

Socrates Lodge No 373  
1823-2023

Presentation of Warrant  
16<sup>th</sup> October 2023

At Peterborough Masonic Centre



The Worshipful Master, Worshipful Brother  
Brian R Gebbels PPJGW  
And  
The Officers and Brethren of Socrates Lodge  
extend hearty greetings  
And a warm welcome to you all.

Honoured Guests

The Provincial Grand Master  
Right Worshipful Brother  
Mark Constant

Accompanied by

# Officers of Socrates Lodge No 373

## January 2023

|                        |                                    |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Worshipful Master      | WBro Brian Gebbels PProvJGW        |
| Senior Warden          | Bro Robert Thurston Snr            |
| Junior Warden          | WBro Ron Barlow PProvGStwd (Herts) |
| Chaplain               | WBro David Case PPGReg             |
| Treasurer              | WBro Andy Wade PPSGD               |
| Secretary              | WBro Gavin Wilkins PPGSuptWks      |
| Director of Ceremonies | WBro Phillip Miles PProvAGDC       |
| Almoner                | Bro Vic Driver                     |
| Charity Steward        | WBro Michael Jolly PPGSuptWks      |
| Mentor                 | WBro Steve Rogers PPJGD (Cheshire) |
| Senior Deacon          | Bro Reece Pitts                    |
| Junior Deacon          | Bro Vic Driver                     |
| Assistant DC           | WBro Brian Bennett                 |
| Organist               | Guest                              |
| Assistant Secretary    | WBro Steve Rogers PPJGD (Cheshire) |
| Inner Guard            | Bro Geoff Douthwaite               |
| Steward                | Bro Robert Thurston Jnr            |
| Steward                | Bro John Fowkes                    |
| Steward                | Bro Terry Dullaghan                |
| Steward                | Bro Dan Bridges                    |
| Steward                | Bro Gary Ferguson                  |
| Steward                | Bro Jerome Caberos                 |
| Tyler                  | WBro Ryan Keen                     |
| IPM                    | WBro Tom Cole                      |

# Menu

Prawn Cocktail

Pan Roasted Rump of Steak  
With Seasonal vegetables

Tiramisu

Cheese and Biscuits

Tea and Coffee

# Toast List

1. The King and the Craft
2. The Most Worshipful, The Grand Master  
**His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent**
3. The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master  
**Jonathan Spence**  
The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master  
**Sir David Hugh Wootton**  
The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Masters  
**David John Medlock** and  
**Arthur Steven Varley**  
And the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past
4. The Provincial Grand Master  
**Right Worshipful Brother Mark Constant**
5. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master  
**VWBro Charles Bennett PGSwdB**  
The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters  
**WBro Mike Caseman-Jones PAGDC** and  
**WBro Tim Almond PAGDC**  
And the Officers Present and Past of  
Provincial Grand Lodge  
And Holders of London Grand Rank
6. The Worshipful Master
7. The Tyler's Toast

## Some Interesting Facts About Socrates Lodge No. 373

Socrates Lodge was constituted on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1823. Under the Warrant issued by the Grand Lodge of England, the Socrates Lodge Number 779 was formed by Bro Peter Gilkes, a member of the Board of General Purposes and Finances and afterwards Preceptor of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.



Four of the founder members were from Huntingdon, two from St Ives, two from Somersham and one from Fenstanton. They included two surgeons, two innkeepers, a banker, a tailor a nurseryman and a merchant. We may have received our name because two of the founders were members of the Lodge of the School of Plato No. 549. Plato was influenced by Socrates and he took over his philosophical school when he died and, although there is no written evidence to substantiate the origin of our name, this is the only connection that can be found.



Brother P.T. Gardner was appointed the first Master of Socrates Lodge and was installed according to ancient custom.



The number of the Lodge, as shown on the Warrant, is 779. This was altered to 511 in January 1833 and subsequently to 373 in July 1863. Only Pomfret Lodge (No 360) is numerically older in the Province of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire.



At the inception of the Lodge, the initiation fee was £3 plus half a guinea registration fee and the annual subscription was £1. (Approximately £61.70 and £123.00 at today's values).



