



FORUM

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SUFFOLK FREEMASONS

September, 2001

When the PGM says 'jump' the Stewards' Lodge and the Harmony Group have learned long ago merely to enquire how high. 'A very special occasion' to celebrate 'Masonic Awareness Week' in 2002 was a tall order. It's been completely fulfilled though by arranging the first appearance in Suffolk of the internationally famous actress, Prunella Scales CBE, who will star in **'An evening with Queen Victoria'** at the special Gala Performance at the Spa Pavilion Theatre, Felixstowe, on 28th June, 2002.

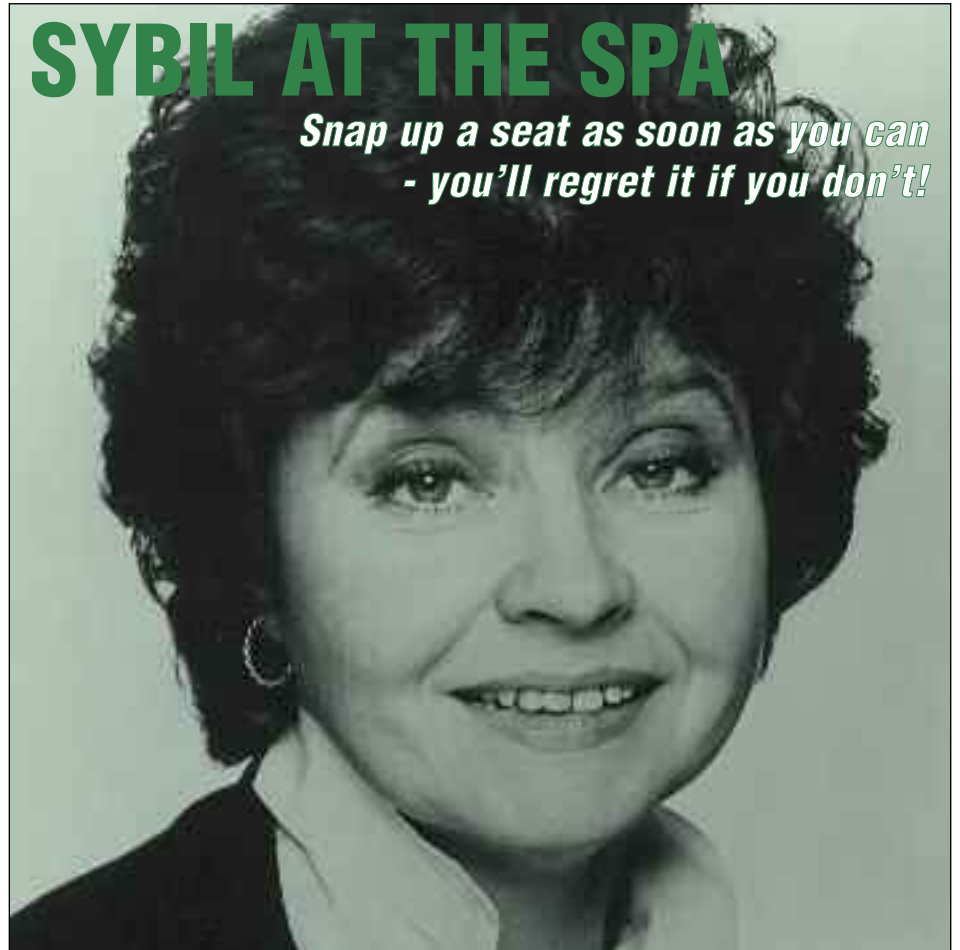
Miss Scales is, of course, highly acclaimed for her portrayal of Sybil Fawley in *Fawlty Towers*, though her career has also often brought her to the West End, the Royal National Theatre, and the Old Vic, in an astonishing variety of roles - including portraying our present Queen in Alan Bennett's *'A Question of Attribution'*. She has made many television appearances such as *'Keeping Mum'*, *'Funny Women'*, *'Signs and Wonders'*, *'The Rector's Wife'*, *'Dalziel and Pasco'* and *'Midsomer Murders'*. Her classic series such as *'Fawlty Towers'*, *'Mapp and Lucia'*, *'After Henry'* and *'The Marriage Lines'* were all an enormous success. She has also appeared in numerous films and directed plays throughout the UK and Australia.

