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Open Day..... a Big Success

by Bob White

The Province of Bristol hosted an Open Day at Freemasons Hall on Sunday 1st June. This was in conjunction with A PARK ON PARK STREET when Park Street was closed for the day and turned into a pop up Park. The Provincial Marquee was erected outside the building on the pavement and the people of Bristol were welcomed into Freemasons' Hall and invited to take a guided tour of the building including No 1 Lodge Room. The tours were conducted by the Provincial Grand Master and the provincial team which was very busy. On one occasion there were over 100 people waiting in the foyer for the next tour to begin.

There was also food and refreshments available in the bar, and just outside the entrance the @Bristol Gorilla proved very popular for a photo opportunity with the thousands of visitors taking advantage of Park Street being closed.

The Provincial Grand Master Alan Vaughan said he was very pleased with the amount of interest shown by the general public. There had also been a number who had shown a particular interest in joining with over thirty people requesting extra details being sent to them.



7in7 – It's over. Its done. But actually I think it's now only just beginning!

Well the 7 marathons in 7 days challenge for me completed with the finale on Sunday 13th April at the Virgin London Marathon and what a brilliant day that was I ran my fastest marathon of the week at 4:41.

I had the family turn up to support me from Ireland, Manchester, Farnborough, London, Chester, Bristol and Radstock and here they all are below at the NSPCC checkpoint 'The Kitchen' at mile 23 having a well-deserved drink after following me from Bristol for the week – what a super bunch they all are.



The week started off as most of you know from Park St in Bristol where I was given a really excellent send off by the Bristol Masons and joined by some fellow runners who stayed with me for various distances up to the halfway point.



I was supported all week by my eldest son Creig who drove the support vehicle (below) which was kindly donated by Darren Hawkins who not only put it through an MOT for us but insured it too. This really saved us a lot of money – thanks Darren.

It was a little wet that day but not that much that it dampened our spirits and we set off. I must say that silently I was a little anxious as to whether I would make it given that I had broken my big toe skiing 3 weeks before.

The first day saw us run out of Bristol city centre and up



Me with my medal London Marathon 2014

through Keynsham, Bath and the finish was in Chippenham where I found that my route was short by 1000m so I had to turn around and run back to do a loop to complete the marathon. The first day's run was a bit difficult, my normal running routine was impacted by the start of the challenge and I didn't actually hydrate sufficiently so at about 30km I got some cramp and had to phone Creig in the support vehicle to come back and bring me a strong electrolyte drink to bring back up my salt levels and within a short time I was over it. The toe was hurting a bit too but not so much that it was going to stop me.

We were staying in the Holiday Inn, Swindon, that night and when we got there I ordered the ice for my first ice bath which was essential for helping my legs recover for the next day, but I can tell you, it was not a comfortable experience!

We had to be quick with having the bath because we were due in Wotton-under-Edge that evening for a Lodge meeting where we were hopeful for a donation to the charity pot and they didn't let us down. We were met there by members



of the Bristol Province and in fact the members of Bristol supported me every evening that I attended lodge all the way to London and to have this support was wonderful and I thank all of you that made the effort.

Attending lodge each evening after the days run became too hard to maintain as the week progressed because not only did I become more tired I was not getting enough time off after a run to properly carry out my recovery routine to prepare for the next day. I discussed this with the PGM, Alan Vaughan, and he fully understood and we agreed that I would miss the actual lodge meetings but join

them afterwards later in the evening to eat and this was a much better balance.

The second day saw me starting from the NSPCC in Swindon where we were met by the local team of staff/volunteers and the local press and we got some good exposure for the challenge and the NSPCC. I had a surprise visit from my Auntie Morag who turned up with home baked hot sausage rolls to get us going and see us off.

I was joined by my trainer Cliff Canavan-King this day and he was staying with me for 2 days. This really helped me to get over the initial anxiety of doing multiple marathons one day after the other.

I particularly remember a point about halfway through the 2nd day when I had some really difficult pain in my knee where it was locking up and I didn't think I could continue. He got me through it in his normal way by saying 'Oh just keep running it will go away' and it did! On my own I may have gone into a negative space mentally and really struggled but his positivity stopped me going there.

Day 2 ended at the Halfway Inn just outside Hungerford and we started again there the next day 3 where we ran into Reading, finishing up at one of the CGI offices that I work from when I am in the UK. The CGI charity committee donated £700 towards the pot early on in my attempt to get sponsorship and this really helped to motivate me.

Day 4 had us start from CGI again



and I was joined by Paul from the local office for the first 10km and as this was my first real run through a city that I did not know very well I obviously got lost often – sorry Paul!

Day 4 for me was always going to be special because I was running to Farnborough where I was born and more specifically finishing the day at the local pub that my dad drank in before he died. Also where my mum worked there many years ago and I remember often sitting on the stairs after school at the back of the pub by the kitchen where she worked waiting for her to finish.

I was also looking forward to linking up with Ethan – my cousin's boy – who was only 9yrs old and he was going to run with me for the last few miles into Farnborough. I linked up with Ethan as planned on the outskirts of Farnborough and we ran in on a route that would take me past various places of importance to me as I grew up. The first was my nan's old house on Minley road, it is still in the family, and as we drew closer I saw a group of people outside waiting to cheer me on which was not totally unexpected. The real surprise for me was that two of my cousins Katie and Maura had flown over from Ireland and were also going to join



This is the group of us that ran/cycled from my Nans



me for the run into the Tradesman Arms totally unexpected as these two weren't known for running – except to the bar for last orders – and they had been training since January for this moment! What a wonderful pair they are. They were joined by another younger member of the family Ryan, and also my cousin Mary and her husband James were on their bikes and we all continued, passing the old house I grew up in on Twelve Acre Crescent and finally to the Tradesman's where we were met by a lot more members of the family.

After a quick drink there we went around to my daughter Charmayne's house, who had organised some food, and we all had a well-deserved break – I remember sitting back that day and looking at everyone and thinking what an ace bunch they all are and how lucky I was to have them all around me. How enjoyable it was for us all to meet for a happy occasion rather than an unhappy one like the family funerals we have all attended over the last few years; day 4 will always be special for me.

Day 5 started off with Ethan joining me again for a few miles – what a star he is at 9yrs old and what an inspiration too.

He not only joined me in running, but in Chester where he lives he got sponsorships from the school and he and his mum did a cake sale to raise funds. This was really impressive since his mum doesn't usually do this sort of thing - but what a good result!

Some of the family stayed with us for the first part of that day stopping at various points to cheer us on and after Ethan left me I ran through to the main CGI office that I work from when I come to the UK and I was welcomed by lots of my colleagues who came out to cheer me in which was another really good memory.

By now, by the way, my body was pretty sore, I haven't gone into detail around the pain or discomfort too much up till this point but it is worth mentioning now because I do remember that at the end of this day I was really starting to suffer.

My first 2 days were mainly about getting used to running with my broken toe, day 3 and 4 were all about blisters on top of blisters! Day 5 was mainly about my lower left shin which had become inflamed I think because of the change in my running style due to the toe and also day 5 was mentally quite challenging as I was in a negative place in my head – I was really glad for day 5 to finish.

Day 6 was for me always going to be a real solid milestone because it was the last marathon in semi isolation – London was going to be with 39,000 others and a huge crowd – and on day 6 I was joined by some good friends from Horwich, Dave and Helene with their two boys Callum and Lewis.

Dave joined me for the first 10km and then Callum and Lewis ran for a good mile or so with us too.

The start of the day was really difficult for me because the shin and



Dave and then Callum and Lewis joining us

knee were really painful, so much so that I am afraid that I was rubbish company for Dave for the first 5km or so and he put up with my grumpiness very well – thanks Dave.

Dave and Helene supported me all the way into London and about 10km from the finish my son Creig and my cousin's daughter Michelle joined me for the last section.

We ended day 6 at the United Grand Lodge of England and we were met by the CEO of the Masonic Marathon Fund, Richard Douglas, who hosted us afterwards with drinks and some very welcomed nibbles.

It was really good to see Steve Bennett and Mike Searle from the Province of Bristol too who had been instrumental in getting the masonic community behind the challenge from Bristol through to London and we spent many hours leading up to and during the challenge in organising things and I couldn't have raised the funds that I did without them – thanks to you both.

And of course where would I have been without the family! A couple of new faces here in the form of my sister Liz and her lad Harry who had travelled down from Manches-

ter and it was a brilliant way to end the day.

Day 7 started off very early leaving the hotel at 6:30am to get to Greenwich Park for the NSPCC photo shoot and the run was absolutely fabulous. Yes I had pain and I had to stop every few miles to ice the shin but the occasion and the crowd support carried me around the course and I had a real buzz and as mentioned above got my best time of the week.

The end of the challenge strangely enough did not leave me elated or relieved and to be honest I felt quite flat. I put this down to the fact that for 7 days I had just dug in and got the job done. Injury and the nature of just psyching myself to get through each day put me into a strange space where things were a bit surreal; the sense of the achievement has just slowly crept in afterwards and I really felt it the most when I joined a group of runners doing their 7in7 in May for a few days – well done to Jason Smith, Darren Abbotts, Rachel Smith and Gareth Starr for their 7 and thanks for letting me join you, it was a privilege.

The day after London I was back in Bristol at my home Lodge and was welcomed back very warmly. I think all of us were a little surprised by the fact that I had actually made it and it just goes to show how much you can achieve with the right attitude and support.

The Province gave me a very special award a few weeks later and made a very special effort to acknowledge the achievement which was wonderful.

As I said above though support was key in getting to the finish line, I could not have done it without lots of people getting behind me and pushing me forwards.

For me the challenge started out with the aim of breaking the habit of a lifetime which was sitting in front of the telly! I was 46yrs old, getting fat, unhealthy and I just didn't want to be like that anymore; I had people I wanted to live longer for and people that wanted me to live longer.

I was hoping for a change of attitude and I have found it, some will say I am now obsessed with running and I would probably agree with them to an extent but it's not as simple as that. I have become obsessed

with enjoying my life and doing it in a healthy way. I love challenge; in fact I think I need it to get up in the morning. I don't care if I get it through running or something else like mountain biking, mountaineering or swimming but I



know now that it will form part of my daily life.

We managed to raise over £7000 between the 2 charities so a lot more people will also benefit from this and as you can see from this story a lot of others got something from it too. So if you are thinking of doing something similar my advice is to just do it! Don't let it remain a dream make it a reality and live.

Once more thanks to all of you that helped me get there and I know that there are a lot more of you that I have not mentioned above but I haven't forgotten you!



Steve and Mike from the Province of Bristol

So has the journey ended or just begun? I think for me you know the answer to that, keep watching and wait for the next episode and of course the next challenge can't be any smaller.



Preparing for Provincial Grand Lodge of MMM - 7 March 2014

After a disappointing winter, spring was in the air and also in the step of the Provincial Grand Lodge workers on Friday afternoon, as once again, they set the wheels in motion to prepare for the big day on Saturday 8 March.

After composing themselves, the fearless workers gathered in a huddle in the foyer of Freemasons' Hall, trying to remember what went wrong when preparing last year's Provincial Grand Lodge. After due consideration, they asked themselves if anyone could remember if anything went right and what, if any, lessons could be learned, which could be applied to this year's efforts.



It took a while but eventually they moved! Colin Lias, Phil Patrick and Roger Unwin

So, after a further period of silence, at which the tiny cogs in their little brains were working overtime, they came up with well, very little really except a smidgen of lethargy. However, to be fair to them, eventually, a sizeable chunk of enthusiasm transpired, which when added together amazingly produced a staggering and I mean staggering, degree of forward momentum, which worked itself into a frenzy of perpetual motion.

Talk about wind power; the world's second largest wind farm, the 500 megawatt Greater

Gabbard structure, off the coast of Suffolk, could not match the power generated by this whirlwind group of whizzing wizards.



Left hand down a bit and mind the gap!

So led by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro. Roger Unwin, this team of intrepid workers, who had staggered in straight from the quarries, were coaxed into action and amazingly put in a massive effort to transfer the essential requirements of a Mark Masons Lodge, from Freemasons' Hall, over to the Great Hall of the Council House, aka City Hall, to transform this into Provincial Grand Lodge.

These workers consisted of: Roger Unwin, Colin Lias, Phil Patrick, Mike Huggins, Charles Marks, Paul Robinson, Mervyn Evans, Ian Pickett and David Maddy.

Upon reflection, one lesson they did learn from last year was transferring the organ. This bit of juggling was taken under the tender care of WBro. Colin Lias. We all remember the muscular Colin, struggling if not juggling, as he and his team tried to lift the organ on to the back of the van last year. Well, Colin was definitely not having a repeat of that fiasco, this year, so he and a couple of work shy assistants

decided to put their organ driving skills to the test as they, "pulled out all the stops" and pushed the thing all the way to the Council House. (See picture left).

All in all, it has to be said, their work was approved and they were rewarded with, well very little, except a big thank for their efforts which, will hopefully, go unnoticed on the day, as all good back stage scene shifters should be, but is essential for a successful Provincial Grand Lodge meeting.



*Steady on, that's my foot under there!
Charlie Marks, Colin Lias, Paul Robinson, Roger Unwin and Mervyn Evans*

All joking aside, these intrepid workers did work well and worthily and were a credit to themselves and the Province as they freely gave of their time to ensure that Provincial Grand Lodge would be a success.

The Provincial Grand Master, RWBro. John Platts, has asked me to include in this article, a big thank you from him, to these volunteers, as he is very much appreciative of the efforts of these unsung heroes, in making our Provincial Grand Lodge the success it always is.

If you want to take part in the fun next year, see WBro. Colin Lias, who is always happy to enlist new recruits.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Bristol

The Provincial Dinner this year was billed as a "Provincial Dinner and Public Hanging"!