Between 1829 and 1872, the Secretary had been empowered, with slight variations, to buy biscuits and wine for those attending the Lodge. From 1872, a charge of NINE pence (about £10.24 today) for supper after the Lodge meeting was agreed.



In 1903, at the November meeting, attention was drawn to the fact that three of the members had held office as Mayors of three Boroughs in the County (Huntingdon, St. Ives and Godmanchester).



During the first 100 years (1823-1923) there were 442 Initiations, 120 joining members and 23 honorary members were elected.



During 1951, His Worship the Mayor of Huntingdon was mentioned as a Candidate. Proposed at the November 1951 meeting and balloted at the December 1951 meeting. After two ballots the candidate was declared unsuccessful.



Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire were united as one province in 1841. The first Provincial Grand Master being a member of Socrates Lodge, he being the Rt Hon, The Earl of Aboyne, later the 10<sup>th</sup> Marquis of Huntley and as Lord Strathavon. He was WM of Socrates Lodge in 1832 and 1833.





At the regular meeting of the Lodge in 1950, reference is made to the reading of the Minutes of the corresponding Lodge 100 years ago. This custom is still continued, but now relate to the Minutes of Meetings held 150 years ago.



On 16<sup>th</sup> May 1944, Grand Lodge Regalia was presented to WBro Kitchener and, on 21<sup>st</sup> September 1954, to WBro Hinsby.



### Million Memorial

Following the appeal by the United Grand Lodge for contributions to a fitting memorial to those Freemasons who had sacrificed their lives in the Great War of 1914-1918, Socrates Lodge, by resolution on 17<sup>th</sup> March 1925, guaranteed a contribution of seven and a half Guineas per Member. This entitled the Lodge to become a Hall Stone Lodge and the Jewel, on a collarette, has been passed to succeeding Worshipful Masters on their installation since 1938. Reference to the significance of this Jewel is made when the collarette is placed around the neck of the WM at Installations.



## 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Grand Lodge

In February 1966, the Lodge subscribed the sum of one hundred Guineas to the United Grand Lodge of England towards the 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fund. This subscription entitled them to receive a commemorative Jewel which was fixed to the WM's collar and was first worn in Lodge in October 1966.

## Charities

Socrates Lodge has always carried out its obligations in respect of the Masonic Charities, the first reference being in 1824 when a charity allocation of £5 was made to a widow of a member. The first mention of a charity collection during a Lodge meeting is contained in the Minutes of a Meeting held in 1890.

## Gifts to The Lodge as Recorded in the Minutes

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| January 1849   | Trowel by GM Fox  |
| October 1887   | Harmonium by Bro T Cook (to mark Queen Victoria's Jubilee)  |
| January 1895   | "G" by Bro Walker   |
| February 1915  | Secretary's Desk – Donor unknown  |
| December 1916  | Lighter and Extinguisher – Donor unknown  |
| March 1918     | Banner designed and painted by Bro Turk – cost shared by members  |
| January 1925   | Carved Cash Box – Donor unknown   |
| April 1927     | Stand for Tracing Boards by Bro Howgate   |
| January 1928   | WM, SW, and JW Gauntlets by Bro T Coxon   |
| March 1935     | Secretary's Table by AE Peacock   |
| March 1935     | Portrait of Socrates in Oils Bro WD Storey  |
| March 1939     | Clock in Temple by Bro Clifton  |
| November 1941  | Ventilators in Temple by Bro EJ Saunders  |
| March 1943     | 28 Books by Bro Saville (in appreciation of kindness to RAF Brethren)   |
| December 1943  | Ivory Gavel and Silver Trowel by Bro GF Riddiford (The Gavel is used only at Installations and Ladies Evenings) |
| September 1946 | Harmonium by Bro LFL Shaw   |
| September 1947 | Gavel by Bro Jones (USA)  |
| September 1951 | Masonic Picture – Donor unknown   |
| April 1952     | Committee Room Clock by Bro A Howes   |
| September 1956 | Temple Curtains by Bro NS Edwards   |
| October 1959   | Premises decorated by Brethren  |

