

The Bristol Masonic Society again held its annual carol service at St. Mary Redcliffe Church as it has done for the past 32 years. Although the weather was pretty dull it was

that some 468 years ago Queen Elizabeth I was in Bristol and was recorded as saying that St Mary Redcliffe was "The fairest, goodliest and most famous Parish church in England" and that was without the full spire that we see today.

Those who joined the PGM at Park Street after the service were in for one of Bro. Fredy



still a splendid way to start the Christmas celebrations especially with the church full to capacity. Bristol brethren together with their friends and family listened to the church choir singing such Christmas carols as 'Silent Night' and 'Good Christian Men Rejoice'. The lessons were read by members of the Bristol Masonic Society with the congregation joining in on other carols. It is difficult to believe

Eyermann's culinary delights with a traditional Sunday roast with all the Christmas trimmings. The meal has now become part of the extended carol service with over 200 brethren and their family and friends enjoying the pre Christmas festivity, and so may it continue. There was also a silent auction, a raffle and sale of 143 brand new remote controlled miniature



## BRISTOL MASONIC CAROL SERVICE

13<sup>TH</sup> December 2015



helicopters donated by John Brooks, Past Master of Cabot Lodge. The proceeds which were raised will be going to the Province of Bristol 2019 Festival which is raising funds for the Masonic Samaritan Fund. After

the meal and especially for the children who attended there was a big screen television in one of the meeting rooms (I did see a few grownups watching Tom & Jerry but their secret is safe with me).

Editor



## A Christmas Story: Felix Road Adventure Playground

As readers of The Standard may be aware, Felix Road Adventure Playground (FRAP) based in Easton is a local charity established in 1974 to provide free open access adventure play for children of all ages. Each Christmas they put on a party for many of the local children, but due to unforeseen financial circumstances this year's event looked though it would have to be cancelled.

The Province of Bristol was made aware of the situation and FRAD were approached offering them our assistance. This was generously accepted and it was suggested our funds be used to hire the Bristol Play Bus (a charity that delivers a wide range of play & early years activities to

children living in Bristol) for the Christmas Party.

On the afternoon of Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> December the Play Bus, Father Christmas and his elves arrived at Felix Road to greet 200 children and distribute presents to them. A fantastic day was had by all and the children were thoroughly thrilled to meet Father Christmas. The Freemasons of Bristol were delighted to save Christmas for these children and Lisa Coleman, trustee of FRAP, said, "Your generosity really boosted our hearts!"

This is another fine example of Freemasonry working in conjunction with the local community.

Chris Cook



## Bristol Masonic Widows Association

Another year has flown past and I hasten to report on the activities of the Bristol Masonic Widows Association. The present committee had agreed to stand for a further year as no new nominations were forthcoming to form a committee at our last A.G.M. I do hope that there will be plenty of nominations when a new committee is formed next April. The present committee has strived to offer a range of speakers, games, outings and raffles throughout the year and they are to be thanked for employing their energies.

We are thankful to the financial support we have received from the varied Lodges and have arranged raffles at our meetings to maintain a healthy bank balance. Our friendly Father Christmas, Fred, is always a welcome visitor at our Christmas meeting and we thank him for his services.

During the year we have tried to be mindful of the needs of others, less fortunate than ourselves. Meetings can sometimes look like

a jumble sale with parcels of "collected" items. There are stamps for the Blind Association, bottle tops (which are re-cycled to make garden furniture) and toiletries and knickers for the homeless ladies in our city. These are all collected and passed on through contacts within the group.

Recently the area meeting of Masonic Widows was held at the Nailsea Lodge and we had a most enjoyable lunch with them. Our autumn lynch was at The Travellers Rest, just outside Pensford and included a pleasant tour of Mendip and the lakes.

Sadly we have lost some members due to ill-health or have moved to be closer to family. Many new widows will be working until they are 65 years old and are unable to attend day time meetings. However, we continue to do our best to provide a diverse programme for the members and will take our advancing years into consideration.

Jill Pidgeon



## Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Three years ago, I was diagnosed with an Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, or AAA as it is commonly known and I have since been invited to an AAA NHS presentation by Southmead Hospital. Needless to say I became quite anxious when I first realised this, especially as this can be fatal if not treated and I felt that with so many older Brethren in our Province, the seriousness of this should be circulated to all through this Bristol Standard.

During this very helpful presentation, we were all given a full insight into the condition, which primarily affects men, (very few women are diagnosed with this illness) and the facts and information offered was extremely helpful and went some way into putting our minds at rest of both the condition and treatment. Having an aneurysm can be a very anxious time and the information given can be very helpful to help allay fears.

