEMBERSHIP CRISIS

The elephant in the lodge

ing about issues of common human decency that all brothers can unite behind safe in the knowledge that "There but for the grace of God go I" And which of us doesn't feel the gross injustice of having our charitable donations further taxed by the imposition of VAT?

More effective

Would Masons do this alone? We could, but we'd be more effective working with other organisations that would benefit from a positive outcome including charities, lobbying and campaigning groups and the Church if they'd work with us. Freemasonry could take the lead in causes important to many fine young people, creating a positive vibe so they aspire to join us.

Would such an initiative be difficult to sell? I'd argue, "No!" because any Mason worthy of the name would be of a similar mind in supporting initiatives that tackle those injustices heaped on the most vulnerable in society. Masons could withdraw their consent for contentious issues they oppose on conscientious grounds, such as assisted dying. It would need a dedicated team to devise, mobilise and manage the system, but the cost and effort would be well rewarded if it revitalises and fortifies Freemasonry and saves it for future generations.

The definition of insanity is 'doing the same thing over and over again and expecting different results'. Since I joined Freemasonry in January 2011, Plan 'A' has always been to pursue a policy of doing the same thing over and over again, and Plan 'B' has been to make Plan 'A' work. I propose Plan 'C': doing something different

Is Plan 'C' guaranteed to work? No, but if we try for the benefit of society in general and Freemasonry in particular it will help "To cement our reputation as a force for good in our communities and society at large, and as a thriving organisation that people aspire to join". It would both attract new members and enliven the conversation between existing members young and old. If we don't try but remain in the shadows, nothing changes. What then for the future of Freemasonry? So, if young people won't accept old Freemasonry, should old Masons accept new Freemasonry?

Supercharge marketing

The other change needed to make Plan 'C' work is to supercharge our marketing and communication strategy which means becoming far more savvy about getting our message out via social media and via legacy media which isn't our friend today but could become so if we have an exciting new message and communicate it openly, to get maximum impact from our publicity campaigns by using expertise from within and/or outside Freemasonry.

I've given you a glimpse of my vision for the future of Freemasonry. If you have a different vision, let's hear it at third rising. But let's not: kid ourselves that doing nothing is an option if we want Freemasonry to thrive, nor further delay acting because this crisis may soon hit a critical tipping point after which there's no recovery.

My mistake

What's the likelihood of this initiative getting the support of Province? And UGLE? Last time, I made the mistake of publishing my article in *Password* then sending a copy to the Pro Grand Master who, in his own words, is inclined to say "Yes, if..." rather than "No, because..." [or simply

"No!"] without first getting buy-in from my fellow Masons. This time there's a broad realisation that the membership crisis won't fix itself simply by doing more of the same. In fact, the opposite is true: average age in many lodges is increasing, often beyond retirement age; young people aren't joining; and young Masons aren't engaging or are leaving the Craft after an unsatisfactory experience which guarantees they're unlikely to rejoin even once their family and work commitments have eased; and many lodges are failing to recruit young Masons fast enough to make good their losses.

Why would young people opt to join a failing organisation that's becoming increasingly geriatric but refuses to adapt to the changing landscape for its own survival? What do we, as men and as Masons, stand to gain by fighting for Social Justice? What do we risk losing if we don't? So let's act now! Because if not now, when?

Injustice

Every day, we all suffer injustice but most Masons are far better able to suffer it than the most vulnerable in society and those who aren't have a safety net in our fraternity. All Masons worthy of the name have a duty to stand up against injustice for the protection of all because if we don't, one day injustice will hurt us individually and collectively. When it does, who will stand up for us? We have a voice, let's use it for the greater good because the only thing necessary for evil to prevail is for good men to do nothing. Who will act if not Freemasons? If you agree, let's talk about the elephant in the lodge.

E:
bill.ashley@btinternet.com
M: 07966 575784



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TRAVEL TIME

Paris in the Spring - rich artistic heritage, stunning architecture, culinary delights, and a cultural emphasis on romance.

Paris, one of the most popular destinations for city breaks in Europe, is an ideal choice for a one-day excursion. While going to Paris just for a day might seem ambitious, it's surprisingly feasible thanks to the quick journey on the Eurostar. If you catch the first train out and the last one back, you'll have over 11 hours to explore the sights of Paris.

