



ON THE MOVE

## Membership Events Team Newsletter

November & December 2017

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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:

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### Santa's Elves Bring Christmas to Faversham

It's that time again when the events team toss aside their uniforms and don their elves costumes in preparation for our visit to Faversham Christmas market on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> December. Frantic preparations have been underway over the past week with Ron Carter and his better half Pat who have been constructing 100 Christmas boxes and filling them with toys, gadgets and gifts. These will be given away to passing members of the public who are accompanied by their children. We found last year that the 50 boxes that we had, ran out by mid day, so we decided to double the amount for this year.



Of course, we could not forget the adults now could we? Visitors to our unit who are over 18 will be offered a cup of warming mulled wine and a mince pie. This was a great success last year and we were happy to offer warming relief to the Salvation Army band who were on the stand next to us.

So, if you are in Faversham on the 9<sup>th</sup> December, please pop in and see us.

Around the Province, there are many events being planned for the Christmas season including the Christmas Fair at Kent's RMBI Care Home in Chislehurst, numerous centres are hosting Christmas parties for underprivileged children. Many East Kent Freemasons are also giving up their time over Christmas day and Boxing day to work in community centres providing the homeless with a Christmas meal and company. Meanwhile, the events team has been providing centres with equipment to assist their own Christmas events. I will let you know how we got on at Faversham in the next issue.



## A Quiz For Christmas



So you think you know all there is to know about Christmas?! Well, see if you can answer all the questions below without looking them up on the Internet. Oh and in case you think that this a pointless quiz, you'd be wrong, The first three correct answers sent back to me on the form that is attached with this newsletter will receive a special prize and a certificate so, why not have a go? It is Christmas after all!

- Question 1:** Including Rudolph, how many Reindeer pull Santa's sleigh?
- Question 2:** Who once banned Christmas Carols?
- Question 3:** Who invented Christmas Crackers?
- Question 4:** When does St Stephens Day fall?
- Question 5:** Name the three wise men?
- Question 6:** From which country do Poinsettias originate?
- Question 7:** Name the film "White Christmas" first appeared in.
- Question 8:** Which bird preceded the Christmas Robin?
- Question 9:** What does the Anglo Saxon toast "Wassail" mean?
- Question 10:** Where do turkeys originate from?
- Question 11:** Name 3 items in the drink Egg Nog.
- Question 12:** Where was it always winter but never Christmas?
- Question 13:** Name Scrooge's clerk in "A Christmas Carol"?
- Question 14:** Who wrote "Auld Lange Syne"?
- Question 15:** Name the first Monarch to have a Christmas Tree?
- Question 16:** What do Dutch children put out instead of stockings?
- Question 17:** In which country did the real St. Nicholas live?
- Question 18:** Name the author of "The Snowman"?
- Question 19:** Which country gives Britain a Xmas tree each year?
- Question 20:** What should be stirred with a red hot poker?

### Membership Events Team World Famous Mulled Wine Recipe

2 unwaxed oranges, 1 lemon, peel only, 150g caster sugar, 5 cloves, plus extra for garnish, 5 cardamom pods, bruised, 1 cinnamon stick, a pinch of freshly grated nutmeg, 2 bottles of fruity, unoaked red wine, 150ml ginger wine.

Peel and juice 1 orange, and add to a large saucepan along with the lemon peel, sugar and spices. Add enough wine to just cover the sugar, and heat gently until the sugar has dissolved, stirring occasionally. Bring to the boil and cook for 5 – 8 minutes until you have a thick syrup.

Turn the heat down, and pour the rest of the wine into the saucepan, along with the ginger wine. Gently heat through and serve. Delicious!

## Is Father Christmas a Freemason?

I have a very serious question to put to you all. I would like to raise it with you and then do some detective work, examining the evidence that might lead us to answering it.

It is a most important question that I am sure you have often asked yourself, and relates our Craft to the wider society in which we live and concerns several major issues of this season. This very serious question is "Is Father Christmas a Freemason?"

Let us consider the facts of this case: Of whom does this remind you? A worthy gentleman, who is (we must admit) getting on a bit in years and is perhaps a little overweight, who wears a very distinctive costume as the badge of his activities, who provides the opportunity for friends and visitors to meet in fellowship, who is surrounded by secrecy and mystery, dispenses goodwill and the charity of gifts all over the world (avoiding ostentatious public display while doing so) and is there doing it year after year!

Well, fellow detectives, you must admit that this description could fit either Santa or a Freemason. But this is merely circumstantial evidence. We need some proof!

Let us start with his movements on the evening in question. All the reports have him coming from the North Pole. As the sun rises in the east to open and enliven the day, and with him needing to finish the world before dawn, then he would have to begin in the East and move towards the West. Therefore Father Christmas must begin his journey at the north-east corner of the world. This, of course, is exactly what we do with an Entered Apprentice.

Similarly, you would assume he would finish heading for home, which would place him in the north-west corner at the end of his work, to give his salute to the world and leave. Convincing proof, you must agree!

But, think too, he undertakes this great journey to provide the gifts but once a year, and I am sure that any Brother Treasurer will agree that this is exactly the frequency with which most Brethren provide the gift of their charity to the lodge!

Surely all this evidence shows us beyond doubt that Father Christmas is a Freemason! He practices Brotherly Love and Relief; we are happy to meet him and the Christmas season, and sorry to part.

All the details, his wearing of a uniform, the rituals that happen year in year out, the fact he is a male ... On a more serious note, Brethren, the way the whole Christmas season has developed and is practiced does have many things in common with Freemasonry, and we can learn much about each from the other.

The pre-Christian legends of Solomon's Temple, the pyramids, Pythagoras, and so on were developed through the Middle Ages by the great Christian cathedral builders, then formalized in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries into the uniform, the work, the rituals that we use today.

So, I feel I can safely say that Father Christmas is a Freemason. Not only does he show so many of the signs and tokens of being one, but he brings us a message that we, as Freemasons, can heed for the whole year.

Peace on earth, good will towards men!



# EAST KENT FREEMASONS

Freemasonry - Worthwhile, Relevant, Inclusive



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

**Wishing you and you're family a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year**

**David King**