The event was held in No 1 Dining Room at Freemasons' Hall, Park Street, Bristol on 1 February 2014.

There was to be entertainment by Ron Stanley with incidental music provided by Ivor Grand, pianist.



Teresa Momber, Audrey Bates and Maureen Gregory, looking lovely.

It is fair to say that this was yet another huge success and followed a tried and tested formula, with pre-dinner drinks in the Bar, followed by dinner among friends and family.

A large part of the success of these Mark Dinners must certainly be the guests, who create a super friendly atmosphere which wraps itself around us and converts the dining room into an enormous bubble of joy, palpating and almost bursting at the seams.



Ivor Grand at the Grand piano

As usual we sat down to a veritable feast, thanks to the choice of menu and its culinary treatment by our chef Fredy and his team.

Our dinner was punctuated by the music of Ivor Grand, yes on the Grand piano.

(It didn't look like he brought his own piano, but he may have done. If so how did he get it in?)

After dinner, the quiet friendly almost fatherly figure of the guest comedian, Ron Stanley appeared on a stool and casually slipped into his comedic routine. He immediately had us laughing, as he skilfully navigated his way through his repertoire. The most surprising thing about Ron, was, well that it was Ron!

Prior to the event the advertising poster stated the comedian to be Ron Stanley, which had us all guessing, but he turned out to be our own Past Provincial Grand Master, RtWBro. Ronald

Stanley Smith, a name ground into the minds of many a Lodge Director of Ceremonies.

Ron was always seen as amusing, now he is most certainly perceived as funny. I hope he can shake it off and that at our meetings, we can look at him without laughing! A challenge for all of us Bristol Mark Masons, I am sure. After such a lovely evening so far, the main part of the event was yet to come.



A pair of Right Worshipful Brothers

RtWBro. Ron slipped from being funny to being serious and sincere, a skill he has obviously perfected over the years, as he took on the role of "Provincial Grand Revealer".

A backdrop to Ron's act as comedian was a black shroud, in the form of a pair of curtains. We all thought that this was Ron's attempt at

imagining himself standing on stage at the London Palladium!



Yes, it's me alright!

Alas, this was not the case and after a moving tribute to our Provincial Grand Master and an explanation, of the tradition in Bristol, of commissioning portraits of our Provincial Grand Masters, Ron invited RtWBro John Platts, our current PGM to join him, "on stage". He then delicately clasped the cord of the curtains and yanked on it, causing the curtains to part revealing what can only be described as a full frontal of our PGM, clothed in his masonic attire complete with modest apron and chain of office.

I am sure that I heard more than a couple of



Our organisers David and Jeanne Hake

people gasp at the sight of this, but after the excitement died down all crowded around and admired what was a very good likeness of our PGM, sitting in a distinguished Churchillian pose.

So, the purpose of the event was completed and a posse of current Provincial Grand Masters from Wiltshire, Somerset, and Gloucestershire, who were all seated with our PGM, I feel sure all looked on with a great degree of envy!

Thanks for this successful event must go to WBro David Hake and his wife Jeanne, for organising such a special and successful occasion, which will go down as another milestone in the history of the Mark Degree in Bristol.

David Maddy

Provincial Mark Weekend Heights Hotel Portland 21 – 23 March 2014



The iconic Portland Bill Lighthouse

It doesn't seem like a year ago that we were talking about the last Mark Weekend. These events seem to come around so quickly that we find ourselves asking, "has another year really gone by"? However, they are so enjoyable and such good value, that we look forward to them immensely.

This year yet again, our PGM, RWBro. John Platts, on his travels around the lodges promoting the event, was predicting good weather and amazingly and against the forecast, that's exactly what we received. How he seems to get it right year after year is uncanny. He even predicted on Friday night that the weather would stay bright throughout the weekend, but that we would receive a shower at 11am on Sunday, when he was due to depart. Well, he didn't quite get that right, but he was only 15 minutes out, because at 10:45 we did indeed have a shower.

The weekend commenced on Friday, with guests arriving at varying times throughout the day and after settling in and having a good look around, we all assembled in the Bistro Bar for pre-dinner drinks and reception.

The Heights Hotel is in a super setting overlooking Portland Harbour. You may recall this was the venue for the sailing events in the 2012 Olympics and has panoramic views along the magnificent Chesil Beach, which connects the isle to the mainland.

At 7 pm after the reception, we all moved to the dining room where we sat among friends and chatted over dinner. As always in the Mark degree, a lively atmosphere prevailed and guests were obviously enjoying the occasion. After dinner we transferred to the Portland Suite, where we were challenged by one of Jeanne and David Hake's popular quizzes. These are a great way to bring people together and everyone was straining to hear the adjacent tables answers, as they bounced ideas and suggestions off each other! The favourite quiz was the Ding-bats, where we had to decipher cryptic picture codes into well know sayings. This was great fun and caused some debate as many of us were exposed for how little we knew. After the winner was presented with a basket of chocolate tit bits, we retired to our rooms, where the losers pondered the injustice of it all before crying themselves to sleep.

The following morning after breakfast, which was either a typical full English or muesli, yoghurt and prunes, we set off on our free day to explore the island or catch the bus into Weymouth for a bit of shopping. Again it was a lovely day, a bit chilly, but bright and sunny even so. Although I have to say that being accused of being a Big Issue seller, when dressed in my best bib and tucker, by a guest I bumped into in Weymouth,

who shall remain nameless, rather spoiled the illusion I had of myself.

After some shopping, coffee and cakes, more browsing followed by more coffee and sandwiches, then tea on the beach, yes really, but you had to wear a woolly hat and scarf, we headed back to the hotel, making full use of our bus passes.

The evening on Saturday was the highlight and this consisted of pre-dinner drinks in the Bistro, then on to the Portland Lounge, for dinner and entertainment, which was provided by the hotel's



View from the Heights Hotel, Portland Looking along Chesil Beach, taken 4.10pm, Saturday afternoon

singing guitar duo, who played some very appropriate music and which caused a few to stagger to their feet and dance! Talk about trying to rekindle their youth, some of the more energetic were right revellers. Look out Glastonbury here we come!

All in all another super weekend.

A very bid thank you to Jeanne and David Hake for their meticulous organisation over the whole weekend, from the warm welcome to the last goodbye and to all of the guests who were all what we expected, friendly and fun, which made it a typical Mark event and thus guaranteed enjoyment for all.



A collage of the guests; love Fred and Pete's new hair styles, bottom left and right!

94 Circle celebrates 20th Anniversary - By George Paskins

On 31st January 1995 the 1994 Circle met in Park Street to hold our Inaugural General meeting and on 25th January this year we launched our twentieth year. As part of the festivities on that occasion I was asked, as Secretary, to provide a brief analysis of the social activities of the

Circle to date. So from 1995 to 2013 we have collected £21,850 for charity, we have also attended 38 Circle Visits, had 19 Christmas Lunches, exercised the little grey cells at 16 quizzes, exercised the stomach muscles at 16 BBQ's, 2 ladies nights, 2 Gourmet nights and a cream tea. We tested our sea legs on 16 boat

trips. We have had 5 away days visiting the Jaguar factory at Solihull, we went to Tamworth. (Alex Marsh's daughter Maxine was the vicar there) and some of us got married, again, Glastonbury to see the vicar installed, Highgrove House and Bourton on-the-Water. We supported Regil Village at 3 village hall events, had 2 social weekends down in Torquay. Held 2 Conker competitions, visited 2 museums and finally had a Treasure hunt.



In particular during the last year we raised a magnificent sum of £1,720 which our President for 2013, W Bro Ian Rea, asked to be donated to the Great Western Air Ambulance. On 17th February he and his partner Julie together with Geoff and Lynne Hayes and Derek McCarthy attended the Air Ambulance Base at Filton Airfield to present the cheque.

In accepting the donation the paramedic explained that every penny donated was gratefully received and sorely needed, by way of an example we were told that a single deployment of the helicopter cost about £600 so a donation of £1700 could be represented as saving three lives.



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FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

£1.5 MILLION DONATED BY FREEMASONS TO LIFE SAVING AIR AMBULANCE SERVICES

Every year the air ambulance services in England and Wales save thousands of lives by providing rapid medical care in emergencies. Since 2007 Freemasons have donated more than £1.5 million in support, including the grant this year of £192,000 from the Freemasons' Grand Charity.

19 air ambulances are supported including our own Great Western Air Ambulance service.

The air ambulance charities are reliant on voluntary donations to operate and it is hoped our Masonic contributions will help them to continue saving lives in the future.

This helps to show how the Grand Charities use your monies and will always need your support through the Festival System and other donations to keep up their support for such worthwhile causes. Remember we are second to the National Lottery as a charitable organisation!

Thank you for all your support

Tim Brunton
Provincial Charity Steward

A DVD of the Library and Museum of Freemasons' Hall

The Library and Museum of Freemasonry and Letchworth's Shop are pleased to announce that a new version of the popular Freemasons' Hall tour video is now available on DVD. Now called Inside Freemasons' Hall, the content has been completely revised with much new material including a fascinating glimpse of the original Goose and Gridiron and an intriguing insight into what goes on behind the scenes at Freemasons' Hall. It makes a great souvenir or provides a taster of what can be seen for those who haven't yet been able to visit.

The DVD costs £25 and is available from the Shop at Freemasons' Hall or on line at http://letchworthshop.co.uk/cat/product_catalog.php?c=38

We have some still images and text available about the making of the DVD if you would like to use a more extended piece in your newsletters. Please contact me if you would like any of this

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Great Western Air Ambulance

On the 12th June 2014 Bros. Chris Coleman (St Nicholas Lodge) and Chris Cook made a presentation of £4000 to Great Western Air Ambulance at Filton airfield. This was on behalf of the Freemasons' Grand Charity and the Province of Bristol.

They had the pleasure of meeting Emma Carter, Fundraising Manager for the Great Western Air Ambulance Charity and two of her colleagues, Laura and Leilah (who wore the bear outfit). We had a tour of the helicopter (but not a flight) by pilot John and two medics Vicki and Neil.

Local Freemasons save lives with donation for Great Western Air Ambulance – over £1.5 million donated in total

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has been a regular supporter of air ambulance charities in recent years, donating over £1.5 million in total



to twenty-two rescue services since 2007. Every air ambulance charity in England and Wales has received funding. During 2014, Freemasons around the country will be presenting their regional rescue service with donations totalling £192,000.

Air ambulances rely on voluntary donations to operate. Support from grant-makers like The Freemasons' Grand Charity means that doctors and paramedics reach patients in emergency situations as quickly as possible – saving lives in the process.

Speaking about the donation, Chris Cook, Provincial Grand Charity Steward said:

"We are delighted to be able to show our support for Great Western Air Ambulance once again. Charitable giving is central to Freemasonry and Bristol Freemasons are especially happy to support organisations that help to save lives and provide support to people in emergency situations". The Freemasons' Grand Charity works on behalf of all Freemasons in England and Wales, donating millions of pounds to worthy causes every year.

THE CAUTIOUS DINING CLUB

It doesn't seem five minutes, how many times have we all said or heard that phrase. Over the last 10 years Masons from Bristol, Somerset, Gloucestershire and London have been entertained with the most spectacular meals from Jim and Jo the landlords of the Queens Arms Chew Magna. The menus we requested were from all over the world and we always left it to their expertise to surprise us, and they never let us down. Alas all good things must come to an end but in this case it was because they are both retiring. At our last meeting on the 13th February we presented them with a farewell gift to give them a fond farewell and wish them a hearty Masonic good-bye. The good news is the dining club will continue - whether it is at the same location is yet to be decided by the organisers.



"Auf Weidersehen" to our Operative Mason



Worshipful Brother Brian Wheeler

For every Mason, Initiation into the Craft is one of the most memorable and important events in his Masonic career, and mine was no different.

It was truly memorable as I was privileged to have been initiated into the Dolphin Lodge at the hands of Worshipful Brother Brian Wheeler.

His was the first Worshipful Master's voice that I had ever heard, delivering proper Bristol ritual in a proper Bristol accent. At the time I didn't realise how privileged I was, but as my experience in the Craft grew, I came to appreciate and understand what an outstanding man and mason Brian truly was.

Brian was a Mason "in his heart" and his heart was in Masonry.

As a Mason....Brian was initiated into the Dolphin Lodge in 1989 and he was one of a small number to occupy the "Chair of Solomon" in Dolphin twice. He was also a dedicated Mark Mason and a Past Master of Dunckerley Mark Lodge, as well as being a member of Saint Augustine Chapter and of the Cabot Tower Assemblage (The Operatives).

As a man...Brian was kind, open and honest, generous spirited and cheerful. He also had a ready and dry wit and a gentle sense of humour. I once heard him described as the "Man who is always smiling" and this isn't too far from the truth. I will always remember his smile and his happy company and infectious enjoyment of Masonry which added so much to all our meetings.

Brian was a sincere and active Mason and the Lodge was ever dear to him, as he was to us.

He played an active part in both our ritual and our committee meetings, always on hand to give support and advice when called upon to do so.

Brian had pride in all he did ... but he had no ego; He would offer an opinion ... but never force one, and while he had opinions, he was never opinionated.

With Brian it was "what you see is what you get" ... and what you got was a lot – because Brian gave a lot.

From personal experience, it was this freely and readily given help and support that helped to make my year "in the chair" as enjoyable an experience as it was. I will be forever grateful to him for this.

Brian was also passionately proud of his trade as a bricklayer – which also made him our Lodge's "Operative Mason". He had not only worked in the trade, but had also taught it, and I'm sure that

he delivered help and instruction in bricklaying as expertly as he did in Masonry.

Brian's explanation of the "Working Tools" in the Third Degree is legendary in Dolphin, and he made this part of the ritual his own, and a formed permanent part of our Third Degree ceremonies.

