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7 in 7 Marathon Challenge – Bill Doody

To continue my support of the 2019 Masonic Samaritan Fund Festival and to continue to raise awareness and funds for the NSPCC, I am contemplating a rather difficult challenge in April 2014 - 7 Marathons in 7 days.

The Highlights

1. I will start the challenge in Bristol, College Green on Monday 7th April 2014 and finish at the Virgin London Marathon in 2014 a week later on Sunday 13th April.
2. I will run a marathon each day for 7 days.
3. Other people can join along the way if they wish to run for a whole marathon or part there-of.
4. This is a joint fundraising effort between the Masonic Samaritan Fund and the NSPCC.
 - a Additional communications will be made through Provinces MSF fundraising committee.
 - b All personal donations can be formally counted towards your own target of raising funds for the MSF 2019 festival.
5. I will do bucket collections along the way and will have separate buckets for people who only want to support one charity and a combined one for those that do not mind where it goes and that bucket will be split between the two charities;
Let me know if you want to carry / do any bucket collections.
6. I have a joint just giving web page <https://www.justgiving.com/teams/7in7> where separate/combined donations can also be made.
7. I also have a website here <http://www.billdoody7in7.com> that is dedicated to the challenge.
8. I am planning to visit a different Masonic lodge along the M4 corridor during the evening, attending lodge and collecting any further donations – if you know of any lodges that would like to invite me to attend then please let me know.
9. I will also route myself through high streets to be able to collect as much as possible and also allow people to gather and shout support – route details can be found on my website.
10. My eldest son Creig (also a Mason) will help by driving behind in a support vehicle, advertising the challenge and collecting the donations.



11. I am offering corporate sponsorship as per below:
 - a Donors of £250 or over to have their logo placed on the support vehicle.
 - b Donors of £500 or more I would offer an increase in size/prominence of their Logo and I would also place it on the just giving website and on the front of a different TSHIRT that I will run with each day.

Some statistics so far during my training:

I have run a total of 425 miles

I have lost 9kgs in weight

I have run 4 official half marathons and 5 unofficial ones

I don't have any trousers that don't fall down without a belt now.



Tel: 07717 782 252
billdoody@hotmail.com

Children's Hospice South West

St Nicholas Lodge were approached by the Children's Hospice South West to see if the Lodge could help transport 4 gorillas from the Bristol area, to the hospice grounds, in time for their annual Bluebell charity walk. Chris Coleman and myself armed with a long pole and gigantic net set off to Long Ashton, Clevedon and Stoke Bishop, in search of the gorillas, valued we were informed of between £6000 to £10000 and as you can see we were successful. Chris and I together with Donna from the Hospice are next to Gordon and Spider Monkey.

Chris Cook



The Gibbs' Family Link With The SS Great Britain

By George Halladay

Much has been written in the past about the Gibbs family's wealth created from shipping millions of tons of guano – otherwise known as bird droppings – from South America for use by the farmers of Europe as fertilizer.

The family, who created Tyntesfield which is one of, if not the, finest Gothic houses in Britain, situated in Somerset, close to Bristol, were the subject of a 19th century ditty circulating in the City of London: "Mister Gibbs made his dibs. Selling the turds of foreign birds." – and what dibs! Not very elegant, but it certainly told the story - and Henry must have laughed all the way to the bank. Henry Gibbs referred to in this jingle was Governor of the Bank of England at the time.



Another family member – George Abraham Gibbs, became the 10th Provincial Grand Master of Bristol in 1910. He was the great grandson of Antony Gibbs & Sons, bankers and merchants, who made a fortune out of guano. One major problem facing all these



great early entrepreneurs was being perhaps a little too eager or greedy to cram as much cargo as possible into vessels, causing them to sink, many with a great loss of life. In 1860 another member of the family, William Gibbs, and his agents, came up with the brilliant idea of marking the side of the ship when empty



William and Blanche Gibbs and family at Tyntesfield, c. 1862-63

to show just how deep it was to load it with cargo safely. It was an idea that was snapped by Samuel Plimsoll more than a decade later.

The Gibbs family company began to expand globally by opening in 1853 an office in Melbourne and then setting up the Blackbull Shipping Line, taking passengers to Australia following the finding of gold in the "outbacks" there.

It resulted in the Gibbs family company of Antony Gibbs & Sons again becoming associated with Isambard Kingdom Brunel. Henry Martin Gibbs, a merchant banker, of Barrow Court, had backed the building of the Great Western Railway but had sensibly steered away from becoming involved with the railway craze. In 1850 his company, Lawrence, Gibbs Bright & Co acquired the SS Great Britain, which had run aground in Dundrum Bay near Belfast in 1846.

It was repaired and was used on the Australian run which took an estimated 66 days to sail into Melbourne. She continued to make the journey until 1869 when she started to be used to ply the nitrate trade between Europe and Chile.

Unfortunately, while en route to the Americas she was damaged off the Cape Horn, which forced her captain to take shelter in the Falklands. There she remained trapped until

her dramatic return to Bristol, to the very yard where she had been originally built.

In 1970, William Gibbs great grandson, Richard Gibbs, the second Lord Wraxall, and the last family owner of Tyntesfield, sat on the committee that organised this, her last voyage.

My wife and I remember it well, for we came up with her on a Port of Bristol tug as she negotiated the winding channel of the River Avon into the Cumberland Basin.

Fortunately for the nation, Tyntesfield was acquired, lock stock and barrel, by the National Trust, who have already spent a small fortune in returning the house and grounds to their former glory.

The Trust also published a well - illustrated book written by James Miller on the history of the house and the Gibbs family, priced at £19.99p. Well worth the money.



Guano



2002 Visit to Chester Races

The early Saturday morning call to go and view horses running was unwelcome after the bacchanalian previous Friday night; which saw WBro Bob Baggs and Marguerite, W Bro Stuart Mackendrick and Sandra with WBro Dave Watson and Jacky and WBro Dave Stubbings complete with Pam enjoy an outing to a local hostelry.

The call was answered and a fascinating tour of Manor Farm Stables conducted by the Trainer, Tom Dunscombe ensued. We viewed the wonderful facilities that Michael

Race Course. We were joined at the table by Michael Owen's father, who informed us that regrettably Michael was working elsewhere; we still enjoyed a very good lunch.

Mixed fortunes as far as the actual horse racing that followed, but to cheer us up after we had finished eating we were invited to the Grandstand Box, overlooking the finishing line. Here we could watch our chosen horses race to the line.

At the end of a full day's racing we were again whisked through traffic



Owen has invested in to tend to all of the needs of the horses in his care.

We all then repaired to the Farmhouse B & B for a gratefully received 'all the trimmings' breakfast. After a suitable pause The 2002 Circle then returned to the stables, this time dressed in best bib and tucker. In several cars we were whisked through the gathering traffic, and by a series of incomprehensible turns ended up in the VIP car park. At this point we were issued with VIP passes (Owner and Trainer) and escorted to a table in the pavilion at the centre of Chester

back to our lodgings. The local hostelry allowed us back in (if we promised Stuart wouldn't sing again) and we were treated to a short talk on Gin (with tonic) by the landlord; before showing the Cestrians how Bristolians got stuck into their tippie.

We all made it back to the B & B and a further farmhouse breakfast the following morning saw us all depart to our various destinations. Many thanks to W. Bro. Bob for his organisational skills.

Dave Stubbings



1985 Circle

Despite advancing years, the Circle continues to be active, although the activities are becoming a little less ambitious. During 2013 we had a varied programme.

Early in the year we had a splendid



time and a very enjoyable lunch at the Crown Inn, Slaughterford. This was followed by our next outing, believe it or not to another pub, the 'Mariner's Arms' in Berkeley for lunch followed by a most informative visit to the Jenner Museum at Berkeley. We have a wealth of interesting places on our door step. Edward Jenner was a pioneer in the field of medicine having developed the smallpox vaccine which has had such a profound impact upon world health. This was a fascinating visit and well worthwhile.

Once again we held the annual caravan weekend over the May Bank holiday. There was an influx of day visitors for the customary barbeque as this year W. Bro. Max Houlden and his wife Ann were celebrating their Ruby Wedding Anniversary.



During the year we also enjoyed a picnic in the sunshine at Bradford on Avon followed by a delicious Cream Tea at the Victorian Tea Rooms.

Our traditional weekend away was to the Livermead Cliff Hotel, Torquay. This hotel has been taken over by the Rew family and has been given a major facelift. The accommodation was excellent as was the food and the attentiveness of the staff. The company as always made the weekend another resounding success.

In November we attended the Bristol Festival of Remembrance at the Colston Hall. What an excellent occasion and well worth attending for anyone who has not previously attended this service. An excellent combination of music, humour and reflection.

In the 1985 Circle, lasting friendships have been established. This is evident in the 'non-official' circle activity that took place in July. Four members and their wives spent a most enjoyable ten days on the Oriana Cruise Liner from Southampton to La Caruna, Morocco, Gibraltar, Cadiz and Lisbon.

W.Bro. Mike Huggins, Secretary

Plans are already in place for 2014



Chartered Institute of Building

by Robert Durose

In my capacity as Chairman of the Bristol Branch of the Chartered Institute of Building, I approached the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Chris Williams, for permission to open our doors to the local membership. Tony Griffiths did a grand job of conducting the tour and giving a lecture on Freemasonry and the history of Freemason's Hall and the members of the CIOB donated £50.00 to the 2019 festival in aid of the Masonic Samaritan Fund.

Also invited was Sadie Moore from Macmillan Cancer Support Group who gave a brief talk on their work. We presented her with a cheque for £600, which the brethren of the Francis Rawdon Lodge raised on their Ladies Night at Cadbury House.

