



FORUM

THE NEWSLETTER FOR SUFFOLK FREEMASONS

February, 2003

COMPOSITE LODGE 9480

An Irish Composition

At the Installation of W.Bro Richard Strutt on 2nd November honoured by a return visit of members of the Provincial Grand Lodge of North Connaught Irish Constitution, (the first visit by members of Composite to Ireland was mentioned in the last issue) Among the guests was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. Edward C. Smith, standing in for the Grand Master R.W.Bro. George F. Ginnelly who unfortunately was unable to attend at the last minute and sent his apologies. Also attending was Provincial Grand Sec. V.W.Bro. David McNeil and the Prov. G.D.C. V.W.Bro. Norman Reid, plus other members of the executive.

The whole visit was arranged by W Bro John Keeley.



Our Prov. Grand Master R.W.Bro. R.J.R. Tile, R.W.Bro Deputy Prov. Grand Master Ted Smith and W.Bro Richard Strutt.

A potted History of Composite Lodge 9480 to mark 10th anniversary on Saturday 2nd November, 2002

The seeds of Composite Lodge were first sown in Triune Royal Arch chapter No.114 in 1990. The Earl of Stradbroke had retired as Provincial Grand Master in 1982 and the powers that be had appointed W.Bro. Philip Jervis Kay as the new P.G.B. and ordered him to "get himself down to Suffolk and sort it out!" He did just that. He joined British Union Lodge No.114 and its associated Royal Arch Chapter, Triune Chapter

No.114 and I remember I was the First Principal at that time. He also joined Elizabeth Rose Croix Chapter No.820 of which I was the Recorder. P. J. Kay, or Pip as he was more familiarly known, enjoyed Triune and Elizabeth Chapters because he could sit with the "boys" at the Festive board instead of his usual place

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LODGE OF PRUDENCE 388

175th Anniversary Meeting held

21st October 2002

About 100 brethren enjoyed a sparkling and entertaining meeting at this celebration evening for Prudence lodge.

The meeting in the temple was organised to reflect a typical meeting held circa 1827, creating much fun and consternation in equal parts.

The lodge was opened, Strangers admitted, called off and on a couple of times, interspersed with all this brethren gave snippets of news of an interest relevant to the period.

To assist readers with a flavour from the evening I reproduce here an extract from the minutes as read out.

RWM Bro. Secretary, you will read out the Minutes of the last Lodge Meeting

Secretary *(reading)*
The Lodge was opened in due form at half past three of the clock on the third Monday in July in the year

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New Year Honours 2 MBE' s

W.Bro. Dr. M. A. Pasha P.A.G.D.C. Chaplain of Caducous Lodge 9536

Mrs. Mary Rackham wife of W.Bro. Barry Rackham Provincial Asst.G..Sec.

Our Warm Wishes and Congratulations go to both recipients.

A potted History of Composite Lodge 9480

on the top table. I had the pleasure of sitting next to him on a number of occasions. He was good company, very friendly, had a wicked sense of humour and after the Loyal Toast was always to be found on the end of a large, fat cigar with clouds of smoke billowing round his head. He was great fun to be with and could always tell a good story. I remember one particular Triune Chapter meeting in 1990 and half way through the meal after we had been talking about this and that he changed the subject completely and took me by surprise by saying, "There are 58 lodges in Suffolk at the moment but if we could reach 60 I could appoint an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. So Gil, I want you to think about forming a new Lodge."

I nodded agreement but thought no more about it because it was out of my league and I didn't think he would remember our conversation the next time we met. However, I was wrong! At the very next meeting of Triune Chapter he deliberately came and sat beside me and put me on the spot by asking. "Well, what have you done about starting a new lodge?"

I remember replying, "You must be joking! I didn't think you were serious. I thought your suggestion was just idle chatter. I have to admit I have done absolutely nothing about it."

"I was deadly serious," he replied. "I want you to form a new Lodge, and as soon as possible."

This took me aback by as it had never entered my head to found a new lodge. So I spluttered my excuses and changed the subject as quickly as I could. However, I knew that our paths would cross again very soon and I would have to have a reasonable reply next time.

Now it so happened that at this time I was chairman of a small working party of three set up to raise funds to install a lift in Freemasons' Hall in Ipswich. W.Bro. Frank Champkin, W.Bro. Richard Strutt and I used to meet regularly on a Sunday morning at my house for coffee and scones to discuss fund raising strategies and assess progress. I mentioned I had a problem that needed urgent attention in that the Provincial Grand Master had asked me to form a new lodge and that I had to do something about it before I met him again. My colleagues on the Lift Fund Committee became very interested in the idea and we discussed the possibilities of starting a new Lodge and the form we would like it to take. Over the next few Sundays we talked ourselves into the idea of going ahead and founding a new lodge and enthusiastically set about the detailed planning.

We decided I would be Founding Secretary and first Worshipful Master, Frank Champkin would be the founding S.W. and Richard Strutt, Founding Treasurer and J.W. As Secretary of Ionic Lodge No.5922 at the time I managed to "persuade" Ionic Lodge to act as the on-soring Lodge, i.e., to become our Mother Lodge and they willingly agreed at their next Committee meeting.