As you know, the trowel is as hugely important in bricklaying as it is in Masonry, and he once told us that before gaining work on a site the bricklayer was asked to present his trowel to the overseer for inspection. A clean trowel meant that the artisan was proud and professional in his work and ensured that he was employed.

I know that Brian's trowel would have been as spotless in his "Operative" Masonry, as it was in his "Speculative" Masonry.

Brian had also spent time working as a bricklayer in Germany perhaps in his own version of "Auf Weidersehen Pet" entitled "Cheers Babs" (for Bristol audiences).

In later years he returned to Germany as a Mason and made several trips with friends and Brethren of the "Forget Me Not" Organisation.

Here they enjoyed visiting German Lodges, making new friends, and simply having a good time.

One of the last things that Brian did was to marry his partner, Anne, with whom he had shared his life and his many interests including music, dancing, gardening, and travel and generally making the most of everything that the world offered.

When Brian passed to the "Grand Lodge Above" he was laid to rest in his full Provincial regalia and with a Square and Compass on his coffin. The funeral was conducted by W. Bro The Rev'd Steven Hawkins, Assistant Grand Chaplain of the United Grand Lodge of England, and many Masons attended. This included the Provincial Grand Masters of both the Craft and Mark Degrees proving the high regard in which he was held throughout not only the Lodges, but also the Province and a true and real measure of the high esteem in which he was held by all of us whose lives had been touched by this most excellent man and Mason.

Collections and donations in Brian's memory exceeded £470 for his chosen charities.

Brian was a great and respected stalwart of the Dolphin Lodge in particular and of Bristol Masonry in general, and his passing leaves a gaping hole to fill. I know however that those of us whom he advised, helped, instructed and worked with will do our best to fill that space by following the bright and shining example that he set us.

Brian will be both missed and remembered by all of us in the Dolphin Lodge as our own "Operative and Speculative Mason" and we will endeavour to continue to "spread the cement" the way that Brian's instruction and example taught and demonstrated.

.....And of course we will try to keep our trowels as clean as W. Brother Brian always kept his.....

Stuart Budd

50 YEARS ON

By Stuart Budd

On Wednesday 22nd January in Lodge Room No 1, the PGM presented W Bro. John C Jones with a certificate and congratulated him on Fifty Years of dedicated and continuous service to Bristol Masonry and to the Dolphin Lodge number 4464.

A numerous retinue of Masons from the Craft and Mark Lodges and the Chapters where John has been a familiar and popular member attended to join in the celebrations and congratulate him on his half century.

The After Meeting took the form of Dolphin's traditional Burns Night celebration meal (compulsory

haggis) complete with a kilted Brother delivering the "Ode to the Haggis" and the room was filled with the sound of the bagpipes. This has always been a popular Dolphin night and is one of John's favourite meetings. A happy accident that the two celebrations coincided.

W Bro Jones occupied the Chair of Solomon in Dolphin twice in his 50 years, served as Lodge Secretary for 15 years and has continued to contribute to play an expert part in the ritual as well as working tirelessly for the benefit of the Lodge, and in particular building for its future.

In addition John occupied Chairs in both Dunckerley Mark Lodge and Saint Augustine Royal Arch Chapter where he was Treasurer for many years as well.

An all round Bristol Mason indeed.

John has mentored countless new members and coached officers and WM's, instilling in them a love of the Craft, Royal Arch, Mark and of all the great things about Bristol Masonry.

At the Aftermeeting John reminisced about the time that he identified a promising young Dolphin member who had the potential to go far within the Lodge and the Province.

Pictured here, he is receiving a presentation from that promising young protégé.



PROVINCIAL CHARITY STEWARDS REPORT 2014

The Charity Stewards of the Bristol Lodges have been working hard this year. They have not only helped the Bristol Province to raise nearly £300,000 (April 2014) for the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2019 Festival, of which more details and figures will be outlined in other Bristol Standard articles in this issue, but they have raised in excess of £22,000 for Non Masonic charities. They have also raised in excess of £8100 for lodge widows and other Masonic charities excluding the MSF.

Bristol Masons' generosity was further proved by the raising of over £500 at the Christmas Carol Service dinner at Park Street for the Christmas Tree Appeal for local refugees and hostels.

Also read in the year book about the generosity of Bristol's own Masonic charities: Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund, Bristol Masonic Charities and Bristol Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Bristol Masons and their dependents have also been receiving help and support from The Freemasons' Grand Charity, RMBI, MSF, RMTGB. There have been 13 recipients in the 12 months to 31/3/14 receiving £25,801. For all four charities there have been 33 recipients for the 12 months to 31/3/14 receiving £99,196.

Tim Brunton

DR DENNIS HENRY FOX MBE



Dennis Fox was born on 20th September 1928 and was brought up in Knowle, south Bristol. His father was the fourth generation of the family building company, but Dennis set his sights on a medical career and after Bristol Grammar School went to Bristol University in 1945.

He was awarded the Obstetrics and Gynaecology Gold Medal in 1951, but because of the shortage of gold was given £40 in lieu, for which he was heartily grateful. He graduated M.B., Ch.B. in 1951 and the same year obtained his M.R.C.S. and L.R.C.P. After a year as a House Surgeon, he did his National Service as a Medical Officer in the RAMC in Aldershot, attached to the Catering Corps.

Totterdown Baptist Church was his parents' church and Dennis first played the organ at a service there when he was sixteen, having already demonstrated his musical talent as a pianist and singer. Not long after he preached for the first time and he was to be a lay preacher and organist for many years.

Dennis met Pamela Herwig in his second year at University and they were married in 1952, shortly before he went into the Army. Theirs was to be the happiest of unions and they celebrated their Diamond Wedding in 2012. They had three children, Elizabeth, Roger and Alison. His family, which expanded to include grandchildren and great grandchildren, was a source of great pride and happiness all his life.

After the Army, General Practice beckoned and Dennis served the people of Filton, Patchway, Almondsbury and surrounding villages for 34 years. He became Visiting Medical Officer at Hortham and Brentry Hospitals, a post which gave him enormous pleasure. He was appointed Divisional Surgeon for St John Ambulance in 1955. He was known as a wonderful diagnostician and a family GP who never complained when he had to go out in the middle of the night to those who were genuinely unwell. His patients benefitted from his pastoral care and compassion. He considered that delivering babies was not only a joy, but a privilege.

Some years after Dennis retired, the Government proposed that doctors should no longer be able to use the title "Dr" in retirement. Dennis wrote

to the Secretary of State for Health, saying that as he had had to borrow the money from his father to pay the fee to register as a doctor, he looked forward to receiving the fee back, together with compound interest. The proposal was dropped.

Public service came in the form of Local Government. Dennis was a Parish and District Councillor for 30 years, serving as Chairman of both Thornbury Rural District and Northavon District Councils. He was Chairman of the District Youth Committee, Chairman of the Governors of Patchway High School, a Governor of Filton Technical College, a Governor of New Siblands School and, after retirement, a Non-Executive Director of Frenchay Health Authority. He was a Governor of the University of the West of England. He was appointed Honorary Alderman of the District of Northavon in 1991.

He was appointed MBE in 1983 for services to Local Government.

After retirement, Dennis and Pamela travelled widely, to the Far East, North America, South Africa and New Zealand, as well as to most of Europe.

Dennis was initiated into the Lodge of Unity and was a mason for over 50 years. He was Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for Bristol for 13 years from 1990. He did much to open up Freemasons' Hall, particularly to wives and families of masons. In 1990 masonry was just coming out of a period of introspection and Dennis continued the process. He was the embodiment of Bristol masonry loving the ritual as he did. He was the protector and custodian of the ritual and he was also a brilliant ritualist himself encouraging many masons to proceed to the chair. He was kindly, generous, an entertaining speaker and he will be greatly missed by all in Park Street.

According to his children, Dennis could do anything. He gave painless injections and removed splinters, he built model railways (and even allowed them to play with them when they were adults), he collected stamps, he made funny speeches, he played the piano and organ, he painted and decorated, he could build walls and manoeuvre the largest car into the smallest space, but the workings of the internal combustion engine were beyond him.

Above all Dennis was a committed Christian, who sought always to do God's will in everything in which he was involved, personally, professionally, politically and socially.



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Theodore Ian Vivian Taggett

24 April 1928 – 28 January 2014



Ian Taggett was a man of outstanding personality and ability

He was very well known, both in his professional life, as well as his masonic life. He truly had a unique and charismatic personality and one couldn't help but like and admire him.

We all knew Ian as an effervescent larger than life character. I can see him now standing in front of us, at the after-meeting, delivering the toast to the visitors, gesticulating and telling "each and every one of us" what he wanted us to know. Or delivering his report as Principal Sojourner, using words, which meant the same as the ones in the book, but if truth was known, using better or more appropriate ones and not batting an eyelid if he strayed from the established track. He delivered his ritual with much pomp and feeling, as only he could.

Ian was said by his very good friend, W.Bro. Graham Russell, to be a very generous man and he should know, as both he and W.Bro. Dennis Knights-Branch, his other good friend, lunched together weekly. He was well liked by everyone he met and we will all surely miss him tremendously.

W.Bro Theodore Ian Vivian Taggett, was born on the 24 April 1928. He was educated at

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Cotham Grammar School in Bristol and when he left school, he was directed by his uncle to train to become a chemist, so that he could go into the family business. He therefore trained as a Pharmacist in Bristol and served for a period as a trainee in Bath before taking over the family business in Princess Victoria Street, Clifton in 1922, at the age of 24. In the years that followed, Ian became very well known and respected and freely handed out advice, not to his customers, he didn't call them that, but to the host of friends he had made in Clifton village. In fact, such was the love of the community he served they termed him "the doc", due to the advice he gave them and the respect they had for him. It is fair to say, he "tended" not "served", the community there until 2010, when at the age of 81, he took early retirement!

Ian lived with his wife Joan, in Old Sodbury, where he looked after another community, that of his tropical fish. It was little known, that Ian had 28 tanks of tropical fish, which he tended and bred.

Ian's other love was that of travelling. He was an intrepid and extensive traveller and was not at all worried about going alone, as he often did. He wasn't a sun and sangria holiday maker, but a world traveller, going to such places as India, China, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, Brazil, Peru, Colombia, Tibet, Bolivia, Scandinavia, etc. But Ian didn't just want to see the tourist attractions, he wanted to know about the people, after all he was a "people person", but his trust in people didn't always work out as planned. He had some harrowing and frightening experiences on his travels, which he spoke about and which I won't go into here.

Turning to Ian's Masonic career; it was prolific.

In the Craft:

He was initiated into the Baily Lodge No. 5239, on 28 March 1967, Passed on the 25 April 1967 and Raised on the 26 June 1967. He was WM, of Baily Lodge, in 1977 and again in 2001. He was Director of Ceremonies from 1991 to 1999 and again from 2005 to 2014.

Ian loved Baily Lodge and the Burn's Night supper at their January meeting was legendary, as he considered it his baby and arranged for the Burn's tradition to be well and truly upheld. In fact he was too ill to attend this year and died on the Baily Lodge, Burns night.

He joined Bristol Installed Masters, No. 8168, in 1984. A Founder of Bristol Patrons, No. 9522, in 1993 and their Director of Ceremonies from 1993 to 1997 and again from 2005 to 2014. He was a Founder of Matthew Lodge, No. 9688, in 1993 and their Director of Ceremonies from 2005 to 2011.

He was in fact the DC of Baily, Patrons and Matthew Lodges, all at the same time for a period of five years, a position he absolutely loved. As evidenced by the quality and exuberance of his work in this position.

In Royal Arch Chapter

He was exalted into, the Moira Chapter of Honour No 326 on, 16 November 1994 and was First Principal of Moira Chapter of Honour in 2005. Such was the man, he was helping the Chapter overcome a difficult period by going around the Chapter circuit in Moira again, and as such he was Installed as Third Principal in October, 2013.

He was a Founder of Matthew Chapter, No. 9688 in 2003.

In the Mark Degree

He was Advanced in the Ernest Dunscombe Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1423, on the 13th Jan 1997 and became Worshipful Master in October 2007. He was appointed to PGStdBr., in 2009 and he would have been appointed to PrPGJO on March 8, this year.

Ian, not one to do nothing, was Chaplain of Ernest Dunscombe Lodge, when he died.

In paying this tribute to Ian, let us not forget that Ian didn't solely belong to us. He was a family man, married to Joan and had a daughter Jane and two grandchildren.

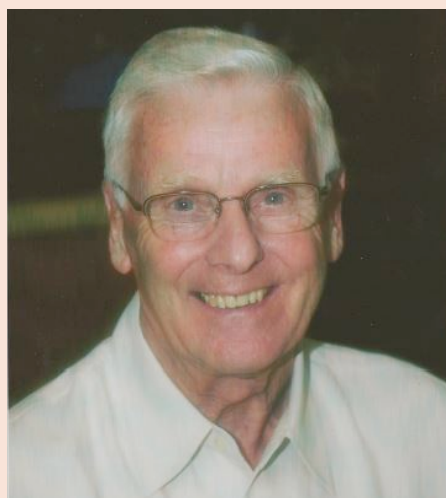
Ian's funeral was held on Tuesday, 11th February 2014, at Canford Crematorium. It was, as we would expect, very well attended by mourners, of which his Chapter, Lodges and indeed the Province were well represented and at which his daughter gave a moving tribute to her dad, as did his very good friend, W.Bro Graham Russell, who spoke off the cuff and from the heart.

W.Bro. Theodore Ian Vivian Taggett will be greatly missed by us all. - R.I.P.

David Maddy

Kenneth Ernest Johnson

2nd February 1934 – 22nd February 2014



Worshipful Brother Ken Johnson was one of life's brightest stars, a real gentleman with a sense of fun and who always greeted you with a big smile.

