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UNITED GRAND LODGE  
OF ENGLAND

# What do we know about the United Grand Lodge of England?

RW Bro Anthony Strong

## What do we know about the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE)?

The United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) is the governing body of Freemasonry in England, Wales, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands plus a number of Districts and Groups overseas. It was formed in 1717 and has a membership of over 200,000 and raised over thirty three million pounds for good causes.

UGLE celebrated its 300<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2017 marking the date that four London Lodges came together at the Goose and Gridiron Tavern in St Paul's Churchyard and declared themselves the world's first Grand Lodge. Freemasonry is one of the world's largest non-political, fraternal and charitable organizations and its symbolic origin lies in stonemasonry.

### Why do people become Freemasons?

Like any membership organization, there are many different and personal motivations for becoming a Freemason. One of the key reasons is camaraderie. Freemasonry provides a unique environment for people from all backgrounds to make lasting friendships, learn skills, achieve their potential and, above all, have fun. What is more, the Organization provides a valuable forum for discussion between members in an open environment. Freemasonry also provides an important framework around which members can make a positive contribution to society and can also provide structure to people's lives helping them to be the best they possibly can.

Members are expected to believe in a higher power although Freemasonry does not seek to replace an individual's religion or provide a substitute for it. Instead, it focuses on an individual's relationship with his peers. Furthermore, people from all faiths are welcome. In fact, this is a cornerstone of Freemasonry, which is a non-religious and non-political organization and does not discriminate on the grounds of race, colour, religion, political views or economic standing.

Having outlined the concept of Freemasonry, we as Masons are often discriminated against by the public. The United Grand Lodge of England has written a full page article in the Times, Telegraph



and Guardian newspapers calling for an end to discrimination for 'Enough is Enough' and, quote, 'This is the first for us, but necessary under the circumstances. For too long we have been unjustly singled out. We are an organization whose whole tenet is about helping individuals become better people with values of honesty, integrity and service to others. Membership of Freemasonry is not only positive for them as individuals but also for society at large. Sadly too many Masons have to exercise caution in response to prejudice and discrimination they fear they will face. We want the day when every Freemason can proudly declare themselves a member of our great and historical organization without fear of retribution, suspicion or damage. We are happy and open to talk about anything and encourage all Lodges to arrange open evenings and invite the public to participate.'

This particular matter was mentioned at a Lodge Installation in the presence of many wives. The result was that I received an email and, quote, "As I understand it, men are invited to become members. They are chosen because they are seen to be upright men. The true Mason learns to be part of a Brotherhood that cares about his fellow man and, he himself, chooses to become an honourable and better man. When my husband joined Freemasonry I had no idea of the rollercoaster life we would lead, filled with lasting friendships and like-minded people. My husband always had a giving nature, but, with the help and guidance of his Brethren he has remarkable grown both spiritually and emotionally. He was or used to be a shy person and now can speak at any function with confidence.

I have been his wife for fifty four years and can honestly say that it was the best decision he ever made making our relationship more fulfilled and richer in every way. He became more focused on the family and aware of the plight of others around him that were not as privileged as we were. As the years have passed he has progressed and is now mentoring the younger masons entering the Lodge. I feel very privileged to be part of his contribution to Freemasonry as he strives to hold together the true meaning of Freemasonry in teaching the next generation of upright and honourable men. We all have gifts to impart but sometimes these have to be learned or sometimes just make that choice to be a better human being. I firmly believe that Freemasonry has done this for my husband for he sets the highest standards for himself and his belief in Christianity has strengthened dramatically.

To my mind Freemasonry is not only a choice but also a calling to those who dedicate themselves to its principles as it is a way of life guided by these principles. I admire these men that are so hard working and dedicated in uplifting the community without bragging and broadcasting the good that they do. I am so proud to be just a small part associated with these incredible human beings'.