Southmead Hospital's Clinical Director, Mr Mahesh Pai pointed out, during this presentation that whilst the current screening programme was only started three years ago for 65 year old males, all other males who had already passed their 65th birthday, would not have been invited for this free screening and Mr Pai felt it would be helpful if any of us present and who were involved or belonged to social or interest groups, (and Freemasonry and The Round Table amongst many were mentioned), it would be helpful if we spread the word, as any males who are 68 and older can contact the Screening Team who will, at no cost invite individuals in to a local Clinic or Health Centre for a session, which usually lasts up to 20 minutes. The screening process is very similar to the ultrasound scan given to pregnant women, i.e. across the stomach and is completely painless.

Obviously we have many males in our Bristol Lodges who are older than 68 years and could well benefit from a short check-up. If, of course an aneurysm is found, that person will remain on the screening programme until it has settled and doesn't grown any more. If it does increase to a size that gives concern, there are a couple of operations available and a consultant on the AAA team will then dis-

cuss options available. As we know, if an aneurysm 'blows', unless you're in hospital when it happens, death is imminent.

In order to provide Brethren with information, a Screening Programme information book will be made available in the Bar at Park Street, which gives all the information you require.

All males who live in the Bristol, Bath and Weston Health areas can request a scan and this will be sorted by the AAA Team. GP's are automatically notified about an individual's condition. There could well be Brethren in our Province who already have an aneurysm and don't know it. Similar to the importance of checking for Prostate Cancer, an AAA is just as important. It should be noted that if an aneurysm reaches a specific size, (from about 5.5cm I understand), the DVLA have to be notified and licences can/will be suspended.

If you are not able to get to Park Street for a while and would like to contact the AAA, please contact 0117 4148610. Appointments are simple to make and arrangements are usually made so that you can attend your own or a near health surgery.

Remember, that you will normally be called in for the first time once you reach your 65th birthday. If you have reached 65 and haven't been contacted, please contact the number above.

Michael D. Satherley  
The Lodge of Unity

If you are male and aged 65 years or over and wish to self refer for an ultrasound scan of your aorta please contact us.

**0117 4148610**

[aaascreening@nbt.nhs.uk](mailto:aaascreening@nbt.nhs.uk)

<http://aaa.screening.nhs.uk>

**NHS**

**Screening Programmes**

**Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm**

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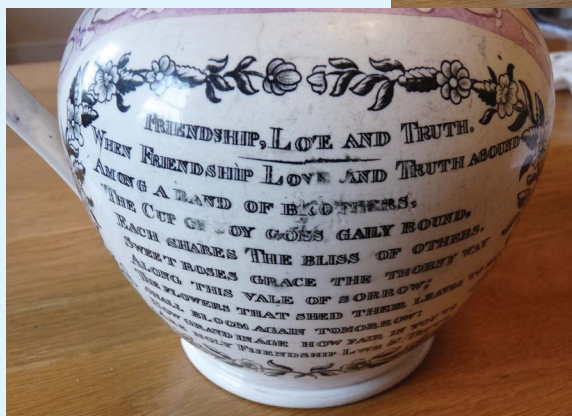
## Death of a Doctor

*by Chris Cook*

Many years ago I was attending an auction at a local saleroom and purchased a rather interesting Masonic jug. Dated around 1792, it was made by Sunderland Lustre Ware. It was found in 1959 in an antique shop situated about 100 yards from the Masonic Temple in Drury Lane, London. The jug had been there undisturbed for about 30 years. More curious is what I found inside, an undated newspaper cutting, the headline of which was, "FOUND DEAD IN HIS GARDEN". The article related to a Dr. Rossiter-Lewis, a Harley Street physician, psychiatrist and Freemason. He was found dead in the garden of his Feltham home at 5am by a police officer on patrol. Although the article is not dated, by analysing the football fixtures on the reverse side, it is likely he died on August 30th 1960.



