

# Warwickshire Provincial Grand Lodge News

February 2007

## **A new Assistant Provincial Grand Master**

Nigel Bister, the Provincial Grand Secretary, retires from that office at the Annual Meeting in May but will then be invested by the RW Provincial Grand Master as the fifth Assistant Provincial Grand Master in the Province. This is a well deserved appointment and we know that Nigel will be well and happily received in his visits to Lodges.

## **Other changes in the Province**

Michael Irving, the Provincial Grand Almoner, steps down from that office in May. Nigel Burton JP will become the Provincial Grand Secretary, Chris Grove MBE the Provincial Grand Almoner and Tony Newby the Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

## **A future Provincial Grand Master?**

We offer our sincere congratulations to RW Bro Stanley Lates and his wife Rosemary on the birth in December of their first great-grandchild, a boy.

## **A future Senior Warden?**

Michael Morris, the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, became a grandfather in October 2006 for the first time. Michael is looking forward to young Maximilian's Initiation, by dispensation, in eighteen years' time!

## **Dates for your diary**

Vellum Lodge hosts Lodge Glittering Star No 322 (Irish Constitution) on 18 April. On 2 March the Lodge will have talks by Stanley Butterworth on 'Great Kings Dukes and Lords' and by Chris Grove on 'An

update on Masonic Charities'. Details can be obtained from the Lodge Secretary, Nigel Burton, on [burtonnr@aol.com](mailto:burtonnr@aol.com) or 0121 705 5133.

## **Celebrate 100 years**

The 100th Festival of the Warwickshire Mark Lodge of Instruction will be held at 2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston on Thursday 29 March under the presidency of the RW Bro Benjamin Addy, Assistant Grand Master. Reservations should be made with Alan Brook on 0121 353 3341 no later than 22 March.

## **Another daily advancement**

Richard Jaffa will speak at Linwood Lodge on 13 March on 'The influence of Freemasonry on the works of Rudyard Kipling'. Ed Doolan will attend the Lodge on 17 April when he will present his thoughts on 'Radio'. On this occasion non-Masons will be more than welcome to attend. Reservations can be made with Andy Bryson on 01564 754491 or [andy.bryson@btinternet.com](mailto:andy.bryson@btinternet.com)

## **Thanks very much**

Trinity Lodge presented the Provincial Grand Master with an engraved goblet and a framed citation as a token of their gratitude for his Mastership of the Lodge in 2005/2006 following his Installation of Roy Palin as his successor in December.

## **Candidates for Initiation**

A candidate for initiation must be proposed and seconded at a regular meeting and must be balloted for at the next regular meeting. The proposal lapses if this is not done. If a candidate is not initiated within one year

after his election, the election is void.

## **Long service**

Tony Wall has recently stepped down from the office of Treasurer in Fletcher Lodge after 27 years. He is succeeded by his son Stephen. Needless to say, the books are in good order!

## **We are all the same**

A senior Grand officer recently arrived at his Lodge in Edgbaston without his regalia. He proudly entered the Lodge Room wearing the apron of an Entered Apprentice.

## **Warrants surrendered**

George Beech Lodge and Faithful Lodge have surrendered their warrants since they are no longer viable.

## **NMSF benefits from Festival**

The Province of Gloucestershire raised the magnificent sum of £2,650,537 during its Festival for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund. There are 80 Lodges in the Province and the amount represents £802 per capita.

## **Anyone for breakfast?**

North County Daylight Lodge in Escondido, California, meets at 10.30am on Wednesdays. Coffee and doughnuts are served from 8.15am to 10.15am.

## **Equality**

The Provincial Grand Master is currently the Tyler of the Stanley Lates Lodge.

## **Crossing over**

Martin Bates, a Past Master of the Heart of England Lodge, is the Provincial Senior Grand Warden Designate of the Provincial Grand Lodge of

Derbyshire. Martin is a subscribing Past Master of Tyrian Lodge No 253, the oldest Lodge in Derbyshire.

#### **Like father, like son**

Geoffrey Hooker is the Provincial Grand Master in the Royal Order of Scotland in the Province of South Midlands. His son David is the Provincial Grand Master in the Royal Order in the Province of Warwickshire. This has to be unique.

#### **Masonic traffic control**

Our Provincial Grand Master saved the day at London Road, Leicester. He stood in a side road and halted traffic to allow visiting Brethren to enter the car park so that they could attend the Annual Meeting of the Province of Leicestershire and Rutland in November in good time.

