

Warwickshire Provincial Grand Lodge News

August 2007

A memorable Masonic year
HRH The Duke of Kent the MW Grand Master has celebrated 40 years in that highest of Offices in the English Constitution. His brother, HRH Prince Michael of Kent, also shares this distinction by having been the MW Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas for 25 years.

Craft Grand Ranks

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

Terry Goff Burt - **GStB**

Edward Barnsdall - **PAGDC**

John Emms - **PAGDC**

William Stammers - **PAGDC**

Peter Huckle - **PGStB**

Michael Ward - **PGSwdB**

Richard Price - **PDepGSwdB**

John Saint - **PDepGSwdB**

John Harvey - **PSGD**

Thomas Coulson - **PJGD**

Peter Turner - **PJGD**

Keith Holdsworth - **PAGDC**

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:

Peter Burdekin - **PGStB**

Steven Fowler - **PGStB**

Michael Price - **GSwdB**

David Old - **PGSwdB**

Michael Ward - **PGSwdB**

Mark Grand Ranks

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

Martyn Hale - **PAGDC**

Roy Tidmarsh - **PAGDC**

Alan Brook - **PGStB**

Peter Cox - **PGStB**

Michael Saxon - **PGIG**

David Rawlins - **PGMO**

Clifford Hadley - **PGJO**

Edward Kettleborough - **PGJO**

Richard Toon - **PGJD**

We congratulate them and wish them well.

Numbers

At 1 June 2007 there were 5029 members in the Province and 6201 memberships.

Magnificent

Albert and Marilyn Fletcher were overwhelmed by the generosity of those attending the Lodge of St Andrew's Ladies Night in March. £901 had been collected for the charity 'Dreams Come True'.

50 years and more

Peter Turnbull of Stivichall Lodge received his 50 year certificate in February in the presence of his old friend and proposer into Freemasonry Joe Darling.

And even older

Members of David Garrick Lodge and their guests enjoyed an Old English Evening recently, complete with traditional English songs, monologues and old ale drunk out of commemorative china tankards.

Grand Officers' Mess

The next Grand Officers' Mess will be held on Tuesday 30 October at Provincial HQ at Stirling Road. The one following will take place on 23 April 2008.

Fathers and sons at the double

Chris Grove installed his son Simon in a delightful ceremony at the meeting of the Lodge of Integrity in March. The new Master then invested Jonathan

Norman as Treasurer and his father John as the Secretary.

And even more

St Augustine's Lodge, one of our Lodges with small numbers, now has two fathers and sons waiting to be made Masons.

Successful visit to London

Rodney Pitham and Alan Wellan led a party of 53 Brethren from the Province to the Installation Meeting of the London Warwickshire Lodge at Freemasons' Hall Great Queen Street at the end of April. It was a pleasure to see the Master and Secretary of the Lodge join us at our Annual Meeting in May.

Long Service

Mrs Ardith Pye has recently retired after thirty five and a half years as secretary to successive Grand Secretaries of the Grand Lodge of Nova Scotia.

Care rewarded

James Usher of the Lodge of Assembly is very proud of his wife Edie. She has recently received a Customer Care Award from the Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals Trust for being an excellent team player and a caring person. Edie also raises funds for the benefit of the patients.

Amalgamations

In the Province of West Lancashire Talbot Lodge, Great Stone Lodge and Westbourne Lodge have all amalgamated with Urmston Lodge.

Annual Meeting

Some 738 Brethren attended the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in May and 530 sat down to lunch. 161 Brethren were

appointed, reappointed or promoted to or in Provincial Grand Rank. The collection for the Warwickshire Masonic Benevolent Fund raised £3,757 for which the Provincial Grand Master is most grateful.

Surprise, surprise!

Even though they have day to day responsibility for the maintenance of records of appointments and promotions in the Province Trevor Cavill and Gary Malpas were taken by surprise when the Provincial Grand Master at the Annual Meeting promoted them instantly to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden and Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden respectively.

A pastime?