Further research into Dr. Rossiter-Lewis reveals an interesting story dating back to 1952. Patricia Curran, the daughter of a high court judge, was murdered in Country Antrim. She was found dead in the driveway of her home, having been stabbed some 37 times. However there was little blood at the scene. What followed has been described by many people as a cover up. The Curran family were not allowed to be interviewed by the Royal Ulster Constabulary until four days had passed by order of a judge. The RUC were only allowed to enter the family home a week after Patricia's death where they discovered her bedroom has been freshly redecorated. The RUC were unable to find a



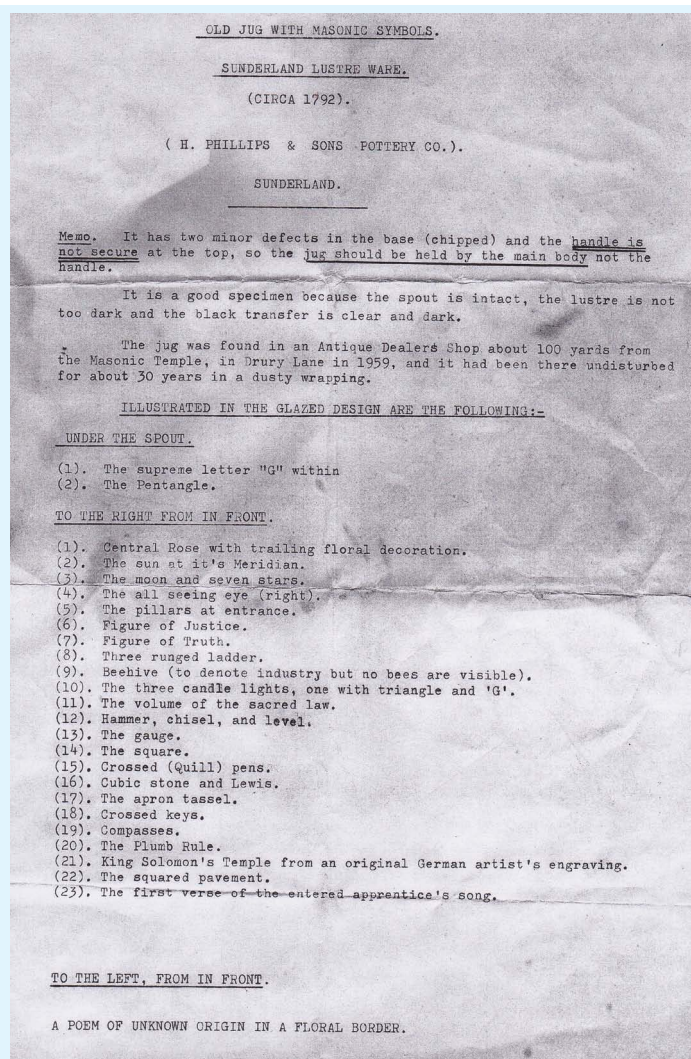
murderer but suspected a young man called Iain Hay Gordon, an RAF serviceman based nearby. Gordon was interrogated for three days before confessing to the murder. Many people at the time suspected Gordon was innocent.

Dr. Rossiter-Lewis was hired by the defence team to examine Gordon and give evidence of his "insanity". The likely punishment for murder in 1952 was capital punishment but by proving the defendant to be insane, he would escape death. Dr Lewis initially thought Gordon to be guilty but further investigation led him to reconsider. Believing him to be the victim of a cover-up, Lewis had to choose between pursuing the truth, for which Gordon would hang, or declaring him insane, thus saving Gordon's life. Dr Lewis chose the latter and Iain Hay Gordon was found guilty but insane. He spent seven years in a secure facility before being released and returning to his native Scotland under an assumed name. Through the Northern Ireland Court of Appeal, Gordon was able to appeal his case and was acquitted in 2000. It cannot be said with certainty what happened to Patricia Curran, the evidence is unclear. We may never know. In 2009 the trial was made into a TV



drama by BBC Northern Ireland, with Dr. Rossiter-Lewis played by Stuart Graham as the lead. Recently in 2013, a book titled, “The Colour of Injustice: The Mysterious Murder of the Daughter of a High Court Judge” was written by John Hostettler. He discusses the trial in great detail and tries to ascertain who the murderer really was.

A most incredible story and all the more amazing that I learned of it by simply purchasing a Masonic jug at an auction. Other than the above there is not a wealth of information about



Dr. Rossiter-Lewis. His cause of his death is unknown to me, though the newspaper article does state, "Mrs W. B. Richardson, secretary to Dr. Rossiter-Lewis for the past eight years, said on Tuesday afternoon that he had been working extremely hard and was in fact grossly over-worked." We do know for certain that he was born in Newport in 1909, he was a Freemason and a member of Drury Lane Lodge in London. I have sent a request to the United Grand Lodge to see if they can uncover further information on Dr. Lewis.