The Cabot Lodge

No 3884

Speaker Evening – Friday 8th November 2013

Building on the success of last year's event, Cabot Lodge once again organised a Speaker Evening – not only for the benefit of the lodge



members, but also as a means of raising funds for Bristol Rugby Club Community Foundation.

Once the proceedings of the evening had been completed in Lodge Room 1, the members of Cabot Lodge collected their friends from the bar area and escorted them to Dining Room 1.

The dining room, filled with 120 people, was humming with expectation as the Worshipful Master, David Garrett, was accompanied into the room by Mr Andy Robinson, Director of Rugby at Bristol Rugby Club.

After a superb meal, prepared by Fredy had been served and devoured, the Worshipful Master proposed the toast to the visitors – he then requested a response from Mr Andy Robinson, who duly obliged with the assistance of some very direct and searching questions prepared by the lodge members and asked by John Morrison (Charity Steward for the lodge).

Andy was very honest in his responses and with his vision for Bristol Rugby for the next 5 years. As he alluded – Bristol should be not only a Premiership team, but also one competing for trophies in Europe. The audience appreciated his comments and gave him rapturous support.

After the meals had been cleared away, the raffle was drawn – with some superb prizes on offer. There was also an Auction, conducted by John Morrison, which had on offer such prizes as; 2 hospitality tickets to watch Arsenal's last home game in the Champion's League; 10 hospitality tickets to watch any Bristol RFC home fixture; a signed Sachin Tendulkar cricket bat; and several more equally valuable prizes.

A consortium, led by WBr Chris Cook, bought a "Mascot for the Day" at any Bristol RFC home game! This prize was then donated to Children's Hospice South West for their use.

As the last toast – "To our next merry meeting" – was taken, the total raised for the evening was announced by Bro Paul Smith, Treasurer, at an incredible £2500+.

A target that the lodge would like to surpass when it holds another Speaker Evening next year?



Robert Thorne Lodge Centenary

15 June 2013



One hundred years and one day after the Robert Thorne Lodge received its original Warrant – confirming it was authorised to hold regular meetings, the Lodge received a second Warrant – this time confirming the Lodge had been in 'continuous working' for 100 years – despite the efforts of two World Wars.

The 'Centenary Warrant' was presented to the Lodge by the Provincial Grand Master for Bristol Alan J Vaughan (OB) at a special meeting in Park Street's Freemasons' Hall on Saturday 15th June. This was part of a short ceremony, unique to the Robert Thorne Lodge, which was attended by 25 members of the Lodge, all 32 Officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol, the President of the Federation of School Lodges, and 55 other masons from Bristol, Gloucestershire, Glamorgan, Hertfordshire, Somerset, and Yorkshire.

Six of the Lodge's nine OBs, and 2 past member OBs were present: Geoffrey Jennings, John Hurley, Dale Trimble, Simon Howes, Paul Deverell, Robert (Ian) Beese, Christopher Hart, and Stephen Ball.

After the Lodge meeting there was time to relax and catch up with old friends before the 8.00 pm start to the Centenary Banquet in the main dining room, with its marbled panels and chandeliers.

103 diners welcomed the Worshipful Master Roy Williams, the Provincial Grand Master, and the President of the Federation of School Lodges David Jenkins into the dining room. The Robert Thorne Lodge were especially delighted that The School was represented by Assistant Headmaster Peter Jakobek, who had kindly accepted our invitation to the Centenary Banquet.

Grace was sung in Latin, as usual, after which table service commenced. As course followed course the wine flowed, and every one of the candle-lit tables was awash with multiple conversations; time just seemed to melt away (so did the candles – and some more quickly than others!).

At 9.30 pm, following the toasts to The Queen,

and the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent, the room fell silent as Lodge Almoner Dale Trimble stood to propose the toast to Absent Brethren – a toast we give at all meetings as we remember those who cannot be with us on the evening, and those who have already passed to the Grand Lodge Above.

In proposing the toast to the Robert Thorne Lodge the Provincial Grand Master included a very warm welcome to Peter Jakobek on this historic evening, and encouraged the Lodge and the School to use this opportunity as the first course in a rebuilding of the close liaison that had once existed between the two.

During one of the quieter moments, when coffee had been served, Commemorative Booklets and Robert Thorne Lodge Lapel Badges were presented to everyone at the Banquet, as mementos of the evening.

The School Song & Loving Cup Ceremony are integral parts of every Robert Thorne dinner, and tonight they were the rousing finale to an historic day as 106 voices sang the choruses in response to the four verses sung individually by the Worshipful Master, his two Wardens, and the Provincial Grand Master, as solos.

The Loving Cup was raised, the words were spoken, and the Loving Cup was drained of its contents and inverted above the Junior Wardens head!

It was a very happy and historic evening in the company of friends old and new, and a fitting way to celebrate the Centenary of the Lodge. Perhaps our descendants, from School and Lodge, will feel that the 2113 Bi-Centenary is as special to them as the 2013 Centenary is to us.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Robert Thorne Lodge in particular, or of masonry in general, please email prov.sec@provinceofbristol.org or go to <http://www.provinceofbristol.org.uk>

Mike Whitworth

Centenary Committee

Lodge Treasurer & (Old Cothamian!)

mike.whitworth@blueyonder.co.uk

"Dolphins Afloat!"

On Thursday 18th July, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Faruk Choudhury, exercised his ancient right as ex officio Chief Pilot and Port Admiral, to "Beat the boundaries" of the Port of Bristol. He was accompanied on this civic occasion by the Lord Lieutenant of Bristol Mary Prior and was transported aboard "The Pride of Bristol", which is an ex RN tender of about 200 tons, now owned by the Pride of Bristol Trust a highly deserving local charity with links to Bristol Masonry, and skippered on this occasion, by Bob Baker, himself a Bristol Mason.

The trust works with underprivileged, deprived or handicapped young people and youth groups such as the Prince of Wales Trust, St John's Cadets and various Scout groups, providing character building sea-training and educational trips where they can learn the basic skills of seamanship and the more important skills of co-operation with others and pride in personal achievement.



The organization is made up of volunteer members from the Royal Navy, Royal Navy Reserves and Merchant Navy plus local Yacht Masters and Instructors and people with various skills, abilities and a nautical interest adding their skills voluntarily. The charity is totally self supporting and relies on charitable donations and the hard work of dedicated members.

Ferrying civic dignitaries and itinerant masons is another, albeit very small, part of the activities undertaken by the Pride of Bristol Trust.

I was fortunate to be invited on this trip by the charity's Chairman, Stan Hammond MBE and was accompanied by Dolphin Secretary Mike Searle and Father Steven Hawkins of Redcliffe Lodge. Stan is well known to a number of Dolphin and ex Dolphin members and many of us have attended fund raising events for the charity over the years.

At the Province's open day last year Dolphin Lodge donated £1,000 to this worthy Bristol charity as well as £500 from the proceeds of our Ladies' Night.

Also donations in memory of our secretary's late father in law, himself an ex matelot, have gone towards purchasing the POB valuable navigation equipment.

"Ahoy me Hearties"

After meeting by the famous Nova Scotia Public House, we boarded ship and headed down river, through the main lock and under the Clifton Suspension Bridge (it looks different from underneath) and onwards we steamed, past Sea Mills, Avonmouth and Portbury, then out into the Bristol Channel.



On the day of the boat trip we were in the middle of a heat wave and the sun was blazing - the sea breeze however cooled us down, as did the copiously flowing chilled white wine!

The Lord Mayor's maritime duties include a duty of care to protect the port from pirates. After all Blackbeard and Long John Silver were Bristol lads (but probably not Masons!). While he kept a weather eye on the horizon for Jolly Rogers, or as we would say "emblems of mortality", we lubbers went below decks for vittles and grog!

All in all it was a highly successful day and we were very pleased to have been invited, and to take the opportunity to be seen as friends and supporters of a Bristol charity that does a fantastic job for young or underprivileged young people in our community.

For more details about this charity and its commendable activities visit: <http://www.prideofbristoltrust.co.uk/>

"Avast ye Lubbers"

The Pride of Bristol Trust will always welcome donations, supporters and volunteers. You need not be a seafarer, just have an interest in things nautical and a belief in the important and sterling work that this unusual and unique charity carry out. It costs in excess of £20,000 a year to keep the ship afloat, and the only funding that they receive is from their own efforts or people like us.

Bristol Masonic Bowling Association

On Wednesday 18th September 2013 the Bristol Masonic Bowling Association held an Extra-ordinary General Meeting. This was in response to a petition from members concerned at declining membership numbers, increasing difficulties encountered in fulfilling fixture commitments and the reluctance of members to fill executive roles.

Considerable discussion and debate ensued highlighting the difficulties that had arisen during the 2013 and previous seasons in raising sufficient members to play at fixtures, particularly 'away' matches. Numerous attempts to secure new members had been made, even in this publication, but regrettably they had largely proved fruitless. There appeared to be a growing lack of interest and commitment amongst the membership. This was borne out by the low number of bowlers who felt that this meeting was important enough to attend.

As a consequence it was resolved with regret that the Bristol Masonic Bowling Association would be 'wound up' with immediate effect. This was a very difficult decision for those present, however unavoidable.

W. Bro. Mike Huggins
Past Secretary

Bristol Masonic Golf Society

This year I am afraid we struggled on the 5 Masonic team games, our only win being against Gloucestershire. We drew away to Wiltshire and lost to Monmouthshire, Cornwall, and a twenty man team against Somerset, no blame on our Captain Andrew Nunn who won all his games.