He loved a joke and you couldn't help but be happy in his presence, as such he was a pleasure to be with. Although Ken could be fun, he knew how to be serious, as both his business and his private life, particularly, those who knew him in his masonry, would testify.

Ken was a businessman, a family man and a mason and all played a part in his life, of which each had a huge influence in what made him the man he was and which made it so much the sadder, that his illness affected his personality.

Ken's life was very eloquently summarised by his son Steve, who delivered a very moving tribute to his father at his funeral, which took place at Canford Crematorium on the 13 March, 2014.

I was so impressed by Steve's brave delivery of his father's eulogy, that after the funeral I

asked him if he would mind me putting an article in the Bristol Standard and on the new Bristol Mark website, based on the words he had so carefully chosen and so bravely delivered. He readily agreed and following this introduction, I have reproduced verbatim, Steve's eulogy to his father.

◁

Steve's Eulogy

I don't think this will end up on my list of the easiest things I've ever done, but it is my very great privilege to say a few words on this saddest of occasions.

Kenneth Ernest Johnson..... Husband to Betty, Father, Grandfather, Great Grandfather, Uncle, Brother-in-Law, Friend, Worshipful Brother and to many of us..... Little Ern!

So many of your kind words have described Ken as – generous, loving, fun, caring, a real gentleman, but I think his niece Carol summed him up beautifully with "he lit up any room when he entered it".

Ken had a sad start to his childhood; he and elder brothers' Jim and Ron were orphaned when he was just 4. His grandparents brought him up until his mid teens when he went to live with his big brother Jim and wife Audrey, whom he adored and stayed very close to his whole life.

Ken had many talents – a great artist spending many an hour drawing with the grand kids, he had a super singing voice, often bursting into song at various "do's" – but mainly when G & T was involved! Cliff reminded me of something else as well, he was amazing at splitting logs!

He was a keen sportsman and a big supporter of his beloved Man United, where he was lucky enough to have a private box for many years. Many of you may not know this, but Ken could have been a professional footballer, as in his teens whilst playing semi-pro for Keynsham Town, he was scouted by Wolverhampton Wanderers, who were one of the best teams in the top division, they offered him an apprenticeship. Unfortunately, that wasn't to be, as his uncle thought he should get "a proper job" and recommended Wills Tobacco Factory as the way forward!!

But Ken had dreams that definitely didn't include a factory job; he got himself a position as a trainee draughtsman at the "Lecky Board". Later working alongside his great friend Alan Dunn.

With aspirations of becoming a Civil Engineer, he put himself through night school and with great determination passed with flying colours, he became a fully qualified Civil Engineer, with plans to take infrastructure to the world.

In his early 30's, he took the plunge and started his first company. As we all know he went on to become a very successful businessman, running many companies and this brought with it a certain life style including breakfast meetings that would turn into lunch and often then into dinner, with perhaps a game of golf in the middle and the odd G & T. These G and T's keep featuring, don't they!

He would often recall his times at Harveys, one of Bristol's finest restaurants and one of Ken's favourite places to "do business". Ken knew that the sommelier must have smiled when he saw a booking in the diary for "Mr Johnson party of 6 for lunch open brackets and probably dinner as well close brackets"

In 1971, Ken made a decision that would have a positive impact on the rest of his life – he joined Colston Lodge 610, he became a Freemason.

Second only to his family, this became the most important part of his life, making many good friends, raising serious amounts of money for charity and generally doing loads of good stuff with his brethren mates, which he absolutely loved.

The grand kids, when growing up would ask "Nanny where's granddad" "At lodge" or "Park Street" she'd reply. They didn't have a clue what this meant, but we would encourage their vivid imaginations to conjure up thoughts of granddad getting up to all sorts of adventures including spying, piracy and bear hunting, at this mythical place "The lodge in Park Street".

However, a few ladies nights later, with yet more G and T's, things didn't seem quite so mysterious. I never said this to Ken, but I always thought that "going to lodge" is "just like you and your mates owning your very own pub really"

In Ken's 43 year Masonic career, he held many positions and helped raise countless thousands of pounds for good causes. It was a massive part of his life and gave him great joy. Thank you to all his brethren here today.

Now for the big one, it was 1978 and one of Ken's companies had won the contract to rebuild the fire damaged Sunlight laundry down in Portsmouth. Being quite a large important site, Erith Builders Merchants, sent their star rep to pitch to the big Boss for the business. In her best bib and tucker, well stripy tank-top and flared trousers actually, it was the seventies after all! She fought hard and 3 hours later, without a G and T in sight, star rep Betty had battered big boss Mr Johnson into ordering the largest pile of bricks ever seen on the south coast! The rest as they say is history, they would spend the next 36 years very happily together.



When Ken and Betty retired, they came to live with us at Churnmead Farm and one of my most treasured memories of Ken was him on the lawnmower. I'd come home from work and as I drove down the drive, there he would be on his trusty John Deere 48" diesel ride on, complete with fully mulching deck and hydro-static drive, with a big grin on his face looking like the king of the castle. I'd wind the window down and say something like, "grass is looking good there Kenny boy", even though I was really thinking "I wish you would do the strips

up and down rather than left to right"! Oh and I suppose I better mention those damned Moles – 'cos they really were the bane of Ken's mowing career!

The last two years of Ken's 7 year illness were spent at Humphry Repton House. The family would like to thank you all so very much for the amazing love and care you showed Ken and for the great care and respect you also showed to Betty. You all do an incredibly difficult job, incredibly well. Good luck to you all and please keep doing what you do.

Little Kenny Johnson, aka Little Ern, husband, father, grandfather, great grandfather, friend, uncle, brother-in-law and Worshipful Brother – thank you for brightening up our lives – we will all miss you so very much. Sleep tight and god bless

<>

As you will see from the above, one cannot fail to be moved by such a compassionate personal tribute. Ken was indeed lucky to have been blessed with such love.

For the masons among you, I detail below Ken's Masonic career.

He was initiated into the Colson Lodge No 610, on the 26 October 1971. Passed on the 17 November 1971 and Raised on the 6 March 1972. He was Worshipful Master on two occasions, the first in September 1987 and again in September 1990. He was Treasurer from 1991 to 2001.

He was promoted to Provincial Junior Grand Deacon in 1995 and again to Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 2003. He was made an Honorary Member of Colston Lodge in 2008.

In the Province of Gloucestershire, Ken joined the Royal Lodge of Faith and Friendship No 270, on the 16 June 2008.

In the Royal Arch, he was exalted into the Cabot Chapter No 3884, on 21 November 1988.

Ken loved the Mark degree and he was advanced into the Ernest Dunscombe Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1423, on the 8 January 1979 and was Installed into the chair as Worshipful Master in October 1989. He became Secretary in 1991, was promoted to active PrGSW in 1999 and honoured with a Grand Officer appointment as PGStdBr, in 2007. He was made an Honorary Member of the Ernest Dunscombe Lodge on 8 October 2012.

He was a member of Harris Royal Ark Mariner Lodge T.I. And rose to SW before illness curtailed his progress.

Worshipful Brother Kenneth Ernest Johnson was a fine man and mason and will be very much missed by those who knew him. May he rest in peace.

David Maddy

15th October, 1943

It would very easy to submit a couple of photographs and a few lines of print to cover a recent presentation ceremony that took place at the RMBI home, Lord Harris Court, Sindlesham, Berkshire. but it must be appreciated that what was being recorded was a marvellous history in masonry.



It was on this date that Louis Bartholomew Bloom, a Lewis, who was home on leave from the Royal Navy was initiated into Redcliffe Lodge. The ceremony was held at The Constitutional Club, St. Stephens Street, to where the Lodge had removed following the bombing of Park Street. The day starting at 3.30pm with Absent Brethren being remembered at 6.30pm.

Louis was invalided out of the Royal Navy in 1946 and on 3rd April that year married Nance Cole. They moved in 1948 to Langport and then in 1949 to Somerton remaining there until moving to Offenham in 1956 when he became Head of a small junior school. Whilst there he joined The St Edwin Mark Lodge in 1956 and on moving to Lord Harris Court he was made an honorary member. Whilst still at Offenham he joined the Abbot Lichfield Lodge No. 3308 and was a member there until he moved to Salisbury to take up the post of Head Master of St. Martin's Junior School a post he retained until retirement in 1982.

In Salisbury Louis joined Sarum Lodge No. 5137 being Master there in 1984 and 1990. He was a regular visitor to Redcliffe Lodge bringing many of the members to Bristol where they enjoyed the ceremonies. Shortly after his second spell as Master he was promoted to Provincial Junior Grand Warden and then two years later to the rank of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

In 2005, Nance became ill and shortly after this they moved to the RMBI Home at Sindlesham where sadly in 2010 Nance died.

All throughout his masonic life Louis served as organist for most of his Lodges, a role that he continues with at Lord Harris Court.

It was at Lord Harris Court that a short while ago the Worshipful Master of Redcliffe Lodge, W. Bro. Brian Rutter presented a Certificate to Louis to celebrate his 70 years in masonry, together on this occasion with a suitably engraved cut glass whisky tumbler. W. Bro. Medlar (President of the Friends of Lord Harris Court) read out and presented a letter from RW Bro. M Peters expressing his regret in not attending but also his warmest congratulations on celebrating the very rare distinction of 70 years as a Freemason.

A splendid lunch followed where copious amounts of wine were consumed

Just think, he has been a member of Redcliffe Lodge longer than the majority of the members have been alive!

Brian Hughes

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of Bristol Annual Meeting 8th March 2014

A few weeks ago, when the rains were trying to emulate the universal deluge, the PGM R.W.Bro. John Douglas Arthur Platts, thought of those two giants of past television entertainment, the sadly departed yet still well-loved comedy duo of Eric and Ernie, he looked up to the sky and said, "bring me sunshine" and so it was, the clouds disappeared the sun shone, as we'd almost forgotten, to reveal an extensive drape of clear blue sky. This lifted our hearts as we marched across the road from Freemasons' Hall, to assemble for our Annual Provincial Meeting, at the Council House. (*I still can't get used to City Hall*).



PGM, RWBro. John Douglas Arthur Platts
entering Provincial Grand Lodge

The meeting commenced at 11.00am sharp and the Provincial Grand Master and his Provincial Officers paraded in with great pageantry.

The Great Hall is really a superb setting and was filled almost to capacity as over 300 Mark Master Masons from our own and surrounding Provinces, who came to visit us and bring greetings, from as far away as East Anglia. As a mark of the respect and esteem in which the Province of Bristol is held throughout the Mark degree nationwide, there were over 30 Right Worshipful Brethren present. How could this not set the scene for another successful Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting? It couldn't and it didn't.

After opening Provincial Grand Lodge and confirming the minutes of last year's meeting, the Provincial Grand Master read the list of brethren who had been called to greater service in the Grand Lodge above. Sadly we had lost 9 brethren this year and after the PGM read their names, we stood in silence and remembered them with affection as the Provincial Grand Chaplain recited the "in memoriam" prayer.

After the formal part of the proceedings were dealt with, we came to the highlight; the investiture of officers. This is a great day for those brethren who are to receive their honours. Whether a first appointment, a promotion, or just standing still, this part of the proceedings is always a pleasure to be part of and we congratulate all those officers who were recognised for their contribution to the Province, at this meeting.

In his annual address to Provincial Grand Lodge the PGM, remarked that this was the 9th time he had presided over PGL and he was very happy and proud of the support he had been given. He said that with the help of the work of the Provincial Grand Registrar, W.Bro. Mike Huggins, he had undertaken a study of the number of members over the past 28 years and had determined

that our numbers had risen by 38%, which was due in large part to his last three predecessors, of which, sadly only R.W.Bro. Ronald Stanley Smith is with us today.

The PGM went on to say that he was happy to report that the standard of ritual was again very high, but he would not be averse in allowing Masters, if they have particular difficulties, to ask PM's to take on some of the long passages.

Before closing his address the PGM, paid tribute to his Deputy V.W.Bro. Keith Downes for the tremendous help and support he had given during his tenure in office, particularly as Keith had been through a harrowing time with illness and which he had borne with commendable resolution. He said that after discussion with him, they had both decided that the time had come for Keith to take a well earned break and stand down as Deputy. This would take place in the autumn and he went on to announce that Keith's successor would be W.Bro. Peter Franklin. These announcements had each brought instantaneous applause from the assembly, which was in tribute not only to the work that Keith had done, but also for the choice of his successor.



VWBro. Keith Downes and RWBro.
Ronald Stanley Smith in the procession

The PGM then went on to pay tribute to the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro. Roger Unwin and his team for the way Provincial Grand Lodge had been set up and for the work, his new Provincial Secretary, W.Bro. Terrence Rhys-Davies, supported by his predecessor W.Bro. David Powell and his assistant W.Bro. Ian Pickett, had done in preparing for today.

Finally, the PGM announced the launch of the new Provincial website and praised the work of W.Bro. David Maddy, in setting out on this task and for the expertise and dedication of Bro Kevin Thomas in taking over and moving the project forward. He said that the site had gone live on Friday 7 March and he was very optimistic, that it would be a success, but that this could only be assured if we had good regular contributions from members of the province, in supplying news, stories etc., which he was sure they would do. To log onto the site, go to: <http://bristol-mark.org/>

Following the closure of Provincial Grand Lodge, the guests moved across to Freemasons' Hall, where a drinks reception was held, followed by lunch.

All in all another very successful day in the life of the Bristol Mark Master Mason Degree.

David Maddy

Mark Master Masons Sunday Lunch and Church Service

18 May 2014

Around 55 Mark Masons and their ladies enjoyed one of organisers, David and Jeanne Hake's Mark Social events, on a very warm and sunny Sunday at our Park Street venue.

The pre-dinner reception was again one of the highlights as we assembled in the bar and talked and reminisced over a G & T, or if you were driving, a T without the G!

