



Kent Masonic Museum and Library Trust

A charity registered in England no: 1163887

St. Peter's Place, Canterbury, Kent. CT1 2DA

Telephone (01227) 785625

E-mail: secretary@kentmuseumoffreemasonry.org.uk



**Minutes of the Annual General Meeting
of the Kent Masonic Museum and Library Trust
held on Saturday 10th December 2022 at 11:00am
in the Masonic Temple
at Canterbury Masonic Centre, 38 St Peters Street, Canterbury CT1 2DA**

Present

Richard Wingett	Assistant Provincial Grand Master; Chairman
Anthony Eldridge	Ambassador for United Industrious Lodge No. 31
Brian Planner	Ambassador for Harmony Lodge No. 133
Mike Pearce	Ambassador for Lodge of Peace and Harmony No. 199
Philip Sayer	Ambassador for Belvidere Lodge No. 503
	and
Ian MacKenzie	Ambassador for East Kent Scriveners Lodge No. 9622
David Gavin	Ambassador for Cinque Ports Lodge No. 1206
Michael Lay	Ambassador for Corinthian Lodge No. 1208
Steven Roots	Ambassador for Castle Lodge No. 1436
Ian Dent	Ambassador for Erasmus Wilson Lodge No. 1464
Alan Turner	Ambassador for Honor Oak Lodge No. 1986
Ricky Smith (proxy for Ken Hannah)	Ambassador for Kings Navy Lodge No. 2901
Kevin Brett	Ambassador for George Hamilton Lodge No. 3452
David Pugh	Ambassador for Norman Lodge No. 3502
Brian Yates	Ambassador for Beamish Lodge No. 3869
Alexander Ponsford	Ambassador for Queenborough Lodge No. 3893
Barry Turner	Ambassador for Loyal and True Lodge No. 4050
Jeff Knight	Ambassador for Porta Maris Lodge No. 4287
Alan Wills	Ambassador for Globe & Laurel Lodge No. 4657
	and
Graham Cuthbert	Ambassador for Gravesham Lodge No. 5337
	and
John Lean	Ambassador for Shield and Defender Lodge No. 9532
Paul Thompson	Ambassador for Wakefield of Hythe Lodge No. 6059
Terry Powell	Ambassador for Ashford Lodge No. 8945
John Andrews	Ambassador for Allington Lodge No. 7086
Alan Wolvey	Ambassador for Paddlesworth Lodge No. 6162
Clive Manuel	Ambassador for Libertas Secunda Lodge No. 6433
Christopher Talbert	Ambassador for Swakely Lodge No. 6634
David Lees	Ambassador for William Sennocke Lodge No. 6932
John Turner	Ambassador for Lodge of St Mark No. 6969
Stephen Fletcher	Ambassador for Bradley Lodge No. 7929
	and
	Membership Manager of the Association of Patrons

In attendance

Philip South	Deputy Provincial Grand Master
Mark Bassant	Assistant Provincial Grand Master
Malcolm Brooks	Past Grand Tyler and Guest Speaker at the AGM Lunch
Charles Byford	Trustee and Treasurer
Peter Hazlewood	Trustee
Charles Pottle	Trustee and Chairman of the Association of Patrons



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In attendance

(continued)

Richard White	Trustee and Secretary
Marcus Sherwood-Jenkins	Office Manager
Graham Barrett	Chairman Elect of the Association of Patrons
Neville Flourie	Deputy Chairman Elect of the Association of Patrons
James Burchell	Simon Langton Lodge No. 7586 and Association of Patrons
Francis Barman	Queenborough Lodge No. 3893
Stephen Browne	Honor Oak Lodge No. 1986
John Cairncross	Honor Oak Lodge No. 1986
Steven Charnock	Adam's Lodge No. 158
Robert Fill	Beacon Court Lodge No. 1967
Allen West	Queenborough Lodge No. 3893

Apologies

Cressida Williams	Canterbury Cathedral, Archives and Library Manager
Charles Boxer	Trustee
Philip Zygmant	Trustee
David Box	Ambassador for Royal Navy Lodge No. 429
Tony Harvey	Ambassador for North Kent Lodge No. 2499
Duncan Rouse	Ambassador for Crane Lodge No. 2660
Tony Hayward	Ambassador for St Peter's Lodge No. 4193
Charles Barret	Ambassador for Wells Lodge No. 5263
David Hedges	Ambassador for Rookesley Lodge No. 8398
Nick Jenkins	Ambassador for William D'Aeth Lodge No. 8710
John Sandifer	Ambassador for White Horse of Kent Lodge No. 8784
Graham Beach	Ambassador for Ash-cum-Ridley Lodge No. 9700
David Harden	Ambassador for Romney Marsh Lodge No. 4743
Paul Cooper	Ambassador for Snar Gate Lodge No. 6770
Neil Drakley	Ambassador for Trinity Lodge No. 7021
Nigel Knight	Ambassador for Pantiles Lodge No. 2200
Ken Mayhew	Ambassador for Durobrivae Lodge No. 6956
Dennis Hollands	Ambassador for Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity Lodge No. 20
Fred Halligan	Ambassador for Elizabethan Lodge No. 7238
	and Ambassador for Town of Bridges Lodge No. 9563

1. Chairman's welcome and opening remarks.

The meeting opened at 11:00am.