#### **Generosity**

The Provincial Grand Master was delighted to receive the sum of £1,000 from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Warwickshire at their Annual Meeting in November towards the 2012 Festival.

#### **The ton**

Hertford Lodge celebrates 100 years this month, receiving its Centenary Warrant and installing its 101st Master.

#### **In harmony**

The Lodge of Harmony holds its 400th meeting this month and initiates its 100th candidate.

#### **Triplets?**

February also sees the initiation of Michael Spittle in the Lodge of Faith and Hope when the Junior Deacon is Jason Spittle, and the Senior Deacon is Paul Spittle. Michael is brother to Paul and uncle to Jason; Jason is Paul's son. In front of the Master's pedestal at the relevant time, there are three Brothers Spittle - who have the several relationships of father, son, uncle, brother and nephew!

#### **Prestonian Lectures for 2007**

The delivery of the official Prestonian Lectures in 2007 will be given under the auspices of the Reading Lodge of Union No 414, Lodge Faith No 2438, North London Installed Masters Lodge No 9784 and the District Grand Lodge of Bombay and Northern India. The Lecturer, RW Bro Dr R B F Khambatta, will talk on "The Grand Secretaries 1813 – 1980".

#### **New Grand Masters**

MW Bro George Dunlop is the new Grand Master for the Grand Lodge of Ireland and Sir Archibald Orr-Ewing is the new Grand Master Mason for the Grand Lodge of Scotland. He is the first person in the 270 year history of that Grand Lodge to have held this office twice.

#### **Rocking Horse Draw**

You have a chance to win a hand carved rocking horse for your children or grandchildren if you take part in the exciting draw before 30 April. Tickets have gone to all Lodges so buy yours now. The winning ticket will be drawn at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in May. All proceeds go to the 2012 Festival.

#### **New Provincial Wardens**

The Provincial Grand Master has been pleased to appoint his Provincial Grand Wardens for 2007/2008. The Provincial Senior Grand Warden designate is W Bro David Allen of Yenton Lodge No 3484, and the Provincial Junior Grand Warden designate is W Bro Stuart Esworthy of the Laurence Sheriffe Lodge No 3497. We wish them happiness in their high offices during their year. Stuart is the fourth Warden in the Province to come from the current subscribing members of the Lodge of Jurisprudence, his predecessors being Peter Turner, Rodney Pitham and Michael Morris.

#### **The Library and Museum of Freemasonry**

As at 31 January 2006 the consolidated net assets of the

Library and Museum Charitable Trust were £2,152,458.

#### **Liverymen and Freemasons**

Freemasons and London Livery Companies have much in common. The Livery dates from mediaeval times and is based on fraternity, charity and discipline. Both organisations attract men of good character and high moral standards. Arnold Jessel, is seeking to establish an informal register of Warwickshire Masons who are Liverymen of City of London Livery Companies. He can be contacted on 01283 711055 or 07956 963920.

#### **New Secretary**

Michael Cole has succeeded John McGann as Provincial Grand Secretary for Worcestershire.

#### **How appropriate**

"Encourage your friends to be your brother" is a motto of the Grand Lodge of New York.

#### **A new Provincial Grand Master**

RW Bro the Rev Malcolm Lane is the new Provincial Grand Master for Monmouthshire.

#### **Compulsory reading?**

Two books published in the USA carry the titles 'The Complete Idiot's Guide to Freemasonry' and 'Freemasons for Dummies'!

#### **A true Masonic gesture**

Trinity Lodge, in receipt of a substantial legacy from a Lodge widow, has made donations of £25,000 to the Coventry Myton Hospice Appeal, £5,000 to The Grand Charity and £5,000 to our own Provincial Masonic Benevolent Fund.

#### **A memorable occasion**

The meeting of the Harry Wilson Lodge of Mark Master Masons in January was the Lodge's 25th Anniversary. Not only did Roger Parker install Clifford Williams as his successor, but the Provincial Grand Master and his Officers were in attendance, the Lodge

resolved to sponsor the new Mancetter Lodge of MMM and George Simpson celebrated his 80th birthday.

#### **Who or what is a Lewis?**

A Lewis is the uninitiated son of a Mason and it matters not whether the son was born before or after his father became a Mason.