**What an emotional and thought provoking feeling from a dedicated wife and non-Mason.**

**We welcome you to submit your views to Square Talk.**

# Who's Who in the UGLE



## HRH THE DUKE OF KENT KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC GRAND MASTER

Prince Edward George Nicholas Paul Patrick was born in 1935 and educated at Eton and Le Rosey, Switzerland. He is a cousin both of the Queen and of the Duke of Edinburgh.

His father, who was Grand Master from 1939 until 1942, was the fourth son of King George V and his mother, Princess Marina, was the daughter of Prince Nicholas of Greece. He has been the Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England since he was first elected in 1967.

As the Grand Master is a member of the Royal Family, he has powers to appoint a Pro Grand Master to be his principal adviser and to act for him on those occasions when, due to royal engagements, he is unable to be present.

## PETER GEOFFREY LOWNDES PRO GRAND MASTER

Peter Lowndes was born in 1948 and educated at Eton. He is a Fellow of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS).

He served as a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies from 1984 until 1986 and was subsequently appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1995, serving until 2003.

On 10 March 2004, Peter Lowndes was installed as Deputy Grand Master, continuing until his appointment as Pro Grand Master on 11 March 2009.



## JONATHAN SPENCE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER

Jonathan Spence was born in 1960 and educated at the Mathematical School, Rochester and Trinity College, Oxford.

After a career in banking, from which he retired in 2006 as Chief Executive of a London bank, he now holds a senior position in education.

He was appointed Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2003 and served in that office until his appointment as Deputy Grand Master on 11 March 2009.

## SIR DAVID WOOTTON ASSISTANT GRAND MASTER

Sir David Wootton was born in 1950 and educated at Bradford Grammar School and Jesus College, Cambridge.

He became a partner in an international law firm in 1979, specialising in corporate transactions and best-practice compliance with law and regulation in corporate governance.

Having a strong interest in the governance of the City of London, he was elected to Common Council in 2002 as Member for the Ward of Farringdon Within and subsequently elected as Alderman for the Ward of Langbourn in 2005. Sir David served as Lord Mayor of London for 2011-12.

He served as Metropolitan Senior Grand Warden in 2007 and was promoted to Past Grand Sword Bearer in 2012 before his appointment as Assistant Grand Master on 12 March 2014.



# More about the Connaught Club of KwaZulu-Natal

WBro Schalk Jacobs

The **Connaught Club** was established in June 2007 in London after the Metropolitan Grand Lodge held a reception for all masons under the age of 35. The reception was hosted by the Metropolitan Grand Master and he deemed it to be exceptionally successful and due to the enjoyment, more such events were planned. Subsequently, the Connaught Club (named after MW Bro Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught & Strathearn, Grand Master 1901-1939) was born.

Through WBro James Dow, Secretary of South Africa Lodge in London, the success of the Connaught Club became known locally. After securing permission from the London Connaught Club to establish a similar Club in KwaZulu-Natal, the inaugural meeting of the first Connaught Club outside London was held in April 2010 with WBro Tony Leeson elected as its President, Bro Mark Potter as Chairman and 9 brethren as founding members.

The **Connaught Club of KwaZulu-Natal** established rules that deviate slightly from the London Club, namely:

- ◇ The Club is open to all Masons who have not gone through the Master's Chair;
- ◇ There is no age restriction;
- ◇ It is open to brethren from the four Constitutions in KZN;
- ◇ Members are encouraged to attend formal visits to Lodges and social events if they can
- ◇ There is a once-off joining fee of R200.

The Club's **primary role** is to provide opportunities for new Freemasons to meet each other, build lasting bonds of friendship and to mutually encourage their involvement in Freemasonry. We strongly encourage and support pride in our lodges, in our District/Provincial Grand Lodges and in our Constitutions. By bringing the newer and younger Masons and their families together, we demonstrate that Freemasonry is not just for old men and that younger Brethren have an important role in the Fraternity.