The Chairman introduced himself and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Chairman's Statement.

The Chairman presented the following statement to the meeting:-

Thank you for attending today on what is the coldest day of winter so far. I trust that our meeting today will be warm and welcoming as well as the lunch that is booked afterwards, unless of course you are eating a salad!

I would like also to welcome two of our guests today, Phillip South, the Very Worshipful Deputy Provincial Grand Master, and Malcolm Brooks, our guest speaker who over lunch will tell us what it is like to be a Grand Tyler, travelling the country and having to suffer awfully with the indigestion of consuming plenty of fine dining lunches and dinners.



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But sadly today, we must say goodbye to Roger Waltham, David Tyler, Charles Pottle, John Andrews and [later after the end of the present financial year] Charles Byford. After many years of sterling service, they feel that it is time for a rest and move onto other pursuits. I would therefore like to sincerely thank them on behalf of the Province of East Kent, the Trustees of the Museum and Library and the Association of Patrons and everyone here today, for their contribution and service to the Museum and Library.

Round of applause

My introduction this morning is therefore based on the theme of 'Inventing the Future'. Today we will officially be appointing a new team who will now be responsible for this next chapter in the history of the Museum and Library.

The Museum and Library contains an excellent record of the past but now we must look at what the future means, indeed what it should look like and how do we get there. This is our journey together. Having now reopened the Museum and Library following the forced closure due to the pandemic, there are now many challenges ahead of us, but this makes life very exciting. Today I invite you to be part of this exciting journey and join with us on 'Inventing the Future'.

I am not going to stand here today to outline our approach together with the future plan that we are considering but instead we will provide a series of updates to you all throughout the year. Having said that we have just drafted our 5 year plan and when signed off after Christmas, this will be circulated to you all.

I would now just like to emphasise the importance of the role of Lodge Ambassadors. You are the face to face salesmen of the Museum and Library and without your sales pitch, we cannot sell our product, that being the Museum and Library.

If we are to grow the membership of the Association of Patrons, we need to create the reasons for individuals, Lodges and Chapters to sign up. That said, in doing this, we need to increase our sales pitch and we will support you in how to do so. One of our key ambitions is to replace the gas central heating with full air conditioning, a far better system for the longevity of the artifacts in the museum, some of which are very rare and of international importance and the books in the library, again a rare collection and of great importance. To achieve this ambition, we need to increase our income and we can achieve this by working as 'one team'.

To conclude, the Museum and Library is a jewel in the crown of Freemasonry here in Kent which captures many years of our local history, the history of Kent, the history of the UK and many places across the world.

We need to continue to preserve this unique and important facility and in doing so, together we must invent the future going forwards to ensure that we continue to tell our story.

Round of applause

3. Minutes of previous meeting

The Secretary stated that the Minutes of the previous AGM, held online on 18th September 2021, had been circulated to all registered Lodge Ambassadors.

Brian Yates, of Queenborough Lodge No. 3893, proposed that the minutes of the previous AGM be taken as read and approved. This was seconded by Kevin Brett, of Norman Lodge No. 3502, and approved by the Meeting.

4. Annual statement of accounts and trustees' annual report

The Chairman presented the Annual Report of the Trustees, and the Treasurer presented the statement of accounts for the year ended 31 March 2022.

The accounts have been independently examined by Kreston Reeves LLP, who state that they have no concerns with regard to the accounts.



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A signed copy of the statement of accounts and trustees' annual report, together with signed copy of the report of the Independent Examiners was distributed by email to all registered Lodge Ambassadors is available for download from the Museum's web site.

Clive Manuel, of The Lodge of St. Mark No. 6969, proposed that the annual statement of accounts and trustees' annual report for the year ended 31st March 2022 be adopted and approved. This was seconded by Christopher Talbert of Bradley Lodge No. 199, and approved by the Meeting.

5. Resignation and Election of Trustees

Tony Eldridge, of United Industrious Lodge No. 31, proposed that

- a) Charles Byford, having retired by rotation, be re-elected as a Trustee, and
- b) Peter Hazlewood, Richard White, Richard Wingett and Philip Zygmant, having been co-opted as Trustees since the previous AGM, be elected as Trustees.