It is a vibrant city renowned for its iconic landmarks, exquisite food, and exceptional shopping experiences. There's an abundance to try, see, buy, eat, and drink. To help you make the most of your brief visit, here is a quick guide of the best things to do if you're only there for a day. Of course, if you decide to extend your stay in this captivating city, you can't be blamed.

So here's some of the things you can see and do whether your stay is for a day or a weekend.

For example, for those looking to explore start with the Basilica of the Sacré-Cœur in Montmartre. The highest point in Paris, you can see the beautiful city spread out in front of you. Head back down the hill and jump on the Metro down to L'Arc de

Triomphe and see the famous Avenue des Champs-Élysées stretching out. You can either walk down the boulevard to the Place de la Concorde for fantastic views of the Eiffel Tower (while checking out the shops), or jump straight back on the metro and head straight to the iconic landmark itself.

After lunch take a boat trip down the Seine and stop off at either Notre-Dame or the Louvre and maybe visit the world's most iconic painting, the Mona Lisa. You're now in the heart of Paris. Take a walk around the historic streets of nearby Le Marais and have a leisurely dinner, before wandering back up to Gare du Nord to get your train back home.

One thing to remember is that a lot of the major attractions may have large queues at busy times of the day or at peak holidays, so be sure to factor that in or book ahead if you're just there for the day.

Montmartre

If you just want to feel like a Parisian for the day and soak up some of the ambience of the City of Lights, spend some time getting to know a particular area. If you've arrived by Eurostar, hilly Montmartre should be your first stop to really make you feel like you've arrived, it's only a 20 minute walk (or

you can jump on the funicular and bypass the steps up to the Sacré-Cœur for the best views across the city).

There's lots of winding cobbled streets and lamppost-lined plazas - all with a genteel shabby chic atmosphere. It even has a small vineyard - Le Clos Montmartre.

Pigalle - Saint-Georges

The neighbouring area of Pigalle/Saint-Georges is home to the Moulin Rouge and is the Parisian equivalent of London's Soho. The part called La Nouvelle-Athène also has some lovely buildings.

Central Le Marais

This was the aristocratic and Jewish heart of the city and is very much "Old Paris", with lovely buildings and quintessential Parisian features. It's packed with cafes and restaurants. In summer, get a picnic and sit in the pretty Place des Vosges. There's plenty of street art here, as well as art galleries and museums and Paris's oldest covered market, Marché des Enfants Rouges.

Saint-Germain-des-Prés

Get the metro straight from Gare du Nord to the bohemian area of Saint-Germain-des-Prés on the Left Bank in less than 20 minutes. There's plenty of independent shopping to be found here, from high-end couture to quality vin-

TRAVEL TIME

tage garments, and you're only a short walk away from attractions like Notre-Dame and Le Jardin du Luxembourg. If you're heading that way towards the river, you'll walk past the Quartier Latin, one of the oldest parts of the city and the place to browse the second-hand stores and bookshops.

Tourist attractions

The Eiffel Tower has dominated the Paris skyline for more than 125 years so make time for a photo here. Be sure to climb the 324m tower as well. But book in advance as this is the most visited, paid for monument in the world.

L'Arc de Triomphe

Equally magnificent is the Roman-inspired Arc de Triomphe at Place de l'Étoile. The traffic sprawls away from it in all directions - including the magnificent Avenue des Champs-Élysées. You can pay to go inside and see Paris from its panoramic terrace.

You'll probably have to stay overnight to fully appreciate Paris's nightlife and theatres, however you can still pay a visit to these legendary landmarks during the day. While the influential heyday of the Moulin Rouge and Folies Bergère may be firmly in the last century, these both remain historic hotspots for cabaret or live music.

You can catch some afternoon performances at the Palais Garnier or Opéra Bastille, home of the Opéra National de Paris.

Go shopping

A few streets over and running parallel to the Avenue des Champs-Élysées is the famous Rue du Faubourg Saint-Honoré. Historically all the major fashion names have had flagship stalls along this chic street and there are plenty of high-end boutiques tucked away in the avenues off it. The street stretches down into the centre of Paris, turning into the Rue Saint-Honoré until it reaches the Louvre. Over the other side of the river (Left Bank) you'll find shops on Rue de Sèvres, including Hermès and Paris's oldest department store, Le Bon Marché. Another historic department store, the Galeries Lafayette (est. 1912), is famous for its vast size and Neo-Byzantine style stained glass windows on Boulevard Haussmann. The Parisian covered shopping arcades retain many of their original features, like the wrought iron and metal roof of the Passage du Grand-Cerf (1825). You'll find a Christian Louboutin workshop and store in the Galerie Véro-Dodat and its neighbour Galerie Vivienne houses Jean-Paul Gaultier's Pret-a-Porter collection.