'An evening with Queen Victoria' is a portrait of the Queen in her own words, devised and directed by Katrina Hendry. Joining Prunella Scales (recreating the role of Queen Victoria she has performed all over the world over 300 times) will be the Tenor Ian Partridge CBE, and Richard Burnett at the Piano. At times hilarious, and at times heart-rending, this performance is not to be missed.

Tickets will be on sale to Freemasons and their Guests early in the new year, directly from John Yeldham 01787 237346. This will be an opportunity for tickets to be purchased before they go on sale to the general public. It's therefore important that you reserve your seats as soon as they are available, as the Spa Pavilion predict, for such a famous actress, an absolute sell-out as soon as tickets are publicly available.

SYBIL AT THE SPA

*Snap up a seat as soon as you can
- you'll regret it if you don't!*



PHOENIX LODGE NO 516

Five members of Phoenix Lodge visited The Lodge of Saint Julian No 5107 at Innholders Hall London on 24th April to present a long overdue 50 year certificate to Bro Bill Cunnington. The presentation was made by W Bro Ken Roberts



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

I am pleased to report on a fund raising day, one which produced an excellent result.

On Bank Holiday Monday 28th May the Suthburgh Mark Lodge No.1210 (Province of East Anglia), in collaboration with the Dunmow Mark Lodge No.527 held a Fun Race Evening at the Rayne Riding Centre in Braintree.

Nine races were on the card each with four runners and the winners (race sponsors, owners and jockeys) each received a rosette to Mark the occasion. The 10th race was a challenge between the Masters of the two Mark Lodges although regretfully the Master of Dunmow Lodge did not "complete the course".

The event, which was also open to non-masons, proved to be a most enjoyable occasion helped along by excellent weather. A St. John Ambulance, which had been presented by the Mark Master Masons, was in attendance, and was an advertisement for Freemasons and the good that we do.

The proceeds from sponsorship, entrance programmes and various fund raising events was a total of £2,124. As a result, cheques each of £1,062 have been presented to the Prince Edward - Duke of Kent Court, Stisted and Cornwallis Court, Bury St. Edmunds.

Grateful thanks should go to all those volunteers who helped in making this such a successful event especially W.Bro. Jim Wallace of the Suthburgh Mark Lodge who co-organised the event and W.Bro Barry Pewter of the Dunmow Mark Lodge who not only provided the venue but also the horses and the equestrian staff.

The photograph shows W.Bro. Jim Wallace, presenting the cheque to W.Bro. Canon Ken Roberts, at Cornwallis Court.

Suffolk Freemasons' Year Book 2001-02

Have you already ordered your copy of the above publication, available in September 2001?

If not, I would strongly recommend you to do so by getting in touch, as soon as possible, with your Lodge Secretary.

This annual digest, priced at cost to the Province and in turn to yourself, is an invaluable compendium of information of all aspects of masonry in Suffolk and is a must for all those masons who are keen to gain a wider perspective on our movement.

Barry Ross, Provincial Grand Secretary.

IN MEMORIAM.

Copperfield Lodge

W Bro Ron Bishop PPJGW (Suffolk)

IPM of Copperfield Lodge 9581 and was at the installation meeting on 21st May shortly before his death. The funeral was attended by many distinguished brethren including the Deputy Prov Grand Master VW Bro A Vaughan Price PgSwd B & W.Bro Peter Boneham PAGDC (Eng) A Guard of honour was formed by members of Orient lodge & Copperfield Lodge.



the W.M. of Gippeswyk Lodge No.4254, John Ling presents Don Skeates with a special gift in recognition of his 50 years membership of the Lodge.

THE LODGE OF VIRTUE & SILENCE No.332

The brethren and their ladies were given a very interesting and informative talk on Freemasonry, by Mrs. Pat Lewis, the widow of W.Bro. Clayton Lewis, a very respected brother of the Lodge.

After the talk Mrs. Pat Lewis presented the W.Master with a cheque for £500, being a bequest from her late husband.

This money will be used to refurbish lodge regalia and furniture, as a lasting memory to W.Bro. Lewis.

Left to right are .Bro. Fred Ainger, W.Bro Ray Dunningham, Mrs. Pat Lewis, W.Bro. John Gutsell (Master) and W.Bro. Peter King.



