

Warwickshire

Provincial Grand Lodge News

August 2006

The Queen

“Every Freemason under the United Grand Lodge of England joins me in sending loyal and hearty greetings and congratulations to your Majesty on your eightieth birthday” is the message sent by the MW Grand Master on that very special anniversary for Her Majesty.

Numbers

At the end of December 2005 there were 8,466 Lodges on the Register of Grand Lodge and during that year 8,862 Grand Lodge Certificates were issued.

Craft Grand Ranks

Our congratulations go to these Warwickshire Brethren on their amply merited appointments to or promotions in Grand Rank:

Alan Wellan **PJGD**
Michael Burman **PAGDC**
Philip Gough **PAGDC**
Jeffrey Hillman **PAGDC**
Ian Macbeth **PAGDC**
David Macey **PAGDC**
Roger Parker **SGD**
David Rawlins **PGSwdB**
David Crosby **PJGD**
Peter Waring **PJGD**

Royal Arch Grand Ranks

We also congratulate these Warwickshire Companions who have been honoured with appointments to or promotions in Grand Rank in the Royal Arch:

Ronald Reed **PGStdB**
Peter Turner **PGStdB**
Robert Hatt **PAGSoj**
Peter Waring **PAGSoj**

Mark Grand Ranks

These Warwickshire Brethren have been rewarded with Grand Rank in the Mark Degree:

Derek Griffin **AGDC**
Roger Sargent **AGIG**

Peter Wellings **GStwd**
Robert Besanko **PGJD**
Joseph Brown **PAGSwdB**
Peter Huckle **PAGDC**
Victor Keene **PAGSwdB**

We congratulate them and wish them well.

Masonic bursary

The Holy Well Lodge Community Service Award has been established at Southam College by members of the eponymous Lodge which meets in the town. The award is made to the student who has made an outstanding effort in helping others in the community.

Fathers and sons

Vivian Davies (educated at the Royal Masonic School for Boys) has initiated his son John in the David Garrick Lodge. Vivian's late father was a Mason so both he and his son are Lewises. Jim Pike has installed his elder son Jamie in the Chair of Silhill Lodge and Vaughan Burgess has initiated his 25 year old son, Michael, in the same Lodge. Ted Byron installed his son as Master of Lee Torre Lodge.

Masons going to the dogs

Knowle Freemasons are now recycling all their empty drinks cans for charity. David Fry of Solihull Lodge collects the cans monthly from the premises and passes them on to a friend for the charity Dogs for the Disabled. They are sold for their aluminium and the proceeds go to this worthy cause. Some £200 has been raised so far that would otherwise have been thrown away.

Difficult!

A very senior Mason was recently asked by a much more senior Mason in Warwickshire to kneel on both hands!

And now the Masonic dog!

There is a greyhound called Masonic Ring that often races at the Hall Green Stadium in Birmingham.

The new President

Lynn Harris is the first Honorary Life President of Solihull Masonic Temple Limited.

He wouldn't grow up!

The Provincial Grand Secretary helped to celebrate his four year old grandson's birthday this year by dressing up as Peter Pan!

An away fixture

At a recent meeting of the Old Workopian Lodge meeting in Workop, two Warwickshire Masons, Michael Irving and Robin Burkill acted as Senior and Junior Deacons respectively.

New Masonic Samaritan Fund

Michael Squires, the immediate past Provincial Grand Treasurer, has been appointed to the Board of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund for an initial period of three years.

I don't believe it!

Mark Lodge has been advanced in a Mark Lodge (in Worcestershire).

Generosity

Mike Hogarth raised the magnificent sum of £1,250 during his year as Master of the Lodge of Integrity and has donated it to the Noah's Ark

Trust. The Trust supports bereaved children, young people and their families.

Lord Northampton's honour

On the evening of Monday 1 May 2006, the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of New York held his Annual Dinner in the Borough of Queens, New York. He presented the Grand Lodge Medal for Distinguished Achievement to the MW Bro The Most Honourable the Marquess of Northampton, DL, Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England.