Anthony Nutt of the Lodge of St Catherine has been selected to represent Great Britain in a triathlon in Brussels in 2008. In his spare time he runs marathons and swims the Channel!

A big Mason

This advertisement appeared on the web site of the Grand Lodge of Washington recently: "One size 58 Tuxedo with 2 formal tux shirts size 3XL." Any offers?

The bare cheek!

The Junior Deacon was being invested at an Installation Meeting in March and his trousers fell down! The Presiding Officer was only a foot away from the exposed flesh.

Good service

Robert Townsend of Yenton Lodge and his wife Elaine have both been awarded the Chief Scout's Medal of Merit for their services to the 36th Walsall Scout Group.

Long service

Harry Holmes PAGDC, a founder of the Guild of Stewards, has just retired after 36 years service as a Steward at Lichfield Cathedral.

Back to school?

Nick Malden ('NTM') will be appointed Joint Secretary of the Federation of School Lodges at

the Annual Festival at Old Brentwoods Lodge on 1 September 2007.

Lodge Almoners and Charity Stewards

All Lodge Almoners and Charity Stewards in the Province are requested to attend a seminar specifically designed for them and their duties on Monday 10 September at 6.30pm at 2 Stirling Road. It will include many items of practical interest to every Lodge Almoner or Charity Steward.

Remembrance Service

A Remembrance Service will be held at the Provincial HQ Edgbaston on Saturday 10 November 2007 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 all theatres of war and conflict.

Provincial Grand Lodge dues

Lodge Treasurers are reminded that the dues payable to Provincial Grand Lodge for each subscribing member will be £13.50 for the calendar year 2008.

And then the brush!

Ken Bushell is the Director of Ceremonies for the Lodge of Industry. At a recent meeting he also had to act as the Immediate Past Master, Chaplain, Treasurer, Almoner and Charity Steward.

Heritage Open Days

Provincial HQ at Stirling Road will take part in the national Heritage Open Days on 6 September 2007; Nuneaton Masonic Hall on 7 and 8 September; Guy's Cliffe on 6, 7, and 8 September; Solihull Masonic Hall on 9 September; Sutton Coldfield Masonic Hall on 8 September, Alderson House, Warwick on 8 September and Stratford Masonic Rooms on 6, 7, and 8 September.

Masonic teacher

Andrew Martin, of the Lodge of Serenity, becomes the Head of

Chemistry at the Royal Masonic School for Girls in September.

At your service

Harry Owen has many items of merchandise that are absolutely essential for every Warwickshire Freemason including the Provincial tie. Place your orders with Harry on 0121 423 8085 and take advantage of his current generous offer "Two for the price of two"!

Provincial events

The following events are planned in the Province:

Masters, Wardens and Visiting Officers Dinner – 13 September 2007;

Concord Lodge Centenary – 15 September 2007;

Ipsley Lodge 60th Anniversary – 1 October 2007;

De Montfort Lodge 500th Meeting – 8 October 2007;

Initiates Supper – 12 October 2007;

Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge – 19 April 2008;

Annual Church Service at Warwick - 8 June 2008;

Provincial Officers Pre-Season Supper - 20 June 2008.

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 so that every Lodge is represented.

On your bike at 80

Gerry Barker, a founder and senior Past Master of the Lodge of Perception, celebrated his 80th birthday recently with Bill Kerley and Alan Craske on an 80 mile cycle ride. In addition to completing the distance, Gerry raised £1,600 for the restoration fund at St Chads in Lichfield.

Starting at the end

The Master called on the Brethren to sing the opening ode. After some difficulty in following the tune, a voice shouted "Brother Organist, this is the Opening Ode; you're playing the Closing Ode."

TLC in Gibraltar

Freemasons in Gibraltar launched their "Teddis for Loving Care" scheme in March for the two A and E departments on the island. There are nine Lodges under the jurisdiction of the District Grand Lodge of Gibraltar.

All in one day!