At the opposite end of the spectrum, the Saint-Ouen Flea Market (Puces) is rather fun with thousands of dealers spread across this

sprawling North Parisian market, open from Saturday to Monday. Be aware that the majority of the stores are shut on Sunday.

Eating out

French food isn't all about haute cuisine and fine dining—some of the best food to enjoy in Paris can be bought from a humble boulangerie for just a couple of euros.

If you're arriving in the morning, try an authentic croissant, pain au chocolat or simple café - Blé Sucré (on Rue Antoine Vollon) gets rave reviews for all three. Jean-Paul Hévin is one of France's top chocolatiers. At a couple of his Paris branches you can visit the 'chocolate bar' and try a chocolat chaud on the spot. If the weather's nice, have a picnic and pick up some of the finest bread and cheese in the world.

Paris is also home to some of the finest macarons on the planet - the French pâtisserie Ladurée has been making them for over a century and they have seven stores in the city.

And the choice of wine is pretty good too!

So there you have it. The choice is yours. Either a whistle stop tour of those places you want to admire or a more leisurely weekend or better still a mid-week two days (The trains are better). Whichever it will be a break to remember.

Ways & Mean's Fish & Chip Quiz Night

Sat. 17th May 2025 – 6.30pm The Avenue - **£14** Only!

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- Peas (Mushy) included!
- Sign up by contacting Chris Ward-kryssy48@gmail.com 07904841999.
- Max 8 to a Team or come on your own! (We will create Teams based on confirmed bookings). Proceeds to the W&M Committee.
- Pre-payment required as meals will need to be pre-ordered!
- Payment by BACS: The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee
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LOOKING BACK in IN PASSWORD

We look back at some of the happenings in Newark Freemasonry ten years ago.

This page recalls items from the Password of Spring 2014.

The editor reflected on human frailty when he recalled seeing brethren appearing asleep during a ceremony at a lodge in another county and it reminded him of such times when he attended lectures during his time in the Royal Air Force when such a lapse could arouse the wrath of the instructor.

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The Company chairman, W Bro Terry Ward referred to the advertising revenue that helped pay for the printing of Password and encouraged members to seek fresh advertisers.

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There was a Ceremonial Team visit to Alexander Chapter headed by the Most Excellent Grand Supertinentend for Nottinghamshire, Richard Gutteridge.

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The late W Bro Chris Grant led a visit to World War One battlefields accompanied by a party of 37 Masons and their wives. The trip included visits to the Lyssenthoeke war cemetery where over ten thousand are buried. They also attended the Mennin Gate ceremony, several other cemeteries and concluded with a nostalgic visit to preserved bunkers and trenches.

An article described how Masonic Festivals began with the arrival in this country of an Italian dentist Bartholemew Ruspini. His initiation into Freemasonry and subsequent fund raising which started with his connection with the wealthy including the then Prince of Wales. He started off with a small school of 15 girls. He organised a church service at which he invited his Masonic and other friends to make donations. It was the late 1700's and he raised £82 10s and six pence, called it a "Festival" and the rest is history.

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Miscellany included a piece of the late W Bro Bert Emerson meeting Dambusters veteran Sq Ldr Johnny Johnson the last survivor of the famous 617 squadron's raid on three German dams. They had both attended Winthorpe school at the same time.

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Newark Masons manned a market stall at the event to mark the switching on the town's Christmas lights and more than 600 leaflets were distributed to help raise the profile of Freemasonry in the town.

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Canadian Freemasonry was featured and it was described that Freemasonry began in that country with an amalgam of military, railway constructors, pioneers and other entrepreneurs.

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Robert Burns was featured as a notable Freemason. The

world famous poet was initiated into the Craft in 1781 when he was 23 years old. He became Senior Warden of Lodge St Andrew in 1792 for just one year but there is no record that he went on to become Worshipful Master.

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The Ladies Luncheon Club celebrated 30 years since they first started with Bucks Fizz on arrival and after a celebratory dinner were entertained by a choir from Chuter Ede school.