In the news

Congratulations to Bill Wood of Athol Lodge and John Salisbury of Vellum Lodge both of whom had letters published in the July edition of MQ. But it did not end there for Warwickshire Masons. Ray Hollins of the Lodge of Academe had one of his instructive Masonic papers published and Nick Hoare achieved two pages complete with photograph on the history and character of the William Webb Ellis Lodge.

New Grand Master

On 2 May 2006 New York's newest and 100th Grand Master Neal Bidnick made his solemn promises on the 233-year-old bible used to swear in another famous Mason, George Washington, when he became President.

New Master for 4538

The Provincial Grand Secretary, Nigel Bister, is to be the next Master of the Warwickshire Installed Masters Lodge and will be installed at the meeting to be held on 30 September. Brethren are urged to attend to give him support on this very special occasion.

Warrant surrendered

Sadly the Lodge of St Barnabas had its last meeting on 27 April and surrendered its warrant to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The Lodge was founded in 1928 but was suffering from lack of numbers and was no longer viable.

New Masonic Hall

The Provincial Grand Master will dedicate the new Masonic Hall at Atherstone on 5 October.

Grand Officers' Mess

The next Grand Officers' Mess will be held on Monday 30 October at Stirling Road.

Freemasons back to school

Old Veseyan Lodge will be hosting the 59th Annual Festival of the Federation of School Lodges on 2 September.

One hundred years on

Hertford Lodge celebrates its centenary in February and Stuart Wilton is the 100th Master.

Tyler wanted

A vacancy exists for a Tyler at Balwyn Lodge which meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month. Must have own transport and plenty of time - the Lodge meets in Australia!

Must be a world record

Roy Woods was initiated on 27 September 1920, along with four other candidates. At the September Communication of the Grand Lodge of Victoria Roy celebrated 85 years as a Freemason.

And another?

At the age of 101 this year Arnold J. Sodergren celebrated 75 years of membership in Royal Arch Freemasonry in Massachusetts.

Freemasonry and Christianity

The Bishop of Rochester has joined that ill-informed band of senior clergy in the Church of England by pronouncing that Freemasonry and Christianity are incompatible and asserting that this is Church doctrine.

Masonic help for Cathedrals

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has made grants of £5,000 each to Hereford Cathedral and Exeter Cathedral.

Honours for Freemason

Bro John William George, of the Lodge of St Francis No 4899, was awarded the MBE in

June for services to Public Transport and to Charity.

Judge backs Freemasons

The role of Masons in public life won the backing of a High Court judge earlier this year when he dismissed claims that 'the order's secretive ways made Freemasonry an unhealthy influence on officialdom'. He concluded that Masons holding public positions did not need to remove themselves from decisions involving other Masons.

Masons support musicians

A Lodge charitable trust has been established in Durham to support young musicians of proven ability. Its financial support has enable members of the National Children's Orchestra and the National Youth Brass Band of Great Britain to participate in workshops and concerts in London including the Royal Festival Hall and the Queen Elizabeth Hall.

Aid to Air Ambulance

The Lodge of St Andrew's Ladies' Evening in March raised the magnificent sum of £1,240 for the County Air Ambulance.

District Grand Lodge of Ghana

For the first time since it was founded in 1931 the District Grand Lodge of Ghana has opened its doors to the public and the press to put an end to the myths and fictions so often published about Freemasonry.

A family of Masons

Betty Hobbs is the secretary of the Rugby Widows Friendship Club. Her late husband John was a Freemason for 55 years but it does not end there. Her father and all her seven brothers were Freemasons in the Scottish Constitution, one brother, Jack, serving for 66 years and another, Tom, for 63 years.

The Grand Charity

Since 1984 the Grand Charity has given £5,927,075 to hospices throughout England and Wales. In the year ended 30

November 2005 total grants made by the Grand Charity amounted to £4,702,897. Of that nearly £2.6 million was paid out in 1,816 Masonic Relief Grants.