The social events also provides the opportunity to meet prospective candidates for Craft Masonry and allows them to meet and greet Masons. We try to have a senior Brother present to answer any questions prospective candidates may have.



December 2017 saw the Annual General Meeting of the Club take place at Port Natal Temple's Festive Board area. A Constitution was adopted by those present and a new Committee elected for the next two years:

**Chairman**-Bro Jeremy Rundle (First United, GLSA)

**Deputy Chairman**-Bro Brad Barthorpe (Mt Currie/Ixopo);

**Treasurer**-Bro Dr Dhevin Ramiah

(Inanda); **Social Co-ordinator**-Bro Eugene De Lange (Umlazi); **Membership Co-ordinator**-Bro Denzil McVie (First United, GLSA) and **Committee Member**-WBro Brian Smith (Marine, Irish).

The position of Secretary will be filled at a later stage. The Club's Advisory Council (past masters assisting and mentoring) remains unchanged with WBro David Zavad (President) and WBro Mark Potter (Deputy President).

WBro Jacobs tabled his report noting that from only having about 5 to 8 members, the Club has grown to over 30 across three constitutions. The Club now forms a Guard of Honour for District at all District events and assists the District DC Team with setting up and clearing District Lodge after a meeting and at the District Festive Board. This gives young masons invaluable insight of what happens behind the scenes of such events. It was also decided to look at each lodge in the district (where possible) for a representative for the Club and to assist with recruiting.

WBro Jacobs thanked the outgoing committee and existing council for their support and also the District Grand Master, RWBro Tony Strong for his support to the Club. Bro Rundle was then declared Chairman of the Club.

The new Committee has wasted no time and has taken on the running of the marshalling in Cato Ridge for the next Comrades Marathon. In this regard, an appeal is made to all brethren to please assist these young masons in achieving a successful event. All proceeds will be donated to Masonic Services. Social events are being planned with venues being sought. Furthermore, regular contributions will be submitted to *Square Talk* and circulars to communicate information of future social events.

For more information about the Connaught Club, contact  
Bro Jeremy Rundle (063 350 8763) or  
Bro Brad Barthorpe (082 073 2022)

May 2018 sees the 3 year anniversary of the **Tylers Swords** and what a great journey it has been , not only from a charity point of view, but also the people one meets along the way.

A real eye opener for me, personally, has been how close the biking community is and how they support each other. With my three year term as its President coming up, I decided it was time for someone else to take charge and put new energy into the Widows Sons.

Having moved our AGM forward due to the National AGM been held early this year, the new officers where elected with some moving up to new positions while some chose to stay in their current positions. My thanks goes out to all the Widows Sons for the support that they have given me over the past



three years and I wish all the new officers and members every thing of the best moving forward and may you continue to grow.

**WBro Gary Baney**



**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2018**

The AGM was held on the 11th of March 2018. Not only were new officers appointed, but also 12 new members were invested into the Wid-ow's Sons KZN. The newly-elected Officers are:

**President**

Tony Caloba

**Vice President**

Mike Carson

**Treasurer**

Mark Louch

**Secretary**

Diana Carsons

**Sergeant at Arms**

Lee White

**Gaurdian of Membership**

Mark Potter

**Road Captains**

Mark Roberson & Gary Baney

**CHARITY**

10th December 2017 saw the Widows Sons supporting Lodge First United in donations to **Bobbi Bear** in Amamzimtoti with baby goods, three car loads of nappies and baby care products for Bobbi Bear (pictured below). Bobbi Bear is a half way house that help care for children who have been abused, or abandoned and are placed in their care until a more stable home is found for them.



# Are you Worthy to Receive your Mark?

## The Origins of Mark Master Masonry

Submitted by RW Bro David Zavad, Past DGM, Mark Masons, KZN

Generations of people have marvelled at the ability of the ancient Egyptians in building the pyramids and other astounding temples. Even more so as they had the most simple tools in copper chisels and mallets until the Iron Age about 1 000 BC improved working conditions.