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| September 1964 | Temple decorated by Bro J Milne                 |
| November 1966  | Two wooden Alms Salvers – Anon                  |
| January 1967   | Temple Curtains by Bro G Elphick                |
| March 1968     | 3 Volumes by Gould – Mrs LFL Shaw               |
| October 1969   | DC Wand by Bro A Dorrington                     |
| March 1970     | £25 by Bro EJ Saunders                          |
| September 1971 | Pen and Stand by Bro W Jensen (USA)             |
| December 1971  | Map of Huntingdon by McGregor                   |
| December 1971  | Decorated Clock in Hall by Bro FH Everitt       |
| December 1971  | Stone figure of Stonemason by<br>Bro FH Everitt |
| December 1971  | Table in Committee Room by Bro<br>G Elphick     |
| December 1971  | Anglepoise lamp in Temple by Bro<br>DJ Shaw     |

It is a matter of regret that no record can be traced of the acquisition of the Officers' Chairs, Columns, Small Tracing Boards, Working Tools and Pedestals. Some of these are considered to be as old as the Lodge and of considerable value.

The above details are taken from "A Short History of Socrates Lodge No 373 1823 – 1973" By BR Dixon PPrGD

## Some Interesting Brethren of Socrates Lodge No. 373

Charles Gordon, 10<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Huntly  
4 January 1792 – 18 September 1863



[WM of Socrates Lodge 1832 and 1833](#)

Huntly was born at Orton Longueville in 1792, the eldest son of the 5<sup>th</sup> Earl of Aboyne. Educated at St John's College, Cambridge, he entered Parliament in 1818 as a Tory MP for East Grinstead before being elected as a Whig MP for Huntingdonshire in 1830. From 1826–1830 he was a Lord of the Bedchamber\* and then a Lord-in-waiting\*\* from 1840-1841. His last office being that of Lord Lieutenant of Aberdeenshire from 1861 until his death. Upon his father's death he inherited the Marquessate of Huntly and the Earldom of Aboyne (both in

the Peerage of Scotland) and the Meldrum Barony in the United Kingdom.

Huntly played first-class cricket for several counties between 1819 and 1843. In 33 first-class matches he scored a total of 193 runs with a highest score of 19 against Oxford University, only reaching double figures on four occasions in 61 innings. He was a member of the MCC for around fifty years and its President in 1821-1822.

He was married twice and had fourteen children, the last of which was born five months after his death.

\*A Lord of the Bedchamber was a **courtier in the Royal Household**; the term being first used in 1718. Lords and Gentleman of the Bedchamber's duties originally consisted of assisting the monarch with dressing, waiting on him when he ate, guarding access to his bedchamber and closet and providing companionship.

\*\***Lords-in-waiting** (male) or baronesses-in-waiting (female) are peers who hold office in the Royal Household of the sovereign of the United Kingdom.



William Drogo Montagu, 7<sup>th</sup> Duke of Manchester (1823-1890)

WM of Socrates Lodge 1861.

Installed as Provincial Grand Master at Huntingdon in 1864

William Montagu was born at Kimbolton Castle in 1823. He was MP for Bewdley 1848-1852 and Huntingdonshire 1852-1855.

He joined the Canterbury Association on 27<sup>th</sup> May 1848. He succeeded to the dukedom on the death of his father in 1855, inheriting the family seat of Kimbolton Castle.

He apparently had an illegitimate son with Sarah Maria Moriss. When Sarah was eight months pregnant, the Montagu family had her married off to Samuel Palmer in 1850. When the child was born, he was named William Edward Palmer.

William Montagu was married to Countess Luise Auguste von Alten in 1852 and together they had five children.

In 1877, he was created a Knight of the Order of St Patrick.

He died on 22 March 1890 in Italy at the Hotel Royal, Naples.



WBro John Edwin Benson PJGD PPJGW  
1935- 2020

WBro John Benson PJGD was initiated into Socrates lodge No. 373 on Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> February 1977 and was installed as Worshipful Master for the first time in 1989. He became our Master again in 2016.

In 1991 he was invested as Director of Ceremonies, an office he held for ten years, as well as Preceptor of Lodge of Instruction

In 1991 he received his first Provincial appointment to ProvGStwd, followed with promotions to ProvDGDC in 1995, PProvGReg in 1996 & ProvJGW in 2001.