This was seconded by Michael Lay of Castle Lodge No. 1346, and approved by the Meeting.

6. Election of Treasurer

Graham Cuthbert, of the Wakefield of Hythe Lodge No. 429, proposed that Charles Byford be re-elected as Treasurer.

This was seconded by Alan Wills, of Gravesham Lodge No. 5337, and approved by the Meeting.

7. Election of Independent Examiners.

Terry Powell, of Libertas Secunda Lodge No. 6433, proposed that Kreston Reeves LLP be re-elected as Independent Examiners. This was seconded by Stephen Fletcher, of Monckton Lodge No. 9236, and approved by the Meeting.

8. Report of the Chairman of the Association of Patrons

Charles Pottle, Chairman of the Association of Patrons, presented his report which is given below:-

Ladies, Gentlemen and Patrons,

It is my pleasure to offer this report on the activities of the Association of Patrons (Association of Patrons) since our last AGM in 2021.

As is customary, I extend a most sincere thank you to all our Patrons. Without your ongoing support the Kent Museum of Freemasonry could not operate and the work of the Association of Patrons is vital to secure a successful future. I am very grateful to all those on the Association of Patrons team for their continued commitment which has ensured another record year in terms of income and new patronages.

With regard to Patrons and Patron Income, during the financial year 2021-22

- Total Association of Patrons income (inc Gift Aid) was £15,691.00. Another record high.
- This year we achieved an uplift of 34 new Patronages. Another year of strong growth, especially given the Museum had not yet reopened.
- We currently have 342 active (paid-up) Patrons.

Our in-house magazine, "Museum Matters" continues to be very popular. W. Bro James Burchell has now taken over the reigns and is to be congratulated for all his work. It is a most important way we can engage with our Patrons. We are always looking for support and ideas so please get in touch.



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Once again we ran our annual Association of Patrons Prize Draw. Just a gesture of our gratitude to you all for staying with us. All current Patrons were entered free of charge. The winners were Queenborough Lodge 3893 and W. Bro Ron Carter. The Association of Patrons had the pleasure to deliver the prizes in person at a meeting of the Lodge in Sheerness.

The Association of Patrons continues to be mindful that it is the Kent Museum of Freemasonry and we are therefore grateful for the ongoing support given by all our friends in West Kent, in particular, Association of Patrons Deputy Chairman W. Bro. Phil Moore and Committee member, W. Bro Clive Moore.

To remain successful organisations must review and renew. We have a new Chairman of the Trustees and a new, dedicated team of volunteers has been assembled. The Association of Patrons is no different. To remain fresh and dynamic we too must renew. After over 5 years as Chairman it is the right time to pass the baton on. It has been an immense honour to lead the Association of Patrons and I am truly grateful to you and all the Association of Patrons team for your tremendous support and generosity. We can be rightly proud of our headline successes over the last 5 years –

- Association of Patrons income has doubled since 2017
- We have signed up almost 150 new Patrons
- We have 50% more Patrons overall
- Our membership records have been updated and assured
- You love our Prize Draw and Museum Matters

W. Bro Phil Moore and I will shortly be stepping down from our roles as Association of Patrons Deputy Chairman and Chairman respectively. Our replacements have been confirmed. W. Bro Graham Barrett will take over as Association of Patrons Chairman and W. Bro Neville Fourie will become our new Deputy Chairman. Both are well known across both East and West Kent Provinces and have the experience and zeal to harness all the strengths of the Association of Patrons to ensure that the Museum and Library has a very bright future ahead. I wish them every success in their new roles. We are, and will remain, the "Jewel in the Crown".

In closing I reiterate how lucky we are in Kent to have the Kent Museum of Freemasonry and the invaluable "window to our world" it provides. It has been an enormous pleasure to be part of the project.

Wishing you all the very best of health and, for the final time - Thank you.

Round of applause

9. Items and questions from Lodge Ambassadors

The Chairman called on Ian Dent, of Honor Oak Lodge No, 1986, to announced the donation to the Museum of a framed apron of the late RW Bro. Raymond Horn PAGM of the GL of Spain.

Ian Dent explained the senior role and hard word RW Bro. Horn played in setting up 26 lodges in the GL of Spain. The Chairman thanked W. Bro. Ian Dent and said that the Museum would be pleased to accept the gift of the framed apron.

10. Address by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW. Bro. Philip South PGSwdB

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master addressed the meeting.

Mr Chairman, Ladies, Gentlemen and Brethren.

Firstly, I must say that it is an honour to be able to speak at this meeting and I thank the Chairman and trustees for giving me this opportunity.

It is so good to now see the Museum back open to the public having had the doors closed for the best part of two years during, not only the Covid lockdown but also some challenges with repair works which are happily now all completed.