STAMP on the Rock



Members of STAMP at the Inhabitants' Lodge

LITTLE did we think when leaving Florida with the temperature in the 70's (old money), that in approximately 12 months' time we would be leaving Felixstowe on Thursday, 15th February at 0400 hours, with the temperature below freezing, en route for Gibraltar. The conversation was subdued at the beginning of the journey but, as we picked up the remaining members in Ipswich, and the first pub cards were circulated, spirits rose as we travelled to Luton.

TOUR OF UNITED SERVICES LODGE No.3813EC

We were warmly welcomed in the Lodge by, not only the Worshipful Master, but also by the District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Stanley Ward, installed some two weeks before our arrival, accompanied by his Deputy, W.Bro. Arthur Wink and other District Grand Officers. The ceremony was a third degree, excellently performed, as it should be by a Service Lodge, with, dare I mention it, a G and T in the interval. An inscribed gavel was presented to the Master by 2822's W.M., Chris Dearing, who also replied to the visitors' toast at the festive board. Greetings were given on behalf of Suffolk's Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Bob Tile. An excellent dinner starting at about 2200 hours and we were back at the hotel soon after midnight. Only one absentee, Peter Seaman, who missed the departure time and it was only half way through the ceremony that his absence was noted. He had a good meal at the hotel, went to bed early and nearly won the Cup again.

Friday was a free day and all the members took the opportunity to travel by coach round the Rock. The driver and tour guide, Peter, drove with one hand nonchalantly resting on

the wheel, whilst his right hand held the microphone. It was a little hair-raising on the coast roads. Gibraltar is steeped in history, well related by our guide and dates back to the 11th Century. Spain revived her claim for the reversion on the Rock to Spanish sovereignty but today it remains very British. The apes were "friendly", 24 born last year. St. Michael's cave with its magnificent auditorium was visited and some of the 32 miles of tunnels was walked. An excellent tour, well described by our guide.

We were dropped off at the Star Bar, the oldest pub on the rock where we enjoyed a snack lunch. Once again, "the Bish", the Revd. Roy Chalkley took a liking to two young ladies in the bar, collecting on behalf of the Indian earthquake and had his photograph taken. Back to the hotel and in the evening we dined at the Mamela Restaurant a short walk (seemed longer coming home) from the hotel. Arthur Spraggon's birthday was duly celebrated and H.O.M. on the Range was rendered by all. At this point, a party of six dining in the same room left for a more peaceful evening. Our guests were Bill Hagger's daughter and her husband who had travelled from Spain to be with us for the evening.

Saturday morning was spent in the shops by most members. Prices were on a par with those in England except for drinks, a litre bottle of Whisky at £5.50, and petrol half the price. Mementoes were purchased for families and 48 cards were sent to Des Band who regrettably had to undergo a minor operation and could not be with us. It was obvious that STAMP had become well-known being christened "the Group of 24" by the taxi drivers. Some thought that we had been sent over by the British Government to crew the submarine undergoing repairs, back to home waters. Not true.

In the evening we visited Inhabitant's Lodge No.153EC. The Deputy District Grand Master was again present (five nights a week out for him) and we witnessed a double second. STAMP members processed in after the opening and each in turn was presented to the Worship Master. Again an excellent ceremony and at the end we were presented with a crystal model of the Rock, suitably encribed. Thanks were expressed and greetings again brought from our Provincial Grand Master. Another encribed gavel, both of these made by Adrian Watts, was presented by the Worshipful Master of Doric Lodge, Ralph Robertson. We dined at 2200 hours and during the meal a set of working tools laid in a beautifully made box was presented to David Deal by one of their senior members who had made the gift. We rose from the table on Sunday morning at 0100 hours. Suffolk toasts were sung on each Lodge visit. Photographs were taken by all those with cameras including, of

course, our official photographer, Nigel Gibson. He must also be a musician, spending half of Thursday afternoon under the hotel piano. No, he was only adjusting the pedals.

The Bona Cup was nearly awarded to David Harries who prompted throughout on both Lodge visits except when it was really wanted and a Scottish Constitution visitor duly obliged. However, the recipient was Mike Leighton who was deemed to be found undressed on two occasions. Little realising that the district Grand master and his Deputy would be attending the Lodges he had only taken undress regalia. His apologies were in vain and he now proudly holds the cup for twelve months.

One sad note to report, the sudden death of Eric Deal a short while before departure. He had attended regularly and was sadly missed.

