

Warwickshire

Provincial Grand Lodge News

February 2006

Changes in the Province

VW Bro Victor Keene and W Bro David Old are to stand down from their high offices in March and May respectively. The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to appoint W Bro David Rawlins as Deputy Provincial Grand Master and W Bro Roger Parker and W Bro Alan Wellan as Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. David and Roger will be invested at the meeting of the Installed Masters Lodge on 31 March 2006 and Alan will be invested at the Annual Meeting in May.

Provincial Grand Wardens

The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to appoint W Bro Michael Morris and W Bro Eric Rymer as Provincial Senior Grand Warden and Provincial Junior Grand Warden respectively for 2006/2007.

Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies

W Bro John Emms will be invested as the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies by the Provincial Grand Master at the meeting of the Installed Masters Lodge on 31 March.

Grand Officers Mess

Grand Officers should note that the next Mess will be held on Monday 24 April 2006.

A good excuse

"I can't deliver the paper set out on the agenda since I haven't written it yet", was the excuse proffered by a senior Past Master of a Warwickshire Lodge recently.

I never knew that

There are more Freemasons in the Province of Warwickshire

than in the whole of the State of Nevada which has less than 5,000.

Nor that

John Blair was elected as the first Grand Master of the Commonwealth of Virginia on 13 October 1778 and installed as such on 30 October of the same year.

Ouch!

A candidate was asked to "kneel on your right foot" in a ceremony in a Worcestershire Lodge recently.

A Masonic mystery

There is a gravestone in the cemetery in Warstone Lane Hockley Birmingham which is inscribed with the crest and number of the Lodge of Charity together with the Square and Compasses. The stone records the death of "Rosa, the beloved wife of Charles Godfrey (of Constitution Hill) who died October 29th 1900 age 32 years." Charles Godfrey was a member of the Lodge but research has established that he was not buried with his wife, and his last resting place is unknown. Anyone who can shed light on this mystery is asked to get in touch with Colin Greening on 0121 353 4647.

The Royal Arch

Freemasons, of all faiths, who have been Master Masons for at least four weeks can apply for membership of any Royal Arch Chapter, but must be proposed, seconded and balloted for by the members of the Chapter to which they seek admission. The interval between becoming a Master Mason and his exaltation into a Chapter is a matter for each individual, and will largely

depend on his circumstances and readiness for its teachings. Early application, however, ensures a greater opportunity to participate in the work and to understand its teachings. Most Craft Lodges in Warwickshire have links with the Royal Arch who will give the enquiring Mason more information. The other instructive option is to visit the Provincial web site at www.royal-arch.org.uk or www.grandchapter.org.uk the web site of Supreme Grand Chapter at

Manners

The IPM remained silent upon being presented with his Past Master's Jewel at the Installation Meeting of one of our Lodges until another Past Master said "Say thank you then"!

A very special occasion

Some 260 Brethren witnessed the 250th Anniversary celebrations of Trinity Lodge in December when the RW Provincial Grand Master was installed as Master in the presence of RW Bro David Williamson the Assistant Grand Master. The pleasant and welcome surprise of the celebration came when the Provincial Grand Master instantly promoted Stuart Leist, Peter Amery and Walter Hope to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and appointed Ian King to Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer complete with the regalia of his new office and a case to carry it in.

Fathers and sons

Michael Morris initiated his son Christopher in Shenstonian Lodge and Philip Wills made

his son Adam a Mason in the Lodge of Faith and Hope in November. Adam is 19 and was initiated by dispensation of the Provincial Grand Master. Brian Hodgetts had the pleasure of initiating his son Brian in Dunsmore Lodge in December.

Unique Mark occasion

Bedford Lodge of Mark Master Masons had its new Banner dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro David Carr Hooker, in January in the presence of the Brethren and their ladies.

Freemasons flooded

Heavy rain caused severe flooding in Molong New South Wales Australia last November. Among the properties affected was the Freemasons Hotel where water levels reached the height of the bar. There is no truth in the rumour that some of the Freemasons at the bar had not even noticed!

Freemasons help the homeless

The Grand Charity has approved a grant to the Depaul Trust of £50,000 payable in two equal instalments to fund a community centre and hostel for homeless young people in Erdington in Birmingham. Depaul runs 40 projects across the country helping 3,000 homeless young people. This integrated project caters for the local community and for young offenders making the transition back into society.

275 years coming shortly

St Paul's Lodge No 43, meeting continuously since it was warranted in 1733, will celebrate its 275th Anniversary in 2008. Needless to say, preparations are already underway for this most important event.

Unique?

David, Alan, Matthew and Reginald Harwood are the stewards in St Barbara Lodge.

Well I never!

Visitors from Constitutions that work the Swedish or Scandinavian Rite must have

completed their sixth Degree in that system to be qualified to attend an English Royal Arch meeting.

More swimmers in Rugby

The current President of the Amateur Swimming Association for Warwickshire is Pam Rigg, the wife of Barry Rigg of Rokeby Lodge.

Contributions to the Grand Charity

After prolonged discussions with the Inland Revenue, it has been confirmed that the Annual Contribution by each Mason to the Grand Charity is not eligible for relief under the Gift Aid scheme.

Keep up to date

The latest edition of the booklet 'Information for the guidance of members of the Craft' is dated September 2005. A copy should be presented to the new Master at his Installation with the emphasis that it contains edicts of Grand Lodge which are binding on private Lodges, and to newly made Masons urging them to read it as an aid to their daily advancement in Masonic knowledge.

2012 Festival

Harry Owen, the Province's super salesman, has many articles to sell to aid the 2012 Festival achieve its target. White gloves, cuff links and commemorative lapel badges are on offer. Harry can be contacted on 0121 454 2918.

Masonic Friendship Clubs

Masonic Friendship Clubs meet in Atherstone, Birmingham, Coventry, Nuneaton, Redditch, Rugby and Leamington. All undertake a variety of events and Masonic widows will always be made welcome. Details may be obtained from David Measham on 01922 451410 or Bill Gibbons on 0121 454 3190.

Grand Superintendent retires

Richard Wallis, the Grand Superintendent in and over the Holy Royal Arch Province of Warwickshire, steps down from

that high office with effect from 5 June 2006. He was installed into that office on 1 July 1993. His successor will be installed on 6 June 2006 at the Annual Convocation of the Province.

A Festival next door

A Festival for the RMTGB was launched in Worcestershire by RW Bro Richard Goddard the Provincial Grand Master in January. The appeal period is five years.

Public awareness with a vengeance!

"The Entered Apprentice Degree will be conferred on Gary M. Smith and Johnny M. Morris. All Regular Masons are invited. Those famous hot dogs may be served. Y'all come and enjoy." So says an entry for a meeting of Daleville Lodge at the beginning of January. It appears, with many others of a similar nature, on the web site of the Grand Lodge of Alabama.

Rapid rise

Duncan McGregor, initiated in July 1997, was appointed as Deputy Grand Secretary of the United Grand Lodge of Queensland in October 2005.

What others say!

"Tony Blair is a Freemason. So is Sadaam Hussein, which suggests the Iraq war could be a sadistic charade. There are 500,000 Masons in England with more than 100 lodges in the City of London." So says the author of a book entitled 'Architects of Deception' which belongs in the waste paper bin!

A charitable act

Harbans Gumman, the Master of Stoneleigh Lodge, and his wife Narinder were delighted when they heard that Brethren and their guests at the Ladies Night had raised £737 for Tiverton School in Coventry for profoundly disabled and mentally handicapped children

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