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Notts Masons Polo Shirts were advertised. Available in navy blue and embroidered with "Nottinghamshire" and square and compasses they cost £15 plus £3 p&p.

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Password Travel featured the places to visit, its beaches and the choice of food in Majorca, the largest of the Balearic Islands and because of its short flight time had become a popular destination for UK holidaymakers.

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In his report to the Annual General meeting of the Masonic Hall Company Ltd the chairman, W Bro Terry Ward singled out W Bro John Edis "who has given freely of his time and expertise to oversee the major heating and lighting projects".

He also praised W Bro John Clarke and his wife Margaret for their dedicated service in relation to the Sunday Lunches.



The Ladies' Luncheon Club



Spring Programme 2025

Fri 14th March 25 – Newark Historical Ghost Walk – Ian Gillanders

Fri 11th April 25 – “Are You Eligible?” – Roger Pegg

Fri 9th May 25 – Janice Rose Lingerie – Janice Rose

Fri 12th September 25

Fri 10th October 25

Fri 14th November 25

Fri 12th December 25

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Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry



Brethren, we need your help!

We have a team of “Regulars” who help with all sorts of events and activities within the Newark Masonic Hall and they do a fantastic job, but occasionally we could do with an extra pair of hands.

Could you help your Hall by joining a volunteers list?

There is no commitment to help out on any specific date or event, but if you think you might be able to lend a hand occasionally when circumstances allow, please sign up for the **Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry** so we can call upon you when all other options have failed and you can ride in and **save the day!**

We would ask you to be part of an email Group and/or Whats App Group who we could ask for help when we need a hand.....there is no commitment other than to be on the list.....

It's also a great way to get involved with the Hall more generally as well as widening your social circle.

If you can be a member of the **Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry**, please contact Paul Simpson on 07538958750 or paul92.simpson@outlook.com.

the last word

What others say

Lots have been written about Freemasonry and here are a few snippets taken from the web.....

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest social and charitable organisations, with its origins rooted in the traditions of the medieval stonemasons who built our cathedrals and castles. It is here that a number of the famous elements of Freemasonry find their roots.

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Freemasonry, the teachings and practices of the fraternal order of Free and Accepted Masons, — an oath-bound society, often devoted to fellowship, moral discipline, and mutual assistance, that conceals at least some of its rituals, customs, or activities from the public.

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Today's Freemasons focus on building themselves as people of integrity, and membership provides the structure to help achieve that goal.

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What does Psalm 133 mean in masonry? For Masons this verse celebrates the goodness of brotherhood, when men come together to be better than they are individually

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The skull is simply a symbol of death. It serves as a reminder to Freemasons that our time in this life is limited and we should strive to im-

prove ourselves as much as possible and to practice charity (kindness to others) as much as possible.

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The secret of Masonry, like the secret of life, can be known only by those who seek it, serve it, live it. It cannot be uttered; it can only be felt and acted. It is, in fact, an open secret, and each man knows it according to his quest and capacity.

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"So mote it be" is a ritual phrase used by Freemasons, in Rosicrucianism, and more recently by Neopagans, it was another way of saying "so may it be", "so it is required", or "so must it be", and may be said after the person giving the prayer.

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Opening and Closing Odes are sung, respectively at the beginning and the end of the Lodge meeting. Usually Grace is said at the commencement of dinner, before the toast to his Majesty The King.

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A Masonic prayer - Hail Eternal by whose aid All created things are made Heav'n and earth Thy vast design Hear us Architect Divine!

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Freemasons greet one another with a variety of handshakes, all based on one's rank within the organization. "There is a handshake for each de-

gree: Apprentice, Fellowcraft, and Master, i.e., the first three degrees.

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What does 3-5-7 mean in Masonry? The ratio 3: 5: 7 is very important. They represent steps in Freemasonry. They are the steps of the exact number of brothers that form the number of Master Masons needed to open a lodge.

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Whilst it is recognized that Masonry is not atheistic. to become a Freemason, the applicant has to be an adult male and must believe in the existence of a supreme being and in the immortality of the soul. The teachings of Freemasonry enjoin morality, charity, and obedience to the law of the land.

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Tenets are principles, beliefs or doctrines generally held to be true, especially ones that are held in a common belief by members of an organised society. Thus the key Tenets of Freemasonry are our grand principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth.