As the first and only Founders at this stage we were in the very privileged position of being able to take some very important decisions and formulate policy as we saw fit. Over the winter of 1990 we consolidated our ideas and discussed the way forward. We didn't want to form yet another Lodge similar to and in competition with the other fourteen that already existed in Ipswich. forming a new Lodge just to hold it on a different night was not a good idea. We would not only be inviting criticism from the other Lodges that we would be poaching potential candidates and joining members from other lodges but we would also find it difficult to

recruit members and candidates ourselves. The big question therefore was how could we make the new lodge different, exciting, attractive and worthwhile?

When we looked at the Masonic Hall diary there was not a lot of choice. Most week nights seemed to be already booked. Frank Champkin pointed out that Saturdays seemed to be free and might be a possibility. Both Richard Strutt and I thought this was an excellent idea. We could see that a Saturday Lodge would attract busy professional people who could not attend meetings during the week but were free at the weekend. Older Brethren who found it increasingly difficult to drive at night would find a daytime lodge an attractive proposition. Brethren who could not leave work early enough to attend a 6.00pm mid-week Lodge meeting would find Saturday more convenient. We also thought that wives who picked up their husbands after Lodge meetings because of parking problems, would find it convenient, and safer, to pick them up in mid afternoon, rather than late at night. We also thought that wives might like to go shopping on Saturday morning and collect their husbands from Lodge afterwards. We were sure that brethren would find a Saturday morning Lodge much more congenial and attractive alternative to supermarket shopping. It was then only a short step between thinking that our ladies might like to go shopping while we were in Lodge and picking us up afterwards to suggesting that they could join us at the festive board. We were sure that a Saturday morning Lodge would attract a different clientele and therefore not compete with existing mid-week Lodges. The more we thought about the idea of a Saturday Lodge the more enthusiastic and excited we became with the possibilities.

At first we thought of inviting the ladies to dine after every meeting but we soon realised there were occasions when we would have to conduct Masonic proceedings at the festive boards, such as at Initiations and Installations when we sing the Initiates and Master's song etc. so we decided to compromise by inviting the ladies to join us for luncheon on alternative meetings. This was then further amended to include non-Masonic guests, such as other family members and friends. We thought that prospective candidates might be encouraged to join if they liked what they saw. The next step was to advertise and recruit members.

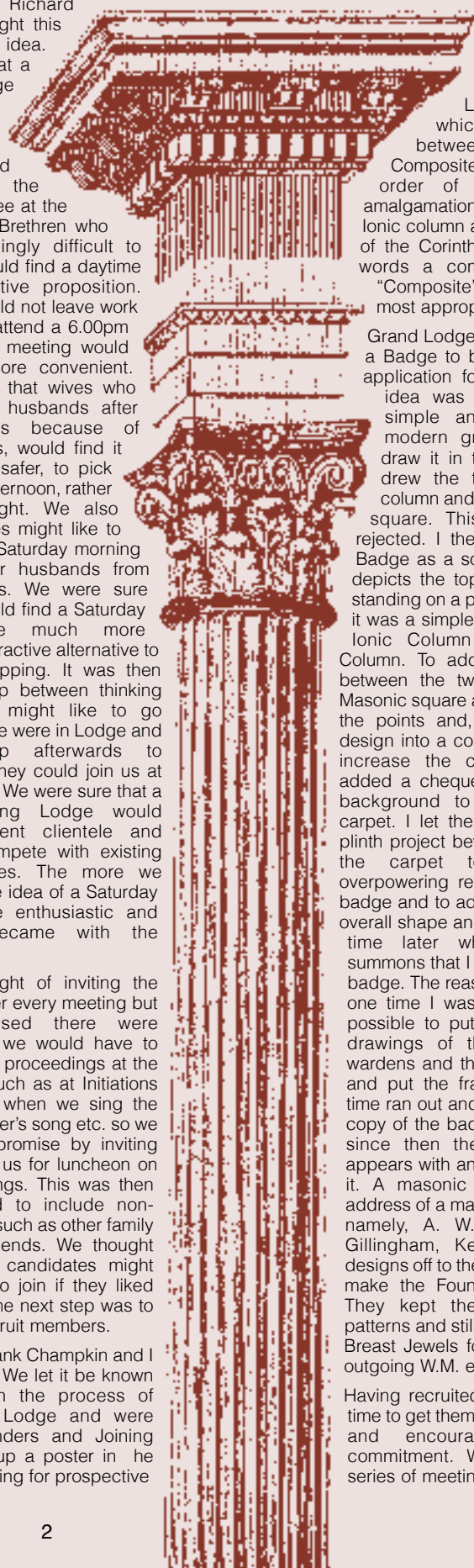
Richard Strutt, Frank Champkin and I spread the word. We let it be known that we were in the process of forming a new Lodge and were looking for Founders and Joining Members. I put up a poster in the Entrance Hall asking for prospective

members to get in touch. We also campaigned in our own Lodges. The result was that by the time of our Consecration we had recruited 16 Founders, which was an ideal number.

Choosing a name proved to be a simple matter as our Mother Lodge, Ionic No.5922 and Grandmother Lodge, Corinthian No.3093, were named after Greek orders of architecture and it would obviously be very appropriate to follow the same tradition. The Doric order was already in use as the name of a Lodge in Woodbridge, which left a choice between Tuscan and Composite. As the composite order of architecture is an amalgamation of top involutes of the Ionic column and the lower chapter of the Corinthian Column, in other words a composite of the two, "Composite" was obviously the most appropriate choice.