#### **And here are two examples**

In January Robert Croxall initiated his son Stephen in the Lodge of Grace and Martin Heatley initiated his son Ben in the Heart of England Lodge.

#### **Concert for the Legion**

HRH The Duke of Kent attended the Royal British Legion Christmas Celebration Concert at Freemasons' Hall, London, in December.

#### **More cash for the Festival**

The Christmas Celebration, with the Provincial Choir, the Provincial Brass Band, Victoria Green as the special guest guitarist and Roy Marshall as the Musical Director, raised £518 for the 2012 Festival in December.

#### **A Grand Honour**

Roger Sargent acted as the Grand Guardian at the Annual Assembly of Royal Ark Mariners in December and was word perfect when asked the usual questions by HRH Prince Michael of Kent, the Grand Master.

#### **Four times in four decades**

E Comp Peter L Britton became the First Principal of the Chapter of Faith and Hope this month having also held that position in 1977, 1987 and 1997. Unique?

#### **Across the border**

Robert Blakemore, Brian Nutt and Philip Wills of the Millennium Lodge of Mark Master Masons in Worcestershire were all appointed and invested in November as Provincial Grand Stewards in the Mark Province of Warwickshire. Is this the beginning of the takeover?

#### **In case you did not know**

There are now 1,545 Mark Lodges arranged in 41 Provinces, 25 Districts and 3 Inspectorates. 'Daughter' Grand Lodges have been formed in Switzerland, France and Brazil and added to those previously created in New South Wales (1889), Victoria (1901), South Australia (1907), Queensland (1932), India (1965) and Finland (1971).

#### **Tribute to the Craft**

At his Installation, as Inspector General for the District of Warwickshire in the Ancient and Accepted Rite, V. . Ill . . Bro Peter J Turner paid this tribute: "Craft Masonry is the foundation stone of our Order and we rely heavily upon it. I am pleased to say that my predecessors have built a strong relationship with the Craft and that I shall do my utmost to ensure the continuance of that happy situation. I am delighted therefore to welcome to our meeting RW Bro Michael J Price CBE the Provincial Grand Master of Warwickshire supported by his Deputy VW Bro David Rawlins and two of his Assistants, W Bros Rodney Pitham and Alan Wellan. That they have made the time to attend today at the height of the Masonic season is something which I, and I am sure all of us, appreciate very much. They can be assured that they will have our support now and always."

#### **'Autumn Glory'**

'Autumn Glory' is the concert to be held at the Arts Centre, Warwick University on Sunday 7 October 2007. It features the Warwickshire Symphony Orchestra and the Stratford on Avon Gilbert and Sullivan Society, together with solo artists. The compere for the evening will be Ed Doolan the well-known broadcaster in the West Midlands. Tickets are now on sale at prices of £10, £20, £25 and £30 and are available from Peter Astfalck on 02476 229624. Further details may be seen on [www.autumnglory.co.uk](http://www.autumnglory.co.uk)

Book now to avoid disappointment. All the proceeds from ticket sales will go to the 2012 Festival and if bought by Warwickshire Brethren or their Lodges will count towards each Lodge's target for the Festival.

#### **Where does the Initiate sit?**

The Initiate should be seated after his ceremony in the north-east part of the Lodge immediately on the right of the Senior Deacon. This is an edict of Grand Lodge and is binding on all private Lodges, who have no discretion in the matter.

#### **Provincial Grand Chapter**

In the Royal Arch in Warwickshire David Old is to continue as Deputy Grand Superintendent, and Ronald Eamson as Second Provincial Grand Principal. Michael Squires will be appointed as Third Provincial Grand Principal, William Stammers as Provincial Grand Scribe E and, subject to election, David Evans will become Provincial Grand Treasurer.

#### **500 meetings**

Coventry Foundation Lodge celebrated its 500th Meeting in December and initiated Daniel Rowan making it a memorable occasion for him and all Lodge members. The senior Past Master of the Lodge, Gordon Parsons, was present to enjoy the event. He had been the Master when the Lodge celebrated its 200th Meeting in 1956!

#### **Masonic discipline**

The rules relating to the reporting of offences and other matters that may bring Freemasonry into disrepute have been amended by Grand Lodge. A summary has been prepared by the Provincial Grand Secretary and has been circulated to Lodge Secretaries. They and Masters of Lodges must familiarise themselves with its contents but all Brethren are urged to acquaint themselves with the rules by obtaining copies from their Lodge

Secretary.

