



Membership Events Team Newsletter

September & October 2017

Issue 9, Number 1

In This Issue

- That was the year that was.
- Volunteers and their stories.
- Kent Medway B2B Exhibition.
- 2017 events diary update.

In the next issue: The Christmas Special.

Please note that the monthly newsletter has now changed to Bi-monthly, the next issue will be published in December 2017.

If you would like to make a contribution to our next issue please contact David King at:

david.king@amaryllisgroup.com

That Was The Year That Was!

Well, as we speed towards the end of 2017, I thought that it would be useful to reflect upon our activities during this special year for Freemasonry. The first thing to note is that by the end of December we will have attend 48 public and Masonic celebrations. We will have seen in excess of 1000 visitors (850 at present) to our units displaying at public events. We will have supplied 8 Lodges and centres equipment ranging from sound and lighting systems to marquees and staging.



We have dressed up for themed events, listened intently to the lunatic fringe, made copious amounts of tea and coffee for our guests and sometimes even for passers-by, looked after peoples shopping on occasion and their children too!

We have got wet, sun burnt, stung by wasps, almost blown away, shouted at by angry high street and event stewards and suffered from aching limbs and feet!

Ron Carter and I have experienced the challenges surrounding visiting supermarkets with a view to securing sites for the winter, In the main, you can never find the person you need to speak to in the store, instead, you have to call them to arrange to visit with them in order to arrange what you went to see them for in the first place! It is all very frustrating! But, I think that you will all agree with me in saying that it has been a great experience and a lot of fun! Let's face it, every time that we are out, we are raising the profile of Freemasonry to many more people than we could through the media.



Volunteers And Their Stories.



As you would imagine, there are many stories that we volunteers can tell about our experiences in dealing with the public – There was the lady who accused us of being villains and fraudsters. The chap who came onto the display unit with a large holdall which we were advised, contained a selection of knives and daggers, he offered to sell them to us so that we could use them in our sacrifices!

So, rather than trying to write down all our experiences, I have created a list following the Publics' ten frequently asked questions:

"I want to know more about the illuminati are you one of them?"

"How do I join the Knights Templar?"

"I have heard that all Freemasons are paedophiles are you one?"

"Did Freemasons fake the Apollo moon Landing?"

"Do you have to take all your clothes off to become a Freemason?"

"Show me how to do the funny handshake?"

"Are you a vampire?"

"My dad was a Freemason, Do you know him?"

"I've heard that the Freemasons eat Babies – Is it true?"

"You lot had something to do with 911 didn't you?"

Whilst this is a minority perception of Freemasonry, it does show that there is so much work to be done in educating people and showing the world what we are really all about. We might laugh at some of the things that are said to us but, unfortunately the fact of the matter is that we are carrying these myths and misconceptions around with us. How we respond to these questions is quite challenging for us, should we laugh them off? Should we take offence and eject them from the units? My view is that we should agree some form of approach and script to combat the question and diffuse the questioner. I believe that we should have a get together before Christmas to discuss and agree a uniform approach when we are asked absurd and/or difficult questions, what do you think?

Published in the Daily Telegraph on the 3rd November- **"Masons cut out the flam and get straight to the handshakes!"**

"Masons are cutting their meetings short to accommodate busy commuters - but the handshakes and the noose remain centre stage"

Doesn't do much in the way of educating the general public now does it!?

David King

B2B Stand 123 - Chatham Dockyard



If you are looking for a great day out, why not pop in to the Kent Medway B2B Exhibition on Tuesday 7th November? We are on stand 123 and would be delighted to see you.

The day will combine a fantastic speaker programme with a B2B exhibition showcasing Medway – one of Kent’s leading places for innovation. Over 3000 visitors are expected to attend this event and we will be promoting Freemasonry as usual.

2017 events diary updated

Saturday	4th	NOV	Chatham Dockside Outlet Centre
Tuesday	7th	NOV	Kent B2B MEDWAY Chatham
Saturday	11th	NOV	Canterbury Whitefriars Centre.
Saturday	25th	NOV	Dover De Bradleigh Wharf
Saturday	9th	DEC	Medway Hempstead Valley
Saturday	16th	DEC	Thanet Westwood Cross



PLEASE KEEP ON VOLUNTEERING!
Your support is very much appreciated!