Grand Lodge required a design for a Badge to be submitted with the application forms and so my first idea was to keep the design simple and in keeping with modern graphical design and draw it in the form of a logo. I drew the top of a Composite column and mounted it on a black square. This was subsequently rejected. I then took Ionic Lodge's Badge as a source of inspiration. It depicts the top of an Ionic Column standing on a plinth of three steps, so it was a simple matter to replace the Ionic Column with a Composite Column. To add more differentiation between the two badges I put the Masonic square and compasses under the points and, to unify the overall design into a composite whole and to increase the chiaroscuro effect, I added a chequered black and white background to represent a lodge carpet. I let the bottom steps of the plinth project beyond the boundary of the carpet to break up the overpowering rectangular look to the badge and to add more interest to the overall shape and outline. It was some time later when designing the summons that I put a frame round the badge. The reason for this was that at one time I was thinking it might be possible to put photographs or line drawings of the Master, the two wardens and the IPM in each corner and put the frame there ready, but time ran out and I ended up putting a copy of the badge there instead and since then the badge sometimes appears with an optional frame round it. A masonic friend gave me an address of a manufacturing Jewellers, namely, A. W. Matthews Ltd., of Gillingham, Kent and I sent the designs off to them and they agreed to make the Founders' Breast Jewels. They kept the original dies and patterns and still continue to make our Breast Jewels for presentation to the outgoing W.M. each year.

Having recruited 16 Founders it was time to get them involved and to foster and encourage a sense of commitment. We therefore held a series of meetings at 4 St. Ives Close



Kesgrave where we introduced ourselves and got to know each other. At later meetings the Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Angus Graham and his Assistant, W.Bro. Michael Leighton were invited so that we could avail ourselves of their knowledge and experience and involve them in our application. At one of these founders' meetings it was decided that we would keep speeches to a minimum so that visitors could relax and enjoy themselves in the knowledge that they would not be called on to respond to visitors toasts. We settled on a form of words that, "speeches would be the exception rather than the rule," but we would allow distinguished guests who particularly wished to respond to do so.

Sadly 'Pip' died before the Lodge was consecrated. However, he had got his own way and composite Lodge was consecrated by the present Provincial grand Master, Rt.W.Bro. Robert J. R. Tile on Saturday morning 7th November 1992. Bob's first Consecration!

Soon after Consecration I made a full size paper pattern and "invited" my youngest daughter, Madeleine, to embroider a Lodge banner, which I then donated to the Lodge. She made an excellent job of it as you can judge for yourself as it is on display at every lodge meeting. W.Bro. Revd. Canon Ken Roberts, Provincial Grand Chaplain, dedicated the banner at one of our meetings. Later on my daughter also made a pedestal cover for the V.S.L. and I made a three dimensional plaque for the Temple wall to match the existing display of Lodge shields.

It might be thought that a 10th Anniversary is not an auspicious occasion or worthy of special celebration, after all, in a list of wedding anniversaries it is linked only with tin. Perhaps we ought to present the Lodge with a tin mug, for use by the W.M. at the festive board to commemorate the occasion, suitably inscribed of course! However, I take the view that it is an ideal opportunity to evaluate and reappraise. To take stock of our progress and to check whether our founding principles in setting up Composite Lodge are being applied, are still relevant, or need altering in the light of experience. It provides an opportunity to examine the progress we have made so far and to measure our achievements. It also enables us to question the original Founders while they are still alive to see if they are happy with the way in which the Lodge has developed over the first decade.

We wanted the Lodge to be a singing Lodge and to sing on every possible occasion and for the most part we do. We sing the Master's and Initiates songs; we sing "Prosper the Lodge" after Firing and sing "Happy" don't sing the visitors' Song very often yet, perhaps we can remedy this omission in future.

One of the Founders donated a set of Firing glasses and instituted the idea of having one of them engraved with the W.M.'s name each year and tradition of an Initiates Proposer providing a new firing glass for his candidate and presenting it to him at the festive board. He also instigated the idea of the Stewards wearing specially designed collars at the festive board so that visiting brethren could identify them.

I think the Lodge has made remarkable progress and I am extremely proud to be a member of such an active, prosperous, vibrant and vigorous Lodge. Our membership has reached near capacity levels over the decade and our ladies have also formed friendship bonds within the Lodge, which is all very encouraging. We enjoy their company when they join us on alternate months at our festive board and they too enjoy our hospitality. Long may Composite Lodge prosper.

Many readers may not be aware of the wonderful work carried out by the East Anglia Air Ambulance Service which covers Suffolk, Norfolk and Cambridgeshire, and is based at Red Lodge near Newmarket. On average they carry out about 100 missions per month, and the cost of this service is about £2,000 per day, for which they depend entirely on charitable



donations. Our picture shows the Worshipful Master of St. Luke's Lodge No. 225, W.Bo. B. P. O'Keeffe, handing over a cheque for £500 to Mr. Brian Cave, the Air Ambulance Fundraising Manager in front of the helicopter at its base at Red Lodge. We were lucky to get this picture because a few minutes after it was taken the helicopter was called to pick up a patient in Norfolk



W.Bro. Barry Ross, Provincial Grand Secretary presents a cheque for £1000 - one of the major donations made by Provincial Grand Charity to Paramedic Jason Gillingham to help keep the Air Ambulance operating 7 days a week. Also present (far left) Paramedic Martin Bunn and Pilot Nick Broad (extreme right.)

