

# Warwickshire

# Provincial Grand Lodge News

August 2004

## **The photogenic PGM**

The Provincial Grand Master appears in at least four photographs in MQ of the inauguration of the Metropolitan Grand Chapter of London. Contrary to rumours, his head was bowed because he was studying the agenda for the meeting. Any other interpretation of the inclined head is without foundation, scandalous and actionable!

## **The French connection**

Members of Stoneleigh Lodge with their ladies recently spent a delightful weekend in France. The Brethren in the party also visited a Lodge in Perigeux.

## **Grand Ranks**

Our warmest congratulations go to these Warwickshire Brethren who have been appointed to or promoted in Grand Rank:

Richard Price – **PJGD**  
Nigel Bister – **PAGDC**  
David Satchwell – **PAGDC**  
Trevor Sturt – **PAGDC**  
Michael Irving – **PGStB**  
Stuart Lines – **PGSuptWks**  
Peter Band – **PSGD**  
Francis Jephcott – **PSGD**  
Allan Morris – **PJGD**.

## **Royal Arch Grand Ranks**

We also congratulate these Royal Arch Companions on their preferment:

Michael Irving – **PGStB**  
Rex Lowin – **PGStB**  
Peter Britton – **PAGSoj**  
Michael Price – **PDepGSwdB**.

## **Mark Grand Ranks**

These Brethren have been rewarded with Grand Rank in the Mark Degree and again are to be congratulated:

Stanley Smith – **PGJO**  
Peter Archer – **PGSD**  
Rodney Pitham – **AGDC**

Peter Astfalck – **PAGDC**  
Roger Mac – **PAGDC**  
Brian Cooper – **PGStB**  
Edward Showell – **PGStB**.

## **The Prestonian Lecture**

The Tudor Lodge in March had the signal honour of hosting the first of the three official deliveries of the Prestonian Lecture for 2004 by the Lecturer Trevor Stewart with his fresh and at times controversial views on the origins and development of speculative Freemasonry.

## **Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge**

Some 830 Brethren attended the Annual Meeting in May and witnessed the appointment and promotion to and in Provincial Grand Rank of 250 Brethren. With the benefit of the gift-aid scheme the charity collection raised in excess of £3,500.

## **Graces**

An abundance of Graces for use at Festive Boards may be found on the web site of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cheshire – [www.freemasonsofcheshire.org.uk/graces.html](http://www.freemasonsofcheshire.org.uk/graces.html)

## **The Grand Charity**

A meeting of the Grand Charity will be held at Stirling Road Edgbaston on Saturday 16 October 2004.

## **Lodge Summons**

It is not permitted to send a copy of the Lodge summons to the Provincial Grand Secretary by electronic means. He will only accept printed copies.

## **Done to a crisp**

Following the experience of one of our Brethren recently it is not recommended that white gloves are dried in a microwave oven.

They come out with large brown scorch stripes!

## **Election of Master and Treasurer**

Grand Lodge has relaxed the rules for the election of Master and Treasurer. If there is only one nomination for either office, no other member duly qualified has indicated to the Secretary that he wishes to be considered, and no member present calls for a ballot, it is permissible for the Master to declare the election in favour of the nominated members. However, the election may not be declared in this way unless notice of the intention to do so and the identity of the sole Brother nominated is given on the summons convening the meeting at which the election is to take place. (Contrary to the assertion in a recent edition of MQ there is no ballot by a show of hands for this new procedure.) Lodges may continue with ballots if they so wish.

## **Grand Charity's £1,000,000**

The Grand Charity has agreed to make a grant of £1,000,000, payable over ten years, to the Institute of Cancer Research, the world leader in cancer genetics. The grant will fund a chair for a period of ten years for the head of a research group that has already identified 14 new cancer genes. The work funded by the Grand Charity seeks to identify the genes that are important in prostate and testicular cancer, with 27,000 new victims and more than 10,000 fatalities annually.

## **A holy communication**

The Provincial Grand Chaplain, Bro the Rev Canon Denis

Claringbull, regularly receives his copy of the MQ magazine addressed to "Mr Canon Denis"!

### **Grand Lodge of Kansas**

The Grand Lodge of Kansas was chartered on 17 March 1856, five years before Kansas became a State.