The other results are as follows,

Douglas Marshman Tankard - John Stephens and Nathan Littleboy

Bristol Masonic Open - Adrian Timms

The Clive Farrow Trophy - Stephen Carter and Jeffrey Stead

Don Foster Trophy - Adrian Timms

The Duffers Trophy - Jim Bragg

In spite of the results we all had a lot of fun. 18 of us visited our Captain's lodge where we drank wine provided by Andrew. Gloucestershire were the hosts for our final meeting on the 15th November when the now annual get together of all the golfing Provinces takes place with a goodly number of us enjoying the evening.

Our captain this coming year is Les Meaton who is well known to all of us and he will be supported by his vice captain Arthur Grannan. The 2014 fixtures are now complete and are as follows:-

April 30th Douglas Marshman Tankard
- Clevedon G.C.

May 22nd - Gloucestershire - Thornbury G.C.

June 11th - Monmouthshire - The Bristol G.C.

July 3rd - Don Foster Trophy linked to open event
- Bristol & Clifton G.C.

July 31st - Cornwall - Wedmore G.C.

August 8th - Somerset - Henbury G.C.

August 13th - Wiltshire - Lansdown G.C.

September 2nd - Clive Farrow Trophy
- Mendip Spring G.C.

All the above will be sent to the existing members with full details in the New Year. Once again I would like to extend our invitation to all non members to come and join us. It's just £10 annual membership and this income enabled us this year to present a cheque of £500.00 to the P.G.M at our Captain's lodge meeting.

Matthew Lodge Banner Dedication



On the 12 of October 2013 The Matthew Lodge was paid a great honour when our Provincial Grand Master R W Bro Alan Vaughan visited the Lodge accompanied by W Bro The Reverend Steven Hawkins Assistant Grand Chaplin and our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies W Bro Phil Patrick for the purpose of dedicating our new Lodge Banner. Also in support was the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bristol accompanied by the Provincial Senior Grand Warden and Provincial Junior Grand Warden and a number of Past Grand Officers all of whose attendance added gravitas to this important occasion in the history of the Matthew Lodge.

Under the Direction of the Provincial Grand Master the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies formed a banner party from members of the Matthew to collect and parade the new silk banner around the Lodge.

The Rev Steve Hawkins gave an Oration explaining the importance of banners throughout history dating as far back as 500 BC when used by the First

Persian Empire as battle banners and throughout Europe by Medieval Kings for identification and to encourage their soldiers and provide reassurance that their leaders remained in control and also as a rallying point when pressed by the enemy to regroup around and defend their banner. Indeed banners have been used in almost every corner of the world.

After all present sang the hymn Guide Me O Thy Great Jehovah the Provincial Grand Master and Assistant Grand Chaplin again took to the floor and each having hold of the banner solemnly sanctified and dedicated it to the service of the Lodge.

The formalities were concluded after the Assistant Grand Chaplin had performed the Patriarchal Benediction.

Photographs were taken to record a very memorable morning which had been conducted to the pleasure and satisfaction of everyone present as clearly exemplified by the happy faces in the pictures.

Stuart MacKendrick



Matthew Lodge

After a brilliant third degree ceremony, the brethren and partners of the Matthew Lodge enjoyed their usual sumptuous Christmas meal and were then entertained by dancing and brilliant solo and group performances of various songs from the shows.

The children came from the Bristol School of Performing Arts in Brislington run by John Redgrave who is part of the famous Redgrave family. They provided their performance at no cost but the basket passed round raised £400 for their chosen charity Children in Need which was a testament to how much the members and the guests enjoyed it.





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Province of Bristol Clay Shooting Association

On Saturday 19th October the Province of Bristol hosted the annual South West inter provincial clay Pigeon shoot at Podimore, near Yeovilton off the A303. This year for the first time we welcomed W.Bro Martin Price and his team of 6 from the Province of Monmouthshire. The day was also attended by



Somersetshire and Cornwall with the top three scores from each province vying for the crown of Southwest champions. A total of 34 brethren attended the shoot.

After a dull and damp start to the day, the light breeze cleared the sky to leave a dry shoot. After the early morning banter, over a bacon roll and a mug of tea, the shooting commenced. After the guns fell silent not long after midday the scores were in. Contesting overall high gun was the hot favourite from Cornwall Matt Barnett who didn't disappoint and finished overall high gun on 85ex100. He had been pushed close by second place Richard Keen (Bristol) finishing on 83 ex 100 and third place John Hemmings (Bristol) on 81 ex 100.

The overall Province winners were Bristol with the following scores:-

<u>Bristol 1st</u>		<u>Cornwall 2nd</u>	
Richard Keen	83	Matt Barnett	85
John Hemmings	81		77
Stephen Carter	79		76
Total	243	Total	238
<u>Somersetshire 3rd</u>		<u>Monmouthshire 4th</u>	
Barry Jones	62	Paul Burley	58
	61		54
	39		49
Total	162	Total	161



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Being On Camera In Clifton

by George Halladay

Standing alone, high on the Downs above the Avon Gorge and Brunel's engineering masterpiece, the Clifton Suspension Bridge, is a 19th century tourist attraction, still attracting visitors from all over the world - the Clifton Observatory and Camera Obscura.

Visitors, as they still do, would climb up to the top of what had been a snuff mill and gaze in awe at what they could see - views of the Gorge and beyond, Clifton village, and those glorious Downs, all spread out before them across a circular curved white painted table. The building was originally built around 1760 as a windmill for grinding corn and stands on the site of a Roman camp. It was later converted to grind snuff when this became popular. Unfortunately during a violent storm in 1777, its sails were allowed to turn too quickly, allowing the machinery to overheat and catch fire.

What you see now was created out of the ruins of what became better known as Snuff Mill.

In 1837 West cut a 200ft long underground passage to what he called Ghyston's Cave. Originally the only way to it was to climb from the foot of the Gorge. It is said to have been linked with the ancient chapel of the hermitage of St Vincent, described by the mediaeval William Wycester as being the most dangerous part of the rock called Ghyston. Some pieces of the rock, carved masonry and a large square piece of glazed tile were discovered within the cave. The chapel is believed to have broken away and plunged to the foot of the Gorge. Visitors can stand on a platform and enjoy the eye-catching views.

In a 1900 guide book mention is made of half a dozen umbelliferae growing among the St Vincent Rocks, which some considered to be relics of the garden of potherbs grown by the recluse in the cave.

The camera obscura (or darkened chamber) is an optical device that projects an image of its surroundings on to a screen in a darkened room.



In 1828 what remained of the mill was leased to a highly successful local artist, William West, by the owners, the Society of Merchant Venturers. He decided to use it as a studio, but his business brain must have realised that it had a great financial potential if it was converted into an Observatory and Camera Obscura.

In an advertisement published in June 1830 West described the obscura as embracing the whole of the surrounding scenes to the horizon from the viewing gallery. He also offered visitors the use of achromatic and Newton telescopes and an astronomical clock.

It is now the only example of its kind left in England. The largest in the world can be found on Constitution Hill in Aberystwyth in Wales.

The concept was known to the Greek philosopher Aristotle, who viewed the crescent shape of a partially eclipsed sun through holes in a sieve!

In June of last year (2013) the Obscura and Cave (now known as St Vincent's cave) was put on the market with a price tag of £2 million, only for the third time in its history. It still remains unsold.

This well worth seeing attraction close to Clifton Village is open during the winter months at weekends. The cost of visiting the Observatory is £2 and a further £2 for enjoying a long walk down to the original cave entrance.

To find out more details about visiting this great tourist attraction and opening times that may vary, call 0117 974 1242.

Bristol, The Slave Trade and Edward Colston's Involvement

Much has been written about citizens of our noble city's involvement in the infamous transatlantic slave trade.

Among them was Edward Colston, born in Temple Street on November 2, 1636 and leaving it at the age of 18 to make his fortune in London after becoming a merchant's apprentice.

His money making capabilities began after joining the Mercers Company in 1673 and he began trading on his own account to Europe in woollen textiles and wine.

By March 1680 he had raised enough cash to buy shares in the London-based Royal African Company, whose members were the only ones allowed to trade with the Dark Continent for gold, ivory and slaves. Although there are no records to reveal the amount that he was paid from the trading in slaves, it has been established that Colston was paid dividends, such as 50 guineas in July 1680 and 160 guineas in November 1685.

Four years later he sold some of his shares to William Prince of Orange for the princely sum of £1,000, and then bought more for himself! As for profits that Colston made from dealing in wine and oil, they remain a mystery. But what has been discovered is that he was an active member of the governing body of the RAC for 11 years. Son of a wealthy merchant, Colston went to great lengths to keep secret his association with the company whose monopoly of the transatlantic slave trade was ended following a petition to Parliament in 1694 from merchants who were not involved in it. This was followed by an active campaign organised by the Society of Merchant Venturers. By 1698 Parliament finally agreed to the breaking up of the monopoly.

Trade was opened to the West Indies to anyone who agreed to pay 10 per cent on all transactions going in or out, with the exception of gold, silver and black African slaves, which were zero rated.

What led to the call for the break-up of the monopoly was the shortage of cheap labour – slaves. At first plantation owners were able to use native Carib Indians, but due to overwork, disease and in some cases mass suicides, their extinction followed.

Attempts were then made to get cheap labour from Ireland and England. Servants, and others desperate to find work, were offered free passage if they agreed to be indentured for a set number of years.

Between 1654 and 1685, indentured 10,000 white servants sailed from Bristol for the West Indies. Most proved to be unsuitable for work in the tropics. They caught diseases and died like flies.