In the time of King Solomon 974-967 BC saw the building in stone of his Temple in Jerusalem, Persians were fine craftsmen and built great palaces. The Golden Age in Greece 450-405 BC under Pericles saw the creation of the Parthenon in Athens. Remarkably we learn that basic stone was hewn from quarries, fashioned into rough ashlar and then finished by tapping with stones to smooth it and produce a fine result. An enormous work force was needed which required organisation and the slow process also increased the labour element.

King Solomon conceived the concept and Hiram, King of Tyre financed the project with tons of gold and also provided his principal architect. In those days the Phoenicians, based on Tyre, were the merchant seamen of the Mediterranean and they made it possible to bring timber from the forest of Lebanon by sea on floats to land near modern day Tel Aviv and then haul it overland to Jerusalem.

Our Mark Mason history informs us that an immense number of men were employed, in fact, some 110 000. Of those, 80 000 were hewers in the quarries of Zeradatha and builders of the temple. A further 30 000 were employed in the forests of Lebanon to cut the timber required. This work force was divided into 1 100 lodges and supervised by 3 300 overseers or Mark Masters who knew their men and their respective 'Marks' and seeing that the work was satisfactory. A select few overseers paid the others their wages. Entered Apprentices were rewarded with corn, wine and oil, whilst the Craftsmen who taught them the work received their wages in specie. One can imagine they would be paid by 'piece work' or for suitable stones produced. The quality of workmanship of finished stones was carefully examined before being accepted and marked by overseers and then sent to the temple. If a stone should not be up to standard and according to plan, such a stone would be rejected and discarded. The paymasters in each lodge would control and pay the wages on being shown a recognised hand sign. In the Mark Degree as practised today, there is no squaring of the

lodge because there was no lodge to square.

A candidate to Mark Masonry is taken through an 'Advancement' ceremony that demonstrates that by perseverance he can overcome difficulties and rejection and become accepted and rewarded. The ceremony is basically a play in which the candidate is the principal player. It involves many members of the lodge, each performing his allotted task and is most rewarding.



The Mark Degree is known as the 'Friendly Degree' and its members do, undoubtedly, adopt a different attitude in their demeanour than in the Craft. When the ceremony is performed really well, the Advancement is an unforgettable experience for the candidate. We try hard to maintain our standards to always make it so, therefore, all participants have a challenge towards a successful meeting. Those fortunate enough to have witnessed an

Advancement ceremony in the Mark Grand Lodge of Instruction in London will have seen a working equal in excitement to that of a best West End stage production!

Mark Masonry has a proud history in regard to charity. In the early foundation years, the Reverent PORTAL Grand Master of Mark Master Masons, had a ministry in Pimlico, London and had a compassion for the poor. His church was filled to overflowing. He decided there had to be a way to break the cycle of poverty and people should be able to purchase property. He created the National Deposit Society which still exists today and was the forerunner of our modern building societies, most of which have been taken over by banks. His idea was a success and he made a better life possible for many otherwise impoverished people.

At the 150th Anniversary in October 2006, Mark Masons made a gift of 3 million pounds to the Osteoporosis Society to enable them to purchase ten mobile scanning units in suitable lorries to enable them to visit outlying areas and diagnose bone degeneration timeously. At the time, there were 45 000 Mark Masons in the world and every lodge was represented at that meeting which made the Grand Master, Prince Michael of Kent, very proud of the Organisation.

For more information about Mark Masonry in KwaZulu-Natal, contact WBro David Zavad at 082 901 0791

# The Order of the **Red Cross** of Constantine Explained

As a Royal Arch Mason, one is entitled to seek membership of the **Order of the Red Cross of Constantine**. Since the establishment of Grand Imperial Conclave in 1865, the order has steadily grown with Conclaves formed throughout the English speaking world.