Freemasonry Afloat

A number of Warwickshire Brethren on a world cruise on the Oriana came together with other Freemasons and their ladies for a glittering social evening recently. These gatherings on the ship have so far raised £50,739 for seamen's and Masonic charities and since their inception have been attended by 4,483 Freemasons and 1,280 Masonic widows.

Progress

Dr James Graham is the Grand Senior Warden of the Grand Lodge of Arkansas. He will be the Grand Master in 2008. He became a Mason in 1994.

Mine's a double

Jeffrey Whiteley is a Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies both in this Province and in the Mark Province of Worcestershire. He may have time to be at home occasionally – Sundays!

By any other name!

Roman Wiczerzynski, a Provincial Junior Grand Deacon, will not object if you call him Whisky!

Reading Court

Alan Wellan, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, is Chairman of the Management Committee of Reading Court at Stratford upon Avon.

Annual Meeting

Some 660 Brethren attended the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in May. 232 Brethren were appointed, reappointed or promoted to or in Provincial Grand Rank. The collection for the Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent Fund raised £3,896 for which the Provincial Grand Master is most grateful.

Aid to the flying paramedics

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex has raised the sum of £150,000 for the Sussex County Air Ambulance.

But there is more!

There are 18 County Air Ambulance Services in the country and the Grand Charity has earmarked £10,000 for each of them this year.

Next a Knighthood!

For the second time in ten years Harry Owen has received an invitation to a Garden Party at Buckingham Palace. Who knows but the third visit could see his lovely wife Margaret become Lady Owen!

Service at the synagogue

Brethren are reminded that (and are urged to attend) a special service for Freemasons their families and friends which will be held at the Singers Hill Synagogue in Birmingham at 3.00pm on Sunday 17 September. Details are with Lodge Secretaries.

Masonic Marathon Money

The Masonic Marathon held in May raised £10,700 in sponsorship for the 2012 Festival. The Walk raised £6,000.

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry is based at the home of the United Grand Lodge of England in Great Queen Street. It houses one of the finest publicly available collections of Masonic material in the world. It is open to the public free of charge Monday to Friday from 10.00am to 5.00pm.

Helping others

Linda and Andrew Harris together with members of Compass Rose Lodge recently purchased two fishing boats for six families in Sri Lanka whose livelihoods had been destroyed by the tsunami.

Called to higher service

Among the Warwickshire Brethren who have been called

to higher service are these Grand Officers:

William F Aitken PGStB;
Alan J Roberts PGStB;
Eric W Fiddian PJGD;
John B Weston PJGD;
E Gordon Bailey PJGD; and
Leon Jessel MBE PGStB.
They will be sadly missed.

Almoners and Charity Stewards

All Lodge Almoners and Charity Stewards are requested to attend a seminar specifically designed for them and their duties on 12 September at 6.30pm at the Provincial HQ at 2 Stirling Road Edgbaston. There will be updates on the work of the four principal Masonic Charities, our own Masonic Benevolent Fund and the 2012 Festival. The principal speaker will be Maggie Holloway, Senior Care Advice Manager of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Remembrance Service

A Remembrance Service will be held at 2 Stirling Road on Saturday 11 November commencing at 10.45am. Brethren, their families and friends are invited to attend to remember in particular those Freemasons who made the supreme sacrifice in many theatres of war and conflict.

Fire!

The festive board at the meeting of Darell Lodge in May came to an abrupt end when Brethren had to evacuate the Rugby Masonic Hall as a result of the outbreak of a small fire. Fortunately no one was injured and damage was limited.

Tasmanian Freemasons help for the elderly

The Freemasons' Homes of Southern Tasmania have just completed an A\$11.5 million redevelopment of their nursing home in Lindisfarne Tasmania. There are 130 residents.

Good old dad!

John Punch, of the Junior Chamber Lodge, has lunch with his father every Friday in a local hostelry. Nothing unusual in

that, but they have been doing it for the last thirty years and dad (aged 87) still brings his son three bags of sweets on each occasion!