As those searching a new life abroad dwindled, kidnapping of children and young people became common, and political prisoners and religious dissidents were transported to the Caribbean. Bristol became notorious for transporting its criminals to hard labour in sugar and tobacco plantations owned by the elite merchants of the city

It was soon decided by such owners that black African slaves were the best workers. They could stand

the heat and be made to work harder than the white slaves. They were farmers who knew how to till the land. But the hard work they were forced into meant that one third of them died within three years of their arrival, creating a constant demand for their replacement. So began the most serious period of histories of Bristol and Liverpool in this vile trade in which Bristol became a very expensive port to use because of the high charges made by the Society of Merchant Venturers who controlled it, resulting in Liverpool overtaking it as the second biggest port in the land after London.

Edward Colston must have had some compassion and guilt for how he achieved his wealth. It led him to bequeath the money to build the almshouses you will find on St Michaels Hill in 1631. It was to be home for 12 men and 12 women. It was opened in 1691 and has been designated a Grade I listed building by English Heritage. The clock and belfry tower mark its barrel-vaulted chapel.

The residents had to be Bristol born and regularly attend services in the chapel. It still provides a home for the elderly and is run by the Society of Merchant Venturers. Colston, in his day, was a popular benefactor to the city of his birth, donating money to various charities throughout his life. He founded two almshouses and a school before dying in Mortlake, near London on October 11, 1721.

His body was carried in a hearse to Bristol and buried "amid much pomp and ceremony at All Saints Church," on October 27th.

Standing in Colston Avenue in the heart of Bristol is a statue commissioned in the 19th century by a committee set up by one of the city's best known printers of his day, J.W. Arrowsmith. It was considered by far the best of the 32 entries submitted in the competition to commemorate his life and what he had done for the city.

It was unveiled by the city's Mayor, Mr W.H. Davies on November 13, 1895. Much to the embarrassment



of those that backed this idea to commemorate the life and good works of Edward Colston, subscriptions were not sufficient enough to pay for the work to be completed. However, records reveal that the deficit was met by "an anonymous gentleman".

Bronze dolphins decorate the corners of the statue's plinth and according to legend Edward Colston took them as a symbol following the safe return of an uninsured vessel, where a large hole in the side was plugged by a young dolphin using its body, allowing it to reach safety.

The same story inspired the name of the Dolphin Society founded in Bristol in 1749 by 18 gentlemen members of the Colston Society commemorating Edward Colston's birthday by dining at the Cock Tavern in Corn Street, where they made a charitable collection for the poor. Ever since it has launched an annual charitable appeal.



History in the making

by Bob White

On the 25 September 2012 The Baily Lodge No 5239 made a little bit of history by installing Bro. Nathan Parsons as their Worshipful Master. At just 25 years old Nathan is the youngest master to be installed in the chair of King Solomon in approximately 235 years of the Province of Bristol. Nathan was initiated, passed, raised and installed by his father W. Bro Mike Parsons, his initiation taking place on 28th October 2008; he was then raised on 25th January 2009 and finally installed on the 25th September 2012 making it a family affair.

His father said "it was a very proud moment for me having initiated Nathan into Masonry and to install him as Worshipful Master, not an opportunity that every father gets."

With his year of Mastership soon coming to an end, Nathan has already expressed his desire to fulfil further offices within the Craft and Royal Arch degrees, and is taking an active role in supporting the Provincial Grand Master's social



media operation by managing the Province's Face book and Twitter accounts.

Nathan said "It has been an honour and privilege to be Worshipful Master of The Baily Lodge. The support I have received from the members and from the Province has been incredible and the camaraderie the Circle has provided is second to none – I will look back on the year with great fondness and I cannot encourage enough members to strive to reach the chair of King Solomon – a truly rewarding experience."

The American Civil War Even on the Battlefield itself

At the beginning of July, Bro Dave Howells of Temple Lodge No. 6673, an American Civil War re-enactor, visited Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. He was there with friends to take part in the 150th Anniversary Re-enactment of the famous battle. However, while there he took time to look into a masonic incident that is alleged to have taken place on the third day of the actual battle.

On the first two days of the action Confederate General Robert E Lee had attacked both the left and right flanks of the Union army. This had resulted in the Union army forming a fish hook defensive line along a ridge known as Cemetery Hill. Having failed to dislodge the flanks, on



Masonic monument in Gettysburg Cemetery depicting General Armistead CSA and Captain Henry Bingham US Army

the third day General Lee would order a frontal attack at the centre of the Union line.



Bro Howells in Confederate uniform. Note the square and compass brooch on the jacket. Such emblems were known to be worn by masons during the war.

One of the Brigade commanders who would make this charge was General Lewis A Armistead. Armistead had been initiated into the Craft in Winchester Hiram Lodge No. 21, Winchester, Virginia in February 1839. A regular officer in the Union army prior to the Civil War, he had served in Mexico and in the West, on frontier duty, with his close friend Winfield Scott Hancock. Hancock was also a fellow mason and was a member of Charity Lodge No. 190 of Norristown, Pennsylvania. The friendship was known to be close as it is recorded that their wives were also friends.

The third day at Gettysburg would see both men's worst fears realised, as General Hancock was placed in command of the Union 2nd Corps, which was positioned in the centre of the Union line.

During the failed Confederate assault, which has gone down in history as Pickett's Charge, both Hancock and Armistead were wounded. While Hancock was off the field being treated for a light wound, his friend would be mortally wounded in amongst the first line of Union guns. Much myth and legend had been made of what happened next and the full account

is unfortunately lost to history. The popular account relates that while lying wounded Gen Armistead gave the Sign of Distress and called for help for the Widow's Son. Mason Captain Henry H Bingham of the US Army then went over to Armistead to render any assistance he could. On hearing that Hancock was also wounded, Armistead is said to have cried "Oh God, please, not both of us!" He then gave his personal possessions to Bingham, who promised that he would ensure they were sent to Mrs Hancock.

Eyewitnesses who were non masons, stated that Armistead did mention the Widow's Son. However, some accounts recount that it was a US Infantry Private and fellow mason that first went to his aid and that Capt Bingham met up as Armistead was carried from the field. In Gettysburg Cemetery the monument Friend to Friend was installed by local masons in honour of the incident.

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W.Bro. Brian Beaven

By Stuart Budd

When I sat down to write this brief eulogy it was Wimbledon Finals day, the sun was high in the horizon, and it was blazing. It was the sort of beautiful English summer afternoon that Brian would have enjoyed spending in his garden.

When I began I was sad and pensive, but as I wrote I



smiled, and I thought of how truly lucky and privileged I was to have known Brian Beaven.

I first met Brian when he was one of two very senior Past Masters who interviewed me for admission into the Dolphin Lodge. He displayed a unique blend of sincerity, passion and schoolboy enthusiasm that was both endearing and infectious. I liked him immediately. I remember thinking that if this is the sort of man that Masonry attracts; it has to be a good thing. From the day of my Initiation and throughout my progress in Masonry Brian kept an eye on me. He was always there offering sage advice, support, inspiration and encouragement.

He gave me my first ritual book (strict Dolphin workings of course) and I still have it, I will always have it.

Brian was an accomplished, keen and active Mason and was Worshipful Master of Dolphin Craft Lodge twice, and also of Dunkerley Mark Lodge. He was a strong social supporter too, enjoying the fun aspect of Masonry and came to our Ladies' Nights, functions and events accompanied by Eileen of course, herself a great supporter of the Brian's Masonry and of the Lodge.

Brian never criticised, never forced his personal opinions and never had a hidden agenda. Although he was highly experienced and knowledgeable, he was always friendly and approachable, as well as modest and self effacing and he delighted in sharing his deep love of the Craft with us.

Recently Grand Lodge instigated a "Lodge Mentoring" programme. Not exactly a new concept for Brian, as he had been running his own Lodge Mentoring programme for years and if you seek a good definition of Lodge Mentor just think of Brian Beaven.

Brian loved the Bristol ritual and he was extraordinarily good at it. He was one of the very few men who could stand in for any of the officers in any part of the ceremony at a moment's notice. I've seen him do it. It's a rare and respected talent and it earned him the epithet "Super Sub". But "Super Sub" didn't just know our ritual; more importantly he under-

stood the meaning and messages "veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols"

In Masonry we are told to practise out of the Lodge what we are taught within it, and Brian fully embraced this setting the world a bright and shining example of what a "Good Man and a Mason" should be.

You see, Brian didn't look after people just because they were Masons; he looked after everyone, because he was a Mason.....and Masonry was a great part of who he was.

On a holiday to Malta, "SuperSub" made contact with a Maltese Lodge, and was invited to a meeting.

He obviously impressed them, because on his next holiday to Malta they asked him to stand in for one of the Deacons. This he of course did, although I'm sure that some Bristol embellishments crept in and thus our "Super Sub" gained international recognition!

In 2010, Brian was made an honorary member of Dolphin and also of Dunkerley Mark Lodge. This is the highest honour that a Lodge can bestow. It is seldom given, and never given lightly

This meant the world to Brian and he was overjoyed and grateful for these honours. However, he was typically unassuming and I believe that he never really expected them.....After all; to his mind he was only doing his masonic duty.

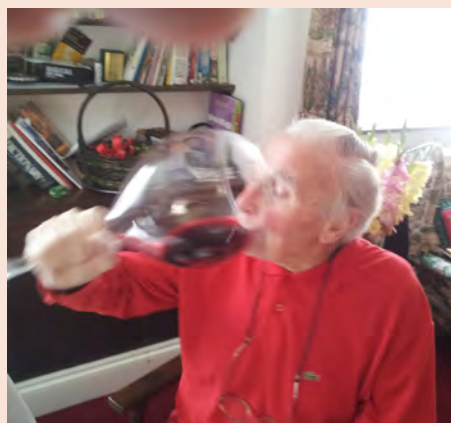
In the past few years Brian's health began to fail and it became increasingly difficult for Eileen to care for him at home, so Brian was found a place in Cado-gan Court in Exeter, a care home run by the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. There he lived his last days and Eileen and the family are extremely grateful to these wonderful people for making his time there so comfortable. I would like to add the gratitude of the Dolphin Lodge to this.