The Annual Golf Tournament Between Sudbury and Braintree Lodges will be Held on 7th May at Newton Green Golf Course. Interested Parties Contact W.Bro. Phil. Gooch, Priory Lodge



The Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. R. J. R. Tile presenting a cheque for £2600 to Mr. Robin Sharp, Community Fundraising Co-ordinator for the benefit of Ipswich and Quidenham Children's Hospices on behalf of the Grand Charity of Freemasons of the United Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Charity is supporting 206 Hospices with donations amounting to £492,500 in 2002.





Magna Carta's 300th

Magna Carta - 1214 to 2002

At Bury St. Edmunds, in November 1214, a properly tyled secret conclave of twenty-five Barons listened to a charge delivered by the Archbishop of Canterbury, Stephen Langton, and then each advanced to take a solemn obligation, at the High Altar, to force the King to accept the Charter of Liberties.

In late December 2002, Magna Carta Lodge No.8017, named after the above charter, celebrated it's 300th meeting when the Master, W.Bro. David Earthroll, initiated Mr. Paul Wreathall as the ninety first candidate to enter Masonry at the Lodge.

This milestone in the Lodge History was marked by a visit from the Provincial Junior Grand Warden and W.Bros. Alderton and Woodall, who congratulated the Lodge on behalf of the Province for it's achievements to date and extended best wishes for it's continued strength.

After the meeting the 36 members and 35 guests, present, sat down to a festive board identical to that served at the Consecration on the 3rd September 1965, when the cost was a mere 25 shillings.

In spite of a general decline of national interest in Masonry, Magna Carta has maintained a stable membership of 70 over the past decade and has a promising list of candidates for the next two years.

SUDBURY GOES TO TOWN

A coach trip to London to see the Royal Masonic Variety Show on Sunday 10th November 2002 was organised and a total of 34 Sudbury Masons and their ladies left by coach at 12noon. They arrived in London at the Theatre Royal, Drury Lane at about 3.00pm.

From there it is only a couple of minutes to Covent Garden and the hundreds of restaurants in the area. Most went different ways, to have a leisurely meal or visit some museum etc. The show started at 7.30pm and the £30.00 seats (less 15% discount for bulk booking) were very good. The show was excellent and enjoyed by everybody. Famous names such as Jim Davidson, Roger de Courcy, Brian Conley, Bradley Walsh etc.

Charity - Freemasonry's biggest secret is out

From its earliest days, Freemasonry has been concerned with the care of orphans, the sick and the aged. This concern started, as charity so often does, at home, with institutions to educate and care for the needy children of Freemasons and their dependents and to provide for the sick - all filling what were then gaps in the country's pattern of care.

The charities continued despite the fact that we now enjoy public education and health and the State pension. If there were no need for our charities, then by the same argument, there would be no need for charities of any kind. Moreover, Freemasonry's main charitable organisations and some of the others are paying more and more attention to the charitable needs of people who are not Freemasons.

Freemasons are also encourage to practise practical charity - caring and spending time and not just money, which can very be much more useful. Unlike some other charities, we never ask the general public for money, which is perhaps why we are less well known than we should be. All the money comes from our own members, and their families and friends, such as you the audience this evening. As Freemasons have been unconcerned about publishing their charitable efforts, figures and totals for information are presently unavailable, however the following information should provide a window on the charitable activities of Freemasons and the organisation as a whole.

The Masonic Charities are a tremendous force for good, for Masons and non-Masons.

Freemasonry nationally raises in excess of £20 million each year for charity, of which over 40% goes to non-Masonic charities. London Freemasons last year raised just over £2.5 million of which £1.3 million went to Masonic charities and the remaining £1.2 million to non-Masonic charities.

Over recent years London Freemasons, apart from supporting the Masonic and their own particular non-Masonic charities, which total over 300, have taken it upon themselves to support certain London non-Masonic charities. To date these have included the charities Alone in London, Asthma Research, The Greater London Fund for the blind, The Prostate Cancer Charity and The Royal National Institute for the Deaf. Now for the current Masonic year London Freemasons are supporting the new Children's International Eye Centre at Moorsfields and the Children's Country Holiday Fund, two very worthy London based charities for children.

This is just the tip of the iceberg in respect of Freemasons' efforts for charity, and your participation this evening will help to further and continue this good work.

Extract from The Royal Masonic Variety show programme.



The Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. R. J. R. Tile presenting a cheque for £3000 to Mr. John Goodship, Manager of St. Elizabeth Hospice on behalf of the Grand Charity of Freemasons of the United Grand Lodge of England. The Grand Charity is supporting 206 Hospices with Donations amounting to £492,500 in 2002.

of our Lord 1827 - at the Three Tuns Inn Halesworth.

Mr. Nathaniel Totman, Bay Weaver, formerly of Becking, Braintree - now residing in Long Melford - a Candidate for freemasonry -was admitted to the mystery of an Entered Apprentice and subsequently passed a Craftsman and entrusted with the signs and- words.