As the time for lunch approached, we moved to No 1 Dining Room, which was set out with "talk friendly" round tables and tucked into our lunch of soup followed by roast lamb with all the trimmings. Beautiful!

After lunch we were instructed by MC, VWBro Phil Patrick to make our way down Park Street, to the Lord Mayor's Chapel, where we all assembled on the pavement and waited and waited some more ... for the Verger to appear and open the main door. No matter what sequence or pattern of knocks was tried, it made no difference, we just couldn't get it.

So after waiting a little while longer, the Reverend Stephen Hawkins, who was to conduct the service, took the initiative and called upon us, in "Grand old Duke of York" tradition, to march back up to the top again, to Freemasons' Hall and there to assemble in No 3 Lodge Room, where the service would be held.

So after our unplanned Sunday afternoon march and when we were all seated, the Reverend Stephen stood in the East, before us, held up his hands and said, Brethren, assist me to open . . . , sorry wrong meeting, to much laughter.



We then enjoyed the service, which it has to be said was very well presented, with suitable organ accompaniment by WBro Paul Corder, who had travelled from his home in Exeter, to be with us. Such dedication was much appreciated.

The two lessons were read by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VWBro Keith Downes and the Provincial Grand Master RWBro John Platts. After RWBro John's reading "St. Luke 15, verses 11-32, aka the Prodigal Son, the Rev Stephen used his sermon to relate the lesson here to our masonry and as usual, it was very profound and thought provoking.

All in all another successful Mark Sunday Lunch and Church Service, which I am sure, was enjoyed by all.

Why not join us in the Mark degree if you are not already a member, these events really are warm and friendly and you would be very welcome. Further details about the Mark degree, can be found on our new website, <http://bristol-mark.org/>

PROVINCIAL SENIOR GRAND WARDEN

Stephen (Paul) Stafford



Worshipful Brother Stephen is often known as Paul, due to the fact his father is called Stephen and family friends have to call him Paul to avoid confusing them both.

He is married with three sons and one daughter and lives in the sleepy town of Wotton-under-Edge in Gloucestershire.

He enjoys gardening and maintaining his woodland, which includes many hours using heavy gardening equipment and chainsaws.

He gets away from the hustle and bustle of the city whilst working in the woodland and he finds it is very relaxing. Stephen also enjoys renovating properties, ensuring they are in keeping with the period of the building. He said 'it always gives me great satisfaction to see the end result after the hardship of transforming an empty building into something special'. He has used the same team of builders for many years, one of which is a Bristol freemason.

During the day Stephen, aged 52, is the director of a property company and he also has a number of other business interests.

Despite the huge responsibilities at home, and his day time job, he is still looking forward to tackling the commitment he has been handed to act as Senior Grand warden. He said, 'I will enjoy my role as part of the Provincial Team again, after experiencing being Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 2009'.

Stephen was initiated into the Robert Thorne Lodge in 1984 and went into the chair in 1991. He was First Principal of The Moira Chapter of Honour in 2000, Director of Ceremonies of Bristol Installed Masters Lodge in 2004/05 and also many other Masonic degrees in Bristol. He was Worshipful Master of the Bristol Patrons Lodge in 2008 and is currently their Director of Ceremonies.

TIM ENJOYS EVERY MOMENT OF BEING A MASON - AND WHY NOT!

When it comes to telling the world just how much being a mason means to him, Tim Brunton will readily tell anyone – Everything. Although family does come first – family being wife Deirdre, son Lachlan 10, daughter Emma, 11 and, not forgetting Mollie, the pet collie aged three.



"Freemasonry plays a very important part of my life," says Tim, aged 50, who is a Lewis having, followed in his father's masonic footsteps by being admitted into the Jerusalem Lodge No 686 in 1994.

And like his father, WBro Ron, he has also proudly served in his mother lodge as Worshipful Master, both admirably and with great determination, in 2000 and 2001. Among the many tasks he has taken on to serve in the Province is that of Provincial Grand Charity Steward for the Craft and Chapter.

At the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in May he stepped forward to become Provincial Junior Grand Warden

"I am extremely proud to tell anyone that I am a freemason," said Tim during my interview. "I want everyone to know that we are not a secret organisation and that Freemasonry which has been around for centuries has nothing to hide except some of our rituals which should always remain hidden so they have the maximum impact upon the candidate and that also we are the second largest charitable institution after the National Lottery in this country."

Tim is a firm believer in keeping the Bristol rituals in ship shape and Bristol fashion and be performed with all the dignity that they rightly deserve.

"Masonry does not have to be all stiff shirt," says Tim. "It has to have its fun moments. If it did not I could not be involved in it. Meeting fellow brethren who believe in raising money for needy causes I find as a great tonic".

"The Bristol ceremonies need to be cherished and preserved as they are full of relevant meaning and are unique. I would also strongly urge officers of their lodge to take their appointments seriously and be at the ready and step in to aid their master in the running of their lodge if he needs help. But always remember that the most important element is to provide the candidate with a night that he shall always cherish."

"The fun begins at the after meeting!"

MATCH DAY MASCOT

The opportunity to be a match day mascot at Bristol Rugby Club was one of the auction lots on offer at The Cabot Lodge after-meeting on the 8th November last year. A syndicate was formed to raise money to allow us to bid on this auction lot. The auction commenced and there was fierce bidding from overseas, New York, Paris and Rome but our perseverance paid off and the lot was ours.

The syndicate announced that we would be contacting the Children's Hospice South West (Charlton Farm) to see if a child would care to be the mascot for the day.

10 year old Charlie Mclean was nominated and a date set for him to don the Bristol Rugby shirt, meet the players, and of course the syndicate.



With the help of W Bro Arthur Grannan and Bro Ben Breeze (Chief Executive of Bristol Rugby Community Foundation) all was set for Charlie's big day. His dad and two brothers joined us in the hospitality suite for Sunday lunch. Then off for a photo shoot before visiting the changing rooms, meeting the players and running out with them on to the pitch as match day mascots do.

Bristol Rugby had a convincing win over Jersey that day, but we all agree that the real winner of the day was Charlie, who we know had a fabulous time.

Our special thanks go to Bristol Rugby Club and Sarah Gorvett Commercial Executive, and of course our anonymous syndicate who made this special day happen.

Yet again another fine example of how Freemasonry can work in the Community!

The Provincial Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of Bristol

Friday 13 June 2014

Our Provincial Grand Chapter Annual Convocation has been prominent in the mind of our Provincial Grand Scribe Ezra, E.Comp Stephen Rawlings since he completed the work of planning, organising, holding and reviewing Provincial Grand Lodge, held on 10 April this year.

It is a well known fact, that you have the most control over a meeting's success before a person walks into the room. As such the mind-set of E.Comp Steve, has been one of perfecting his planning and organisation and it has to be said that this helped to produce another successful Royal Arch Convocation this year.

Of course it's not all down to our PrGScE, there are many people involved; not least our Provincial Grand Treasurer E.Comp Barry Leat who managed the dining plan and the purse strings and on the day the Provincial Grand DC played his part in directing us and of course our MEGS oversaw the whole event and controlled the meeting so well as we have come to expect.

All the organisation and planning though was well worth it when at the end of the dinner, the DC called upon the MEGS, his Co Principals and the Deputy Grand Superintendent to retire. We could all then look back and reflect on what was a really enjoyable and well run meeting and indeed we could all take a good deal of satisfaction and pride in being a Royal Arch Mason, in our special Province of Bristol.

Daybreak on Friday 13th June, lead us into what was to become the hottest day of the year so far, with temperatures soaring to 25C with wall to wall blue skies and sunshine. So it looked like we were set for a good day and so it turned out to be.

The guests started arriving at about 4:30pm and were hot and sticky after having travelled from as far afield as Suffolk and West



Distinguished guests looking well satisfied



The Grand Superintendent entertaining his guests

Wales. The traffic around Bristol these days seems to play a part in our meetings and we have to think of all our attendees competing with this to get to us on time, some of whom managed it!

Royal Arch Masonry is by nature colourful, not only in the ceremonial, but of course in the regalia and pageant and our annual Provincial Grand Chapter is a show piece which aptly demonstrates this.

There is no long procession into Provincial Grand Chapter, as there is at Provincial Grand Lodge, as the three Provincial Principals open Provincial Grand Chapter in the form of opening a regular Chapter meeting and this adds to the feeling of being part of it.

After the opening and once the formalities were over and the guests had all been welcomed and introduced individually to us, the main business on the agenda commenced.

As usual with our MEGS, there predominates a desire to create opportunities for amusement, this is not a criticism, I wouldn't dare, but there is often, either a muted respectful chuckle or a rousing roar of laughter. This meeting was no exception. The chuckle came when MEGS announced the name of his Deputy for the for coming year and E. Companion Chris Williams stood up prematurely and tried to impersonate E. Companion Tony Hopton, much to the amusement of those assembled. His appointment was due next and with a little prompt from E. Companion Alan, who after announcing the Second Provincial Grand Principal, turned towards Chris and

said, now it's you! The rousing roar of laughter came when our MEGS introduced the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent from the Province of Berkshire as "the late E. Comp Martin Peters" this was in reference to his late entrance to the proceedings due to the horrendous traffic he had to encounter on the way.

The highlight though, as is the norm on these occasions, were the appointments. We congratulate all who were honoured, but in particular we congratulate E. Companion Vivian John Lewis Bevan, our new 3rd Provincial Grand Principal. Viv is well known to us all in Bristol as a dedicated mason, perfect in all its parts and honourable alike to ourselves and the masonic body! We wish him well in his new role, in which he will continue to strive to achieve balance between this and his other provincial duties.

It is at our annual meeting that we look forward to the address of our MEGS. This year he made special mention of the sad demise of a large number of Bristol companions, whose loss will be felt personally by many members and in particular he mentioned Dr Dennis Henry Fox, who was MEGS and PGM for Bristol from 1990 to 2003. He was a huge influence on Bristol Masonry over a number of years and we will miss him enormously.

On a happier note he went on to say that Bristol Royal Arch Masonry was in good heart and continues to flourish and said that he wished all to be involved in recruitment and retention and wanted each Chapter to consider appointing a Mentor to assist with retention of candidates. He said we are very proud of our ancient and original Exaltation Ceremony including 'Passing the Veils' and we are delighted to receive so many visitors and requests for demonstrations.

He thanked all those officers who had served the Province so well during the past 12 months including the past Third Provincial Grand Principal, E. Companion Tony Baker and made mention of his "extended" explanation of the "fire".

All in all another well run and extremely enjoyable annual convocation.

There are a number of photographs with this article showing the members and visitors in full enjoyment mode.

As mentioned by the MEGS in his address, the downside of this day as far as many of us were concerned, was the funeral in the afternoon preceding this meeting of our Past MEGS, Dr Dennis Henry Fox MBE, which many of us attended, including our three Provincial Grand Principals. Dennis had been a tower of strength and a huge influence in Bristol Masonry for many years and his sad death at the age of 85, after a long illness took the shine off our day, particularly those who knew him well. Our thoughts and prayers were with his devoted wife Pamela and her family at this sad time.

Footnote:

The Royal Arch is a very special branch of masonry and all members should experience this colourful degree, which is the completion of "pure ancient masonry". See your Lodge, Royal Arch representative for further information and a suitable Chapter to join.

David Maddy

Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol

10 May 2014

Another Provincial Grand Lodge has come and gone. This, like so many others before, was an organisational challenge, which was met and surpassed by the Provincial Grand Secretary and his team.

Before giving a report on the day's events, I feel it is appropriate to comment, briefly on the organisation leading up to a very successful day.

I am not sure I should say that I have been privileged to have worked in the office as a helper or not for the past few months, but I can say that I have been privileged to have witnessed a dedicated group of brethren, who from a position of hidden obscurity, not only put in a tremendous amount of work to produce such a wonderful day, but who do so with unparalleled commitment, over a long period leading up to it, which manifests itself in an annual Provincial Grand Lodge to be proud of.



It is said on occasions such as this, these events don't just happen. I am sure we all know that, but the success of them is measured by the fact that no one realises or pays attention, because they run so smoothly.

There is a well known saying in masonry, lack of preparation always shows and the other side of the same coin is that good preparation never does. This was certainly the case, in delivering this year's successful Provincial Grand Lodge; it went smoothly without a hitch.

I therefore pay tribute to the Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro. Steve Rawlings supported by the Provincial Grand Treasurer, WBro. Viv Bevan on the organisation, attention to detail and the many hours of work, which went into making this meeting so successful and indeed the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro. Phil Patrick and his team of helpers, who set it all up and cleared it all away, without many of us knowing. These stalwarts of the Province ensured a thoroughly enjoyable day for all who attended.

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The day was very windy with flags on various surrounding buildings, vigorously blowing in the wind. I make no intended pun or parallel here to the Provincial Grand Master's Address to Provincial Grand Lodge! Again this year it was enlightening, very well constructed and struck a chord, if not least with organist WBro

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Paul Corder, who sat in prime position with an all-round view

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, WBro Philip Patrick was as usual in full control, from the early rehearsals on the day for incoming and outgoing officers, through the processions in full colourful pageant, in and out of the Great Hall, to the final rounding up after luncheon, in the dining rooms at Freemasons' Hall.

The format of Provincial Grand Lodge has been set over many years to a tried and tested formula with just a bit of gentle tweaking here and there to ensure a streamlined programme and this meeting was no exception.

After the ceremonial of opening PGL, there was a very long list of "in memoriam" tributes to those we have lost to the Grand Lodge above during the past year, with 25 names being read out by the Provincial Grand Secretary. We stood in silence and sadness, as we reflected on those friends we have lost during the past year. Lost, along with a wealth of knowledge and experience. They will all be sadly missed



and I am sure we all know someone with a special relationship to ourselves, who are in our thoughts and prayers. May they rest in peace?