Our organisers, David Deal, John Jarman and Peter Seaman once again did us proud and all the members present express a big thank-you for all their efforts: Christ Avix, John Botting, Roy Chalkley, Graham Colthorpe, Chris Dearing, Nigel Gibson, Bill Hagger, David Hatties. Rod Hellawell, Mike Leighton, Norman Long, John Martin, John Newland, Chris Ottaway, Peter Peck, Greg Phillips, Ralph Robertson, Arthur Spaggon, Adrian Watts, David Woodard and Jack Wright.



After being presented with the Bona Cup, Mike Leighton gave a few words of thanks to the organisers of the STAMP visit.

SUFFOLKS LONGEST SERVING PM

Letter from W.Bro Crick to PGM

Dear Worshipful Provincial Grand Master

Although I verbally expressed my appreciation to you for coming to Martyn Lodge last Friday I feel I must thank you again for all that you did by your presence & your speeches, you made the evening a wonderful and unforgettable experience.

It gave me a most Happy Birthday and the brotherly love was so genuine, I will always remember the 6th April 2001 and the happiness it gave me.

Sincerely and Fraternally

Dudley Crick

70 YEARS W.Bro Dudley Crick, Suffolk's Longest Serving Past Master

On behalf of Martyn Lodge may I thank you for attending our meeting last night. I was delighted with the turn out to support W.Bro. Cricks's presentation, and am sure it will long be remembered.

The acknowledgement of such a landmark as 70 years unbroken commitment to a lodge and Freemasonry in general is hard to achieve, but I feel last night's event must come close to it. I had the pleasure of sitting next to Dudley at the festive board afterwards and the celebration continued much to his delight.

Once again I am very grateful to you and the Province for supporting this wonderful moment for Martyn Lodge, and Suffolk's longest serving Past Master.

Yours Fraternally, - W.Bro. Dr. R. A. Coleman

APPEAL FROM WOODY THE PROVINCIAL ARCHIVIST

We have in the past no doubt overlooked the wealth of Masonic knowledge held by many brethren in the Province, and have done less to record it. Many brethren prepare excellent and detailed papers or lectures, which they present to their own Lodges but in most cases the knowledge is not disseminated more widely. In most instances the presentation has a limited audience, and once presented cannot easily be retrieved.

The Provincial Archivist is anxious to build up a library of such papers which can be made available for future reference, and which might one day form part of a Suffolk publication. Those papers the Archive at present hold are a valuable source of information, but represent only a small portion of the work done by brethren each year. Placing such papers in the archives will mean that they will

be available to others in years to come, to inform the searcher and suggest new avenues of research.

The Provincial Archivist, Brian Woodall, invites those brethren who work so hard in researching, compiling and presenting the many interesting and varied subjects that form the basis of lectures to lodges to consider placing their work with the archive.

Every paper will be properly attributed to the author. By this means, additionally, we may be enabled to compile an up to date list of those willing to present their papers to lodges.

Brian Woodhall's address and phone number are in the Provincial year book, he would be delighted to hear from those willing to deposit papers and he and his team would be pleased to offer any assistance in providing sources of information.

Freemasonry

The Independent Magazine for
Everyone Interested in
Freemasonry

www.freemasonrytoday.co.uk
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WHERE HIRAM KNELT

Last night I knelt where Hiram knelt and took an obligation. Today I'm closer to my God and I'm a Master Mason, and as I feel his friendly grip he fills my heart with pride, I know that while I'm on the square that he is by my side.

My words were safe within his breast as they within my own his hand forever at my back to help me safely home.

I might have lived a mortal life and risen to distinction without my Brother's helping hand and fellowship of Masons.

But God who knows how hard it is to resist life's temptations knows why I knelt where Hiram knelt and took that obligation.

"Discovered" by Kevin Hylands



DORIC LODGE No.81

Brothers in Law

About 18 months ago, I had a chance meeting with W.Bro. John Tubbs at Woodbridge. Although John and I are both Woodbridge Masons and colleagues in the Police Service, we don't often get a chance to sit down at a festive board and chat. We are both in different departments within the service and he is a past master of Seckford and I am presently in the chair of Doric.

We took this opportunity to talk and I mentioned to John an idea that I had been toying over in my mind for quite some time. The idea was to try and organise a dinner for the past and present members of the Police Service who were subscribing members of Suffolk Lodges. John agreed with me that the idea had potential and would be a good excuse to have get together to renew old friendships. Also to use the occasion to raise money for police orientated charities.

