

The Warwickshire Rose

The Newsletter for Members of the Ancient and Accepted Rite

V.:Ill.:Bro Peter John Turner 33° Inspector General

August 2008

Fifty Golden Years

The Inspector General and his wife Daphne celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 13 July this year. We wish them every happiness together for many more years to come.

Perfection with history

Paul Rowlands was perfected in St Benedict Chapter on 26 June and was presented with his collar and jewel in the traditional manner. However, the collar and jewel have a long history having been worn for the first time by Paul's great-grandfather in 1896; Paul is the sixteenth member of the family to have been presented with them on being perfected. He also has in his possession the apron of the Order originally owned by his great-grandfather.

Brush up on your ritual

The latest edition of the Rose Croix ritual is dated 2008. Make sure you have a copy by placing an order with your Chapter's Recorder. The cost is £5.00.

The King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement

The King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement performed a demonstration of the Ninth Degree 'Master Elect of Nine' and the Tenth Degree 'Illustrious Elect of Fifteen' at the Warwickshire Masonic Temple in Birmingham on Saturday 17 May 2008 in the presence of two hundred and fifty Freemasons. The Chapter of Improvement, operating under the authority of the Supreme Council, has not visited Warwickshire for over 20 years. The 9° and 10° detail the discovery and capture of the three ruffians who killed Hiram Abif and give a moving and powerful lesson in obedience and justice. The demonstration was honoured by the presence of Supreme Council's Grand Prior and a host of other 33° Freemasons including our own Inspector General. Some 18° Brethren from the Warwickshire, Worcestershire, and Staffordshire and Shropshire Districts were invited to take part in the ceremony. No meeting such as this could have been staged without the fastidious preparation and hard work of Ill Bro Dennis Moore MBE 32° ably assisted by his team.

Grand Patron of the Order

M.:Ill.:Bro HRH the Duke of Kent 33°, an Honorary Member of the Supreme Council, is now the Grand Patron of the Order. A toast to the Grand Patron should be given after the Loyal Toast and before that to Supreme Council. The toast should be followed by 18° Fire.

More help from MRCCI

Members of St Benedict Chapter No 403 thoroughly enjoyed the Ceremony of Perfection at their April meeting since they had taken advantage of a rehearsal under the guidance of Ill.:Bro Steve Fowler of the MRCCI. He had given very useful advice on the manner in which the ceremony should be conducted and enhanced. The evening was complemented by the presentation of a Supreme Council Certificate by the District Recorder Ill.:Bro Michael Squires.

Initiatives in the District

The Inspector General has given consideration to a number of initiatives for the District which he would like Brethren to consider. These initiatives are:-

1. At the start of each Masonic season to have an informal supper meeting for all Most Wise Sovereigns, Generals and Recorders of Chapters in the District so that the leading officers can get to know their counterparts in other Chapters, discuss any problems and possible solutions and perhaps organise some joint activities. We might invite our partners to such a gathering so that they can learn something of what we are about and feel included in the Rose Croix family.
2. To hold a meeting once a year for Princes Perfected in the preceding twelve months together with their proposers. This could include a buffet to enable the Brethren to mix and mingle.
3. We have a number of Chapters with low membership and in some cases insufficient numbers to fill all the offices. The Inspector General would like to create a Visiting Team to visit such Chapters and assist them until they can get back on their feet. Such a team has proved very successful in the Craft and in other Orders. Are there any Brethren who would be willing to form part of such a team?
4. We already hold a meeting every January for Most Wise Sovereigns and Generals. This year it provided a useful forum for the exchange of ideas and was followed by a buffet which enabled further useful opportunities for discussion. The Inspector General proposes to hold a similar meeting next year and to extend the invitation to Chapter Recorders and he hopes that it will be as successful as last year with the added advantage of the experience of Recorders.
5. You will already have read the item concerning the highly successful visit of the King Edward VII Chapter of Improvement to the District and many Brethren have spoken to the Inspector General about their enjoyment of the event. A suggestion has been made that we should send a party along to the Demonstration of the 11° and 12° at Stockport Masonic Hall on 16 May 2009. Subject to numbers a coach would be provided.
6. This year the Inspector General has attended a Brethrens' evening at two Chapters and explained our Order to those who may be interested in it. Those evenings have been a modest success and have produced some candidates. He strongly recommends all Chapters to consider such an evening. The usual format is that they are held on a regular meeting date after a formal meeting at which there is no other business and are followed by a buffet. If any Chapter wishes to take up this suggestion then the Inspector General will be happy to attend and address the Brethren if the Chapter so wishes. If you do want his attendance, please give as much notice as possible so that he can fit in the meeting with his other activities.

If you would like to take part in any (or better still) all of these activities or make any comments please inform the District Recorder. His address is in the Warwickshire Year Book as is his telephone number. His email address is squires.mb@googlemail.com

Promotions

Our congratulations go to Gordon Duckham of St Benedict Chapter, John Feasey of Temple Chapter, Denis Biley of Holy Grail Chapter, Richard Austen of Aesculapius Chapter, Steven Cox of Allesley Chapter, and William Robertson of Temple Balsall Chapter who will have the 30° conferred upon them at Duke Street on 20 October. We also congratulate Ill Bro Donald Yetman 31° who will receive the 32° on 3 December.

A rarity

At the Warwickshire Chapter at its meeting on 10 September those attending will witness a rare event for the Rose Croix. Ill Bro Gordon Capstick 32° will receive from the Inspector General a certificate acknowledging his 50 years' service to the Order and it will be exactly 50 years to the night of his

perfection into Bethlehem Chapter No 156.

Notes from the District Recorder's Desk

Since becoming District Recorder last August, Michael Squires has started to issue to Chapter Recorders an irregular series of Notes from the District Recorder's Desk. To date, there have been 3 issues of these Notes. The purpose of the Notes is to provide Chapter Recorders with information on common areas of confusion or concern particularly in the area of administration. It is hoped that Recorders will find these Notes a useful, and permanent, source of information. Recorders should ensure that all of the Notes are passed on to their successors.

Sponsorship

Our grateful thanks go to Ill Bro Harry Whomersley 31° of Stratford upon Avon Chapter who has sponsored the printing of this newsletter so generously.

Rodney Pitham

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