Provincial Grand Lodge dues

Lodge Treasurers are reminded that the dues payable to Provincial Grand Lodge for each subscribing member will be £12.50 for the calendar year 2007.

The Royal Arch

John L Saint was installed as the 14th ME Grand Superintendent for Warwickshire by E Comp George Francis, the Second Grand Principal, on 6 June in the presence of some 355 Companions of this and many other Provinces.

A great honour

Charles Jordan of Ionic Lodge went to Buckingham Palace in June to receive his MBE awarded for services to his local community.

A consecration overseas

The Pro Grand Master consecrated the District Grand Lodge of Bermuda at the end of May and installed RW Bro Robert William Rego as District Grand Master. There are five Lodges in the District.

Freemasonry in Cyprus

Freemasonry was introduced to Cyprus in 1888 by a group of 27 British Servicemen. They formed the first Lodge in Cyprus, St. Paul's Lodge No 2277, under the English Constitution. In June 1980 the District Grand Lodge was established. As at 1 January 2006 there were 793 English Constitution Freemasons registered under the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus, of whom 497 are resident on the Island.

Special meeting

The Lodge of St Francis will celebrate its 600th meeting at Stirling Road on 9 October 2006 when Paul Workman will be installed into the chair of the Lodge. Brethren wishing to

attend should contact Phil Wallis on 01922 401615.

New District

The Pro Grand Master, Lord Northampton, consecrated the District Grand Lodge of Bermuda in May and installed RW Bro Robert William Rego as District Grand Master. There are five Lodges in the District.

A chivalrous distinction

Stelios Kiosses of Three Spires Lodge has received the honour of a knighthood from the Order of St Constantine the Great, an ancient order of chivalry.

Grand Lodge dues

The annual dues including VAT payable to Grand Lodge in 2007 in respect of each subscribing member of every Lodge shall be £20. The contribution to the Grand Charity will be £11.50 in respect of each member for the same year.

Prestonian lecture

The Prestonian Lecturer for 2007 is RW Bro Dr R B F Khambatta, Past District Grand Master, Pakistan, whose lecture will be "The Grand Secretaries 1813-1980".

What others say about us

"Freemasonry is a Jewish establishment, whose history, grades, official appointments, passwords, and explanations are Jewish from beginning to end."

Of historical interest

The Masonic Hall in Severn Street in Birmingham is now a Grade II Listed Building.

Of future interest

The Provincial Grand Master will dedicate the new Masonic Hall in Atherstone on 5 October.

Worth his weight in gold

John Naylor of Charterhouse Lodge and his wife Patricia celebrated their golden wedding anniversary in August. Patricia believed that her husband deserved a mention for his long service to matrimony!

New leader

Peter Turner has succeeded Peter Waring as Inspector General for the Warwickshire District in the Ancient and Accepted Rite.

A good game of golf

Twenty three members of the Warwickshire Masonic Golf Association had a splendid day of golf in June. The winner was David McAllister.

Important dates

The following events are planned in the Province over the next twelve months:

Masters, Wardens and Visiting Officers Dinner - 5 September 2006;

Initiates Lunch - 7 October 2006;

Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge - 19 May 2007;

Annual Church Service at Warwick - 10 June 2007;

Provincial Officers Pre-Season Supper - 20 June 2007.

Invitations have been or will be sent to Brethren in due course but please reserve the dates in your diary now. The Provincial Grand Master expects that all the events will be well attended particularly by Grand Officers, acting Provincial Grand Officers and the Masters and Wardens of all the private Lodges in the Province. Where for some unavoidable cause Masters and Wardens are not able to attend Masters should ensure that substitutes are appointed in good time and notified to the Provincial Grand Secretary to so that every Lodge is represented.

Visiting Officers

The Visiting Officers scheme has now been launched. Its purpose is to provide an effective means of communication between Lodge and Province and vice-versa. The VO's role is to advise support and communicate.

Rodney Pitham
Provincial Information Officer

rod_pitham@aol.com or
0121 744 1328