

Warwickshire

Provincial Grand Lodge News

February 2005

Tsunami appeal

None of us can have failed to have been moved by the horrific destruction of life wrought by the Indian Ocean tsunami on Boxing Day 2004. The Grand Charity responded immediately with an emergency grant of £100,000 and the Province contributed £2,000. Lodges and Brethren wishing to donate may do so by sending cheques to the Provincial Charity Office made payable to 'WMCA (Tsunami Appeal)'.

Pit your wits

A quiz night in aid of the Heritage Fund and The Yenton Assembly Rooms will take place on Friday 29 April 2005. Details from Jon Creak on 0121 749 4505.

Have we got a new PGM?

A toast to the Provincial Grand Master recently was to RW Bro Michael J Fox!

In the family

The three Hogan brothers, two of Ipsley Lodge and the other of Apollo, all won raffle prizes at a Festive Board of Ipsley Lodge in November.

Arise Sir John

John Long of the Lodge of Warwick is a Knight in the Order of Lifesaving recognising almost fifty years of service to the Royal Life Saving Society, nationally and internationally.

A grand Masonic speaker

The Internet Lodge has appointed Richard van Doren, a Past Master of the Lodge, as its Grand Orator

Comforting!

A guidebook for tourists about Palermo advises that "public shootings are much less common than they once were".

The Vicar and Freemasonry

A vicar in the Isle of Man recently banned ministers and readers who are Freemasons serving in his parishes. He has been reminded that the late RW Bro the Rt Rev Vernon S Nicholls, a former Provincial Grand Master for Warwickshire, was once the Bishop of Sodor and Man. The vicar has now withdrawn his objections.

Twins

Alan and David Harwood, twin brothers, were initiated together in the Lodge of St Barbara in January.

Stanley Porteus

Stanley Porteus, the long-time and well respected secretary of St Paul's Lodge No 43 and father of the late Michael Porteus, passed away on 4 January 2005 at the age of 79. He will be sadly missed.

Brother Dad and Brother Son

Paul Jackson had a delightful Initiation into Stoneleigh Lodge recently. He was surprised, however, when his father Martin, a Past Master of Kenilworth Lodge, occupied the Chair to carry out the Ceremony.

Wearing of Masonic Jewels

Qualified Brethren are expected to wear the jewel of the Order of the Royal Arch with Craft clothing. Past Masters in addition may wear their Past Master's jewel but at all times the Royal Arch Jewel is the innermost jewel on the left breast. There is no objection to holders of Past Provincial Grand Rank in Warwickshire continuing to wear their Past Master's jewel but it is the Provincial Grand Master's preference that acting Provincial and Grand Officers should only wear the Royal Arch Jewel, if

qualified to do so. Festival Jewels may be worn only during the year in respect of which the Festival concerned is held

Chinese Freemasonry

Freemasonry first reached China on the Prince Carl, a ship of the Swedish East India Company. The Freemasons on board had a document which gave them permission to hold meetings whenever they entered a port and they did so in Canton (Guangzhou) in late 1759.

Keeping it in the family

Peter Bailey (not yet 21) was initiated, by dispensation, in the Lodge of Impartiality in November in a ceremony in which his father, Steve Bailey, acted as Junior Deacon, his grandfather, Peter Hodgson, gave the address at the North East corner and the ceremony was conducted by his godfather, Gary Davis, the Master of the Lodge.

Grand Officers' Mess

The next Mess will be held at Alderson House on Saturday 23 April at 12.30pm for 1.00pm. Yasher Beresiner will address the members on 'Masonic Curiosities'.

Walking for a good cause

Expend your energy on a sponsored walk on 16 April beginning and ending at Kenilworth Castle. All sponsorship monies go to the Heritage Fund. Details and sponsorship forms are with Lodge Secretaries.