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Freemasonry remains most popular in the British Isles and countries originally within the British Empire. Worldwide membership of Freemasonry in the early 21st century ranged from two to six million. Today there are separate Freemason lodges in Britain for women as well as for men.



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W Bro FCL (Frank) Emery

PPrSGD - Corinthian Lodge 5528

W. Bro. Frank Emery was born on the 30th June 1945 to Salvation Army parents who were both accomplished musicians.

Brought up in the community of the Salvation Army, at Nunhead Corps, Frank soon demonstrated his innate musical ability as a cornet player.

As well as playing in the Junior Band at Nunhead, he played trumpet in the William Penn School Orchestra and the London Schools Symphony Orchestra. At the age of 15 he obtained a bursary for lessons at Trinity College.

On leaving school, he joined the South Eastern Gas Board as a draughtsman and studied for his HNC in Engineering through their apprenticeship scheme.

As his musical skills developed, he became Principal Cornet in Nunhead Corps Senior Band until he transferred to Lewisham Corps in 1966.

Frank married Barbara Giles, from Upper Norwood Corps, on 5th November 1966. They had two sons, James and Peter (the latter died of complications arising from his disability aged six in 1984).

Frank was invited to become a member of the 'Round Table of Great Britain and Ireland' in 1978, and was initiated into Freemasonry in 1982.

He was held in high regard and held key positions in both organisations, including Director of Ceremonies of his Lodge. Through this involvement he continued to be actively involved in charitable work.

When not involved in Salvation Army duties or charitable work, Frank was employed in a number of roles in the field of facilities management.

Frank was made redundant in 1995 and spent the next 15 years in various part time roles. He supported his wife, Bar-

bara, in her role in the Ravensbourne Project, which is a charity setup by Barbara to provide day care and overnight services for children and young people with disabilities and special needs in Lewisham, Southeast London.

In addition to his love of music and undertaking his community charity work, Frank enjoyed photography, constructing model railways and riding his motorbike.

Frank joined The Corinthian Lodge No 5528 in 2012 from Surrey and frequently attended meetings although we were not well enough to attend in recent years.

Frank died on 30th April 2024 after a long and debilitating illness which he bore with great fortitude and dignity.

It was his wish to ensure that he was a member of a masonic lodge when he passed away.

The Diary

Red type denotes Installation meetings. Green type denotes social functions.

Dates etc are in accordance with information received

OCTOBER 2024

Tues 1st - Magnus Practice
 Wed 2nd - Corinthian Lodge
Thurs 3rd - Newton Lodge Install
Sun 6th - Sunday Lunch
 Mon 7th - Prince Rupert
Tues 8th - Magnus Lodge install
 Wed 9th - St John's practice
 Thurs 10th - Corinthian Lodge
Fri 11th - Provincial Grand Priory
Fri 11th - Ladies' Luncheon
 Mon 14th - Corinthian practice
 Mon 14th - Newark practice
 Tues 15th - St John's Lodge
 Wed 16th - Corinthian PM's
 Thurs 17th - Newark Lodge
 Mon 21st - Alexander Chapter practice
 Tues 22nd - Newton practice
Fri 25th - Brian Rollitt Quiz Night
Sat 26th - Saturday Social
 Mon 28th - Rose Croix practice
 Tues 29th - Newton Lodge
 Wed 30th - Vernon Bussell practice
 Thurs 31st - Alexander Chapter

NOVEMBER 2024

Sun 3rd - Sunday Luncheon
 Mon 4th - Corinthian Lodge practice
 Tues 5th - Newark Festival
 Wed 6th - Vernon Bussell Chapter
 Thurs 7th - Corinthian L of I
Fri 8th - Ladies' Luncheon
Sat 9th - St John' Ladies' Night
 Wed 13th - St John's practice
 Thurs 14th - Corinthian Lodge
 Mon 18th - Newark practice
 Tues 19th - St John's Lodge
 Wed 20th - Newton Lodge practice
 Thurs 21st - Newark Lodge
 Fri 22nd - Prince Rupert RSM
 Mon 25th - Fleming practice
 Tues 26th - Newton Lodge

November 2024 continued

Wed 27th - Corinthian L of I
 Thurs 28th - Fleming Mark
Sat 30th - Saturday Social