The passing of Worshipful Brother Brian Beaven to the Grand Lodge above is a sad loss to us all to The Dolphin Lodge in particular and to Masonry in general.

I know that at the allotted hour, at the time when we Masons remember such people, glasses will always be raised to the memory of Worshipful Brother Brian Beaven - our Mentor and our "Super Sub".....

WBro Leslie Sheppard

by Paul Smith



It is with a sad heart that I inform the brethren of the Province of Bristol of the departing of W Bro Leslie Sheppard to the Grand Lodge above.

Leslie passed away on Friday 26th July 2013, three days after the funeral of his beloved wife Dorothy on July 23rd.

His funeral was on Wednesday 7th August 2013 and was attended by the Worshipful Master and other members of the Lodge of Virtue and Industry, his

mother lodge in the Province of Bristol.

W Bro Leslie was Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1983 and again in 2001.



The funeral was not too sombre, as we were asked by his sons Gavin and Shaun that as their father was such a colourful character, so we should celebrate that at the funeral. NO Black

ANY bright colour will do.

Many members of the 1982 and 2001 circle as well as other members of the Province will no doubt remember Leslie for his unmistakable laugh, sense of humour, and keen enthusiasm for fund raising events organised by himself and his wife Dorothy.

Leslie's son Shaun read a eulogy to his father and later his grandson read a poem to the memory of his grandfather. It was with sad irony that a similar poem had been read previously by his granddaughter at his grandmother Dorothy's funeral just a few weeks earlier.

It is because of W Bro Leslie, that I became involved in Masonry, as he proposed my father in law, Colin Jenkins as a candidate in 1991 to the Lodge of Virtue and Industry. I was in turn proposed by my father-in-law in to the Lodge in 1995.

I remember so many events attended by the Sheppards. Dorothy in her elegant evening gowns and Les a solid figure of a man, looking every inch a mason.

Although both had not enjoyed good health for several years it is still sad that they have now passed on, bringing as it does the end of an era.

Our heartfelt condolences are passed on to his sons Gavin and Shaun and their families.

Ronald Thomas Bates

(26th September 1922 - 8th December 2013)

Ronald Thomas Bates, who was Provincial Grand Master for the Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Bristol, from 1988 to 1996, sadly passed away on the 8th December 2013, aged 91 years.

A thanksgiving service was held at a packed Christchurch Downend, to celebrate the life of a very special man and there follows here the tribute paid to Ron, at the service by The Provincial Grand Master for Bristol, Rt. W.Bro. John Platts.

Ron was born on 26 September 1922 and had two younger brothers, Stan and Ken. His mother, Lillian, was a loving and caring woman but his father, Tom was a harsh man, a bully inclined to take his belt to both his wife and his children.

In 1936, when Ron was just 14 years old, Lillian died suddenly and the boys were split up with Stan and



Ken being sent away to be looked after by relatives, whilst Ron remained with his father

During his time at school, Ron developed a passion for competitive sports. One of his highlights being he personally won the Hannah More, Inter-Schools Swimming Trophy

He was an enthusiastic rugby player, and on leaving school played for the Old Boys team and later Bristol Harlequins. He was also a fleet-footed runner, a competent boxer and wrestler.

Whilst with the Police he won the No 7 District Wrestling Championship on 6 consecutive occasions. Later he took up golf, playing to a handicap of 5 and representing the District at Golf.

Ron left school at 14 and had a number of jobs, before settling on a career in the Police Force.

It was when Ron was working as a van boy at Fishponds Laundry that he met a pretty young office junior called Edna Wiltshire and thought to himself "Hmm I like the look of her". It must have been mutual, because when they met again he uttered the memorable words "How old are you". Thus started a romance that was to last almost 75 years.

They were married when Ron was 20 and Edna was 21 and last year they celebrated 70 years of marriage.

In 1941, he volunteered for the RAF, but was unsuccessful, because as a railwayman, he was in a reserved occupation.

In 1946, he applied for entry into the Police Force and was accepted.

Over the years he has related to me many reminiscences about his time in the Police Force and there are many serving and retired Police Officers, some of them here today, who will vouch for his kindness and wise counsel.

Ron was a dedicated Mason. He was initiated in 1961 in Temple Lodge and joined the Brunswick Mark Lodge soon after, in 1963 and later that same year the Harris Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners. He was Secretary of Temple Lodge for many years and of Brunswick Mark for 16 years. He was the Founding Secretary of Goodwin Mark Lodge in 1981.

In 1984, Ron was appointed Provincial Grand Secretary of the Mark Province of Bristol a position he held until his appointment as Provincial Grand Master in 1988 an office he held for 8 years, during which time he also served on the Mark General Board and the Grand Master's Royal Ark Council.

In September 1993, he suffered a ruptured aortic aneurysm and Ron's life was saved only by the prompt action of John Williams of Baldwyn Lodge who found him collapsed and Tony Baker, a vascular

surgeon and member of Goodwin Lodge, who answered an emergency call to deal with a ruptured aneurysm. It is my firm belief that God, in his infinite wisdom, had spared him Ron another day.

Ron was a loving and caring husband and he and Ed were the perfect match and the bond between them was evident for all to see.

Ron was my best friend; he was kind, loyal, honourable with kindest heart of any man I know. He was not only generous in the cause of charity but also of his time. Until prevented by advancing years and disability himself, it had been almost his life's work to take the time to visit the sick, the infirm, the lonely and the bereaved – and not just friends, but people with whom he might only have had a passing acquaintance. He was a great man and a great friend and I, along with so many others, miss him terribly.

Heaven for Ron will probably entail: playing all his favourite sports in the morning; looking after others in the afternoon and in the celestial evening, standing outside the cinema – waiting for his girl: but I hope she keeps him waiting a little while longer.

John Platts
Provincial Grand Master

SHINGLES BE VERY AWARE

I want to share with you what I have learnt AFTER I developed shingles and explain how you can reduce your chances of a potentially dangerous and very painful event.

Herpes zoster (or simply zoster), commonly known as shingles, is a viral disease characterized by a painful skin rash with blisters in a limited area on one side of the body (left or right), often in a stripe. To develop shingles you must first have contracted chicken pox.

According to a 1965 16 year UK study, if you have had chicken pox and live to 85, you have a 50% chance of developing the illness. You do not want to be within that 50%.

YOU CANNOT CATCH SHINGLES. After the initial episode of chickenpox probably as a child, the chicken pox (varicella zoster) virus is not totally eliminated from the body by the immune system and remains latent in the nerve cell without causing any symptoms for decades. The virus may break out of nerve cell bodies causing a painful and unsightly rash and blisters which usually heals within two to four weeks. If that sounds in any way benign read on.

Some sufferers experience residual nerve pain for months or years, a condition called postherpetic neuralgia (PHN). This is a severe, unpleasant, long-term nerve pain that is often described as burning, stabbing or throbbing. I have experienced all three of the symptoms since shingles took hold, 24 hours a day for the past 5 weeks.

PHN can prevent sufferers from living a normal life, and for some even a slight breeze or in my case an exhaling breath against the skin can be painful and distressing.

Sometimes shingles can develop in the eye and/or affect the skin of the eyelid. This can cause severe pain and lead to decreased vision or even permanent blindness in that eye. Shingles can also lead to other complications like scarring, skin infections, or permanent hearing loss on the side of the body where the rash developed.

Exactly how the virus remains latent in the body, and subsequently re-activates, is not understood. While shingles can affect anyone at any age after they have suffered an infection of chicken pox, it is unusual below age 50 and more common in the older the person. I am 63 years old.

Once an outbreak occurs it has to run its course. Relief is provided by powerful painkillers. Anti viral drugs can, if taken within 72 hours of the appearance of the rash, contain the outbreak but this is second line defence for the virus cannot be destroyed.

On trawling the internet, if you exclusively read UK websites, you will learn what is included above. However I was able to find on Wikipedia how the US and UK deal with the problem.

In the US they routinely immunize all the population at age of 60 or over using a vaccine called ZOSTREX which was released in 2006. The shingles vaccine is considered the most effective way to reduce incidence of herpes zoster according to US studies by over 50% and post-herpetic neuralgia-PHN by over 66%, and to reduce severity of any outbreak by over 60%. These are big numbers.

We know how vaccines work, they stimulate the immune system. UK medical learning has been that it is hoped that during our lifetime we will come into contact with a sufferer of chicken pox which will act as the required stimulus to our immune system. If only someone had told me how I would be advantaged by embracing a carrier of chicken pox.

The UK's immunisation committee - the JCVI - has in any event recommended that those between 70 and 80 years be vaccinated against shingles, a programme which has been introduced by some since September this year. However the recommendation is being interpreted by medical centres in a host of different ways. For example some are inviting those at age 65 to include Zostrex with their next influenza jab. Some are offering Zostrex to those exclusively 71 and 79 years old and some the whole range of years between 70 and 80.

Of course the disease is not aware of the programme. I am 63, if only the disease had lain dormant for another seven years while I awaited the call from my medical centre for an inoculation.

Tip. I referred earlier to the 72 hour window wherein anti viral drugs can contain the disease. This is very important. Here are some of the warning symptoms that shingles may be developing. Back pain might be the first sign - in my case I thought that I had pulled a muscle lifting an object and dismissed it as that. You will probably then start to feel a little under the weather, a bit nauseous nothing too much and finally the early signs of a rash. It is critical to act within hours and see your G P.