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# Daylight Shines on the Burnett Lodge

On Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015 the Provincial Grand Master for Bristol, the Right Worshipful Brother Alan Vaughan, performed an historic re-dedication ceremony at Park Street, making the Burnett Lodge, No. 6789, a weekday daylight lodge. The “ancient” ceremony was another that is unique to Bristol, although never actually having been performed before!

The acting Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Roger Symes, offered the Hiram to the PGM which, to the delight of all, he accepted to perform the re-dedication ceremony. Provincial officers replaced Burnett Lodge officers and the Provincial DC, W. Bro. Phil Patrick, called all Burnett members and proposed joining members, to assemble in the East. Here, when asked, they confirmed that it was their wish for the Lodge to become daylight working. The P.G. Secretary, W. Bro Stephen Rawlings, managed to “translate” the original 1948 Warrant of the Lodge, and then read the new 2015 addendum, authorising the change. The P.G.M formally re-dedicated the Burnett Lodge as a daylight lodge. Hymns were sung, and prayers were led by W Bro Stephen Hawkins who delivered a most interesting oration.

The PGM returned the Hiram to the acting WM, and to much delight the names of 12 joining members, duly proposed and seconded, were read. The acting WM welcomed the joining members and then addressed the meeting. He reflected that the PGM had, at the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting, said that all Lodges should be prepared to address “change”, and had held up The Burnett Lodge as an example of bold thinking. W. Bro. Symes thanked the PGM but assured him that it really did not seem very “bold” at the time.

It had been a very challenging scenario. Following initial discussions, three principal negotiators from Burnett, with about 135 years of membership between them, started in June 2014 to try to find consensus amongst the membership to embrace significant changes to their Mother Lodge. It was recognised that some existing members would not be



able to attend daylight meetings, and that made considering change so difficult for some. Following advice and guidance from many, in particular the P.G.M, the D.P.G.M., the P.G. Secretary, W. Bro. Colin Lowther, and potential joining members, a draft proposal was circulated to Burnett members in October 2014, and in December 2014 a motion to change to daylight working was passed. In February 2015 another notice of motion was proposed to change the Burnett Lodge By-Laws to allow four meetings a year, and that proposition was carried on 2nd March. The date agreed with the P.G.M. for the re-dedication ceremony was 14th May 2015 and so the Lodge can now start its new journey.

The “Daylight” Burnett Lodge will now meet in March, May, September and December (Installation) at 11.00 a.m. Joining members are being encouraged to become involved in forward thinking NOW. A past-masters’ meeting in September, to which all joining past-masters are invited, will start considering the first phase of the 5-year plan which the P.G.M has asked from each lodge. Many Bristol masons will know friends, masons, and former masons, who may not be attending lodges because they do not like coming into Bristol at night, or they do not like dining at 9.00pm. There may be some whose lifestyle does not allow them to come to evening meetings. We are not looking to take members away from

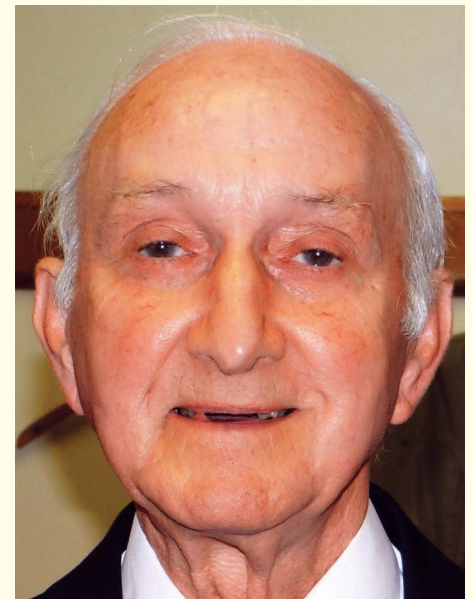
other lodges, but particularly to bring back into masonry those who have resigned or drifted away. Neither do we wish to find the Burnett Lodge isolated from the other Bristol lodges because of its meeting time. Do come to visit us Brethren when you can, as we will come to support you.

So many people need to be thanked for their inputs into the successful transformation to daylight working. Apart from those mentioned above, W. Bro. Gerald Goss and W. Bro. David Phillips joined me in negotiations. Our Honorary Members have been so important in helping to keep the lodge afloat, and have been brilliant supporters. Those Provincial officers who substituted and contributed to the ceremony, and have helped at meetings, together with the “Corner”, know that we could not have done it without them. Finally the now former members of the Burnett Lodge, who have resigned because they are working and cannot take time to come to daylight meetings, are thanked for their recognition of the new way forward for the Burnett Lodge after 66 years.