### **Help for the Heritage Fund**

Michael Batchelor has so far raised some £500 for the Heritage Fund. Michael presents his paper on the Burma Railway and the Freemasons involved in its construction. His "fee" from Lodges is the collection taken for the Fund.

### **And more help**

The Lodge of Serenity's Summer Ball raised £500 for the Heritage Fund.

### **Say Freemasonry with flowers**

During the weekend of 24-27 September a Flower Festival entitled a 'Celebration of Masonry in Flowers' is being held at the Stratford Masonic Rooms. The Festival is open from 2.00pm to 5.00pm on Friday, 10.30am to 3.00pm on Saturday and Sunday, and 11.00am to 3.00pm on Monday.

### **Food fit for the Gods?**

Seen in the notice for an AGM: "Please specify any deity requirements."

### **Lodge Ties**

A Brother in this Province has a choice between the traditional black tie, the Craft tie and the Provincial tie, although the preferred tie is the Provincial tie. When an Initiate returns to the Lodge Room after his Initiation it would be nice to see him wearing this tie, presented to him by his proposer or the Lodge.

### **Use of Masonic Halls by lady Masons**

The use of any Masonic Hall in the Province by lady Masons is a matter for determination by the Provincial Grand Master to whom any application should be made through the Provincial Grand Secretary. The lady Masons must belong to either

The Honourable Fraternity of Antient Freemasons or The Order of Women Freemasons. Meetings involving co-Masonry or other organisations imitative of or incompatible with regular Freemasonry will not be allowed.

### **Communications protocol**

Brethren are reminded that all communications with the Provincial Grand Master must be addressed through the Provincial Grand Secretary. Likewise, all communications with the Grand Secretary must go through the Provincial Grand Secretary.

### **Roman Catholic Church**

A Freemason in this country, who is a Roman Catholic and joined Freemasonry after discussing it with his priest, has remained active within his local church. However, his new priest has denied him the sacraments unless he renounces Freemasonry. Representations are being made at the highest level in the Church.

### **Discrimination in Wales**

The First Minister of the Welsh Assembly has vetoed the appointment of an eminent QC as the Assembly's Counsel General since "he is a prominent Freemason, Freemasonry is the subject of public controversy, and he would not be able to give untrammelled advice to the Assembly".

### **Provincial Charity**

The Province has given £55,000 to worthy non-Masonic charities this year. The Provincial Grand Master continues to be grateful for your generosity which enables these donations to be made.

### **Youngest Mason**

David Squires is the youngest Freemason in the Province having been initiated this year by his father, Michael, in Barnard Lodge, at the age of 18.

### **Youngest Master**

James Freakley was installed as Master of Alma Mater Lodge earlier this year at the age of 27.

### **No smoking**

The Grand Lodge of Mississippi maintains a list of Lodges which do not allow smoking.

### **The Heritage Fund**

The Heritage Fund is now on the Internet with its own website – [www.wmhf.org.uk](http://www.wmhf.org.uk) - and is well worth a visit for regular updates, events, and the form for donations and standing orders.

### **Remembrance Service**

The Remembrance Service will be held at Stirling Road on Thursday 11 November 2004 commencing at 10.45am in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master. All are welcome to attend.

### **Turkish attack**

An attack on a Masonic Hall on the Asian side of Istanbul in March resulted in the death of one of the two bombers and the wounding of four Freemasons, one of whom subsequently died.

### **Make a daily advancement**

Yasher Beresiner, the renowned Masonic scholar, will be speaking about "Masonic Curiosities" at the Lodge of Warwick's Regular Meeting at Alderson House on 13 October. Contact David Moore on 01295 770031 for further information and reservations.

### **A Lodge is lost**

Sadly, Maney Lodge has surrendered its Warrant.

### **State of the Heritage Fund**

At 1 August the Fund stood at £306,000.

### **A trip to London**

Fifty-three Brethren from Warwickshire, under the leadership of Victor Keene, attended the Installation Meeting of the London Warwickshire Lodge at Great Queen Street in April.

### **A rumour**

There is no truth in the rumour that Grand Superintendents for Worcestershire must be members of the Birmingham

Old Edwardian Lodge in order to qualify for that high office.