DECEMBER 2024

Sun 1st - Sunday Luncheon
 Tues 3rd - Magnus Lodge practice
 Mon 9th - Corinthian practice
 Tues 10th - Magnus Lodge
 Thurs 12th - Corinthian Lodge
Fri 13th - Ladies' Luncheon
Fri 20th - Carol Service
Mon 25th - Christmas Day
Sat 28th - Saturday Social

JANUARY 2025

Thurs 2nd Corinthian Lodge (LOI)
 Thurs 6th Corinthian Lodge (practice)
 Tues 7th St. John's Lodge (practice)
 Weds 8th Mark LOI
 Thurs 9th Corinthian Lodge
Fri 10th Ladies' Lunch
 Thurs 13th Newark Lodge (practice)
Tues 14th - St John's Lodge Install
 Wed 15th Corinthian (PM's)
 Thurs 16th Newark Lodge
 Mon 20th Alexander Chapter (practice)
 Tues 21st Newton (practice)
Thurs 23rd Alexander (Install)
Sat 25th W&M Social
 Tues 28th Newton Lodge
 Wed 29th Vernon Bussell practice

FEBRUARY 2025

Sun 2nd Sunday Lunch
 Mon 3rd Rose Croix practice
 Tues 4th Magnus practice
 Wed 5th Vernon Bussell
 Thurs 6th Corinthian Lodge (LOI)
 Fri 7th Rose Croix
 Mon 10th Corinthian Lodge (practice)
 Tues 11th Magnus Lodge
 Wed 12th St John's practice
 Thurs 13th Corinthian Lodge
Fri 14th Ladies' Lunch
Sat 15th Race Night

The Diary

FEBRUARY 2025 continued

Mon 17th Newark (practice)
Tues 18th St. John's Lodge
Wed 19th Newton (practice)
Thurs 20th Newark Lodge
Fri 21st Newton practice
Sat 22nd SRIA
Sat 22nd W&M Social
Mon 24th Fleming (practice)
Tues 25th Newton Lodge
Wed 26th Castle Conclave practice
Thurs 27th Fleming Mark

MARCH 2025

Sun 2nd Ladies' Lunch
Tues 4th Castle Conclave (install)
Wed 5th NMH AGM
Thurs 6th Corinthian Lodge (LOI)
Fri 7th Trent Mark
Mon 10th Corinthian Lodge (practice)
Tues 11th RAM Lodge
Thurs 13th Corinthian Lodge
Fri 14th Ladies' Lunch
Tues 18th St John's
Wed 19th Corinthian PM's
Wed 19th Newton practice
Fri 21st Pilgrim (practice)
Mon 24th Alexander Chapter (practice)
Tues 25th Newton Lodge
Tues 25th PGL Mark
Wed 26th Vernon Bussell Ch (practice)
Thurs 27th Alexander Chapter
Sat 29th Saturday Social

APRIL 2025

Tues 1st Magnus Lodge (practice)
Wed 2nd Vernon Bussell Ch (Install)
Thurs 3rd Corinthian (Festival)
Fri 4th Good Friday
Sun 6th Sunday lunch
Tues 8th Magnus Lodge
Thurs 10th St John's (practice)
Fri 11th Ladies' Lunch
Mon 14th Prince Rupert install
Tue 15th St. John's Lodge
Wed 16th Newton/St. John's (practice)

April 2025 continued

Thurs 17th Newark Lodge
Mon 21st Newark (practice)
Tues 22nd Joint Festival
Thurs 24th Fleming Mark
Sat 26th W&M Social

May 2025

Fri 2nd Provincial Grand Lodge
Tues 6th Pilgrim practice
Wed 7th R&M Lodge practice
Thurs 8th R&M Lodge install
Fri 9th Ladies' Lunch
Fri 9th Pilgrim install
Sat 10th Le Willows Lodge
Mon 12th Corinthian practice
Thurs 15th Corinthian install
Sat 17th Fisn & Chip Quiz
Mon 19th Rose Croix practice
Tues 20th Alexander practice
Wed 21st GREAT PRIORY
Fri 23rd Rose Croix install
Tues 27th Alexander Chapter
Wed 28th Castle Conclave practice
Sat 31st Saturday Social

June 2025

Tues 3rd Castle Conclave

BREAK.....

August 2025

Wed 27th Vernon Bussell practice
Sat 30th Saturday Social



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