



The Association of Patrons

Museum Matters

Virtual Reality

How to access the
Museum and Library
from your own home

Inside:

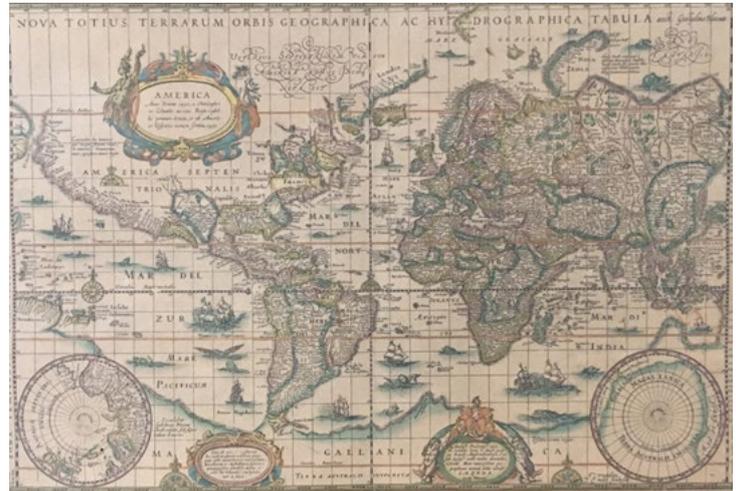
Chairman's Update Pg 2
Meet the Volunteers Pg 3
Wedding Plans Pg 4

Did You Know??? Pg 5
News from West Kent Pg 6
Virtual Insanity Pg 7



CHAIRMAN'S UPDATE

Chairman of the Association of Patrons, Charles Pottle, gives us an update on the situation at the Museum and Library, and the ongoing progress of the AoP.



Dear Patrons and Friends,

2020 was already set to be a very challenging year for the Museum and Library – after much preparation the plans were in place for work to commence over the summer months on the much needed attention to the Museum's interior. An incredible amount of effort has already been put into this project. It is necessary for the continued safety and security of the visiting public and Museum volunteers alike. As the situation develops going forward Museum Matters will keep you updated on progress and hopefully we will be granted inside access for some photos.

The 2019-20 Museum financial year has just finished and the Association of Patrons (AoP) have been very busy over the course of the last 12 months, working to build on the real successes achieved during 2018-19. Once again I set us all some stretching targets which focussed upon securing new Patrons, maximising AoP income, assuring our records and improving our communications. Final figures are still in the pipeline and will be announced at the Museum AGM in September. However, it is very likely that the AoP has had another bumper year and will set new records for Patrons and total income. Well done Team !

The AoP does not operate in a vacuum. There are many competing requests for support. Notable examples are the East Kent 2025 Festival and the West Kent 2026 Festival. The Kent Mark have been working diligently towards their 2020 Festival. These are in addition to your own personal, local, Lodge and Chapter commitments. We are therefore sincerely grateful to all of you for your continued support as Patrons. The Museum simply could not

function without your patronages. So many give in so many different ways to ensure our precious Museum & Library remains a modern cornerstone of our masonry and an invaluable "window to the world" of thousands of visitors each year. As Patrons we should all be very proud of the part we play in that success.

Current events are being driven by the Covid-19 pandemic. On behalf of the whole AoP Team I extend our prayers and fraternal thoughts to you all in these difficult times. The challenges we face are serious but we look to the light at the end of the tunnel and our Freemasonry in general to sustain us. We all, no doubt, are aware of the enormous contribution of the NHS and key workers in general. Likewise the community spirit and common decency many have shown to others. Freemasonry, as ever, will play a significant part and the reinforcement of societal communitarianism will coincide with many of the values we hold so dear. The Museum will continue to educate and inform the wider public about both our history and our relevance in the modern world.