I set about testing the water by contacting one or two brethren who I knew had police connections. The initial response was encouraging and led me to write to W.Bro. Barry Ross, Provincial Grand Secretary, to inform him and the province of the idea.

I promptly received a reply from W.Bro. Barry which stated that the province had no objections and thought it would be a good idea. It was suggested, however, that it might be better to carry the dinner over into 2001 because of all the other events taking place to mark the Millennium.

I subsequently wrote to all the secretaries in the province, requesting them to announce the proposal. The arrangements progressed well and the final invite went out to any subscribing member of a Lodge in the Province who had served as a regular or special officer in a UK, commonwealth or Overseas police force.

On Thursday 5th April, 2001, 70 plus brethren sat down to a supper in the dining

room of the Masonic Hall in Woodbridge; together with the R.W.Bro. Bob Tile, V.W.Bro. Jervis Kay, Q.C. and W.Bro. Barry Ross.

From the noise level over dinner, it was obvious that everyone was enjoying themselves. Old friendships were renewed and there was even the odd "I didn't know you were a mason" remark.

Following a few formal toasts, it fell to W.Bro. John Goudy to provide us with after dinner entertainment. This he did with humour in his own inimitable style

As I mentioned at the beginning of the piece it was thought that the occasion would be a good way of raising money for police orientated charities, in this instance Rape Crisis and Victim Support. Both rely heavily on donations just to survive.

From a raffle held during the meal, an auction of promises conducted after the entertainment and the profits from the meal tickets, the event has managed to raise the sum of £1,400.

It is particularly satisfying for me to see the idea I had, be put into action and conclude in such high fashion. This would not have been possible though without the help and encouragement of W.Bro. John Tubbs who kindly agreed to head up the evening. W.Bro. Geoff Spencer for all his hard work and efforts on the catering front and advice on selection of the menu. W.Bro. Gerald Smith for running the bar and to my Man of the Match, Bro. Ollie Fordham for "obtaining" so many promises for the raffle and auction.

Mr biggest thanks goes out to all those who turned up and supported the evening and whose generosity made the evening such a success.

I would be pleased to receive any feedback from Brethren as it has been suggested we could do it again in two years time (2003) at a place and date to be decided.

Ralph J. Roberston, W.M. - Doric Lodge

THE FINAL TOAST

Many Brethren will have heard the conventional Tyler's Toast preceded by a verse starting "Dear Brethren of the Mystic Tie, the night is waning fast". However, few know that it is the final verse of a poem believed to have been written about 140 years ago by a Mason in India. The full poem is recited by the Tyler of the Lodge and moves round the table, shaking hands with the Brethren, finally ending with the Worshipful Master.

Are your glasses charged in the West and South, the Worshipful Master cries;

They're charged in the West, they're charged in the South, are the Wardens prompt replies;

Then to our final toast to-night your glasses fairly drain-

"Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again!"

The Masons' social brotherhood around the festive board,
Reveal a wealth more precious far than selfish miser's hoard,

They freely share the priceless stores that generous hearts contain -
"Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again!"

We work like Masons free and true, and when our task is done,
A merry song and cheering glass are not unduly won;

And only at our farewell pledge is pleasure touched with pain -
"Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again!"

Amidst our mirth we drink "To all poor masons o'er the world" -

On every shore our flag of love is gloriously unfurled,

We prize each brother, fair or dark, who

bears no moral stain -

"Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again!"

The Mason feels the noble truth that Rabbie Burns has told

That rank is but the guinea's stamp, the man himself's the gold,

With us the rich and poor unite and equal right's maintain -

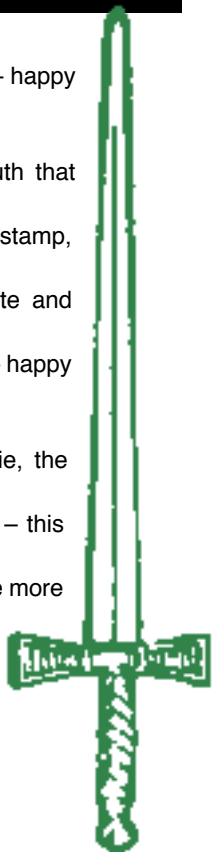
"Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again!"

Dear Brethren of the Mystic Tie, the night is waning fast -

Our duty done - our feast o'er - this song must be our last -

"Goodnight", "Goodnight" - once more repeat the farewell strain -

"Happy to meet - sorry to part - happy to meet again!"