CONCLUSION. Save yourself a lot of agony. If you are under the age of 70 you will probably have to pay for the inoculation but speak to your medical practitioner and get vaccinated. If it is good enough for the whole of the 60 plus US population, it surely is good enough for us. If I had been aware of the vaccine I would have paid the £100/200 to shield myself from this whole experience which I would rather you were able to avoid.

by Stuart MacKendrick





WHY SHOULD I SPEND 23p PER DAY ?

All Bristol Masons and their families should have heard by now about the 2019 Festival in aid of the Masonic Samaritan Fund. But why should we as Bristol Masons take it to our hearts and spend 23p per day to support it?

Two Bristol brethren, Robert Bradshaw of Peace Lodge and Pat Clark of Temple Lodge would like to share their experiences with you.

Robert was suffering from a totally collapsed arthritic ankle and needed extensive surgery if he was to be mobile again and continue his twin passions of bowling and walking. The Masonic Samaritan Fund provided funding for the surgery to take place which involved the use of two tungsten screws to hold the ankle joint together. Robert has made a full recovery. The MSF are presently in discussion with him and his wife over her long painful wait for a hip replacement on the NHS.

Pat was suffering with severe knee pain and had been waiting for two years for a MRI scan on the NHS. The MSF through the small grants scheme arranged for Pat to be scanned privately with a consultation costing £500. The MSF are now in discussion with him to see what help is available as there is a 26 week waiting list for the knee operation and would cost in excess of £4000.00 if it was done privately.

There have been other Bristol masons and their dependants whom have really benefited by receiving grants for short – term residential stays, in other words much needed caring breaks. Some have received the benefits of stair lifts having been fitted in their houses by the MSF, whilst others have taken advantage of the six free counselling sessions to help keep their lives on track. All these people who wish to remain anonymous, have fed back that the support the MSF was able to provide was invaluable in maintaining a much needed quality of life for themselves and their families and fulfilling the MSF creed, **“Your Health is our Concern.”**

This MSF support naturally costs money. In the 5 years to 31/12/12 the MSF spend in the Bristol Province was £54,471 and in the 12 months to 30/09/2013 £12,721. However in the 12 months to 30/09/2013 the Four Grand Charities (MSF, Grand Charity, Royal Masonic Trust, RMBI) spend in the Bristol Province was £96,687.00.

The MSF spent nationally in the 12 months to 30/09/2013 £3,812,966.00 and the Four Grand Charities £17,895,073.00

So Brethren please ask your selves this question:

“Can I afford not to spend 23p per day in support of the MSF 2019 Festival which is your charity, there for you and your dependants?”

For further details concerning the MSF please see their web site: www.msfund.org.uk

Please contact

WBro. Steve Bennett the Festival Chairman: sb@bristol2019.com or

WBro. Tim Brunton the Provincial Charity Steward: timothybrunton@googlemail.com

for Festival information.

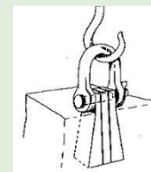
Gift aid forms are available in the foyer at Park Street or from your lodge charity steward.

Masonic Familes

I was very proud to be asked to become a Mason and was told that I was a Lewis. Obviously not being a Mason at the time, the term Lewis didn't mean a thing to me. Very much like many parts of the ceremonies which, at the time I first heard them were very unfamiliar and only time and further understanding realised the reasoning behind all these mysteries. I have never regretted persevering and learning more about the Craft, it's symbolisms and everything else associated with our wonderful fraternity.

At the time of joining I just accepted that a Lewis was the son of a Freemason and I was given the privilege of taking precedence of being initiated before the two other candidates in my year (1987).

Sometime later I researched further and discovered that in fact a Lewis is an iron cramp (see left), that



is forced into a cavity of a stone to enable the lifting or lowering of that stone. This seems to be a very important tool to use when constructing such building as a King Solomon's Temple, but it is not used as a Masonic tool in our rituals – or if it is I'm not aware in

which order it would be used.

Whilst my late Father, W Bro Douglas Satherley was the first Mason in his own family line and not a Lewis, my late mother, Audrey (nee Kerslake) often said that she was very proud that her husband Douglas, her sons W Bro. Ian and myself of course, all became Freemasons because her own father W Bro. Ernest A. Kerslake was also in the Craft.

I remember seeing his photo (left) on the mantelpiece at home as a child when we lived in



Bishopston in Bristol. Mum often said that if her father was a Freemason, then it must be an organisation worth belonging to, as she looked up to her father as a good man who she thought the world of. He was a prominent local licensee in Bristol for 22 years and ran the former Foresters' Arms in Westbury-on-Trym. In his earlier years he played for Bristol Rugby Club, was a past President of St Augustine Old Boys Society and also a member of Westbury branch

of the British Legion.

He was a Past Master of St Andrews Lodge, (No. 2541) at Avonmouth and also a Past Master of Avon Lodge of Mark Master Masons, (No. 646) meeting at Avonmouth.

Avon Lodge of Mark Master Masons has just celebrated its Centenary, where it currently meets at Stapleton. Ian and I were very proud of the way in which part of the evening included a special presentation of the Lodge's history and our family connection. A new Banner was dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro James Green and Centenary Jewels were presented to all members by Assistant Grand Master, R W Bro Keith Emmerson, on behalf of M W Bro HRH Prince Michael of Kent.

It was also nice to see Mark Master Masons of Bristol represented, with the V W Bro Keith Downes, Deputy Provincial Grand Master and V W Bro Phil Patrick, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, representing the Province.

W Bro David Mills, a former Bristol Mason (The Lodge of Unity), gave a first class oration of the history of Avon Mark Lodge and referred to Ian and me due to our family connections and this was a memorable moment for both of us.

Our great grandfather, W Bro Thomas Taffe, (also a licensee in Westbury-on-Trym at the Post Office Tavern, now the POT of WOT) was a founder

member of Avon Mark Lodge which was consecrated in Avonmouth on the 11th November 1913 and which was a daughter Lodge of Lyegrove No. 218. It is Avon Mark Lodge where our strongest family link is found, as not only is there a blood line connection, but also a family marriage connection as well with no less than five in all, as below:

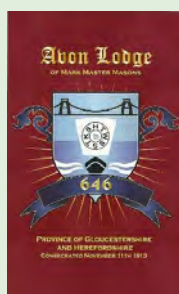
WBro Thomas Taffe
(Great Grandfather)
WBro Ernest Andrew Kerslake
(Grandfather)
WBro Douglas W A Satherley (Father)
WBro Ian C Satherley
WBro Michael D Satherley

In 1931 a proposal was made by the Lodge Secretary to apply to become a Keystone Lodge and this was seconded by our grandfather, W Bro E A Kerslake. To qualify as a Keystone Lodge, membership involved promising a levy in connection with the Mark New Building Fund in London. This was explained as a ten year levy but due to the intervening war years and suspension of meetings because of Avonmouth being a specific enemy target, the final levy was actually paid in December 1952, which was obviously too late for any of our ancestors to witness as they had then passed to the Grand Lodge above.

Ian and I were really pleased that dad reached the chair of Avon Mark Lodge and following this he was notified of his Provincial Grand Lodge Honours, but regrettably a short time later he passed away having never had the pleasure of actually receiving them.

Many brethren in Park Street still make comments to me about dad as they still remember him as a good friend and a well-respected Freemason and this makes us feel very proud indeed, but there is one incident in particular that I would like to share with readers and that is the time dad noticed R W Bro Michael Flynn, then Provincial Grand Master driving to Ian's house (dad lived a few doors away at the time) and he wondered why R W Bro Michael would be visiting Ian. Dad being dad as we knew him, thought about this and asked Ian, who replied that he couldn't say anything at the time. He then passed Ian an envelope and said he had written what he thought was the reason inside and Ian should check it when the time was right.

Dad never lived long enough to see if he was right, because about an hour after dad had passed away at Frenchay, Ian told me as we were leaving the hospital about the envelope and he would open it when he got home. He did and inside dad had written that he believed Ian was going to be offered the Office of Provincial Grand Secretary – the rest is history.



Another story that still makes me chuckle is the one that W Bro Richard Lewis often reminds me of when dad had just joined Avon Mark. He was in the bar at Park Street and was still excited about his new membership that he said in great detail to the late R W Bro Norman Cavvelli how much he enjoyed Mark Master Masons and he felt that R W Bother Norman would also enjoy becoming a member. Norman in his special way played along with this for a while and couldn't retain this stance any longer and had to say to dad that actually he was the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol Mark Master Masons. I feel sure that they are both still laughing about it together now.

Finally, as a poignant memory of the occasion for this Centenary Celebration, a small handbook outlining the history of Avon Mark Lodge was produced and I'm sure that every member will treasure that as a lasting memory for an excellent evening. We should never forget the history of our respective Lodges whether Mark Master or Craft Lodges – it is so important, especially to our younger Brethren.

W Bro Michael D Satherley
(The Lodge of Unity No. 7401)

Letter From France



The early part of the year saw us returning to the U.K for my Mum's 80th Birthday, a great family occasion; followed by a swift departure to Australia's warmer climes to have our first close encounter of the snugly kind with our almost brand new Grand Daughter Lily, who was born in late November 2012. Skype is good but nothing quite compares with physical contact. Now if only they could 'beam us' over a la Star Trek, our backsides would truly appreciate it!

After a very enjoyable time in a way too hot Western Australia, we arrived back in France towards the end of March hoping to have avoided the worst of the winter weather; only to find that the wet stuff, together with a week's worth of sub-zero temperatures, had obligingly hung around to give us a good welcome home! The chilly stuff continued into June and for the first time since we moved here we had log fires going until the end of May, not funny. Thankfully we did get a pretty reasonable summer and our visiting holiday makers mostly went home with varying degrees of suntan or sunburn.