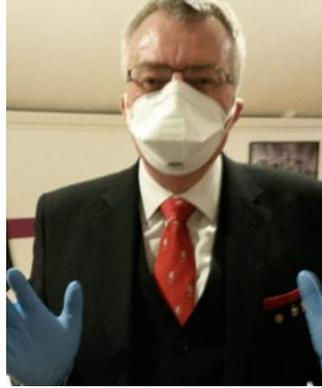
Going forward, I can assure you that the whole AoP Team will work for the betterment of the Kent Masonic Museum & Library and express enormous thanks to all our Patrons, Ambassadors, Museum volunteers and friends who contribute to that effort. Please keep up the good work !

Best wishes and health to you all,

Charles

THE MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

In this regular feature, we talk to those people who volunteer their time and efforts to supporting the Museum. On this occasion, we talk to Vice-Chariman, Phil Moore about his work in the Province of West Kent and for the Association of Patrons Committee.



MM - Thanks for your giving us your time this afternoon. Can you please describe your involvement with the Museum?

PM - For the past 18 months, I've been involved with the Association of Patrons (AoP) as Vice Chairman working alongside Charles Pottle and his team.

MM - How long have you been associated with the Museum?

PM - I've been a Museum and Library Lodge Ambassador for two lodges in West Kent (WK) for the best part of 10 years now. Around 4 years ago, I was asked whether I, along with W Bro Graham Stanford, would be the 'presentation team' in WK, delivering the Museum and Library's promotional lecture, which we both agreed too. We are still delivering this and have 2 bookings for 2020 already, although these have obviously now been postponed.

MM - How did you move from delivering the lecture to being Vice Chairman of the AoP?

PM - The Museum's Board of Trustees were keen to raise the profile in and support of the Museum from the Province of West Kent. I was contacted by W Bro Roger Waltham inviting me to be involved with the AoP. After seeking approval from the West Kent Executive, I agreed to being involved with great enthusiasm and could not wait to play an active role.

MM - What days do you 'work' at the Museum?

PM - It's one of those roles that could almost be classed 'Virtual'. I am rarely at the Museum. This said, I possibly spend on average two days a month on Museum issues, but that's time spent mostly in West Kent either delivering the promotional talk or promoting the Museum with units, trying to encourage the units and their members to take up patronages.

MM - What would you say has been your key achievements since taking up this position?

PM - We have managed to establish a strong group of WK patrons, which includes all existing lodges/chapters and individuals, which or who are patrons. We have met together on two occasions, with much work taking place in between meetings. The group has managed to achieve the recognition of the Museum Ambassador role in West Kent and will have this role added to the installation return, which from 2020 will also be included in the year book.

The Provincial Grand Master for West Kent, RW Bro Mark Estaugh has supported this initiative by personally writing to all lodge secretaries highlighting the role of the Museum Ambassador and the Patronage Scheme, encouraging all units to appoint a Rep and support the Museum through the Scheme. Since the PGM's letter was sent, some nine units have appointed Museum Reps and the majority of these are seeking their units support for patronage during the 2019-2020 season.



MM - Outside of masonry, what is the day job?

PM - Until recently, I worked as a public servant within the local authority network, mainly involved with highways and transportation. I've worked in two London boroughs and latterly for over 10 years in a unitary authority within Kent. I retired from public service a couple of years ago, after what can only be explained as a wonderful, albeit politically pressurised, career...I would not have changed a thing!

MM - What lodges and other Masonic orders are you involved with?

PM - My mother lodge is Prudence & Concord Lodge No. 7887 in the 'enlightened' side of Kent. I am also a member of the West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards

Lodge No. 8565. I'm also involved with Chapter (in West Kent), Mark Masons, Royal Ark Mariners and Rose Croix in London, and Royal & Select Masters and two Athelstan Courts (including the Masonic Order of Alfred the Great) in Kent. I'm also involved assisting the Board of Directors at the Westwood Masonic Centre Welling with personnel and operational management support.

MM - That's a lot! What do you do to relax?

PM - Since retiring, I've taken up both inside and outside green bowls, which I really enjoy, although I'm not as consistent as I would wish to be performance wise. I try to keep as healthy as I can with regular visits to a local hotel spa using their pool, gym and steam room, but not necessarily in that order of usage....

MM - And finally, what objectives do you have with respect to your Museum work in West Kent?