For placing a dead ferret in the RW Master's hat, Bro._____ was fined one half penny.

For uttering profanities in the Lodge our Tyler, Bro._____, was fined the sum of one shilling, and a further sixpence when he protested in like manner.

The sum of 12s 3d. was entrusted to Bro. Secretary for disbursements of expenses as recorded to be owed for that meeting.

A lively discussion ensued as to the benefits of moving to another place. This arose from an argument with the Landlord concerning our prompt payment on our behalf and the cost of the account on his.

It was decided to remain due to other Hostelrys being similarly poor in accommodation and hospitality. We would be sure, however, in future to take the Landlords Accounts with a pinch of snuff and with a more than passing interest in his arithmetics.

The business of the Lodge being completed, the brethren spent the remainder of the evening in a most sociable and Mason-like manner.

All dues being paid, the Lodge was closed according to Ancient custom at ten minutes after nine of the clock.

RWM Brethren, those are the Minutes of our last Lodge Meeting. What is your will and pleasure?

SW I move they be adopted as read.

JW I second that motion.

PM Bentley I third it RWM.

ORDER OF THE SECRET MONITOR

Address to the Provincial Grand Conclave by W.Bro. Ossie T. Harvey, Provincial Grand Supreme Ruler for the Province of Suffolk, on 18th March 2002 at Freemasons Hall, Ipswich.

Brethren, I extend a warm welcome to you all here in Ipswich. My job now is to address you, and you have the task of listening to me. My dearest wish is that I can finish my job, before you finish yours.

I wish to express my sincere thanks to my Executive Officers, for performing their respective duties so efficiently, their loyal support is greatly appreciated.

I extend hearty congratulations to all the Brethren who have received Provincial Honours today, together with those I have re-appointed for a further year. In order to maintain progression it has been necessary to either change, or end the period of office for some Provincial Officers, but I know those brothers will continue to work diligently in their respective Conclaves.

Congratulations to the Brethren who have been either promoted or appointed to Grand Rank Honours this year by the Most Worthy Grand Supreme Ruler.

Godfrey Thorpe has been promoted to Past Grand Guide, a richly deserved promotion for a very sincere, courageous and loyal person, Peter Day and David Ousey have both been promoted to the Rank of P.G.Swd.B., for loyal service throughout the Province for many years. Frank Champkin has been appointed to P.A.G.D.C. for sterling work within the Province. We are fortunate to have so many very masonic masons in our midst.

I am most grateful to all the conclaves for the very positive response to my request, for each conclave to donate the Alms collected at Installation Meetings, to the New Masonic Samaritan Fund, until the 2009 Festival is held. All donations to be deposited in a special holding account within the Suffolk Provincial Grand Chapter Charity.

Brethren, we are all aware of the problems affecting Freemasonry as we enter the 21st century. I have in mind a declining membership with an average of 60+ and at times, hostility from the media. As a fraternity we have embarked upon a programme of holding 'Open Days' when

the public are invited to visit masonic temples to hear and sometimes see, what freemasons do in their lodge meetings. The public are also told what masons see as their aims in life and the contribution our way of life can make to the local community.

Hopefully this programme of enlightenment will lead to an increase in applications by candidates for admission into our fraternity, and result in less hostility from various sections of the media.

Brethren to the question "What Is Freemasonry"? I believe that if Masonry could answer for itself, it would be something like this;

I am rooted in the midst of great antiquity and point to God and eternity. I am the Past, Present and the Future.

I belong to the ages. I circle the globe and stand at the crossroads of the world.

I am steeped in tradition and traced in the pages of history.

I have rites and words that have beauty symmetry and rhythm.

I have knowledge, wisdom, and secrets, which are looked in my bosom, which I give to men who come to see me, desiring me in their hearts.

I place upon my altars Holy Writ and turn to the Deity in Prayer. I hold a Square and Compasses in my hands, and contemplate a line from earth to heaven.

I speculate with all the tools of operative masons and I translate their use into moral values and spiritual buildings.

I await, all free men, to lawful age and good report, but, solicit none.

I admit them of their own free will and accord and teach them brotherhood and unity.

I make builders of men, of those, who are willing and give them my tools that they may work.

I stop to raise the fallen brethren and cast out the unworthy.

I walk in the way of charity and travel the road of peace and harmony.

I render aid to the poor and the sick and the distressed.

I answer the cry of the orphan and sustain the widow and the aged. I commit to the earth brethren who travel to that "Undiscovered Country."

I ponder at the moment on the ravages of time, as I stand at the door to Eternity.

I am a way of life that teach immortality.

I raise men from darkness to light.

To sum up, I am a system of thought, philosophy and action that has been handed over to you from the remotest past. The oldest and most venerable of all human associations. Indeed, I am the great and novel science which comprehends all others, namely the knowledge of ourselves and the duty we owe to each other.

Brethren, if only such principles could be effectively extended and made to apply to life in general. It would mean an end to all the strife and divisions among people which so sadly beset the World today.

Let us, in our small way, always try to practice the nobly principles of our wonderful brotherhood.

Finally, a special 'thank you' to the Provincial Grand Recorder W.Wy.Bro. Brian Pearce, for organising this Annual Meeting here in Ipswich, and Wy.Bro. Dr. John Elmore, for arranging the Festive Board, Brian and John your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Brethren, I wish you well in the coming year. I thank you all for the warm welcome I receive inn all our conclaves and look forward to my next visits with pleasure.

