



# On the Square

Issue 25



December 2021

NEWSLETTER OF THE CORBY MASONIC CENTRE

*Above: Re-launch day with the Royal Order*

*Centre L to R, Tony Henderson PGM, Tom Quinn IPGM, Centre and behind Karen McNamee, Bar & Catering Manager*

## Brethren

Welcome back after such a long absence the complex re-opened on the 1<sup>st</sup> September hosting the Royal Order of Scotland and over 70 brethren. It was great to have the Craft Provincial Grand Master of Bedfordshire installed as the PGM for the Royal Order in our Complex, what a superb way to re-launch masonry in Corby.

It is fantastic to see Karen McNamee return as our Bar & Catering Manager, she is indeed the “Head Cook & Bottle Washer” assisted by committee members and others there is an effective management team in place that is working towards making our centre a success for the foreseeable future.

Without doubt the path back to normality will have further obstacles, the virus is still with us, restrictions in all probability will be required at certain times, the centre will at all times follow guidance from the Provincial Office

So far the response from you all has been amazing, since the re-opening there have been a total of 21 meetings with 677 meals served clearly the strategy of re-opening as a masonic only centre is providing confidence that our complex is a safe place for masons to come.

The re-organisation of the bar and members lounge area to create a new dining facility more suited to the expected requirements on resumption of activities has been so well received. We are eternally grateful for the knowledge and expertise of all those who made it possible.

Season's Greetings

*Jimmy*  
*Complex Chairman*

# The Member's Pathway

The key objective of this new national initiative is that every single brother should be able to contribute to ensuring that Freemasonry thrives, building a Fraternity for the 21st century and for a new generation of Freemasons!

The pathway encourages Lodges to plan for the future, work out how best to attract tomorrow's masons, whilst engaging with today's membership

The most important attribute for the brethren managing this process is the ability to LISTEN

The Members Pathway Program for the Corby is led by the Senior Group Officer WBro Jim Spence, who is assisted by W Bro Harry Twelvetrees, WBro Steve Burton & WBro Alex Henderson.



## Early progress

**Planning & Attraction** - The United Grand Lodge of England of Freemasonry have commissioned a digital marketing campaign to attract new members, for sure there is significant new interest in the fraternity in the Corby area, in our Lodges a total of 10 applicants have now completed their interview process and have dates for initiation this season. On average we received a couple of enquires each week.

**Engagement / Retrieval & Retention** - Before the pandemic Lodge registers were introduced, these have proved to be invaluable in being able to identify and then engage with our membership, whilst we are averaging 25+ per meeting there is a significant cohort of members who are not attending. Clearly there are some Brethren who are not ready to return due to the pandemic.

Anecdotal evidence also suggests other reasons for non-attendance

- Some older masons and those with mobility issues suggest they do not attend or only attend now and again because evening meetings are too late; some brethren say that do not like eating after 7pm, some have mobility issues and get tired in the evenings.
- Brethren do not have role in the Lodge (Past Masters)

Several members have suggested that a locally based daytime Lodge would work very well and be assured of regular support with a ready number of applicants from the older members of the community and those with mobility issues.

## Next Steps

The Pathway team will look to work with each Lodge to develop plans for the future that are commensurate with the overall Pathway plan. A start up session will take place with the Corby Masonic Management Committee, which consists of an elected representative from each Lodge, as part of the next regular CMC meeting.

## 2021/22 Corby Masters



### Worshipful Masters

Left to Right  
Stuart Nichols- Heritage,  
Mel Garner – Corbie,  
Jim Dickson – Thistle & Rose,  
Richard Skillen – Unity,  
Jim Allison – St Giles  
Ian Boyle – Ferrara

What a fine body of men who it is understood will be re-turning to the tradition of sitting masters in persuading their respective Lodges into donating a minimum of £100 towards a joint single local worthy cause of their choice. Looking at them, don't think there will be a lot of arguing from the Treasurers

## BOAZ and JACHIN make it at last

In 2019 the Lodge of instruction commissioned these wonderful, handmade wardens columns in order to adorn their respective pedestals in the Lodge Room, and were expecting to present them in open Lodge in early 2020, however this was delayed due to cessation of all Masonic activity.

The resumption of meetings has now allowed the presentation to take place and at Octobers meeting of Corbie Lodge the Senior Group Officer, on behalf of the complex, was thrilled to received them from members of the LOI. They are now in their rightful place



## Carl forgets his coin

A reminder to all members of Rabs Posse, your Charity Coin must be in your possession at every meeting you attend, failure will result in a personal £5 donation to charity, just like Bro Carl Braybrook the Senior Deacon from Thistle & Rose experienced whilst visiting the Lodge of Unity.

# The Light Blues Christmas Mince Pie Project 2021



Or more familiarly known as, the annual Christmas Collection of food items, which will be donated to local food banks to support those who find themselves in need at this time of year.

Any food items are welcome, as are Christmas Crackers. Running from 1st November to 17th December please drop off any donations in the box in the entrance hall of the complex on any meeting or rehearsal evening.

Pictured L – R

Bro Malcolm Pearce – Light Blues Corby coordinator and Bro Jeff Connisbee the Chairman of the Corby Light Blues

## Roll of departed merit 2021

This year has seen the following members called to the Grand Lodge above

W Bro Stuart Geekie	W Bro Bill Mc Giliveray	W Bro Jim Robertson
W Bro Roger Johnson ( Skippy )	W Bro Gordon Brown	W Bro Jim Hall
VW Bro Wayne Williams ( Honary member Corbie Lodge )		

Our thoughts and prayers are with their families, they will be very much missed by us all.

## And finally, the Ronnie Stone joke slot



“Paddy could not get his car started he rang the AA they asked him what gear he was in he says a boiler suite and Wellington boots ”.