PM - During 2020 and 2021, we aim to:

- Ensure that all units appoint an active Museum Ambassador
- Respond to all unit requests for a Museum talk to be delivered to their members.
- Promote and secure many more units within West Kent to sign up for a patronage
- Promote and secure more personal patrons within West Kent

MM- Thank you for your time Phil, and good luck with the rest of your work!

AOP CHAIRMAN 'GETS HITCHED'

The AoP Chairman, Charles Pottle was delighted to marry Elizabeth Collins at St Andrew's Parish Church in Shepherdswell on 21 December 2019. The bride, looking suitably radiant, arrived on time - much to the relief of a very nervous groom. The fantastic venue lent itself naturally to a traditional ceremony which culminated in a rousing rendition of "Jerusalem" before the happy couple left the church to the triumphant sounds of "The Marriage of Figaro".

After satisfying the many demands of the paparazzi, it was off to the Topsy Gardener in Shepherdswell for the reception where the new Mr & Mrs Pottle and their guests eagerly enjoyed the free bar and live music, in addition to the close-up magic and cabaret provided by none other than Miki Travis. The whole day was expertly photographed and recorded by our very own Richard Wingett who took great care to edit out (most) of the instances of any masonic over-refreshment !



DID YOU KNOW ABOUT?

W BRO. LT COL. PADDY MAYNE D.S.O

In this edition of the Newsletter, Museum Volunteer and Military History student, Matthew Edson writes the first in a series of articles connected with Masonic history. In this feature, he talks about Robert 'Paddy' Mayne, a Freemason and infamous soldier of WWII.

Worshipful Brother Robert Blair 'Paddy' Mayne is perhaps one of the most interesting brethren we can be honoured to count alongside us as a brother. A professional rugby player in his youth, capped for both Ireland and the British Lions, he would go on to become one of the highest decorated soldiers of the Second World War, as one of the 'Originals' of David Stirling's Special Air Service or SAS.¹

Born to a Northern Irish family in 1915, he had gone on to read Law at the Queens University Belfast. While at Queen's, he was a champion boxer and rugby player, going on to be capped by Ireland a total of six times, while also being a part of the British Lions during their tour of South Australia in 1938, where his behaviour has become the stuff of legend.²



In terms of Freemasonry, it should come as no surprise that W Bro Mayne was a member of the fraternity. He was born into a Masonic family with his father, William, being initiated into Century Lodge No. 284, on 15th December, 1904. He would later go on to become the founding Junior Deacon of Paddy's Mother Lodge, Eklektikos Lodge, No.542 on 24th June 1922.³ W Bro Mayne's career in Masonry was postponed for at least two years when he joined the Royal Ulster Rifles on the outbreak of war. However, he was initiated into Eklektikos Lodge on the 25th September, 1945, eventually becoming Master of this Lodge in 1954, a year before his death.⁴

However, W Bro Mayne is best known for being one of the founding members of the elite Special Air Service, being one of the first men recruited to the new unit, before it adopted its now famous name. David Stirling, the founder of the Regiment, noted of Mayne "*Paddy (was) emerging as the natural leader*".⁵ Mayne participated in many of the now famous night raids carried out by the SAS, claiming to have destroyed at least forty seven planes in one night, more than even the RAF's highest scoring Ace of the period.⁶ After Stirling was captured in 1943, W Bro Mayne took command of 1SAS, being dropped behind German lines after D-Day. It was during this period that he was controversially denied the Victoria Cross for rescuing his men, instead being awarded a third bar to his DSO.⁷

After the war, Mayne had a brief stint as a Polar Explorer in the Falklands, before returning home due to a back injury sustained during the war.⁸ He returned to Northern Ireland, where he sadly entered a life of heavy drinking. On 14th December 1955, at the age of forty, W. Bro Mayne was called to a higher service when attempting to drive home after a meeting of the Lodge of Friendship in his hometown of Newtownards. The funeral procession to his final resting place was over a mile long.⁹