The Grand Master's one-day class in Ohio, USA witnessed a total of 2,777 new Master Masons join on 31 March, as part of degree presentations at sites in 24 Districts! This brings to 16,668 the number of Masons who have joined Ohio Freemasonry through this type of event since they began. There are 530 Lodges.

Promotion

Our warmest congratulations go to Richard Wallis recently appointed and invested as Deputy Grand Sovereign in The Masonic and Military Order of The Red Cross of Constantine and The Order of the Holy Sepulchre and St John the Evangelist, an honour so richly deserved.

The Irish connection

Brethren from Loyal Travellers Lodge together with other Brethren and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, with their ladies, had a most enjoyable trip to Cork in February which included a visit to Hibernian Lodge No 95 for the Installation of Bro Leslie Deane, a frequent visitor to the Warwickshire Lodge.

Warwickshire in Berkshire

On 25 September 2007 John Nixon PAGDC, a Past Master of Athelstan Lodge, is to be appointed and invested as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire.

Freemasons recognised

On 18 April 2007 the House of Representatives of Pennsylvania adopted a resolution "recognising the many Freemasons resident throughout this Commonwealth and honouring them for their many contributions to the nation and this Commonwealth."

Warrant surrendered

Sadly, the Lodge of Sincerity surrendered its Warrant to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master at its last meeting in March since it was no longer viable.

What others say about us

'The top rung of Freemasonry, the Illuminati Order, is an international satanic cult that aims to subdue humanity by pitting nations in war against each other. It represents a conspiracy of international finance and many "leading families" of Europe and America.'

New Presidents

At the Annual Investiture in April the MW Grand Master was pleased to appoint and invest VW Bro Hugh Stubbs as President of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund and VW Bro Willie E Shackell CBE as President of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

A Masonic coincidence for 275 years

In 1733 the Premier Grand Lodge of England appointed Henry Price, a Boston tailor, as the first Provincial Grand Master in the Americas. So in 2008 the Grand Lodge of Massachusetts will celebrate its 275th Anniversary. Our own St Paul's Lodge No 43 was warranted in 1733 and it too will celebrate the same Anniversary in 2008.

Help for hospices

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated over £6.4 million to hospices in England and Wales since 1984 to help with their annual running costs.

Strange but true

'Lodge Brothers' are undertakers and monumental masons and 'Lewis Tyler' provide fencing!

The Royal Arch

At the Annual Investiture of Supreme Grand Chapter in April the Pro First Grand Principal reminded those who had been promoted or appointed that their new rank brings with it certain responsibilities. Chief among these is to promote the Order to Master Masons and encourage new Companions to understand and enjoy this new dimension to their Masonry. The Provincial Grand Master and the Grand Superintendent are keen to ensure that the attractions of joining the Royal Arch are brought to the attention of Master Masons especially by Royal Arch representatives in Lodges and when Grand Lodge Certificates are being presented.

Magistrates and Masonry

Fraternity Lodge boasts five magistrates as members.

Masonic Hall elevated

The lift recently installed in Alderson House in Warwick is fully operational. It is designed for use by the disabled and infirm.

Visiting Officers

The Provincial Grand Master is delighted with the outstanding success of this scheme after its first year of operation and is grateful to Lodges for welcoming it and the visiting officers so warmly and readily.

In need of music?

The Lodge of Rectitude has produced a CD of Masonic music for use in the Lodge Room and its ceremonies and is for sale at £7.50. The Lodge Secretary will take orders on les.dacombe@ntlworld.com Sales are going well and a proportion of the proceeds is going to the Festival.

A new Masonic Order

The first Master of Wychbury Court No 23, of the Order of Athelstan, is the indefatigable and ubiquitous David Hooker.

Over the border for 50

Brethren of the Lodge of St Andrew, led by Tom Helm,

travelled to Dunoon in April to witness the presentation of a 50 year certificate to him by the Master of his Mother Lodge, Lodge of St Munn No 496 (S.C.) and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Argyll and the Isles.