May the Almighty Friend of all Friends, the Founder of Faithful Friendship, Bless and watch over you All.



STAMP

Returns to the Rock



In February, 2001, the members of STAMP visited Gibraltar for five days and had a fabulous welcome from the members of the two lodges we visited. At the time they often spoke of their 250th Anniversary to be held in September, 2002. Arthur Spraggons and I decided, this year, to join their celebrations.

It was again a memorable experience. We flew by Monarch on Tuesday, 17th September, were welcomed in true Gibraltar style and driven to the Caleta Hotel, our previous home for our visit. Facilities were much as before with the sea either soothing or keeping us awake from our sleep, outside our bedroom window. Awaiting us was a full itinerary of events for the four days, together with mementoes.

On Wednesday afternoon, District Grand Lodge was opened and we received the Assistant Grand Master, R.W.Bro. David Williamson accompanied by the acting Grand Director of Ceremonies, Jonathan Spence who is to be invested to that office in Grand Lodge in April., 2003. R.W.Bro. Stanley Ward, District Grand Master, addressed the meeting and the Lodge was called off. Ladies were admitted and welcomed. We then retired and were driven to The Mount, former residence of

the Admiral of the Western Mediterranean Fleet for a welcome reception and buffet. And what a buffet! The drinks and grub did not stop coming. From there to St. Michael's Cave for a magnificent concert by the Royal Air Force Band. A great evening with extracts from the Last Night of the Proms in which we all participated. And so to bed.

A leisure day on Thursday, visiting shops and buying our duty free purchases, under £5.00 for a litre bottle of Scotch! In the evening we again visited St. Michael's Cave to witness a play depicting an Initiation Ceremony in Gibraltar in 1759. The Worshipful Master (acting) was so tipsy (acting!) by the end of the proceedings, he had to be escorted from the stage. Widely acclaimed by the audience, it was an excellent evening, back to the Caleta, a noggin and a bite to eat, and bed.

On the morning of Friday 20th, an early start for a trip round the Gibraltara Bay to see the dolphins. We were privileged to have some 200 leaping around our craft, a number far in excess of that seen previously. This was the last time aboard for one of the crew who was off the next day yachting round the world with her husband on a three year cruise. Some guts!

We also saw the arrival of the Ark Royal visiting Gibraltar for a short stay. For those who knew the old battleship, a very reduced craft in size. In the late afternoon, the Anniversary Meeting of Celebration and Dedication was held with the ladies and Gibraltar dignitaries present. Fanfares accompanied the District and Grand Officers as they processed into the lavishly decorated Lodge Room. The ceremony included hymns, prayers by the District Grand Chaplain, addresses by the District Grand Master, the Grand Master of the (Legal) Grande Lodge Regular de Portugal and Grand Lodge of Spain, and representatives of the Scottish and Irish Constitutions. The Deputy Grand Master, W.Bro. Arthur Wink gave a fine oration. The Meeting closed at about 18.30 hours when we were driven to the Casino for a dinner, and speeches which were regrettably inaudible from where we were sitting. Back to the Caleta at about 12.30.

On Saturday we were driven to a Service of Thanksgiving in the Cathedral of the Holy Trinity, Gibraltar. A memorable service with a fine sermon by the Revd. Canon Bernard Moore, P.A.G.C. who was that day celebrating his fiftieth year of ordination and approximately forty years in Freemasonry. It was illustrated with numerous masonic memories acceptable to both the masons and their ladies present. In the afternoon the final meeting of the district was held with a last address by the district Grand Master. A letter was read by a representative of HM the Queen thanking the District for their loyal greetings, and a letter from our Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Bob Tile, which I had handed to the district earlier in the week. Good company! Gifts were presented by the Provinces of East and West Kent and Hertfordshire. The meeting closed and we returned to the Caleta. Here was to be staged the final Gala Dinner. We were well wined and dined, were able to hear the speeches on this occasion and tumbled into bed soon after one o'clock on Sunday morning. We met many new friends honour visit, in particular, Tom Osborne, a Past Provincial Grand Secretary from the Isle of Man. Who knows, a future visit by STAMP, I know, would be welcomed.

We flew home on Sunday evening arriving in Felixstowe at 12.45am on Monday morning after an excellent Anniversary, tired but full of happy memories. It was Freemasonry at its best, the welcome and activities being second to none. The mementoes we brought home included a book entitled *The Rough Ashlar, the History of Freemasonry, 1727-2002*, a specially minted coin, a plate, a commemorative first day cover and an engraved brandy goblet large enough to take a full bottle! I am giving all the literature to the Archivist at Soane Street. Our own 250th Anniversary is in 2021, it might be useful. I think we should start planning now!

Mike Leighton.

BRETT VALLEY 9479

10th anniversary meeting

On 22nd November Brett Valley celebrated with a special meeting. The Lodge was opened and closed, followed by a lecture on the history of the lodge to which members and their wives were invited.

IN DUBLINS FAIR CITY



Prince Masons Room, Dublin

Visit to Dublin Ala 5043 and Phœix 516

At the invitation of Ruby Lodge 339, Dublin, five brethren of Ala and Phœnix Lodges accepted the invitation in September to visit namely W.Bro. A. Quinton, W.Bro. L. A. Green, W.Bro. I. Knights Bro. G. Black and Bro. C. Barber.