John was a member of the Palmer Lodge of Provincial Grand Stewards No 8995, a member & Past Master of the Northants & Hunts Lodge of Installed Masters No 3422, & a founder & Past Master of Meridian lodge No 9542 in Huntingdon.

In 2005 he received Grand Rank of PAGDC, and promoted in 2016 to PJGD.

In 1987 Ex Comp John Benson was exalted into Socrates Holy Royal Arch Chapter No 373, was MEZ in 1996 & Director of Ceremonies for seven years. He was also a member of Northants & Hunts Chapter of First Principals No 3422 where he was Director of Ceremonies for five years.



After several Acting Provincial ranks, in 2005 he received Supreme Grand Chapter rank of PGStdB.

John was also a member of many other orders including David, Earl of Huntingdon Chapter, Princess Rose Croix No. 201, where he held the rank of 31<sup>st</sup> Degree.

For many years he was Chairman of Huntingdon Masonic Hall Ltd and was instrumental in the sale of the old Priory in Huntingdon High Street and move to the new Priory premises at Sovereign Court in 2015. The Temple room is named after him with a plaque above the door bearing his name W Bro John Benson PJGD was the Senior Group Officer for the Huntingdon group of lodges until he passed to the Grand Lodge above on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2020.

## Past Masters of Socrates Lodge No. 373

|      |                    |      |                |      |                  |
|------|--------------------|------|----------------|------|------------------|
| 1823 | PT Gardner         | 1862 | J Ingram       | 1904 | J Copping        |
| 1824 | R Fox              | 1863 | J Marsh        | 1905 | LR Dagleish      |
| 1825 | GB White           | 1864 | G Burton       | 1906 | W Howard         |
| 1825 | GB White           | 1865 | C Bodger       | 1907 | J White          |
| 1826 | PT Gardner         | 1866 | W Cluff        | 1908 | T Coxon          |
| 1827 | WC Howson          | 1867 | J Ingram       | 1909 | F Brown          |
| 1828 | GM Fox.            | 1868 | B Allen        | 1910 | WD Storey        |
| 1828 | GM Fox             | 1869 | E Stephens     | 1911 | JB Waller        |
| 1829 | J Price            | 1870 | B Allen        | 1912 | GGG Wheeler      |
| 1830 | R Fox              | 1871 | J Parlett      | 1913 | JW Howgate       |
| 1831 | R Cooke            | 1872 | J Dilley       | 1914 | HA Holloway      |
| 1832 | Lord Strathavon.   | 1873 | WH Smith       | 1915 | P Warrington     |
| 1833 | Lord Strathavon    | 1874 | W Cluff        | 1916 | EA Taylor        |
| 1834 | R Fox              | 1875 | G Hawley       | 1917 | EJ Smith         |
| 1835 | R Fox              | 1876 | G Thackrey     | 1918 | GF Thackray      |
| 1836 | JW Pocock          | 1877 | WM Jackson     | 1919 | Rev EV O'Connor  |
| 1837 | J Warsop           | 1878 | G Thackrey     | 1920 | FR Morse         |
| 1838 | R Beart            | 1879 | FS Westbrook   | 1921 | H Cresswel       |
| 1839 | GB Pumfret.        | 1880 | HG Mann        | 1922 | CB Moss-Blundell |
| 1840 | D Martin           | 1881 | J Lynn         | 1923 | ET Druce         |
| 1841 | D Martin           | 1882 | W Wade         | 1924 | H Kitchener      |
| 1842 | R Fox              | 1883 | JW Ingram      | 1925 | SH Wood          |
| 1843 | E Venden           | 1884 | A Bunting      | 1926 | FL Turk          |
| 1844 | E Venden           | 1885 | JG Green       | 1927 | HE Parnwell      |
| 1845 | W Mann             | 1886 | JG Green       | 1928 | CE Hicks         |
| 1846 | W Ward             | 1887 | JG Hankin      | 1929 | EW Elphick       |
| 1847 | W Ward.            | 1888 | T Coote        | 1930 | RJ Lofts         |
| 1847 | W Ward             | 1889 | H Trench-Smith | 1931 | EH Fisher        |
| 1848 | EC Bull            | 1890 | J Pascoe       | 1932 | JW Winter        |
| 1849 | J Hatfield         | 1891 | W Conney       | 1933 | EE Sayle         |
| 1850 | J Hatfield         | 1892 | AE Margetts    | 1934 | AE Peacock       |
| 1851 | EC Bull            | 1893 | GW Ingram      | 1935 | GH Cross         |
| 1852 | D Allen            | 1894 | T Hodgson      | 1936 | A Howes          |
| 1853 | H Beresford.       | 1895 | GH Frewer      | 1937 | WP Anderson      |
| 1854 | GN Woolley.        | 1896 | HI Walker      | 1938 | JW Collyer       |
| 1855 | W Ward             | 1897 | CN White       | 1939 | CGB Clifton      |
| 1856 | W Ward             | 1898 | B Beasley      | 1940 | GB Pleasance     |
| 1857 | D Martin           | 1899 | HI Hankins     | 1941 | EJ Saunders      |
| 1858 | W Ekins            | 1900 | WR Todd        | 1942 | W Kirby          |
| 1859 | J Smith            | 1901 | FB Thackray    | 1943 | HW Braybrook     |
| 1860 | W Cluff            | 1902 | G Brownlow     | 1944 | SE Hinsby        |
| 1861 | Duke of Manchester | 1903 | CB Margetts    | 1945 | LFL Shaw         |