*W. Bro. Roger Symes*

## IN MEMORIAM

**WBro Cecil Francis Hunt,  
(Cyril) 1926 –2015**



Initiated into the Lodge of Virtue and industry in May 1974 along with John Moore by W.M. Neville Hodgson, Cyril was later to be installed as W.M. by John Moore on the 16th March 1984 and in April Cyril Initiated John Griffiths. He was the Past Principal of The Beaufort Chapter in 1991 and 32 degrees in the Cadbury Camp Chapter.

He was educated at Filton Avenue School, and when he left was head boy. He was called into the Army and travelled the world in the Hospital ship, bringing back the prisoners from Belsen camp. Leaving the army he went to work in Southmead hospital where he met Ida his wife to be. They were married for 62 years, and have two daughters He retired in 1988 from the social services where he was Inspector of all the social service homes.

Cyril became the Lodge Secretary in March 1993 working tirelessly until 2011. He was always a loyal lodge member and a real gentleman to the end.



## Colin Anthony Prideaux



**24th January 1934 - 19th August 2014**

Colin was a Bristolian born and bred – being born in Ashton Vale, where he lived with his mother and father and his brother Roger.

He was educated at Redland Hill House School in Clifton, but rather than go on to further education, Colin chose to take an Engineering Apprenticeship at John Lysaght's in Brislington. This grounding in engineering gave him a sound background and the experience gained served him well throughout his working life.

On the completion of his apprenticeship Colin decided to see something of the world and so joined the Merchant Navy with the White Star Line, where he served for three years as a ships engineer on the route between the United Kingdom and New Zealand.

After this period in the Merchant Navy Colin returned to his home town of Bristol and also to his former employer – and it proved a wise move, as whilst at a Young Conservative Meeting, the young Colin first met Diana, whom he married in 1961. This marriage produced the three other loves of his life; his daughters Suzanne, Ruth and Sally.

Colin left Lysaght's to work as an inspector at Jordan's of Yate, where his expertise and knowledge was put to good use. He was always thorough in all he did and worked to the highest standards possible. He was a man of outstanding integrity and made sure that there was no compromise or shortcuts when it came to an inspection.

Colin was a member of the Cabot Lodge, St Augustine Chapter, Goodwin Mark and also a member of the Camp of Baldwin.

He was initiated into Cabot Lodge in 1966 at a time when it was more difficult to progress without having first served the lodge as a steward for some years. However, Colin did progress and was elected Worshipful Master in 1979. He went on to become Director of Ceremonies for 5 years and later took on the role of Preceptor of the lodge. Throughout his time as a member of the lodge, he never forgot what it was like to be a new, inexperienced

member and was always ready to support anyone who needed his help.

Colin loved his masonry and in return he was given high honours in all the degrees in which he served – Craft (Provincial Senior Grand Warden; Grand Rank – Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies), The Royal Arch (Third Provincial Grand Principal; Supreme Grand Chapter – Past Grand Standard Bearer), The Mark and other Higher degrees; for which he was given Grand Lodge Honours – a notable and remarkable achievement.

Colin was a remarkable man who was much respected throughout the Province of Bristol. He would never admonish newer members, who might be struggling to learn words or floor work as they progressed, but rather he would support and encourage in a positive manner. He was kind, considerate and thoughtful to everyone that he came into contact with.

Colin had been greatly missed over the past few years as ill health prevented him from attending Park Street and now he has sadly passed to the Grand Lodge Above. However, his legacy to masonry will always live on in the achievements he made and the influence he had with all those who knew him – he was truly a mason.

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## W.Bro Michael Trevithick Clark

**25th September 1934  
- Thursday 30th June 2015**

Michael Trevithick Clark was initiated into Cabot Lodge on 11th September 1970 and served every office (with the exception of Inner Guard) on his way to taking the chair in February 1982. Normally, Cabot Lodge would hold an Installation on the



second Friday in January, but as Bristol was brought to a near standstill by a tremendous snowstorm in that year, the Installation had to be postponed.

Michael took the chair but could only serve for 11 months. However, this was remedied some 26 later, when in 2008 the lodge was having problems with progression and Michael volunteered to serve once again as Worshipful Master – this time for the full 12 months

Known affectionately as Mike, he showed his true worth to the lodge when, following the sudden death of the then Secretary, W.Bro Bill de Lacy Adams, Mike volunteered to take on the position of Secretary. "Cometh the Hour, Cometh the Man!" Normally when a new secretary takes over, he can seek the support and advice of his predecessor, but Mike had to learn on the job. And this he did with great professionalism for 22 years.