1. Macintyre, Ben, 'SAS: Rouge Heroes', (Penguin, London, 2016), p. 36
2. Macintyre, Ben, 'SAS: Rouge Heroes', (Penguin, London, 2016), p. 37
3. 'Lt Col Robert Blair 'Paddy' Mayne DSO & 3 Bars', Irish Masonic History: www.irishmasonichistory.com/lt-col-robert-blair-paddy-mayne-dso-freemason.html
4. 'Lt Col Robert Blair 'Paddy' Mayne DSO & 3 Bars', Irish Masonic History: www.irishmasonichistory.com/lt-col-robert-blair-paddy-mayne-dso-freemason.html
5. Macintyre, Ben, 'SAS: Rouge Heroes', (Penguin, London, 2016), p. 43
6. Dear, I. C. B., 'The Oxford Companion to World War Two', (Oxford University Press, Oxford, 2001), p240
7. Lt Col Robert Blair 'Paddy' Mayne DSO & 3 Bars', Irish Masonic History: www.irishmasonichistory.com/lt-col-robert-blair-paddy-mayne-dso-freemason.html
8. Macintyre, Ben, 'SAS: Rouge Heroes', (Penguin, London, 2016), p. 320
9. Macintyre, Ben, 'SAS: Rouge Heroes', (Penguin, London, 2016), p. 320

RAISING WEST KENT PROFILE

**W Bro Phil Moore,
Vice-Chairman of the
Association of Patrons,
gives us an insight into
the hard work being done
in the Province of West
Kent for the Museum and
Library.**



When I was asked by Roger Waltham in 2018 to consider becoming involved with the Association of Patrons (AoP), I did not hesitate in accepting the role. I had been involved with Mentoring in West Kent from its inception many years ago and was part of the first team charged by the then PGM in establishing a mentoring scheme and this work culminated in being appointed the Mentoring Coordinator for the Westwood Masonic Centre where some 50 units held their meetings. The reason why I state this, is that I cannot see how any lodge/unit mentor can perform their duty to their members without having and indeed using, this valuable asset of the library and museum, in their armoury for mentoring. If used appropriately and within an overall framework of mentoring, recruitment, retainment and developing membership within lodges will be achieved.

It was based on this mentoring role, that I decided to take on the role of the Deputy Chairman of the AoP with a view to develop a scheme in West Kent where all lodges appointed a Masonic Library Ambassador (formally representative), and where possible look towards becoming a patron of the Library, to ensure that the facility remained free to everyone wishing to visit and to ensure that the objective of the Museum and Library of 'Preserve the past, Engage the present & Secure the future' is achieved. At £75 per year, this is such a small price to pay for any unit looking at supporting a major local masonic charity.

Over the past 18 months, huge steps have been made in cementing the role of the Ambassador within the appointment of officers at every installation meeting in West Kent. In mid-2019, the West Kent installation return was amended to include this role within the list of officers. This highlights the fact that lodges need to appoint to this position and their details will be contained in future year books along with the other officers. This was reinforced by the PGM, who wrote to all secretaries advising them of the work being undertaken in West Kent and that the province supported this move for all lodges to engage and work

with the facility at Canterbury – “its one of Kent’s jewels in our crown” and one that Masons should promote both within and outside of the organisation.

When the work started in 2018, I manage to establish that West Kent had five lodges/chapters who appoint representatives at their installation meeting. I’m pleased to report that, as of January 2020, that number is now at a minimum of 28 units, which is a really good improvement and I know a goodly number of these units are considering taking out patronage. There is, of course, more work to be undertaken, as West Kent have 174 lodges, leaving aside Holy Royal Arch chapters and all the other orders that meet within the West Kent centres. This means that we still have at least a further 146 lodges that have yet to appoint an Ambassador or hopefully, have yet to report the details to the Provincial Office on the West Kent installation return form.

