



B E S P O K E W E D D I N G S E R V I C E S

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CORBY MASONIC COMPLEX

On the Square

Issue 21



Winter 2018/19

Brethren

As 2018 draws to a close it is once again time for me to reflect on the preceding twelve months and the perfect opportunity to thank all members and their families in helping to make the year a hugely successful one. In the last few years we have pursued a commercial policy of offering the complex as a wedding and Christmas party venue. I am pleased to report that this year has seen a significant increase in the complex commercial activity and this in turn has enabled the cost of masonry to be kept at a reasonable level for our membership.

Regular visitors would have seen the improvements we have made to the main hall. In order to keep our facilities attractive to prospective newlyweds, we have to maintain our quality levels in all areas and to enable us to promote the complex commercially we have decided to brand our complex the **Acacia** rooms. Please keep the complex in mind if you have any prospective family events, I'm sure you will find that we are competitive – see our manager Jason or check out the web for details.

Looking forward, applications for membership here at Corby continue to be sought after, good men clearly want to join us, and the complex continues to receive plaudits from visitors. In the words of an active provincial officer on a recent visit, we have a centre to be proud of.

As always my thanks go to Jason, his team and the members of the committee who do so much to make the complex tick.

I would like you all to remember in your thoughts those brethren who have passed to the grand lodge above during the past twelve months, their widows and relatives, not forgetting the widows and relatives who themselves have also passed away.

Finally let me end by wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Jimmy

Complex Chairman

This publication is only as good as its contents. If you have any ideas, photos or indeed would like to advertise events associated with your lodge, chapter or preceptory, please contact Rob Poulter
This newsletter can also be found online at [Corby Masonic Complex Website](#)

Spotlight on the Lodge of St Giles

In the early 1970s there were masons in Corby and the surrounding area who considered that another Lodge could be justified, in particular a number who resided in Desborough who felt that they could raise a new Lodge to support the Brethren of Thistle & Rose who were endeavoring to build their own premises in Corby.

Accordingly the new Lodge was formed taking its name from the Churches of St Giles in Desborough, Edinburgh and London. The formation of the Lodge gave a boost to the financial standing of the building fund thus enabling the work to continue on the building of the Masonic complex in Corby.

The Lodge was consecrated on the 30th October 1976, at the Kettering Masonic Hall, its first master being an emanate mason at the time WBro JA McKean, with a well-known mason of today in the person of WBro Stuart Geekie as the Senior Warden. The first regular took place at the Lutheran Hall in Corby and meetings continued there until September 1978 when the Lodge moved to its present home at the Corby Masonic Complex in Rockingham Road.

It is a fact that included in the Lodges list of honorary members is the MW Bro The Rt Hon, The Earl of Elgin and Kincardine, Past Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

These days the Lodge meets on the First Tuesday from September to May with the exception of January when the second Tuesday is preferred. The current master is Bro Milan Crooks who is pictured welcoming the new Lodge Secretary WBro Arthur McNeil. Take it from the editor this Lodge is well worth a visit - to arrange one, contact Arthur at

oneillarthur3604@hotmail.com

We three do agree

2018 has seen a couple of unique 'threes' as I'm sure you would agree. At Provincial Grand Chapter in June, three senior members of the complex were installed in the Holy Royal Arch as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in the persons of Ex Comp Steve Seward, Alex Henderson and Jeff Freeman.



In September three members of one Lodge were installed as Worshipful Masters in three separate Corby Lodges, Lodge of St Giles, Ferrara, and Thistle and Rose. Milan Crooks, Richard Skillen and Steve Burton Our are all members of Ferrara Lodge, a unique achievement for a single Lodge in the same masonic year.

Corby Freemasons in the Community

On Thursday 8 November the masters of the Corby Lodges assisted by the Corby Group officers were very proud to be able to present a cheque for £3379 to Lee and Suzanne of the Autumn Centre. The Corby Lodges raised £1800 and the Northants and Hunts Provincial Grand Lodge provided the uplift to meet the entire projected cost for urgently required tables and chairs.



The not-for-profit charity day centre for the over 50s in Corby and the surrounding villages is provided in a centre on the Counts Farm Road in Corby. They provide a heavily subsidised service for their members with free membership for all, a door to door escorted transport service, healthy well balanced meals, free activities including four chair exercise sessions a week to help people keep active and prevent slips, trips and falls.

The majority of the members have physical disabilities but they also help people living with all different types of dementia, Parkinsons disease, Huntingtons disease, mental health issues and abuse.

Their aim is to combat loneliness, social isolation and to help build self-worth and confidence.

50 years in freemasonry and still going strong.



The installation meeting of Thistle and Rose was extra special for the organist of the Lodge Bro Paul Beard, a Past Provincial Grand Organist. He received his Jubilee certificate from the Provincial Grand Masters representative W Bro. Francis Margot. Over 60 brothers sat down to the Festive Board after the presentation. Bro Paul was initiated into Cytringan Lodge L4048 on 2 January 1967. As a musician he was very soon enlisted to assist other Lodges when they were in need of an organist, in particular Thistle and Rose Lodge who at that time met in the Lutheran Hall. Following a working life spent away from the area he retired back amongst us in 1999 and met up again with two old Kettering Grammar School chums, W. Bros. Trevor Wayman & Ken Marris - both attended the ceremony, although they no longer do his homework.

Lest we forget ~ Remembrance Sunday 11th November

The Chairman W. Bro Jim Spence PAGDC and W. Bro Ron Stone PPSGW, accompanied by brethren from across all orders laid wreaths on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge and Corby Masonic Centre at the annual Remembrance ceremony held at the cenotaph in the old village.



Notice Board & Events

Corby Masonic Players presents

Dick Whittington

Sunday 2nd December 2018
at 1pm & 4pm

At the Corby Masonic Hall, Rockingham Road, Corby

Free to Family and Friends

To book your seats please leave your details behind the bar or with your Lodge cast member:
Rab Reid, Phil Fitzpatrick, Greg Allen, George Peel, Jack Summerfield & Ali Rae
All children will receive a selection box.

At each performance there will be a charity raffle – all proceeds will be donated to the Teddies for Loving Care appeal.



Sunday 10 December: **Provincial Carol Service, Peterborough Cathedral**

Tickets include mince pie and a drink: £4 from your Lodge Secretary.

Sunday 16 December: **Members, friends and families Christmas lunch**

£16 pp for a three course dinner - see the complex manger or ask at the bar.

Friday 17 May : **Corby United Lodges**

Building on the success of the inaugural Corby United Lodges meeting, April 2019 will see a joint meeting hosted by Thistle and Rose Lodge. Once again this year's masters will be involved and a candidate has already been selected.

Ladies Festivals

Don't miss out on the chance to thank the lady in your life for her support in your masonic life. Book up early for your Lodge's Ladies Festival. Contact your Lodge Secretary for details.

Festival date	Lodge
16 February	Ferraria Lodge
9 March	Lodge of Heritage
6 April	Corbie Lodge
11 May	Lodge of St Giles
15 June	Thistle and Rose Lodge

And finally, the Ronnie Stone joke slot ...

Paddy couldn't understand why his sister had two brothers and he only had one.