In late July we took the opportunity to go and watch the final of the World Water Ski Racing Championships which were held not very far away from us on the man made Lake Eguzon. This should not be confused,

as we nearly did, with the natural Lake Eguzon, which is some 70 miles further east. Fortunately we recognised our mistake in time to avoid undue expense beyond a cancelled hotel booking fee.

The location having been properly identified, we ensconced ourselves in a very pleasant family run hotel about a 20 minute drive north of the lake. (Good food but beware the exuberance of garlic!)

Although the lake is man made and provides water and hydro electric power to the surrounding towns and villages, it has been there for a number of years and now blends in very well with the surrounding hills and woodlands. Just north of the area lies the very picturesque village of Gargillesse, former haunt of George Sands and other sundry Brits of note. Composed mainly of rather old and charmingly quaint houses, the village is perched somewhat precariously on the east side of a steeply sloping valley. It is well worth a visit and provides an excellent example of ancient architecture and modern motor cars not going well together at all. Thankfully such modern contraptions are banned from the majority of the old cobbled streets.

Forewarned by the President of the Water Ski Racing Federation, who was staying at the same hotel (and who just happens to be the Master who initiated me into the Robert Thorne Lodge), we arrived at Eguzon lakeside mid-morning of race day and managed to blag our way past the numerous car parking attendants to secure a parking spot overlooking the water, as opposed to the official car parks which were about a mile away up some very steep roads. The weather was perfectly warm and sunny without being too hot and the madding crowds commenced arriving around midday. We reckon about 10,000 watched from our side of the water with probably a similar number on the other shore which also housed the boat pits. The races comprised of a various number of boats towing mono-skied skiers around a 2 mile or so course at speeds varying from 80 to over 200 kph. Each race lasts for 50 minutes plus one lap, so not exactly for the unfit or faint hearted participant. Having succumbed for a short while to the wine and the warm weather, we never did quite figure out who won what, but it was a very enjoyable day out none the less. Chatting subsequently to a couple of the boat engineers we garnered that the amount of fuel consumed in one afternoon's racing was around about 16,000 litres, which we reckon would keep our C4 on the road for around about 22 years!

Late summer produced very damp and humid conditions which gave rise to a very unwelcome boom in the mosquito population both locally and nationally. So much so that there was even a government website dedicated



to providing you with not only the level of mosquito activity in your area but also the types that are currently biting! Whilst I am by no means immune to the little blighters,

my wife, Angela,

is a mozzie magnet! She is a much valued walking companion in insect laden times, as giving the little biters the option of munching on her rather than on me is on a par with offering a Chocoholic the choice between a large bar of Cadbury's Dairy Milk or a bag of carrots!

In an effort to mitigate the effects of said predators we experimented with various different types of repellents; ranging from an Australian brand rather charmingly and aptly named 'Koala Fart', to a French make which proudly claims that it will provide 'Repulsif peau pour toute la famille'. The French one has proven very effective for both of us, so we have spent the last few months with (comparatively) bite free but repulsive skin!



Our Celebrations for 2014 started a wee bit early on Sunday 29th December with a very pleasant 6 course meal at a local restaurant. Our party of 7 were the only English amongst the 60 or so diners. The overall age range was from 4 to 80 and a very pleasant and convivial time was had by all. About the only part not well received by 'Les Anglais' were the escargot vol au vents that came as part of the starter, but otherwise all was tres yummy, if a bit much. In typical French fashion we started at about midday and came to a gradual conclusion around 5 p.m. On reflection, that is actually moderately fast for a 'repas des fetes' here.

Vive L'Empereur! According to the French Official Statistics Agency (Insee), Napoleon Bonaparte is alive and well and living at 3 Rue Saint-Charles, Ajaccio, Corsica. They sent him a national census form to fill in and having been informed by the present occupant of the property that he died in 1821, they promptly demanded proof! The owner has advised them to contact Les Invalides or forward the form to Saint Peter! Maybe Wellington is out there somewhere?

Nous vous souhaitons une tres bonne et heureuse 2014.

Bob et Angela Quick

Province Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Bristol

A Celebration of Christmas Freemasons' Hall, Bristol 15 December 2013

A change of organiser, a tried and tested formula but no change in enjoyment. W.Bro. David and Jean Hake, having taken over from V.W.Bro. Phil and Janet Patrick, with the organisation of this event, spared nothing in the planning of the Bristol Mark Annual "Celebration of Christmas".



After a reception drink in the bar, we made our way to No 2 Chapter Room, where we were welcomed by the Rev W.Bro Stephen Hawkins.

We all love to listen to Rev. Steve at this time of the year, as he is so passionate about the Christmas story and doesn't fail to enthuse us with his dulcet Bristolian tones.

He relayed to us his own thoughts on the traditions and changes as related to the Christmas story



and went on to explain the meaning of the good shepherd, which was all very thought-provoking and inspiring. It is clear to us that he is a real traditionalist and is most certainly in the right vocation.



Our singing commenced with "Hark the Herald Angels Sing", with organ accompaniment by W. Bro Paul Corder.

We then proceeded to gently move through the programme, which told the traditional story of Christmas by means of the carols we were singing, with inter carol links, given in the typical style of the Rev Stephen. Our last carol was sung with real enthusiasm as we then joyfully burst into "O come all ye faithful".

In the context of leaving the readers wanting more, I won't tell you about the story Rev. Steve relayed to us about the angel and the virgin!!

Following the Carol Service we made our way to the dining room, which had a distinctly Christmas feel, where we enjoyed a non-traditional dinner; apparently the goose was still getting fat! A packet of raffle tickets had been placed on the table, along with a Christmas quiz to keep us occupied and amused during dinner.



After the meal, as we were dealing with the challenge of the quiz, we were very pleasantly surprised by the appearance of a "host", not of angels, but by a group of hairy Edwardian Gentlemen. These strangers of the night, in the form of the "Owls of Pill" were dressed in traditional period costume. They had been recruited by W.Bro. David Hake and who set about entertaining us with some traditional old and new carols.



The PGM, John Platts and Pauline

They sang their repertoire with gusto and their leader explained that last year they had collected over £13,000 for their chosen charities, an impressive amount. They then passed the hat around, before they moved to bid farewell with their last song, "Goodnight Ladies".

Jean Hake then, called upon us to check our quiz sheets before drawing the raffle, which had some lucky winners travelling home with their prizes, the last one arguably, was either a bottle "crème de menthe" or a bottle of washing up liquid. No doubt one of us got the answer to that one! The Provincial Grand Master, Rt. W.Bro. John Platts then thanked those involved in the organisation and those taking part, before wishing us all a very happy Christmas and a prosperous and peaceful New Year.

David Maddy

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Annual Provincial Mark Mess Dinner



The annual Provincial Mark Mess Dinner this year was held in No 3 Dining Room, on the 24 October 2013.

This event was well supported and it will be no surprise that it was another huge success.

I overheard one member, who was obviously enjoying himself describe this, his first experience of the Provincial Mess Dinner, as a "happy and homely event". In my view he perfectly described this meeting, which brings together in a social setting the whole of the current year's Provincial Team for a convivial dinner.

It quickly becomes apparent when you walk into an occasion such as this, that the guests are enjoying themselves and the general hum



W.Bros. R C C Evans, PrGMO, M H Huggins, PrGReg, R J Unwin, PAGDC & PrGDC, W Whitehead, PrGJO and I D McKenzie-Jones, PrGIG

drum and chatter, which could be heard around the dining room from the apéritif reception to the closing after dinner port, was evidence that this event was a hub of enjoyment.

If you think I am exaggerating, just look at the face of W.Bro Bill Wood and tell me that he wasn't enjoying himself!



W.Bro. W A Wood, PrAGSwdB

This event was organised by W.Bro. Ian Pickett, the Provincial Grand Deputy Secretary, whose organisation and attention to detail ensured that this was another very successful Provincial Mark Dinner.

The PGM, Rt.W.Bro. John Douglas Arthur Platts proposed the loyal toast, which was followed by the only other toast, delivered by the PGSW, W.Bro George Paskins, who paid tribute to and proposed the health of the PGM.

The response by the PGM was inclusive in style, in the sense that we were all made to feel part of the Province and not just subscribing members of it. As such there was the ambience and banter typical of a private lodge. Although, this really shouldn't be a surprise for those members of the Mark degree, who know that this is one of its essential qualities.

In his reply the PGM reported on the health of his two predecessors, Rt.W.Bro. Ronald Thomas Bates and Rt.W.Bro. Ronald Stanley Smith. The "two Ronnie's" as they are affectionately known, RTB, was reported to be a little frail these days, but in very good spirits and sent his best wishes to everyone and the other Ron, RSS, who recently underwent a knee replacement operation, was reported as doing well and was hopeful of being with us again soon and as we heard, even in his absence, he was a great help in the organisation of this dinner, as he was responsible for the distinctive Mark place mats and menu cards, the latter of which were skilfully formed into keystones.



Rt.W.Bro. J D A Platts, PGM

The series of photos with this article, I think, shows the level of enjoyment experienced by the brethren. We now look forward to the next happy occasion.

If you are not yet a Mark Mason, details are available from the year book, or contact the Provincial Grand Secretary, that is the ever smiling jolly persona of W.Bro. Terry Rhys-Davies.

Footnote: this article was written before the sad death was announced of RtW.Bro. Ron Bates, who passed away on the 8th December 2013



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Provincial Charity News

Tim Brunton -

Provincial Grand Charity Steward

Once again the Grand Charity, through the support it receives from all us masons, has awarded the following grants to two hospices in our locality.

St. Peters Hospice has received £3,597.00

Jessie May has received £1,000.00

Remember the Grand Charity supports all hospices nationwide as well as all the air ambulances.