## Past Masters of Socrates Lodge No. 373 (Contd)

|      |                   |      |                 |
|------|-------------------|------|-----------------|
| 1946 | A Spittal         | 1989 | JE Benson       |
| 1947 | HA Slater         | 1990 | FJ Slater       |
| 1948 | FH Everitt        | 1991 | A Brown         |
| 1949 | JR Horrex         | 1992 | E Plews         |
| 1950 | JE Preston        | 1993 | GR Posey        |
| 1951 | W Midwood         | 1994 | LR Danby        |
| 1952 | JH Craghill       | 1995 | JAW Long        |
| 1953 | HJ Jarrett        | 1996 | RW Clark        |
| 1954 | HE Collyer        | 1997 | Bev E Bennett   |
| 1955 | NS Edwards        | 1998 | DR Peacock      |
| 1956 | LLM Oliver        | 1999 | TDB Silcock     |
| 1957 | N Hanson          | 2000 | CE Evans        |
| 1958 | EH Prior          | 2001 | BR Gebbels      |
| 1959 | AC Wordsdell      | 2002 | DC Nail         |
| 1960 | DJ Shaw           | 2003 | MR Flint        |
| 1961 | I Gosden          | 2004 | GPH Wilkins     |
| 1962 | TO Mills          | 2005 | TG Fussell      |
| 1963 | BR Dixon          | 2006 | DJ Case         |
| 1964 | EE Matson         | 2007 | M Jolly         |
| 1965 | AG Sturt          | 2008 | BL Angel        |
| 1966 | G Elphick         | 2009 | MD Worsnam      |
| 1967 | HT Butters        | 2010 | TM Creighton    |
| 1968 | MJF Waters        | 2011 | RW Clark        |
| 1969 | R Thorpe          | 2012 | G Smith         |
| 1970 | FC Baker          | 2013 | G Smith         |
| 1971 | Rev GE Wood       | 2014 | PGC Miles       |
| 1972 | CB Harwood        | 2015 | JA Wade         |
| 1973 | EAN Jones         | 2016 | JE Benson       |
| 1974 | VF Pannell        | 2017 | Brian E Bennett |
| 1975 | E Plews           | 2018 | G Lumley        |
| 1976 | JH Milne          | 2019 | R Keen          |
| 1977 | DE Harlock        | 2020 | TW Cole         |
| 1978 | IT Delamore       | 2021 | TW Cole         |
| 1979 | BD Graham-Cameron | 2022 | TW Cole         |
| 1980 | KG Walker         | 2023 | BR Gebbels      |
| 1981 | RS Pinkney        |      |                 |
| 1982 | DCA Cook          |      |                 |
| 1983 | WA Whiteford      |      |                 |
| 1984 | CA Hubbard        |      |                 |
| 1985 | JD Richards       |      |                 |
| 1986 | JJ Quinn          |      |                 |
| 1987 | JR Bell           |      |                 |
| 1988 | CD Silcock        |      |                 |