### **Warwickshire Royal Arch Ritual**

As all the original 1500 copies of the 2005 revised ritual have been sold, a new 2006 reprint has been carried out. The new books are still priced at £7.50 each, plus postage, and can be obtained from the Provincial Asst Scribe E, E Comp Peter James, 55 Walsall Road, Sutton Coldfield, B74 4NH. Tel 0121 308 2704, email [p\\_h\\_james@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:p_h_james@yahoo.co.uk)

### **I am not a contortionist**

The Installing Master instructed the Master Elect to place his right knee on the Volume of the Sacred Law. The Master Elect swiftly responded: "I would if I could!"

### **A lot of Masons!**

There are 54,585 Masons under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of Kentucky.

### **A timely reminder**

The Grand Lodge of Maine published this reminder in November 2006: "Winter is definitely fast approaching and we should all be mindful of those members of our lodges that are elderly, that live alone, or that have special needs. We should not sit back and wait to hear that one of our Masonic Widows needs help getting her winter supply of firewood undercover or that she might need help paying for a tank of oil for her furnace." A lesson for us all?

### **'Warwickshire Freemasonry – A look forward'**

This is the title of the most informative, educative, and thought-provoking paper delivered by the Provincial Grand Master at the Regular Meeting of the Warwickshire Installed Masters' Lodge in November 2006. You can download it from the Provincial web site.

### **A first for Freemasonry**

The University of Sheffield's Teaching Affairs Committees have approved an MA

programme in the history of Freemasonry and Fraternalism, the first such degree in the world, which will be launched during 2007-8.

### **Being festive for charity**

A Family Festive Concert was held at Freemasons' Hall in London in December in aid of the London Masonic Charitable Trust and the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

### **Forging an alliance**

There are only two Lodges under the English Constitution called Alliance - Alliance Lodge No 667 West Lancashire and Lodge of Alliance No 5811 in Warwickshire. Three Brethren from the Warwickshire Lodge travelled to Liverpool in December to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Commemorative Meeting and witnessed the dedication of a new Banner. A reciprocal visit is being arranged.

### **New Grand Secretary**

The MW Grand Master has been pleased to appoint W Bro Nigel Brown as Grand Secretary and Grand Scribe E with effect from 1 February 2007. Prior to this appointment Nigel was a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies.

### **A Presidential Freemason**

The late Bro Gerald R Ford, a former President of the USA, was initiated into Freemasonry on September 30, 1949, in Malta Lodge No. 465 (Grand Rapids, Michigan). At the same ceremony his blood brothers, Thomas Gardner Ford, Richard Addison Ford, and James Francis Ford also became Freemasons.

### **But not this one**

President Lyndon B. Johnson was initiated into Freemasonry but never went through the Second and Third Degree Ceremonies

### **Learn more about the 2012 Festival**

David Macey, the Festival Director, and other members of his small team, are available to

attend Lodges and make a presentation of no more than 10 or 15 minutes to tell you all about the Festival, its aims and objectives, fundraising events and how you can help boost the appeal fund. David can be contacted on 01562 884538 or on [david.macey@virgin.net](mailto:david.macey@virgin.net)

### **Difficult but not impossible**

At a recent Initiation in a Nuneaton Lodge the Candidate was instructed to kneel on his left foot.

### **All over the place**

Surinder Matharu of Stoneleigh Lodge was initiated into Stoneleigh Lodge on 10 November 2005, passed at the Lodge of Emulation on 13 April 2006, and raised at Earl Leofric Lodge on 8 January 2007.

### **Keep proposing them!**

Subject to election Mark Freeman will be the Master of Shakespeare Lodge in 2008, Derek Edge in 2009 and Simon Hetherington in 2010. All were proposed for membership of the Lodge by Tony Bethell.

### **Half a million for 2012**

At the end of January there was £490,483 in the bank! Keep signing those standing orders and gift-aid declarations.

### **Thanks for your services**

Ted Kettleborough was surprised but delighted to receive a silver dish from the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge at a recent meeting for services he had rendered to the Lodge over many years.

### **News**

Items for inclusion in Provincial Grand Lodge News or for posting to the Provincial web site should be sent to me at 2 Stirling Road, Edgbaston, Birmingham or by email to the address below.

Rodney Pitham

Provincial Information Officer

0121 744 1328

[rod\\_pitham@aol.com](mailto:rod_pitham@aol.com)