### **In memory**

St Paul's Lodge No 43 has instituted an annual Memorial Lecture in the name of the late Michael Porteus. Richard Jaffa delivered the first lecture at the end of April.

### **An ordinary year!**

During his year in office in 2003/2004 one of the Provincial Senior Deacons attended 30 Installations and one Banner Dedication. He consumed nineteen beef or steak meals, five lamb, two chicken, two pork and two mixed grills as well as umpteen goujons of plaice. He is now on a crash diet!

### **History of Warwickshire**

The two volumes recording 275 years of Freemasonry in the Province make excellent gifts for Initiates. Harry Owen will be delighted to supply them to Lodges.

### **Provincial web site**

The site is still leading the field of Masonic websites and is averaging 400,000 hits a year.

### **A unique Royal Arch evening**

Richard Wallis, Grand Superintendent, and his Executive are to be congratulated on the first-ever "Brethren's Evening" held at Leamington Spa in March. Some 60 Brethren were given a splendid explanation of the origins of the Royal Arch, its close links with the Craft, and many good reasons for joining.

### **Mark changes**

Raymond Rooke will step down as Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Province in November. Peter Burdekin will succeed him and Chris Sanders is to be the new Assistant PGM.

### **That rings a bell!**

The sun was at its meridian, the candidate for Initiation was on the first perambulation and the clock chimed twelve as the innovative Junior Warden struck

his glass of water with his pencil!

### **New Masonic Samaritan Fund**

The Warwickshire Festival for the NMSF, of which the Provincial Grand Master is a trustee, will be formally launched at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in May 2005 and will end in 2012. Michael Baker has been appointed as the Appeal Director.

### **Freemasons help cathedral**

The Grand Master opened a new vestry block at Chelmsford Cathedral in March when he attended the dedication of two works of art. An appeal for development work at the 15<sup>th</sup> century cathedral, the smallest in England, raised £1.3m including £230,000 from the Freemasons of Essex. HRH unveiled a plaque which acknowledged this Masonic support.

### **Special events**

Masters and Masters Elect Dinner – 14 September  
Junior Chamber Lodge 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 18 September  
Lodge of Impartiality 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 28 September  
Lodge of Security Banner Dedication – 5 October  
Trinity Lodge Dedication of Tracing Boards – 7 October  
Elizabethan Lodge 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 12 October  
Lodge of Industry 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 22 October  
Guy's Lodge 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 1 November  
Laurence Sheriffe Lodge 750<sup>th</sup> Meeting – 25 November  
Lodge of Allegiance 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – 27 November  
Priors Lodge 250<sup>th</sup> Meeting – 1 December.  
Barbara or Bridget in the Provincial Office on 0121 454 4422 can help with the details and put you in touch with the relevant Lodge Secretary.

### **Another plaudit for Warwickshire**

Freemasonry Today's article by Yasher Beresiner in its Spring 2004 edition was most complimentary about the

Provincial Library and Museum at Stirling Road. He must have been impressed since we had another mention in the Summer edition!

### **Christmas with brass**

The Provincial Choir and the Provincial Brass Band will be in concert on Thursday 9 December at Stirling Road Edgbaston. Tickets will be on sale shortly, but, judging by the success of the inaugural concert last year, this is an event not to be missed so tickets will be in great demand. Be there!

### **Super salesman**

Harry Owen has so far sold about £95,000 worth of Craft and Royal Arch merchandise. He is now embarking on a new career of selling refrigerators to the Eskimos!

### **Superior Ken**

"I feel superior to other pilots who have never flown a Spitfire" said Ken Wilkinson of the Warwickshire Royal Air Force Lodge with great pride, when he appeared earlier in the year in a televised tribute to R J Mitchell and his masterpiece the Spitfire.

### **Provincial Charity Donations**

Any Brother who completes a self-assessment tax return for **2004/2005** (and in subsequent years) and is advised by the Inland Revenue that he is entitled to a refund now has the opportunity of donating all or part of the refund to charity. The Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent Fund and the Warwickshire Masonic Charitable Association have registered for this scheme. It is only necessary to indicate the level of donation and quote YAQ45EG (for the WMBF) or YAQ51DG (for the WMCA). (Please make a note of this for future reference).