Then there was the election of the Treasurer, not these days a competition, as we only had

one nomination. The PG Sec said that there was only one vacancy and one nomination, that of WBro Viv Bevan. He then, "with tongue in cheek", made a final plea, are we sure that there is only one nomination, to much laughter. Of course there was and so WBro Viv was again confirmed as Provincial Grand Treasurer for another year.

We then came to the highlight of the meeting, the many appointments and promotions.

After confirming the appointment of VWBro Christopher Williams to Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the PGM thanked VWBro Chris on his support and assistance "particularly, whilst he has been in the country". Was this a subtle reference to Chris spending time at his house in France, we pondered?

We then moved on to the appointment of the new Wardens. The incoming Senior and Junior Wardens were WBro Stephen Stafford and WBro Tim Brunton respectively. These are very well known to us and we wish them well in the year ahead.

The PGM thanked the outgoing Wardens, WBros, Steve Bennett and Nigel Middleton for their tremendous efforts during the past year, particularly for their hard work in raising funds for and lifting the profile of the Bristol 2019 Festival for the Masonic Samaritan Fund. I am sure that this was endorsed by all, as demonstrated by the warmth of the applause from the assembled Bristol brethren, that these two, had put in a tremendous amount of their valuable time and had made a real difference to fund raising for the MSF, during their year. They had surely proved to be very popular and eloquent representatives of the PGM, during their year in office.

Following the appointments of the other officers, the PGM came to his address.

He opened by thanking the large number of Bristol masons, who were assembled and congratulated all who were going to be honoured at the meeting, saying that their appointments were a reward for what they had done in the past and a commitment for what they were expected to do in the future.

He went on to congratulate WBro Viv Bevan on his appointment to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and to WBro Miles Harding for his promotion to Past Junior Grand Deacon, both very well deserved appointments.

He moved on to the progress of the Bristol 2019 Masonic Samaritan Fund and announced that we had, to date collected, £315,000, which was truly amazing, so early in our Festival period.



However, he would still like to see more brethren signing up to commit regular promissory payments, as there were just less than 1/3 of brethren committed to this at present and there were real benefits for the fund in so doing.

The PGM then asked the Provincial DC to present to him Bro Bill Doody. Bro Bill was brought to the dais and the PGM presented Bill with a specially struck MSF medallion in aid of his truly amazing effort of running seven marathons in seven days, culminating in the London Marathon. Brother Bill received a voluminous and well deserved round of applause from those assembled for his mammoth effort.



I won't go on to report all the Provincial Grand Master said in his address, this will be summarised in the next Bristol Year Book. Suffice to say that there was a lot to be grateful for and to be proud of in our Bristol Masonry and long may this continue under the auspices of our forward looking Provincial Grand Master.

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As a post script to the above article, I have been privileged to see some of the thank you and congratulatory letters and emails received from various Provincial Grand Secretaries from other provinces who attended our meeting. These were very complimentary about our Provincial Grand Master for the welcome they received and in particular very complimentary about our Provincial Grand Secretary for his flawless organisation of our Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting.

We should be rightly proud of our Unique Province as shown off at this meeting in all its magnificent and colourful glory and as such we in Bristol can be assured that we are highly respected by others and in good heart, good spirits ourselves and ready for another progressive new year ahead.

David Maddy

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## BRISTOL MASONIC GOLF ASSOCIATION

By Ron Brunton

**W**e are well into our golfing year with our captain Les Meaton supported by his vice captain Arthur Grannan looking to fill our trophy cabinet. Let's just say they are still settling in to their jobs. The Douglas Marsham event that has always been played at Henbury Golf Club was changed to Clevedon with the winners being



Andrew Nunn and Adrian Timms. At the match against Gloucestershire at Thornbury G.C. we only managed to muster ten players



on the day. We won 3 and 2 but had to forfeit 2 games giving us an overall loss. The home game against Monmouthshire at the Bristol on 11th June proved to be another disaster when we lost 3 & 4. The Don Foster Trophy plus our open day (which is open to all) has been rearranged due to a clash of dates. The new date is now 25th September. The venue remaining at the Bristol and Clifton. Dates for the other games as per the fixture list are as follows. Cornwall at Wedmore 31st July  
Wiltshire at Lansdowne 13th August  
Somerset at Henbury 19th August,  
Clive Farrow trophy at Mendip Spring 2nd September,  
The final event of the year is the visit to our captain's Lodge, date to be arranged.

## Cabot Lodge Achievement Award

**O**n Friday 10th of January at its Installation meeting, The Cabot Lodge No. 3884, received its 'Lodge Achievement Award' complete with a full Charity Pillar to recognise its fundraising efforts on behalf of the Bristol 2019 Masonic Samaritan Fund Festival.

In just 12 months since the official launch the amount pledged and donated totals an incredible £21,800!!



The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan Vaughan, presented the award to the New Worshipful Master, W Bro Arthur Grannan who responded, by saying that the Lodge would continue to support this and other Charities. The PGM made special mention of, and congratulated, W Bro Graham TenBroeke for his efforts as Lodge Festival co-ordinator noting that 24 Brethren had received Charity Jewels in the first year of the Festival!

"I am extremely proud that the Lodge has earned and received this achievement award which is confirmation that where there is determination and everyone works together it can make a massive difference. We can now concentrate our main fund raising efforts in aid of Parkinson sufferers during this year" commented the Worshipful Master.



Current Masters awaiting their visit to Cabot Lodge

## First Chapter Achievement Award Presented

**A**t the April Installation meeting The Matthew Chapter No. 9688 received its 'Chapter Achievement Award' complete with a full Charity Pillar to recognise its fundraising efforts on behalf of the Bristol 2019 Masonic Samaritan Fund Festival.

At the launch of the Festival the 28 members of Matthew Chapter committed to raising the per capita amount of £36 which would have raised a total of £1008, being the lodge objective.

In just sixteen months since the official launch the amount pledged and donated totals an incredible £2088!!

The Deputy Grand Superintendent, Ex. Comp Christopher Williams, presented the award to the First Principal Ex Comp Stuart MacKendrick who responded, by saying that the Chapter would continue to raise funds for this extremely important charity supporting masons and their dependants.

Ex Comp Stuart later explained that encouraging the use of Gift Aid Envelopes and free prize draws was vital to achieving, and exceeding, the Chapter objective. The funds raised this way at the after meetings had gained a bonus of £500 in Gift Aid!

"I am extremely pleased to present this award which proves that the Chapters in this Province are starting to respond to the plea to support the festival by raising a per capita of just £36, putting every Chapter on an equal basis, irrespective of the level of membership". Commented The Deputy Grand Superintendent.

Charity Steward, Comp James Tonkin, was quick to point out that although the Festival has been the main focus of fundraising, the Chapter has also continued in its support of other charities and local causes.

Following the Installation ceremony 58 Companions, family and friends, enjoyed a superb five course dining experience during which a further £350 was raised for the Festival.

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## Peace Lodge Ladies Night

**P**ease lodge Ladies night was held on 24th May. When we had an excellent attendance of 88 people consisting of members, their friends and family and Masters in the corner.

The night was a great success with great food and live music and we managed to raise £1020.00 after costs as well as the usual raffles etc.

My wife Nicola and myself presented a cheque to Miss Jones of Culverhill School on 16th June.

They are a special school in Yate for children with disabilities and learning problems, and their charity is Friends of Culverhill School who are a registered charity.

Nicola has a niece at this school. Her niece has cerebral palsy and is permanently in a wheel-chair.

*Martin Oxenham*



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## 32 Festival Jewels presented in one lodge meeting!!



**T**his remarkable event took place on Friday 25th of April at The Redcliffe Lodge Installation meeting.

The 32 members who were presented with festival jewels by The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Alan J Vaughan, represent three quarters of the lodge membership and each have pledged to support The Masonic Samaritan Fund with donations via the Redcliffe Lodge Registered Charity.

In presenting the Jewels, en bloc, to the Charity Steward, WBro Tony Hopton, the PGM thanked all the members of the lodge for their support for the Festival and said how delighted he was to be able to recognise the charitable giving of so many brethren in this unique manner.

The PGM paid special reference to the work carried out by WBro Tony Hopton who also successfully claimed the gift aid element back from HMRC on behalf of the lodge charity thereby ensuring the maximum amount of donation to the MSF.

The Worshipful Master, W Bro Brian Rutter, thanked the Provincial Grand Master for the presentation en bloc, commenting, that if each jewel had been presented individually there would have been no time for an after meeting!

There were guests, visitors and many Masters from the other lodges in the Province present and all enjoyed this very unique occasion, certainly the first time in the history of The Province of Bristol, and quite probably, the first time anywhere, that this number of Festival jewels have been presented at one lodge meeting!



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## Fund Raising exploits of a different kind for the 2019 Festival –

**Bro Alin Achim Junior Warden of The St Vincent Lodge is competing in the SWISS IRON MAN Contest in July.**

**Bro Paul Wootten of The Beaufort Lodge is competing in the POLAR CIRCLE MARATHON in October.**

**Please support them via the Gift Aid sponsorship Forms.**



## Viv Bevan

Vivian John Lewis Bevan, colloquially known to us all as Viv, was appointed Third Provincial Grand Principal at the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Royal Arch Masons of Bristol, on Friday 13 June 2014. Friday 13<sup>th</sup>, lucky for some eh?



As the MEGS. E.Comp. Alan John Vaughan said, as he appointed him, "he is well-known to you all and you will be seeing a lot of him in the forthcoming year", I am sure we all look forward to that.

Viv is a convivial man and as one who knows him well, a "fun" character. He is a member and Past First Principal of the Moira Chapter of Honour, No 326 where he has been honing his skills in the Royal Arch for a number of years, latterly as Assistant Director of Ceremonies. I am sure we Royal Arch Masons, can't wait to hear his explanation of the fire. Oh and Viv, matches aren't required!

Viv, a member of St Katharine lodge No 7051, has already been around the circuit in the Craft in Bristol, serving both as Provincial Junior Grand Warden and Provincial Senior Grand Warden, so this latest appointment completes a well deserved trilogy of senior Provincial appointments.

As a reward for his work for the Province of Bristol and craft masonry in particular, he was appointed as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies at Grand Lodge in London, this year, a well deserved appointment.

I won't go into a long biography of Viv here, as his story has been published in the Standard on a previous occasion, suffice to say that as I have been working alongside him in the Provincial Office for the past few months, I have first hand experience and knowledge of Viv's dedication and commitment.

I will just give you a brief insight to his work for the Province. He is the current Provincial Grand Treasurer for the Craft, Manager of the Province of Bristol Events and Weddings, where he is heavily involved in working to promote our beautiful building and its facilities and as such he is one of a number of unsung volunteers working for the Province. He is well qualified in dealing with weddings, as he celebrated 40 years of marriage to Christine, this year. I know that he will be totally committed to serving the MEGS, the Province and the companions, during his year of office and I am sure you will all join me in wishing him a very happy and rewarding year in office. Viv, we wish you well and hope to see you often in the new season.

David Maddy

## Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality

### Demonstration of the Bristol Initiation Ceremony to the Metropolitan Grand Steward's Lodge

3rd December 2013



drown him out! (Against the voice of an ex-traffic police officer it stood not a chance!).

The role of candidate was taken by W Bro. Angus Rhodes of the MGSL, an ex-Bristol Mason, who was obviously familiar with the ceremony and made all the appropriate responses, including trying to write 'The Word'.

There were 202 brethren present, not including us, the largest attendance I have ever seen outside a Provincial meeting, and all brethren received the performance gratefully. Many

Following a request from the PGM, 9 Brethren of the Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality, accompanied by our Tyler WBro. Tim Day, sallied forth on 3rd December 2013 to perform a demonstration of the Bristol Initiation ceremony to the Metropolitan Grand Steward's Lodge in Great Queen Street, London.

After fortifying ourselves with tea and bacon butties at my house we boarded the minibus and set off, to rendezvous with our host in London, WBro. Joe O'Shaughnessy, secretary of the MGSL.

We knew we were to perform in a large room before a larger than normal audience, but nothing could have prepared us for Temple no. 10! The room is about half as big again than our no. 1 Lodge Room, and appointed in the Egyptian style. After 'Calling Off' the lodge we were invited to take posts by the Worshipful Master, W Bro. Derek Lane PAGPurs.

Our WM, Bro. Gerry Flanagan, took the Chair and conducted a ceremony that I am proud to say did our Province credit, in spite of concerted efforts by the sound system to

were surprised to learn that we were not a special performance team, but that any lodge in Bristol could have done the same at any time, and that we were all current lodge officers in post. Afterwards we were treated to dinner at the adjacent Great Connaught Rooms with great hospitality, although the catering was not a patch on Fredy's!

Our hosts said that they would be pleased to donate 50% of the alms collection for the evening to charities of our choice, and true to their word have recently made transferred donations to the Jesse May Trust and the MSF 2019 Festival Appeal. To our amazement these donations have totalled £1100.00!

Other demonstrations are planned for the coming season. We can be justly proud of our Bristol ceremonies, Craft and Chapter, which are envied and enjoyed by our brethren in other Provinces, so we would recommend any Lodge who is requested to perform one to embrace the opportunity with enthusiasm.

Paul Hankinson, Secretary



The Team

Left to right - Bro. Andrew Farley, WBro. Tim Day, WBro. Andrew Nunn, WBro. David Nugent, WBro. Gerry Flanagan WM, WBro. Derek Lane PAGPurs, WM Met Grand Steward's Lodge (seated), WBro. Phil Mackie, WBro. David Brake, WBro. Darin Griffiths, Bro. Michael Feetham, WBro. Paul Hankinson - Secretary

Seated front - WBro. Angus Rhodes



# CLIFTON ROCKS RAILWAY ONE OF BRISTOL'S SECRETS GETS EXPOSED

By George Halladay

Although thousands of people pass it every day as they drive along the Bristol Portway few may know of its history. For all that they see is the bottom entrance to what was a great Victorian civil engineering feat – the Clifton Rocks Railway. Hewn out, with great difficulty, inside the cliffs of the Avon Gorge to reduce its impact on the picturesque surroundings outside, this water powered funicular transporter of travellers ran for 40 years, linking Clifton and the surrounding area of the expanding city with the pleasure steamers that used to dock at Hotwells, a rail link to a thriving Avonmouth and a tram link to a bustling city centre.