The lodges in West Kent that have made the appointments, so far, are:

- Holmesdale
- United Military
- Pantiles
- Men of Kent and Kentish Men
- Manor of Bromley
- John Roan School
- Wells
- Justin
- Park Langley
- West Kent Masters
- Manor Way
- Seven Stars
- William Sennocke
- St Vincent
- Godyngton
- Elizabethan
- County Gate
- Prudence and Concord
- Biggin Hill
- Severndroog Castle
- Kentish Round Table
- William D’Eath
- St George Wrotham
- White Horse of Kent
- West Kent Wheel of Friendship
- Shield and Defender
- Ash-Cum-Ridley

May I thank the above lodges for their support in this very important piece of work.

Further work needs to be undertaken, there is a small working party established to encourage more membership, raise awareness and to promote the work being undertaken in Canterbury. It’s an aspiration of the working group to secure the following within a 2 year period:

- Secure a banner for each centre in West Kent promoting the Museum and the AOP’s
- Secure the appointment of an Ambassador in 80% of lodges in West Kent
- Promote and secure a further 40 patronages from lodges in West Kent*
- Promote and secure as many “personal patrons” from members in West Kent*
- Expand the working group to eventually encompass all Ambassadors/personal patrons to work across the province of West Kent.

*Lodge units can achieve patronage for £75 per year. The lodge will receive a certificate which lodges are encouraged to display at meetings and they can also show the patronage on their summons as lodges do with RMBI etc.

Personal patronages can be secured by individuals for £25 per year or £2.50 per month, and they also receive a certificate along with a lapel pin which can be worn with pride. Lodge and individual patrons will receive a copy of this newsletter, *Museum Matters*,

the showcase publication of the Museum, four times a year, which keeps all patrons up-to-date with issues and developments at Canterbury.

For masons in West Kent, if you require any further information on the Kent Museum of Freemasonry or indeed the Association of Patrons, please contact me on the details at the end of the article. I will be more than happy to deliver an illustrated presentation on the Masonic Museum at Canterbury at one of your regular meetings – You only need to ask?

VIRTUAL INSANITY? HOW TO KEEP CONNECTED WITH US

In these unprecedented times during the COVID-19 lockdown, nearly all public buildings and sites have closed. This includes the Kent Museum of Freemasonry, which adhered to Government advice and closed its doors on the 13th March. However, visitors and patrons can still take advantage of a number of online features that the museum boasts. Howard Griffin finds out more...

Most of us are familiar with the internet, both through work and socially. The recent lockdown means that more and more people are now connecting with colleagues, friends and family through computers, tablets and mobile phones. Inevitably, there has also been a substantial increase in the use of online shopping, with many companies rushing to create online profiles and content.

The Kent Museum of Freemasonry already boasts some rich online content, that can help to while away the hours and keep you connected.



Website - kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk

The KMoF website contains many articles and items that will help you to learn more about Freemasonry in general and the Museum in particular. You will find a history of the museum, including the recent

remodelling in 2012. There are also links to lectures, exhibitions and downloads, plus a news section to find out when the museum will be reopening.

Facebook - facebook.com/kentmuseumoffreemasonry
Like many museums the KMoF is online with Facebook, with the latest news and information shared this way. You will also find links to videos and photos of past events and displays here too.

Google Maps - cutt.ly/GtGaB8s
Photographer, Mark Howells has captured the exterior and interior spaces of the museum in full 360-degree imagery that can be accessed using Google Maps. Simply click on the link above to be 'transported' there.

TripAdvisor - cutt.ly/ttGa8WU
Tourist attractions that are awarded the TripAdvisor Certificate of Excellence for five consecutive years qualify for membership of the Hall of Fame.

TripAdvisor awards are based solely upon the independent reviews left by visitors and to attain a Certificate of Excellence a score of 4.5 or more out of 5 must be achieved over a 12 month period.

Having succeeded in the last four years 2016, 2017, 2018, and 2019 if we can do it again this year, we will be inducted into the Hall of Fame. At the time of writing we have a score of 4.5 and are currently listed at No.5 out of 86 things to do in Canterbury.

There are two things that you can do to help. Firstly keep your fingers crossed for us and secondly, if you have visited us recently, please leave a review of your most recent visit. This is especially important given the current closure.

For all enquiries, please contact the editor,
Howard Griffin on masonic@howardgriffin.co.uk
or 0771 518 1499