For further information please look at the Grand Charity web site : www.grandcharity.org

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The Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Bristol - A Bicentenary Celebration

As the Bicentenary celebration of Holy Royal Arch Masonry was coming to a close, the Province of Bristol decided to hold its own local celebration of both the occasion and the fund raising effort.



The focus for this very special occasion was determined by the M.E. the First Grand Principal, HRH The Duke of Kent, KG and in order to give the event impetus and purpose, launched an appeal in aid of the Royal College of Surgeons and the companions of Bristol, responded magnificently to the appeal.

In order to mark the closing of the appeal, an organising committee was established and they set out to decide on a suitable way to celebrate this historic event and after just a little pondering and no head scratching, decided on a Gala Ball at our

own venue in Park Street. This event would not be a fund-raiser, in fact quite the contrary, it would be designed to give something back to the companions who had supported the appeal, by making the Ball a great value celebratory occasion.



The MEGS E.Comp Alan John Vaughan announcing the total money raised.

So, after a little advertising and a great deal of organisation, 115 Royal Arch Masons with their family and friends arrived at Park Street to be treated and entertained in what was to become a really happy evening.

The event commenced with a Cava and canapés reception, which set the mood of the evening as a happy bustle was immediately triggered. There's nothing like a glass of bubbly and a variety of tasty nibbles to get the party going!

Following the reception, the guests moved into their respective dining rooms and were treated to a super meal, by our resident Chef Fredy.

Those of you who couldn't make it missed a real culinary delight, which consisted of: cucumber and pea gazpacho, asparagus wrapped in filo pastry & prawn brochette with aioli sauce, champagne sorbet, followed by fillet of beef with individual seasonal vegetables, summer berry dessert finished off by coffee & petit fours. What a treat!



At the conclusion of the dinner, the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, Excellent Companion Alan John Vaughan, proudly spoke of the efforts of his Province in meeting the appeal and said that the target, as set by Supreme Grand Chapter of £10 per member, was in Bristol nearly 2½ times greater than that at £25 per member.

In fact the amount raised by the Province totalled £14,214.14 which was glaringly illustrated by a banner in the Foyer. A splendid achievement indeed. The MEGS then went on to announce that nationally an amount of £2 million had been raised for the Royal College of Surgeons, whose vital work in medical research is wholly funded by voluntary contributions.

After the dinner there followed a free draw, with some quality prizes to be won.

All those with the energy left after such a scrumptious meal, then moved into the foyer, which had been transformed into an atmospheric dance area. With music provided by Dr Hutch and the Resistance, whose music hit the mark allowing the the party goers to dance until midnight.

In reporting on this event it would not be right if I didn't mention the back room staff including the attentive table service and the superb effort of bar manager Tony Griffiths and his team, who transformed No 3 dining room into a well stocked bar, which entailed moving fridges and stock from the basement and the rewards were obvious as this really did considerably enhance the enjoyment and convenience of those attending.

You will see from the photographs accompanying this article that there was much fun in evidence.

David Maddy



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Brother Shaun Lloyd, Charity Steward of the "Jerusalem Lodge" presenting a cheque for £325.00 to Mr Richard Flitter of the "Royal British Legion Riders", towards the Poppy Appeal.

Bro. Shaun purchases "Poppy lapel badges" each year and distributes them amongst the Bristol Lodges.

The Poppy Appeal raises money to support our service men and women and their dependants, past and present, in recognition of their service to Queen and Country. This takes many forms such as helping to pay bills through the welfare section, medical treatments and care in the community, prosthetic limbs and rehabilitation back into civilian life, to mention a few. All this costs a lot of money and without the donations from organisations like the Masons none of this would be possible; the Poppy appeal raised over £30m last year.

Collectors who we take for granted, give up a lot of spare time and effort to achieve this and give their time freely. The RBL Riders are the largest branch and are among the most active members of The Legion, the only difference is they wear leather jackets, instead of blazers, and ride motorcycles.

I acknowledge receipt of your generous donation of £325 and would once again like to thank the Jerusalem Lodge and the masons in general, for their continued efforts and generosity in helping us to support our armed forces, who, for our tomorrow gave their today.

Yours Sincerely
John Standfield

Bristol Squadron Legion Riders



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Freemasons of Bristol at the Bristol Harbour Festival

by Bob White

This year the PGM for Bristol Alan Vaughan decided that the Freemasons of Bristol should have an Exhibition stand at the Bristol Harbour Festival to promote the Province of Bristol and Freemasonry in the Community. This is all part of our continuing commitment to improve our communications and connect with the people of Bristol.

The Bristol Harbour Festival is the largest free outdoor event in the UK attracting over 270,000 visitors. The event takes place over three days in July from 26th - 28th and brethren were asked to help on our exhibition stand that was situated on Hanover Quay close to the Lloyds Bank building.

The main message was "Freemasonry – What it's all about" and also to inform any visitors about the charitable work we do in the Province for the community and for many local charities. For our exhibition display we ordered some new exhibition equipment branded by UGLE to reinforce our message which looked very professional.

The brethren who volunteered were asked to work either a morning or afternoon over the weekend to assist on the stand, and also encouraged to bring their wife or partner with them to show that it is important that family are involved in the social side of Masonry as well.

This was the first time that we had exhibited at a public event in the city, and the interest from the Bristol public was very positive. Over 40 visitors to our stand that expressed an interest in finding out more about Freemasonry were invited to visit and tour Freemasons Hall.

This took place on Saturday 21st September when the potential candidates were given a guided tour around Freemasons Hall by the PGM and DPGM that ended with a buffet in No 3 Dining Room.

Thank you to all the Brethren who gave their time to help make the Bristol Harbour Festival a success for the Freemasons of Bristol.



The Province of Bristol



Valentines Gala Ball

@

The Grand by Thistle Hotel, Broad St, Bristol. BS1 2EL

Saturday February 15th 2014

7.00pm Reception - Carriages at 1.00am

Tickets: £48.00

Why not save time & energy organising a
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Bristol Masonic Widows Association

March 2013 marked the twentieth anniversary of the Bristol Masonic Widows Association. It was a time to celebrate the friendships which have been formed within our association and to give thanks to our founder, the late Joan Flowerdew. In the months prior to her death, Joan had been kept informed of the proposed celebratory lunch and was delighted that we are thriving. Several of the founder members were present at the celebration which was enjoyed by all who attended.



In honour of Joan, we had a commemorative badge cast which gave our name and 1993-2013 around the outer edge. In the centre we chose a red Bristol flower with a dew drop on one of the petals. We thought it was a fitting tribute to the lady who had done so much for us all.

At our regular meetings we have been entertained and enlightened by a wealth of interesting speakers with subjects as varied as "Mission to Seafarers", "The Bristol Ice Rink" and "Bristol Blue Glass". We have also held a silent auction and raised funds for Headway, a charity that deals with brain injury. In July we ventured to Malmesbury, the home of the naked gardeners. Thankfully, there were no rude awakenings for us. We enjoyed the gardens and the coach trip.

During the summer we were asked to help run a cake stall and provide waiting staff for the prepared

food. This was for the Summer Fayre and several members were able to offer their help.

Last year we were asked to host the area meeting for Masonic widows. The ladies of our association agreed that this was something that we could do. Nearly all the ladies helped on the day: ensuring that guests were signed in; knew where the cloakrooms were located; provided with a hot drink; sold raffle tickets etc. and most importantly hosted a table to ensure the comfort of our guests.

It was a splendid affair and I whole-heartedly thank the committee for their hard work, ensuring that our members knew how and where to help the visitors.



The food and bar made certain that our dietary needs were surpassed. Our speaker showed us how to beautifully wrap our Christmas gifts. Some of the visitors were delighted that they were treated to a tour of the building.

As our year draws to an end, we can reflect on a busy and entertaining year. We appreciate the kind donations from Lodges which together with the legacy left to us, enables us to enjoy activities and a Christmas lunch together. We look forward to our friendly visit from Santa Claus, alias Fred Parsons and entertainment from a group headed by Penny Rawlings. We have no doubts that lunch will be wonderful!

The New Orders

Dear Editor

I would like to congratulate the many Masons responsible for arranging so many new Masonic Orders who meet in Bristol and use our beautiful building. Not only will these provide additional income for the Province but also new opportunities for enthusiastic Masons wishing to make an everyday advancement in Masonic knowledge.

The next step seems to be to encourage them to support all the other activities in Park Street which would hopefully increase their membership. W. Bros. Colin Lowther and Nigel Bevan are prepared to give lectures to Lodges regarding these orders should they have a suitable evening. There are only two routes in life backwards or forwards – stand still is never an option.

I have only joined a couple of these orders as I am a member of others outside the Province, but from what I see and learn in each order there has been a flurry of new members but then it slows down. I hope for all of them that they survive and progress, it would be unfortunate to allow them to start up and then see them fail in a short space of time.

So what can we all do in a proactive manner? Information could be obtained and distributed by the respective secretaries - might they be interested in attending our dances and church services, might some donate to our 2019 Festival Fund?

Almost immediately I had completed my third degree I felt a metaphorical arm behind my back persuading me to join the Royal Arch. However the Mark and the Royal Ark Mariner degrees remained a mystery to me for another twelve years until one W.M. was short of a candidate.

How to join the other orders was completely unknown to me until about five years ago. Now I am in the chair of one and thoroughly enjoying the visiting around Gloucestershire, Somerset and Wiltshire.

May I recommend to Bristol Masons that they consider joining other orders, which have marvellous rituals and can be quite dramatic! Finally I would encourage existing members of these orders to spread the word so that they can survive and flourish.

John Allen

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Provincial Communications Officer

Bob White

71 Wadham Grove
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0117 957 2776
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or deliver to Mailbox (as above)

Provincial Email - via
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