The rocks railway opened for business on March 11, 1893, and finally closed in 1934, following the widening of the Portway which made it extremely dangerous for pedestrians to cross.

Someone who has taken a keen interest in the history and future of this historical Victorian gem is W Bro. James Tonkin, PM of the Matthew Lodge No 9688, who just happens to be chairman of the Clifton Rocks Railway Trust. Since 2005 supporters have been spending much of their spare time to create what is becoming a great tourist attraction for Bristol. They have swept rooms, cleared weeds and discovered cable wheels and rails hidden behind rubble, four sets of track running through a tunnel as well as other artefacts of the only water powered funicular cliff railway in the world.

Other members include Peter Davey, chairman of the team and an authority on the history of Bristol trams and those glorious green buses that followed, of which he is the proud owner of one; and Maggie Shapland, recently awarded the British Empire Medal for her services to Clifton preservation and who describes herself as "Leader of the

Heavy Gang." No doubt as a result of the blood, sweat and tears spent in removing much of the rubble behind which they found cable wheels and were able to retrieve a 4.5 cwt turnstile and a heavy water valve.

"A hole had to be cut in a blast wall to get into a chamber where much of the artefacts were stored in 1940," explained James. The grand opening in May 2005 was performed by Sir George White, grandson of George White – the man who brought trams to Bristol and the Bristol Aeroplane Company. Another open day was held in September. On both occasions thousands turned up to see what had been hidden underground for so long.

In the following year a replica car of the type used to take passengers between Clifton and the Hotwell Road was installed. "We have now taken well over 5,500 visitors down the tunnel and done over 70 trips down it," said James. "On open days we have already had over 23,500 visitors.



"On the weekend of September 13 and 14 the rock railway will be again open for business, with vintage buses again in attendance at the Sion Hill entrance on the Sunday. So why not come along and join in the fun between 10 am and 4pm."

Unfortunately there is no chance of the rock railway opening for business between its two origi-

nal stations. "A fully operational railway would never generate enough revenue to be financially viable supported by the fact that such a venture went bankrupt in 1908 and again in 1934.

"It would also spoil the wartime atmosphere and history. There are also the issues of the public emerging on to the Hotwell Road. Ofsted are very enthusiastic about the educational benefits, for this amazing site still has many mysteries and secrets yet to be uncovered."

The top station and most of the tunnel is owned by the Avon Gorge Hotel, whose management is highly supportive of what is being done and who spent a hefty chunk of cash to make the tunnel safe to work in. The bottom station is the property of Bristol city council. During World War II the railway was used as an air raid shelter, by Imperial Airways, the forerunner of what is now British Airways, including work on making air balloons and by the BBC as a secret transmission base. Until the restorers moved in the site had remained empty since the 1960s.

The trust, supported by the hotel and the city council and spon-

sored by a number of local companies, is aiming to "advance the education of the public through the preservation and restoration of the Clifton Rocks Railway and its wartime history as a sustainable visitor attraction."

I am sure that we all wish James and his team of enthusiastic supporters well in their ambitious efforts.

## ST MARK'S CHURCH MARKING TIME WITH BRISTOL'S HISTORY

By George Halladay

S nuggly tucked away between more modern buildings on either side, overlooking College Green, Bristol's City Hall and within just a short walking distance of a certain well known address known to masons, St Marks Church is one of the city's oldest churches, having survived the many blitz on the city by the German Luftwaffe during World War II. It is better known to Tudor and mediaeval historians since 1722 as the Lord Mayor's Chapel, and is the only church in England privately owned and used for worship by a city corporation.



St Mark's was built as the chapel to the Gaunt's Hospital next door, now long since demolished, and founded in 1220. Except for the west front it is surrounded by buildings, many of which have been built since the end of the last war. Still to be seen is its ancient tower and the church still has many treasures within its walls, including some fine late gothic features and a collection of continental stained glass. It has also been designated by English Heritage as a Grade I listed building.

As to its long history, in 1220 Maurice de Gaunt, a grandson of Robert Fitzharding, first feudal baron of Berkeley, founded a hospital, a mediaeval charitable institution, next to his grandfather's foundation, St Augustine's Abbey – now Bristol Cathedral – on the other side of what is now College Green. It was created to provide relief for the sick and poor, was named the Hospital of St Mark of Billeswyke-by-Bristol and was housed in the Abbey's Almonry.

Following Maurice's death in 1230, his nephew Robert de Gournay added it to his endowment, made it independent of the Abbey and put it under control of Maurice's brother Henry de Gaunt. It then became better known as St Mark's or Gaunt's Hospital. The church, an ecclesiastical gem, is all that remains of the institution that cared for the inmates.

Within its walls can be seen several chest tombs, including two of



knights which may be those of the church's founders. There are more tombs to be seen of other members of the powerful Berkeley family to which the founders were related. Others are buried in the cathedral. Still "resting" in St Mark's is Mary Denys, who died in 1593, and was the last Prioress of Kington St Michael Priory in Wiltshire. She was bequeathed by the will of her brother Sir Walter Denys his second best bed at Codrington, in Gloucestershire.

At the time of the Dissolution of her Priory in 1535 Mary was described by the agent of Thomas Cromwell as "a faire young woman of Lacock." Records also reveal that she died "a good olde maid, verie vertuose & godlye & is buried in the church of the Gauntes on the grene".

Following the bitter Dissolution of the Monasteries in 1539 the lease on the hospital was acquired by a Sir Edward Carne who acted as its treasurer and enjoyed spending a lucrative income from its many ancient bequests of lands and rents.



Sir Edward was due to go abroad to help in arranging the ill-fated wedding of Anne of Cleves to Henry VIII and the revenue used to support his wife Anne, a daughter of Sir William Denys of Dyrham, Gloucestershire. Bristol Corporation objected to this and in 1540 were able to buy the chapel, although it was not until 1722 that it became the official church of the Mayor and Corporation. However, between 1590 and 1767, the original Queen Elizabeth's Hospital School used the former hospital building next door to the church and the church as its chapel.

Following the arrival of many Huguenots who fled France to Bristol in the 17th century, the Corporation allowed many of them to use the chapel which contains some fine baroque wrought iron by Bristol blacksmith William Edney. These consist of a sword rest of 1702 and the screen and gate for the south aisle chapel, which dates to 1726. They were all moved from Temple Church after it was bombed in the Bristol Blitz.

Today the chapel is available to multi-faith events and prayers are offered at the beginning of every full council meeting, enhanced by the presence of a choir from the present QEH school.

## Auf Wiedersehen Brethren



Kirchenstrasse is a street just off the main tourist drag in Munich city centre. Richard said to me, "just opposite the church" so we figured we must be at the correct place. We rung Dr. Jung's doorbell and let ourselves into a fairly typical apartment block. We then spied a door with a discreet compass and square on it and were greeted by a large German fellow. What blazed forth within the interior was clearly a Masonic venue so we invited ourselves in.

Richard Lewis and I were taking advantage of a few hours off for good behaviour during business trips, to pay a visit to the Southern Star Lodge No. 1025; an English speaking German Lodge. The evening was interesting as it was an open-evening aimed at recruiting prospective candidates who had made contact via the Lodge's website. This is a regular feature in this Lodge's recruiting strategy, and being a fairly small Lodge, a useful source of finding new, suitable members.

We were ushered into their Lodge room which was not much larger than the top-floor committee room in Park Street. A dozen or so people were in the process of introducing themselves so we sat down and were promptly given application forms. Having introduced ourselves, the forms were taken back as we were clearly not there as prospects. The forms were swapped however for bottles of strong German beer. The evening was getting better.

In the 1960s, Dr. Elisabeth Jung, a patent attorney with an office in Kirchenstrasse got in contact with (irregular) freemasonry and founded a lodge for men and women named "Mozart zu den drei Rosen" who, after her retirement, used the rooms for their lodge meetings, and still do. In Dr. Jung's will, she bequeathed the rooms to the then largest regular lodge "Zur Kette" to help continue a masonic life, but also for other smaller lodges who could not afford larger rent-

als. She died in 2002 and besides the mixed lodge, the rooms are now used by various lodges and the esoteric "ORA" order (Ordo Rosae Crucis), a non-masonic body. The rest of the house contains flats in private ownership. The Southern Star Lodge itself consists mainly of Germans, ex-pat British engineers and a couple of Americans.

The prospective candidates, and one prospective joining member, were an interesting cultural mix. One from the Philippines, a Mormon from Africa, an American, a Spaniard and a number of east Europeans – all of whom had settled in the beautiful city of Munich and were attracted by an English speaking Lodge. Following the introductions, the Lodge members explained what their roles were and what Freemasonry meant to them. A few, totally spurious claims about Emulation working were greeted with the obligatory disapproving noises from the Bristol contingent. This was taken in good heart and prompted discussion about the similarities and differences between the ways Freemasonry is practiced under the Grand Lodge of England. Two more beers please.

One young man was interested to know if we all found the ritual boring having seen it performed so many times. The popular analogy was to compare it to the great pieces of music where the arrangement is different every time depending, but it's still a memorable performance. It was then the turn of the newcomers to let on, why becoming a Freemason interested them, and importantly, what they could bring to the Southern Star Lodge. Some were very eloquent, some a little vague. At this point, the newest member of the Lodge, a young American former Marine turned historian, was dispatched to the local Italian restaurant for pizza and more beer.

Having bid the prospects a fond farewell, Richard and I were asked the \$64,000 question. Which one(s) would you pick? It turns out that one or more had been attending social functions for twelve months as part of their recruitment process. "Prospects" is a pretty good description as that's what many Motorcycle Clubs call their newcomers whilst they are trying to gain membership and twelve months as a Prospect is not uncommon. Is there any beer left?

There were a couple of good prospective candidates, and one or two who possibly weren't totally suited. Maybe the drawn out pro-

cess is not entirely without merit. The joining member would do any Lodge proud as he was very knowledgeable.

Our hosts were most welcoming and as you can tell, very generous in the true Munich tradition. It was nice to be able to offer our experience and flattering that they should value our opinion. We both left our contact details with the promise that we would return on a future occasion with regalia. I liked the idea of the Monday evening trip to the beer garden which the Lodge arranges through the summer months. I'll definitely give that a try if I'm in Munich next summer.

Post Script- Five of the interviewees completed application forms to be initiated into the Southern Star Lodge No. 1025.

## The Baily Lodge present EVAC Chairs to Freemasons Hall

Tony Griffiths, Premises Manager of Freemasons' Hall, Park Street, Bristol, taking delivery of 5 EVAC chairs donated by The Baily Lodge No 5239.

The chairs were presented to Tony by W Bro. Andy Jones Worshipful Master of Baily and W Bro Mike Parsons Lodge Charity Steward

The chairs will be strategically placed on each floor throughout the building to aid with evacuation should the need arise.



W Bro Mike Parsons, W M Bro Andy Jones and W Bro Tony Griffiths

## Valentines Gala Ball 2014

On Saturday 15th February 2014 The Grand by Thistle Hotel, Broad Street, Bristol was the venue for the second Grand Valentines Gala Ball in aid of the MSF 2019 Festival.

The Evening was off to a flying start when Provincial Grand Master for Bristol RWBro Alan





Vaughan presented the Festival Chairman W Bro Steve Bennett with a cheque for £2500. He also thanked the committee for all their hard work throughout the year, and acknowledged the tremendous hard work of Bro Kevin and Mrs Sue Taylor for organising this year's event.



W Bro Steve Bennett then announced that the grand total had reached £292,000 and thanked the Lodges and Chapters in the Province for their support and for making the 2014 Ball a great success, he also thanked the ladies for attending and for their continued support of our festival efforts.

The Master of Ceremonies for the evening was Bro Kevin Taylor, who kept a very busy evening moving along and who also called the raffle where there were some fantastic prizes!

It was a wonderful evening following on from last year's successful ball, with a delicious five course dinner that was enjoyed by all who attended, many thanks to WBro Navin Manekporia who did an excellent job selling the balloons on each table at a slightly inflated price!

There was also a delightful performance by the Yetminster Irish Dancers and to finish the evening dancing late into the night to the brilliant band "Souled Out".

The generosity of those 285 attending the second, and final, Provincial Valentines Ball raised the magnificent amount of £3,700 for the Bristol 2019 MSF Festival!

*Bob White*

## Cabot Lodge 3884

At its November meeting in 2013, the Cabot Lodge organised a "Speaker Evening" with the view to raising funds to support the Bristol Rugby Community Foundation and to assist in its efforts to develop programmes to build on the work in the community that it had already undertaken.



In order to achieve this, and with the assistance from the £2500 raised at the Cabot Speaker Evening, Bristol Rugby Community Foundation, Future Stars Coaching and Bristol Rugby Club have come together to create the Legacy Project, a revolutionary sport delivery programme.



*After a brief introduction the children are ready to play*

I asked Ben Breeze, Cabot Lodge member and Chief Executive of Bristol Rugby Community Foundation, what this money was being put towards and how was it helping to support games delivery in the community?

He explained -

"The Legacy Project works with 33 primary schools in North Somerset, Bristol and South Gloucestershire ensuring that sports participation is so much more than just PE lessons.