Travelling Gavel

The Travelling gavel was originally presented to British Union Lodge, in 1997, and it has been claimed by several lodges within the Ipswich area since that date. As it was presented to the Province it would be nice if it found its way to other lodges outside Ipswich.

We, at Gippeswyk Lodge have now held it twice and the latest claimants were Corinthian who visited our lodge last evening 29th March and are now the holders.

the travelling gavel was presented to the Province of Suffolk by W.Bro. Ronald E. Adams of Ipswich Endeavour Lodge No.169, holden under The United Grand Lodge of Queens, Brisbane, Australia.

- To claim the gavel there must be seven or more visiting brethren present at the meeting from the same lodge. The meeting being defined as the Ceremony and Festive Board.
- If two or more lodges claim the Gavel at the same meeting, it is the Lodge with the most members present who are deemed the winners. A brother who is a member of the visiting lodge but also a member of the host lodge should not be counted.
- All brethren must be full 'good standing' members of the lodge who are seeking to claim the gavel.
- All Lodges who successfully claim the gavel must affix an appropriate marker. ie: a small metal disc bearing the lodge name, number and date. This must be carried out before the next regular meeting of that lodge.

➤ The gavel cannot be claimed at an Installation meeting.

➤ The gavel shall be claimed at the Festive Board, at a time in the proceedings agreed with the DC. The visiting members shall agree one of their number to stand and announce that they have fulfilled all the qualifications and claim the travelling gavel. The W.M. may ask if any other lodge present wish to make a claim.

➤ It has become practice for the w.M. to impose a 'forfeit' on the visiting brethren in order to make their claim successful. eg: one or all of the visitors to sing, to recite a short poem, sing a verse of the visitors song or similar. The host W.M. to decide.

➤ A copy of these rules to always accompany the travelling gavel.

The travelling gavel can only be claimed by a Lodge from the Province of Suffolk.

In all cases, the spirit of Freemasonry is to be strictly maintained.

THE LODGE STEWARD

"Before appointment as steward, proof of proficiency is required. I shall therefore proceed to put the necessary questions."

How were you first prepared to be made a steward?

I was divested of my coat and my sleeves were rolled up. An apron was tied around my waist and a Corkscrew placed in my hand.

What is a Corkscrew?

An instrument fashioned like a winding staircase, up which our ancient Brethren received their beer.

Where did they receive it?

In a convenient room adjoining the chamber.

And How?

In Tankards and Half Tankards.

Why in this peculiar manner?

In Half Tankards, well knowing that the same would be replenished, and in Tankards from the great reliance they placed on the integrity of the brewer in those days.

What were the names of the two great advertisements that were hung at the porchway or entrance to the chamber?

That on the left was called Bass, and that on the right, Guinness.

What are their separate and conjoined significations?

The former denotes in strength, and the latter goodness, and when combined, instability.

What is Beer?

A peculiar product of chemistry, veiled in mystery and illustrated by labels.

How is it depicted?

By a couple of Hops near to a barrel of water.

Brethren, these are the usual questions, I shall put others if any Brother so wishes.

Grateful acknowledgment to the New Ashlar.

Editor's notes

Brethren, My thanks to all of you who have contributed to this issue, it must be because of the summer holidays that contributions are a bit down however I'm sure you will all be sending me some super articles once the season gets under way, I would be most grateful if at all possible you could send your words on disc, pictures too if you can as this does save an enormous amount of time re typing.

Peter Green, 9 Heath Close, Hessett. IP30 9BL. Tel: 01359 270598

HOW MANY MASONS DOES IT TAKE TO CHANGE A LIGHT BULB?

Answer SEVEN

- 1 A Secretary to obtain dispensation
- 2 A Treasurer to pay for it
- 3 A DC to see that it is done correctly
- 4 A Chaplain to pray that it's done properly
- 5 A Master Mason to do it

AND
6&7 Two past masters to watch and shake their heads and say "We didn't do it like that in our day."

WELL – THAT'S LIFE!

When a Plumber makes a mistake, he charges twice for it.

When a Lawyer makes a mistake, he goes to Appeal.

When a Doctor makes a mistake, he buries it.

When a Judge makes a mistake, it becomes Law.

When a Preacher makes a mistake, nobody knows the difference.

But, if during a Masonic Degree a member makes a mistake – It is never forgotten!