Online Masonic education

The Grand Lodge of California has launched an online learning facility. The first of the series is about Lodge Finance. Brethren who pass the certification exam at the end of the course will be granted a Certificate in Lodge Finance.

Hang on!

The newly installed Master was keen to carry on with the next business when the Presiding Officer enquired of him if he would like to hear the Address to the Master!

Amalgamation at home

Doric Lodge and the Lodge of Friendship are to amalgamate, the first to do so in the Province.

A new Mark Lodge

Mancetter Lodge of Mark Master Masons was consecrated at the end of May at the Masonic Hall in Atherstone.

Party with the Masons

The Spider-Man 3 film post-premiere party was held at Freemasons' Hall in London in May.

The key to Masonic courage

Oscar Woody, a Freemason from Virginia, was the postmaster on the Titanic. Sadly, he was among those who perished. His postmaster's keys and chain were sold at auction in April for the staggering sum of £100,000.

Mark sponsorship

Rugby Lodge of Mark Master Masons is the sponsor of the Rugby Parkinson's Disease Society Newsletter.

Autumn Glory

Tickets may still be available for this concert in aid of the 2012

Festival. Ring Peter Astfalck on 02476 229624 to book yours now.

Reunited

A find by an eagle-eyed surfing Mason led to Abbey Lodge in Nuneaton being reunited with a Past Master's jewel advertised on an internet auction site. The seller lives in Queensland, Australia.

Public spirited

Joe Tildesley of Fletcher Lodge was elected to Solihull Council and David Hancox of Apollo Lodge was invested as Mayor of Alcester in May.

Going to the dogs!

Stechford Lodge in Worcestershire is moving to new premises – the Hall Green Greyhound Stadium in Birmingham!

Helping dogs to go home

Thanks to a generous donation by the members of the Warwick and Leamington Masonic Friendship Club more dogs will be reunited with their owners. Dog Theft Action is a charity dedicated to help prevent the theft of dogs. Monies collected provide scanning devices to help found dogs to be returned to their rightful owners.

Recognition of other Orders

Since many members of the Craft are members of other Masonic Orders, the Grand Master has been pleased to acknowledge formally their existence and regularity, and in particular their sovereignty and independence. He accepts the valuable role they play in providing additional scope for Brethren to extend their Masonic research in interesting and enjoyable ways. What is important is that Brethren who join these other Orders still retain their membership of a Craft Lodge and the Grand Master is pleased that the Orders will be encouraging their members to do so.

600 and still going

Silhill Lodge celebrated its 600th meeting in March. Michael

Morris, then Provincial Senior Grand Warden, raised his son-in-law Piers Clinton-Tarestad and presented a brief history of the Lodge.

A proud record

Martyn Robotham was the first Initiate of Compass Rose Lodge in 1992. He has proposed Paul Taylor, Colin Fox, Leslie Twynholm, Andrew Harris, Jon Pitt, Gerry Gregory and Michael Wheeler for membership. His latest Candidate is his son Christopher. Martyn's father, Bev, is the Secretary and a Founder of the Lodge.

A day to remember

The same Martyn was installed in the Chair of Composite Lodge in May on the day when his first grandchild, Madison Lucie, was born to his daughter Nicola.

A faithful servant

Richard Camm-Jones, Secretary of the Freemasons' Grand Charity, has recently completed 40 years' service at Freemasons' Hall in London.

Here and there

A visitor to Meridian Lodge in July, Norman Littlemoor, of Strathclyde Lodge No 1626 (SC), has an ambition to visit every Masonic Temple in Britain! He has already 'done' all of the Scottish ones and his visit to Guy's Cliffe was the 417th in England. He has also been to 26 in Ireland.

New Master for 4538

I shall have the honour and privilege to be installed as the Master of the Warwickshire Installed Masters Lodge No 4538 at the meeting to be held on 29 September at the Provincial HQ in Edgbaston. I would welcome your support.

Rodney Pitham
Provincial Information Officer

rodpitham@aol.com or
0121 744 1328