**Why Constantine?** Candidates in this degree recognise how Christianity can be embraced by seeing how the legend of Constantine's conversion is set within Masonic ritual that is linked with the history of the Roman Empire.

Constantine, a Roman, was destined for the college of Emperors but following the death of his father, he was hailed by the Legions in York as Augustus and became the Governor of Britain and Gaul. After several successful battles across the Alps and Italy he eventually established himself as the lawful Emperor of both the East and West and transferred the capital of the empire from Rome to Byzantium, later to be named after him. He was the first Roman Emperor to openly encourage Christianity. His conversion began one evening after a long day's march with his army when, in what he believed was a sign from heaven, he and his army saw in the sky, and by the rays of the setting sun, a pillar of light in the form of a special cross. To sanctify the minds of his pagan army, he had made a standard bearing a Cross like that seen and ordered it to be carried before him in the wars. Several Christians in his army came forward and avowed their faith following which Constantine directed that they should wear on their armour a red cross.

Having been successful in battle it is said that Constantine with the help of his chief bishop, Eusebius, opened a Conclave of the Knights of the Order whose members became the bodyguard of their Sovereign.

The Order of the Red Cross of Constantine belongs to the 'East' and 'West' class of Initiatory Rites and basically consists of three degrees, namely

- † Knight,
- † Priest, and
- † Sovereign Knight,

titles which represent grades in the scale of Initiation. These are supplemented by two additional Knightly grades of the Appendant Orders and collectively they form the complete Rite as follows:



## Knight of the Red Cross of Constantine

{ Appendant Orders  
Knight of the Holy Sepulchre  
Knight of St John the Evangelist }

Eminent Viceroy  
(Venerable Eusebius)  
Puissant Sovereign  
(Constantine)

The **first degree** of the Rite leads from the Pagan Dispensation to the Christian using the Legend of the Conversion of Constantine the Great as a symbol of the transition. The candidate enters as a Royal Arch Mason on a mystical journey in quest of divine knowledge, his labours being finally rewarded when he undertakes to follow in the inspired footsteps of the Great Emperor Constantine.

The **second** and **third degrees** of Knight of the Holy Sepulchre and Knight of St John the Evangelist constitute the Appendant Orders and are conferred in a Sanctuary and Commandery respectively. It is a compulsory provision of the Statutes that all members be in possession of these Degrees when seeking advancement within a Conclave.

The Appendant Orders were attached to the Red Cross of Constantine at a very early date. It embodies its own ritual and issues a separate Certificate of Membership.

The **fourth degree** is that of *Venerable Eusebius* and is one of the symbolic Priesthoods. A Knight who has attained this status is eligible for the office of Viceroy in a Conclave, providing he fulfils the relevant qualifications and has been regularly elected to that office. The functions of Eusebius and Viceroy are distinct and when a Viceroy ceases to act in that capacity, his status as Eusebius is unaffected.

The **fifth** and final degree is confined to that of Most Puissant Sovereign who represents Constantine, Sovereign-Prince of the East and West. The Statutes provide that a Sovereign shall have served a full year in the office of Viceroy in a regular Conclave. This beautiful Christian Degree is the culmination of this outstanding Masonic Rite.

For more information about this Order, contact  
Rt. Ill. Kt. Roger J. Sawyer, Intendant General, Natal

Tel: 083 259 5658

Email: [tellyman@live.com](mailto:tellyman@live.com)

# Empangeni Lodge donates R3 000 to local NSRI



As part of their 2017 charity drive, members of the **Empangeni Lodge** raised R3 000 at a fishing competition which was donated to the local NSRI at a handing over ceremony during January 2018.

The Master of the Lodge, WBro Marais Viljoen praised the selfless efforts of the NSRI volunteers

and their amazing service and dedication to the safety of the public using the local beaches, especially over the busy summer season.

The donation was gratefully received by the members of the NSRI which will be used for the operational costs of NSRI Station 19.

## CONTACT US

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