### **What they say about us**

"So, while we all have to drive around stuck in traffic and smog, paying \$\$\$\$ out the Kazoo for gas and oil, the Secret Fraternity of Freemasons at the highest levels can fly around the

planet for FREE on free-energy." "The ultimate goal of Freemasonry is to take charge of the world and eventually become A One World Government." Both true!

### **Helping those less fortunate**

The Lodge of Security, which has just 12 active members, has presented £2000 to Sunfield House, a special school for educationally disadvantaged children.

### **Judicial indiscretion?**

An Australian judge who demanded to know the name of "the idiot" who granted bail to a serial burglar discovered he was talking about himself!

### **A Masonic researcher**

Ivan Goldberg of the Thomas Harper Lodge is the Vice President of the Manchester Association of Masonic Research and the Assistant Curator of the East Lancashire Provincial Museum.

### **New Master for 4538**

Roger Parker is the Master Elect for the Warwickshire Installed Masters Lodge.

### **Change in the Royal Arch**

John Saint has been appointed as the new Deputy Grand Superintendent, Brian Kimberley as the Second Provincial Grand Principal, and Stephen Fowler as the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies.

### **Masonic photography**

The Grand Lodge of Texas appoints a Grand Photographer!

### **The French Connection No 2**

La Loge La Césarée, in Jersey, was founded in 1851 and is the oldest French speaking Lodge under the English Constitution. There are presently 76 members, many of whom still converse in "Jerriase" (Jersey Norman French).

### **Once a Freemason....**

Bob Jolley, initiated in Liverpool, was not able to attend a Lodge after 1968 owing to business pressures. He has

now joined Heartland Lodge 35 years after his last Lodge attendance!

### **What's in a name?**

Caroline Hosie works for Severn Trent Water.

### **Masonic stamps**

Whether keen or casual, if you are interested in philately go to: [www.masonicphilatellicclub.org.uk](http://www.masonicphilatellicclub.org.uk)

### **Brother Brothers**

Kevin Hogan is the Master of Ipsley Lodge, his brother Gary is the Inner Guard, and another brother, Steven, is a Past Master of Apollo.

### **Brother wife and Brother husband**

Linda Amies is the Master of the Lodge of St Crispin (Order of Women Freemasons) and her husband Jonathan is the Master of the Lodge of St Blaise.

### **Brother son and Brother dad**

In a memorable ceremony David Cresswell installed his son Paul into the Chair of Bedeword Lodge in May.

### **Brother dad and brother son**

Roy Pebody had the pleasure of initiating his son Luke at the meeting of Laurence Sheriffe Lodge in May.

### **The complete Masonic family**

Les Dacombe is the Master of the Lodge of Jurisprudence, and his wife Penny and their son Marcus are also Freemasons.

### **Masonic furniture**

The history of the Master's Chair of Trinity Lodge makes fascinating reading and is available from Brian Cordery at [bcdatis@aol.com](mailto:bcdatis@aol.com) or 02476 416666 for the sum of £5.

### **Small but generous**

A Ladies Evening for the Lodge of Industry with only twelve of its sixteen members attending raised the sum of £1000 to be shared between the Children's Hospital in Birmingham and the Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent Fund.

### **Certificate of Merit**

The Provincial Grand Master has conferred his personal Certificate of Merit on Michael Roper-Hall, a Past Master of the University of Birmingham Lodge, for his services to Freemasonry over a period of sixty years.

### **Surprise promotion**

Chris Grove, the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, had a pleasant surprise at the Annual Meeting when the Provincial Grand Master promoted him to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

### **Another Chair for Stanley**

Stanley Lates was installed as the Master of the Lodge of the East and West No 9785, following its consecration by the Provincial Grand Master on 6 July.

### **An instructive celebration**

The Five Points Circle Lodge of Instruction will hold a Festival on 11 January 2005 to celebrate their 2,500<sup>th</sup> meeting. John Perkins on 0121 550 4121 has the details.

### **A heavyweight Mason**

Johnny Williams, British and Empire Heavyweight Boxing Champion 1952-1953, is a Past Master of Dunsmore Lodge.

### **Model help for WMHF**

A limited edition of a Lledo Model T Ford Van has been produced for the Heritage Fund. Each model costs £20 and is available from Harry Owen at the Provincial Office.

### **Sponsorship**

Applications are invited for sponsorship of this newsletter. Please contact me for details.

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