We were hosted by the Secretary of Ruby Lodge W.Bro. W. Acheson who

escorted us round Dublin showing us Prov. Grand Lodge in Molesworth St. Dublin including the museum, a bus tour of Dublin finishing up in the Guinness Brewing premises sampling the nectar of Ireland.

The first evening we were invited to a Chapter meeting and the following evening to a Lodge meeting followed by a Festive Board during both evenings. I must point out that they do not have a Festive Board as we know but beer and sandwiches. As they



Presentation of Gavel to the Master of Ruby Lodge, Dublin by W.Bro. Alan Quinton at the Festive Board.

had guests from England they laid on a Festive Board and for the very first time invited Ladies for the evening. It was during the second evening that W.Bro. A. Quinton presented to W.Bro. James Horton an Inscribed Gavel on behalf of Ala and Phoenix Lodges.

I think I can say, without contradiction, everyone had an enjoyable visit and look forward to members of Ruby Lodge returning the visit next October for Ala's 75th Anniversary meeting.

Down Under

In February last year W.Bro. Rony Jones and myself visited 'Out' in Dunedin, New Zealand, to the Lodge St. Patrick No.468, finding ourselves at the most southerly Lodge in the world under the Irish Constitution founded in 1881.

The first Lodge in New Zealand was Consecrated in 1843 by settlers and gold hunters. Irish Freemasonry reached New Zealand in 1886. The first Irish Lodge, the Shamrock Lodge No.448 I.C. was opened on 29th March 1866.

A nice thing about the evening was the vast interest in news from 'back home' in particular masonry. Uniquely seated around the festive board, which was an extremely friendly affair, were brethren from the Irish, Scottish, English, Australian and New Zealand Constitutions.

I noticed that the Lodge openly donated a jeep to the local Police search and rescue service which we saw driven round with the 'Square and Compasses' and 'donated by the Lodge St. Patrick' painted on its sides. How attitudes differ.

Contribution East Kent Province.

Provincial Stewards Soiree

On Sunday 29th June from 12 noon the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge are holding a bit of a do at Pettistree House home of Jervis and Henrietta Kay. Champagne followed by a cold buffet lunch, then strawberries and cream all consumed to the accompaniment of live music. Space is very limited and tickets are £25 each. Any one who would like to attend please contact your nearest PGd Steward.

Suffolk Masonic Golfing Society

We celebrated our 50th Anniversary in fine style during 2002 and in particular with two additional Meetings, one at Bury St Edmunds and the other at Gorleston where we also entertained guests. Both days were a great success and we were honoured by the presence of the Rt Worshipful Provincial Grand Master at Bury, who also joined us on the Course, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Vaughan Pryce at Gorleston and they each kindly presented an array of Prizes covering 27 holes of Golf.

As part of the celebrations of this special year we were also pleased to welcome W Bros Roy Taylor and David Boswell who personally presented their individual Trophies to this year's winners, and also Mrs Jean Vertigen who joined us at our AGM to present the Trophy donated in memory of the late Horace Vertigen.

Our President W Bro Norman Simper continued his long standing support of our Annual Guest Day at Felixstowe and graced us with his presence at Dinner and kindly presented the Simper Cups and other prizes for the day for which there was a near record turnout of 104 competitors.

In fact attendance was well up throughout the year and membership has increased to 83. Suffice it to say - we have had a good year and at the end of it all our Raffles have raised £900 for Charitable Giving and so in a sense we have all been winners but the Trophy Winners were as follows:

Ufford Park	Adair Cup	Stuart Attenborrow 38 Points
Bury St Edmunds	Morning Foursomes - 9 holes	Ken Hammond & Ian Gleed 20 Points
	Taylor Salver	Mike Cummins 36 Points
Gorleston	Morning Foursomes - 9 holes	Erik Duckworth & John Studd 20 Points
	Jubilee Trophy- Members	Peter Berry 39 Points
	Jubilee Trophy- Guests	Mike Woods 39 Points
Waldringfield	Match v Essex	Suffolk 360 Points Essex 355 Points
Felixstowe	Simper Cup - Members	Ken Hawes 41 Points
	Simper Cup - Guests	M Nethercott 47 Points
Bungay	Swann Bowl	Maurice Sendall 38 Points
Gosfield Lakes	Four Province Match	Winners -Suffolk 320 Points
	Boswell Trophy	Individual Winner -Geoff Spencer 39 Pts
Vertigen Trophy	Best 3 aggregate Cards	John Studd 107 Points

We are always pleased to welcome new members although be warned Annual Subs for 2003 will rise to £51! But still very good value for money and anyone interested should contact John Studd on 01728 453446.

The 2003 Fixture List is:

Thursday 10th April	Gorleston-on-Sea	Adair Cup & AGM
Tuesday 20th May	Waldringfield	Taylor Salver
Thursday 3rd July	Gosfield Lakes	Match v Essex
Wednesday 13th Aug	Felixstowe Ferry	Invitation Day Simper Cups
Thursday 11th Sep	Ufford Park	Swann Bowl
1st week in Oct	Date & Venue still to be confirmed	Boswell Trophy - Four Province Match

MALTA CALLING

Malta, the jewel of the Mediterranean and home of the Malta Group of Lodges, enters the new millennium with increased Masonic enthusiasm and wonderful opportunities. So many Masons or their families and friends ave in some way a connection with this beautiful island.