Special Events

Initiates' Lunch – 19 March,
Ladies Gift Fund Spring Lunch – 3 April,
Annual Meeting – 21 May,
Annual Service – 19 June,

Earl Leofric Lodge – 60th Anniversary – 15 September,
Fortior Lodge – 60th Anniversary – 8 November,
Lodge of St Andrew – 600th Meeting – 12 November,
Trinity Lodge – 250th Anniversary – 3 December.
Further details from Barbara Powell on 0121 454 4422.

A new PGM for Derbyshire

We offer our heartiest congratulations to Graham Rudd the Provincial Grand Master designate for Derbyshire.

More honours

Stanley Lates has been honoured by the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Switzerland, by being appointed a Past Grand Senior Warden.

A double!

Michael Price and Victor Keene are both currently Past Provincial Grand Senior Wardens in the Mark Province of Warwickshire.

Open Evenings

The Provincial Grand Master continues to encourage and promote the holding of Open Evenings by Lodges. He and his colleagues are always willing to assist with presentations to non-Masons on these occasions. Requests for their attendance should be made to the Provincial Grand Secretary.

If only!

In a tripping claim by a clairvoyant against a highway authority, the medical report said: "She can wake at night and when she does wake she thinks of a big pothole and all the councillors falling into it."

Blazing love

According to the new Master of Fletcher Lodge the way to his girlfriend's heart on their first date was to set fire to the menu card! They have been husband and wife for many years now so it worked.

Freemasonry and Christianity

A BBC internet poll recently concluded by a majority of 13 to 1 that Freemasonry and Christianity are compatible.

Proving the point

The Rev. Canon Joseph Morrow was installed last year as Grand Master Mason of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

Grants to hospices

The Grand Charity has again made donations to hospices in the Province. The Acorns Children's Hospice has received £3000, Warren Pearl £3200, Mary Ann Evans £1000, Myton Hamlet £4100, Shakespeare £750 and St Mary's £4750. The total amount given to hospices through The Grand Charity Hospice project is now over £5.4 million.

Protocol

Whenever the Deputy PGM and any of the Assistant PGMs attend an Installation Meeting they do so in their own right – they, unlike the Provincial Wardens, are not representatives of the Provincial Grand Master.

Concert success

The choir and band concert in December was attended by some 350 people and raised £1500 to be split between the Benevolent Fund and the Heritage Fund.

A Masonic marriage

Angela Hallam, the secretary to the Provincial Grand Secretary of Leicestershire and Rutland, has recently married Paul Otter who also works in the Provincial Offices in Leicester.

Freemasonry and local government with a difference

Wandsworth Borough Council Lodge has recently celebrated its centenary. During its history 25 Mayors of Wandsworth have been members. Anyone interested in forming a Coventry City Council Lodge?

Rank advice

Brethren who are holders of Past Grand Rank are addressed as 'Officers of Grand Lodge' or as 'Grand Officers'. 'Grand Lodge Officer' is reserved to those who hold an acting rank such as the Grand Secretary.

We meet on the level

In Warwickshire the Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Degree and a professor of nuclear physics are both Tylers of Lodges and the Inspector General of the Ancient and Accepted Rite is a Junior Deacon.

Political correctness

Merthyr Tydfil council has prohibited the use of the word 'brainstorming' since it might offend people with head injuries.

Send Freemasons to jail!

A Ukrainian MP has suggested that Masonic membership should be a criminal offence punishable by imprisonment.

Moving with the times

The Lodge of Sincerity now meets at 6.30pm for 6.45pm and still completes its business and Festive Board in good time. Have a word with Trevor Chalk on 0121 682 5105 if you are interested in attending.

Well I never!

There is a USA rock group called 'The Secret Lives of Freemasons'.

Prestonian Lecture 2005

The Prestonian Lecture for 2005 will be entitled 'Women and Freemasonry'.

Flower Festival

The Flower Festival at the Stratford Masonic Hall last September proved to be an outstanding success and raised the magnificent sum of £4000 which was donated to the Stratford Kidney Unit Appeal.

Rodney Pitham

Provincial Information Officer

masons@warwickshirepgl.org.uk
or rodipitham@aol.com