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We have a new Chairman, Worshipful Brother Richard Wingett, and he has shuffled the team bringing in some new faces who are enthusiastically moving things forward.

The Provincial Grand Master has asked me to thank you Mr Chairman and your team for the big push to open the doors, the hard work that has been done to achieve that and the hard work that continues to be done to keep the Museum operating and an interesting place to visit.

In so doing that, the Provincial Grand Master has also requested that I make public his grateful thanks to the past Chairman Worshipful Brother Roger Waltham and those members of his team that have stepped down earlier this year.

In particular I would like to mention the now past Secretary John Andrews for his dedication and service over some 15 years. He has really been a stalwart and conscientious member of the team.

As a past Provincial Secretary, I know only too well that the Secretary drives the engine room and everything ends up on his desk, so thank you again John.

The Kent Museum and Library here in Canterbury is a fantastic asset to both the Provinces of East and West Kent and is considered by most to be number 2 in England and Wales, second only to the Museum at Great Queen Street, and one that many other Provinces are envious of.

I must stress the point that it is the Kent Museum and Library, and we should be very active in encouraging more support from West Kent, both in volunteers and patrons.

I do know that we have a new Chairmen of the Association of Patrons Worshipful Brother Graham Barrett a West Kent Mason, and I'm sure he will be looking to promote patronage from across both Provinces, and I'm also sure more awareness, especially in West Kent, will pay dividends moving forward.

He will be ably assisted in this task by the new Deputy Chairman Neville Fourie. Also, Mr Chairman, as you mentioned in your opening remarks, that you and your team are already looking at ways to encourage and utilise the Lodge Ambassadors who do have such an important role to play in promoting the Museum at Lodge level.

They are an important conduit to be used in encouraging members to visit with Family and Friends or days out for Lodge members. More activity in this direction can only be of benefit to us all as it promotes our Fraternity.

Being number two it was no surprise to be told of some of the remarkable exhibits which the Museum holds. Two at least of most interest that have recently been found in storage and were not on show before, although I'm sure they will be now if not already.

Firstly, a heavy maul which the British Museum has confirmed as being from between the years 3,500 to 2,500 BC and comes from a tomb in the Valley of the Kings in Luxor, Egypt. I think I'm correct in saying that there is only one other similar to this one in the Country and which is now registered at the British Museum.

Secondly, we have a first edition copy of the Anderson Constitutions dated 1723 and three other editions that were published between 1784 and 1896.

The Anderson Constitutions for those that don't know were written by James Anderson, a Presbyterian clergyman in 1723, so you can see we have an original. He was commissioned to do this by John Desaguliers who was the third Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

These Constitutions are the basis of which modern Freemasonry is founded on, and it is truly remarkable therefore that not only a first edition is here at Canterbury but three other further editions.

A couple of interesting footnotes, you are probably all aware that Grand Lodge are celebrating the tercentenary of the publication of the Anderson Constitutions in 1723 with a special meeting in January 2023 and other events planned across England, America, and Europe.



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That goes to show the importance of these books and how they have influenced our Fraternity and not only in England. Benjamin Franklin copied the Anderson Constitution verbatim in 1734 for use in America.

So that is just two of the amazing artifacts held here at the Museum and as I previously stated I'm sure these will now be on display along with many more so it's not hard to see how we have the number 2 spot.

With all of this It is just recognition to the hard work of all those involved that the museum holds the Art Councils Accredited Museum status.

Mr Chairman, having got through the last couple of tough years I know that under your direction and the hard work of your team, exiting and rewarding times lie ahead.

As you say, inventing the future, which is in your hands.

I wish you all well in those endeavours and thank you again for inviting me to say a few words this morning.

Thank you

Round of applause

11. Chairman's closing remarks

Richard Wingett thanked everyone for attending but before closing the meeting he announced a presentation to John Andrews in thanks and recognition of his 15 years as Secretary of the Trust.

The Chairman thanked John Andrews and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master presented a gift with more words of thanks on behalf of both Provinces.

The box was opened and found to contain a pair of engraved wine glasses.

The Chairman also presented John with a book on the battles of the First World War written by the British Army and once again congratulated and thanked John.

John spoke to thank everyone for the gift, in particular the Chairman and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The Chairman wanted to reiterate the words that had already been spoken during the meeting. He looked forward to the new plans for the museum and community involvement.

He stressed the importance of the Lodge Ambassadors.

He recounted the Canterbury Pageant day and the visit by brethren of the Grand Lodge of Texas led by their Grand Master, Most Worshipful Brother Brad Billings. We look forward to visiting their museum and also to seeing if we can twin our two museums.

Several lodges have now had group visits to the museum and he encouraged lodges to hold these. But we need more volunteers as Stewards and as Patrons to keep the museum open and the success it is.

The Chairman then closed the meeting.