Has the thought been given of holding a Masonic function in Malta such as a Ladies Night, Installation Meeting, Masonic celebration, a meeting for a selected Candidate or even a Masonic Holiday?

The Masonic Hall Management committee of the Malta Group of Lodges, with the broad range of facilities at its disposal, including a 400 year old Masonic hall, complete with baronial dining room, is able to cater for all Masonic events, especially Ladies' Nights.

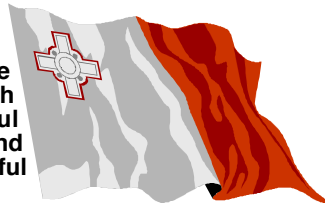
We are able to negotiate and organise flights, offer a very wide range of convenient hotels to suit all purses, practically guarantee good weather, arrange car hire and/or internal transportation, tempt one with seeing the sights of Malta, including temples older than Stonehenge and, of course, expose one to the culinary delights of this lovely country. A few days or even longer in Malta, comino or Gozo could work out cheaper than you thought.

WHY ME AND WHY NOW?

Our Masonic team in Malta is effectively under new management and is seeking to generate income from its superb assets by placing at your disposal our historic facilities located in a country dependant on tourism with corresponding interests and entertainment.

If anyone is attracted in holding a Masonic event in Malta, or just coming over on holiday and would like to attend a Meeting, please contact us through the office of the Grand Inspector for more information.

Telephone: (356) 21 649105, Fax: 21 642950 or email: jspencer@lotushouse.net



LODGE OF PERFECT FRIENDSHIP NO.376



As part of its charity programme the Lodge made a donation of £1,000 to the Genesis Project. The IPM, W.Bro. Peter Haddock accompanied by the Charity Steward, W.Bro. Arthur Tydeman is seen presenting the cheque to Graham Bailey BEM the Chairman and Founder of the project. The centre, which is situated at the rear of the Ipswich Transport Museum in Cobham Road, caters for the needs of members of the community with a wide range of disabilities.

I can only say that, for me, walking round this centre was a truly amazing and eye-opening experience. Graham has undoubtedly been the driving force and genius behind the incredible facilities contained here. His motivation stems from wanting to ensure that his daughter, Natasha, who has severe learning and physical disabilities, would be able to receive high quality support and training. The centre, which provides facilities for the disabled which would be the envy of any local authority provider, is always open to visitors and has a shop which sells a range of sensible gifts of very high quality and very sensibly priced. These include garden furniture, pottery and greeting cards which are made on the premises and are of superb quality.

If you had not heard about the Genesis Project - or you had but did not realise what was involved - pay them a visit. You will be moved by what you see.

Arthur Tydeman

It gives me great pleasure in writing to inform you, that I am organising a

West Suffolk Provincial Grand Charity Ball

to be held at the Corn Exchange in Bury St Edmunds, on the 10th May 2003.

It will be a black tie event, with the evening starting at 6.45pm for 7.30pm dining, carriages at 1.00pm, the ticket cost will be £40.00 each.

The meal will be provided by Roffs Caterers, and will consist of 4/5 courses.

The Charity Ball is for the benefit of the Seven Lodges in Group Three, these being, Magna Carta, Abbott Baldwin, Solea, Royal St Edmunds, Culford, Mildenhall, and Abbey Lodge.

All proceeds raised will be shared equally between the seven lodges, and should go towards their respective targets for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund.

We intend to make this a grand event and a wonderful social evening for all concerned.

Peter Gosling, Charity Steward - Abbey Lodge 1592.

SNOWSTORM CONTRIBUTES TO MASONIC RECORD

My dear old father the late W.Bro. Stephen Wesman L.G.R. of Pilgrim Lodge No.238 was a professor of gynaecological surgeon and obstetrics and had very definite views on childbirth procedures. He use to say, "although a father is essential at the laying of the keel he is quite superfluous at the launching."

Just to be awkward, however, I arrived into the world during a heavy snowstorm. This prevented father's colleague, the doctor attending my mother's pregnancy, from reaching the scene of action in time. As a result, contrary to medical etiquette, father was obliged to perform the delivery himself. He subsequently claimed a somewhat light hearted Masonic record. He fathered, delivered, initiated, passed, raised and installed me. Beat that!

Tom Westmand L.G.R., Pilgrim Lodge No.238



W.Bro. Barry Ross Provincial Grand Secretary presents a cheque for £2500 to Sue Meader Community fund raiser for St. Nicholas Hospice at Bury St. edmunds of Behalf of the Grand Charity.

Editor's notes

PLEASE...With the advent of digital cameras, there has been a rising tendency over the last few issues, for our contributors to take a photo, print it out via their inkjet printers and send the printout to us for publication. Although your printout may look reasonable, our having to scan it results in some bad results as can be seen in some of the photographs in these issues. If you use a digital camera, or otherwise have a photo on you PC, please send us the file on disc or email it to us. You'll enjoy much better results and cut down our workload dramatically! Normal photos, as always, are fine!

Editor: W.Bro. Peter Green 01359 270598