*Straight into small sided games with all the children involved*

Primarily, the project sees selected curriculum PE lessons being supported by two, fully qualified, sports coaches and their class teacher. This low pupil/teacher ratio not only allows fantastic quality of delivery, but also allows the teachers to become actively involved in each session. This approach offers improved pupil/teacher monitoring and assessment, as well as continuous professional development' for school teachers. This helps ensure pupils become physically literate, enabling lifelong participation in physical activity.

Why don't you come along and see our work in practice?"

How could I refuse?

It was agreed that I would go along to High Down Junior School, in Portishead on the morning of 28th February to see the coaches in action.

"Not the best of days to be working outside with 30, 7/8 year old children," I thought as I approached the school at the allotted time!

After meeting Ben at the office I asked if the lesson was to be taught inside as it was a cold and wet morning!

I was informed that the coaches preferred to work outside if it was possible and the children were encouraged to wear warm clothes and they would be kept active throughout the whole sports session.

After a short introduction from the two coaches - the children certainly were kept active. They were split into two groups to work on small rugby games which kept them active and involved.

None of the children had time to be cold as they were kept on their toes by the two coaches with plenty of encouraging words.

At the end of the session, which lasted for 25minutes, all the children had been actively engaged. None of them had been cold as they had been on the go for the full session.

The two coaches worked with commitment and enthusiasm and this was translated to the children.

As the children left to get changed for their next lesson, they were all enthused by what they had done.

As they were leaving, I asked some of the children what they had enjoyed about their rugby lesson.

"It was fun and I really enjoyed the game! Our team won!" commented Alex "We won because we played as a team!" said Alice "And everyone in our team touched the ball."

"Can't wait until next week when we do this again!" declared Oliver as he ran over to where the bibs were being collected.



*Is everybody happy?—"You bet your life we are!"*

I also asked the teacher what he had gained from the session with the two Bristol Coaches. He commented that it was great to be able to call upon the services of such good coaches to take some of the sessions in Primary School - especially when most primary teachers are not specialists - however, he had now gained some insight into how to begin delivering rugby lessons to his class thanks to the Legacy Programme being offered by Bristol Rugby Community Foundation.



## Visit to Grand Lodge of New York

by Colin Lias

On Saturday 15th March I visited the 19 storey high building of Grand Lodge of New York situated on 23rd and 6th for those who may follow in our footsteps. Worth a visit as you may see from some of the photographs. The lodge



rooms are fantastic. All the artwork was hidden under an inch of thick paint all one colour so after about half a million dollars for each room the results are eye-popping.

There is a photograph of a silver light cluster, one of three with matching wall-lights which was thought to be a simple metal. When cleaned they were found to be solid silver- just one of the many great discoveries they found in a ten year restoration.

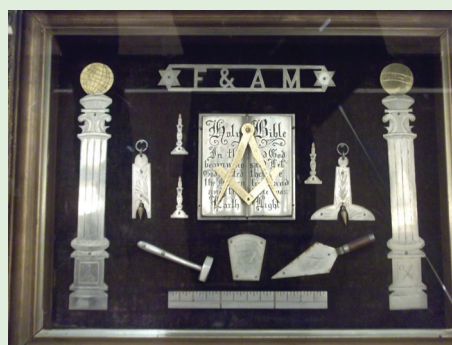
The photo of the man in the hat is their Grand Master; M.W.Bro. James E Sullivan.



A visiting brother attended last year and saw they needed a better flag so on his return as a senior officer of a helicopter squadron in Afghanistan he presented the lodge with the flag he flew there, needless to say they didn't use it and made the presentation set instead.



There are the four folded away veils which are used in their proper Royal Arch Ceremony. I was with another brother from Jersey who informed me that they had used the Bristol Chapter ceremony a few years ago in Jersey. He explained that this was with special dispensation from UGLE; I think perhaps we could offer to carry out a demonstration as I was informed that they still have all the items to do the veils ceremony.



Along with their numerous lodge rooms there is a huge temple which is their Grand Lodge Temple, again a fantastic place and of course I couldn't resist the invitation to try out the big chair.

My conductor was R.W.Bro. Eugene Lindlau who in true masonic tradition managed to extract a donation from all present for charity and also a lapel pin which he would only give out to brethren.

Further details are available on their website, just search Grand Lodge of New York, a site with many more very interesting photographs.

## FOUR LODGES and a CHAPTER

Not having had a holiday since 2006, I jumped at the chance of a masonic tour of the Shetland Isles as carer for W Bro Mike Ritson of Tivoli Lodge in Weston-super-Mare who makes such pilgrimages on an annual basis. I was right to think that November might not be an ideal time of year to visit a group of islands which



on its northern coast abuts the Arctic Ocean. However, having secured the purchase of the requisite thermal underwear and making sure my gloves, hat and scarf were up to the job, an expeditious getaway was achieved at 4.00am on Sunday November 3rd. By 8.30am we were breakfasting at Gretna and by 1.30pm we had reached the 'granite city' – Aberdeen.

We had a three hour wait before the departure of our ferry to Lerwick and went in search of coffee and buns. Eventually we boarded the mv Hrossey and settled in a cabin which would be our refuge for the notorious fourteen hour crossing. Mike and I had both been at sea and his time on fishery protection vessels around Iceland had prepared him for what was coming next rather more than my experiences as a musician on Caribbean and Mediterranean cruises. The Captain seemed almost to chuckle as he warned us of force nine gales! We reached Kirkwall in the Orkney Islands at midnight and I wrongly thought that the bad weather was past. How wrong I was!

We docked at distant Lerwick at 7.30am in time for a hearty breakfast ashore. We were joined by our host Bro Andy Thompson, Past Master and Past First Principal of Lerwick's Lodge and Royal Arch Chapter. Sated, we then checked into our comfortable accommodation at Alder Lodge Guest House.

The following day we needed to make an early start to reach Aurora Lodge No. 1654, the most northerly Lodge in the British Isles and to get there involved catching two ferries and a sixty mile drive through the confusingly named Mainland, across the island of Yell and then across to the island of Unst, the most northerly populated outpost of the British Isles. The Lodge building at Hagdale near Baltasound was made from a converted garage and had once been a busy Lodge when nearby RAF Sullom Voe was operational. At 6.30 there were only five members present and two short of the required number to open the Lodge, so I was Senior Deacon and Mike was Inner Guard. A simple opening and closing was performed with dexterity and then the main business of the evening was to sample some single malts before the tortuous 57 mile journey back to Lerwick.

We took advantage of a day off to sample the views and some of the freshest fried haddock imaginable. The following day we ventured north once more to Brae for a visit to Delting Lodge No 1736 where we were treated to a demonstration of a first degree ceremony, the volunteer candidate being Bro Richards, a se-



nior Past Master of the Lodge. On this occasion there were more than enough members to officer the Lodge and afterwards we enjoyed fellowship in the bar complete with piping hot Scottish pies and one or two malts – why not??



The following day we visited Morton Lodge 89 in Lerwick which had been consecrated 251 years before; this time we were going to be entertained with a 'live' third degree ceremony and we were not disappointed. In Scotland the Master and Officers are in office for two years and this was a well-seasoned team half way through their second year. The young Polish candidate must have been impressed. I was not the only one standing to order Bristol style, the other was Past Master of Morton Lodge, Dr Robert Allan whose initiation I had happened to attend in Brunel Lodge in 1986. That was not the only coincidence; the Lodge Secretary had lived 80 yards from me in Shirehampton whilst doing his Post Office Telephone training in the 1970s!

After a few non-masonic days of sight-seeing and the touring of local inns, hostelrys and fishermen's drinking holes purely as a sociological exercise to study cultural diversity and to divine just exactly how many single malts can you have before oblivion, we came to a fitting Masonic climax – The Scottish Royal Arch!

It's very different in structure in Scotland, separate from Craft Masonry and includes the Mark Degree, The Cryptic Degrees or at least three of them and The Royal Ark Council, which has three extra degrees appended just to exclude English masons!

Our visit to St Ringan Chapter No 300 certainly did not disappoint, Lerwick like Bristol has a separate Chapter room which is also used for Cryptic and Red Cross degrees. We were treated to the Excellent Master degree which includes a veils ceremony. I had to take an oath because the first part of the ceremony would be new to me and I had to promise not to divulge anything which I was about to learn. Whether that part of the ceremony was similar to the one worked in Bristol in the early part of the nineteenth century, I don't know, but a lot of the wording was most familiar. The Chapter then opened in the Mark Degree and as the Joining Member had taken his Mark Degree in a Craft Lodge, he had to be 'converted'! The third part of the proceedings was the exaltation ceremony, complete with a real Candidate, and this was a tantalizing amalgam of Bristol workings and things which may have been heard and seen in England a couple of hundred years ago!

Our final day in Shetland included a visit to the Shetland Museum and a trip to Scalloway, the ancient capital. Having said our goodbyes, we caught the evening ferry back to Aberdeen and mercifully the crossing was much better on sister ship mv Hjaltland. Having had car trouble during our stay, the first port of call was the Mercedes-Benz dealership who handed over the keys of a two week old E series hire car for our run back to Bridgwater. This went without incident at the time, however ten days later a speeding ticket arrived and thankfully I wasn't the one driving!

*Kevyn R Jones  
Baily Lodge 5239*

## Get Your Kicks, 390 Miles From Route 66 The Mount Moriah Lodge No. 19, Douglas, Arizona

It was a few years ago that a close friend and I managed to convince our wives that we should go and spend two weeks riding along Route 66 on a couple of rented Harleys. Just one week after the 2013 Provincial Grand Lodge, we were heading out of Phoenix to start our adventure. As it turns out Route 66 has been largely reduced to dirt tracks following the building of free-

ways. We therefore decided to do a grand tour of Arizona, Utah, Colorado, New Mexico, and Texas taking in what's left of Historic Route 66.

Early, one blazingly hot Texas morning, we headed west from El Paso along the Mexican border. A lot of the towns along the border have become deserted over the years, and the scenery is only interrupted by the occasional US Border Guard, searching out the poor souls from Mexico seeking a better life. The sun was definitely at its meridian when we pulled over to seek some shade. A group of bikers from the LAPD stopped for a chat and recommended we spend a night in Douglas, if we didn't have any better plans.

Douglas is a crossing point between Mexico and Arizona and as this Sunday eve-

ning fell on a holiday weekend, things were a little quiet. However, we quickly found the best bar in town which was in The Gadsden Hotel. It was named after a treaty signed by James Gadsden, the American Ambassador to Mexico in 1853, resulting in the sale of nearly 30,000 square miles of Mexico to the United States that now forms Southern Arizona and South

West New Mexico. The hotel's fabulous marble staircase still bears the marks made by Pancho Villa when he rode his horse up to his room during one of his many forays across the border to reap revenge on America.



After a few cold beers, we emerged from the hotel only to spy a rather imposing Compass and Square on a building opposite. It appeared we'd stumbled, quite literally, on the local Masonic Hall. Back at our hotel, we looked up the Lodge on the internet which turned out to be the Mount Moriah Lodge No. 19, operating under The Grand Lodge of Arizona. A hopeful



email was sent to the Secretary to which he promptly replied. He would meet us at 6pm the following day and give us a guided tour.

The Secretary, Worshipful Brother Roy Peters, met us at the duly appointed time and generously gave up his Memorial Day evening to show us around. The sole Lodge room is a glorious affair, if anything slightly larger than No. 1 Lodge room in







Park Street. What it does have is an actual set of 3, 5, and 7 steps forming a staircase for candidates to climb. It is thought to be unique in Arizona. Interesting too is that Entered Apprentices get their own door through which to enter the Lodge room.

In the early 1900's, Douglas was booming thanks to the mining industry, and with many of its inhabitants being active young men, it was not long before talk of a masonic lodge arose. The result was a preliminary meeting on 29th November 1902 when twelve master masons assembled at the offices of the Atlas Exploration & Mining Company, for the purpose of taking the necessary measures for the establishment of a lodge of Free and Accepted Masons. A petition was drafted and signed by twenty men, representing seventeen different states and Canada.

The second preliminary meeting made ar-

rangements to provide the necessary furniture for the lodge and a suitable room for meetings. On 3rd March 1903, a petition was presented to The Perfect Ashlar Lodge No. 12 at Bisbee, Arizona, "with the fraternal desire of the petitioners, that it recommend to the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of the Territory of Arizona, the issue of a Dispensation for the establishment of a new Lodge" - The Mount Moriah Lodge No. 19. The Lodge was constituted before Arizona became a state, making it one of the last Territorial Lodges. They have a Mexican flag in the east for two reasons. They live just a few blocks from the Mexican border, and many of the members are of Mexican descent.

Little early history remains because the Secretary's book was destroyed by fire. What is known however is that in 1911, the lodge began to talk about having a "home" of its own and as a consequence, purchased the present building. Soon after purchasing the property, plans were made to renovate the upper floor and install a staircase. The grace and beauty of the winding staircase delights the members and attracts visitors from all over the United States. The high ceiling supported on the sides by pilasters, lend dignity to the ceremonies.

Two World Wars took their toll on membership, but many men stationed in Douglas on military service joined the Lodge. Members of Mount Moriah Lodge have a proud heritage of servicing the community and country for over 100 years and have served their country with distinction. Imagining this was once part of the wild-west, there is a John Wayne connection which even the locals admit is tenu-

ous. His is one of several pictures on the wall of the ante-room to the lodge. In it he is receiving his third degree at Marion McDaniel Lodge in Tucson, just over 100 miles away. Marion McDaniel Lodge is now known as the Duke's Lodge.

Cruising through deserted border towns where the street signs have bullet holes doesn't encourage one to stop and take in the scenery and we only stumbled across Douglas because the heat of the day got the better of us. We are so glad we did however, and actually stayed two nights as we found the place so friendly. We left with very happy memories and if anyone from Douglas reads this article at any time in the future, thanks for making us so welcome.

Mike Searle

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