At a time when there were no such things as e-mails or word processors, Mike would produce summonses; collect them from the printers; check, fold and place in envelopes; address the envelopes and after putting a stamp on them, post them to the lodge members. He didn't fuss or complain, he just got on with what needed to be done for the lodge.

In addition to his work as secretary in Cabot Lodge, he also served as secretary in Cabot Chapter and Brunswick Mark Lodge. We can only imagine how much time and effort he put into these roles.

On completing his time as secretary he didn't just sit on the side lines, he took the role of Almoner for the lodge; a position he held for three years – giving this up to take the chair in 2008.

Not many people take on the role of Worshipful Master for their lodge for a second time; and very few would take on that role after a gap of 26 years. Mike would have been forgiven for sitting back and letting others do the ceremonies, but he did his share and did them very well. He also enjoyed being Worshipful Master and represented the lodge as a visiting master in most of the lodges in the Province during that year in office.

He was well respected by all the other masters who often asked his advice when they had issues that needed to be resolved.

On top of all his other masonry duties, Mike will also be remembered by the brethren and visitors to the Cabot Lodge Installation meetings, for singing "The Master's Song". This is traditionally sung in Cabot Lodge to welcome new Worshipful Masters into their year in office - Mike had a splendid singing voice.

The Province also appreciated all that Mike did and appointed and promoted him to various offices over the years, culminating in him being promoted to the position of Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden in May 2015 – something that he was extremely proud to accept.

Mike will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was a big man with a big heart and would always go that extra mile to help anyone who needed his help or advice.

## W. Bro. Ronald Stanley Smith



1927 – 2015

Ron was a born and bred Bristol man and mason. He was an electrical draughtsman by trade having served his time in Bristol and ended up working at the Concorde Factory at BAC. His national service was in the Army with the Electrical Engineers and he spent most of his time stationed in Germany.

He married his childhood sweetheart Aileen, and when she became ill and subsequently lost her sight, Ron became her devoted carer until she died in 2010. They had one son Christopher, two Grandchildren and Great Grand Children.

Ron was initiated into the Lodge of Virtue & Industry in May 1968 by the then WM, W Bro John Francis Howman and the Charge was given by the Junior Warden Keith Downes. He became the WM in 1977.

He was a very active mason in a number of different degrees both within and outside of the Province of Bristol. He became a Grand Officer in the Craft also in The Holy Royal Arch and became the Provincial Grand Master in the Province of Bristol for the Mark Degree in 1996. He was also the founding Provincial Grand Master for the Royal Order of Scotland for Gloucestershire & Herefordshire.

Ron was the chairman of the Bristol Masonic bowls association for 20 years and was also an entertainer and singer. In the 1960's, Ron formed a light operatic singing group of masons known as 'The Craftsmen'. He was also a comedic scriptwriter and wrote some of the jokes and raunchy verses for the Benny Hill Show. Always full of the odd quip he would say about Virtue and Industry that he was 'not virtuous and not very industrious'.

His funeral took place at the Lord Mayor's Chapel in Bristol on 27th August where Ron sang in the choir and was attended by a large number of Masonic colleagues from many different degrees. There was a reception afterwards at Park Street in dining room number 1.

A well respected and admired mason of great standing he will be sorely missed.

## W.Bro. Ivern Downes

The Celebration Service for the life of W. Bro I. G. Downes took place at the Woodlands Memorial, on Monday 27th July at 12 Noon.



Initiated into the Lodge of Virtue and Industry on the 16th May 1958 he became WM in 1966 when he initiated Stan Cruse. He was Exalted into St Augustine's Chapter and became First Principal in 1982.

Ivern was born 1st January 1928 in Armoury Square, Easton, Bristol; his early years were spent in Hannah Moore School and Bristol Technical School.

His first job was at Port Talbot Steelworks in South Wales as a draftsman, this then led to a job in Stonehouse, Gloucestershire where he often cycled to work!

After a while Vern moved to Bristol and the job of his dreams at Rolls-Royce and where he spent the next 37 very happy years. He ended his career as Chief Facilities & Ground Support Equipment Engineer.

Something only a few people know is that Vern was an Olympic possible, his dream only to have been dashed by a cycling crash which left him in a bad way just before the Olympic trials where he was beaten for the Olympic place by the legendary Reg Harris.

Upon retirement from Rolls-Royce, Vern and Joan were treated to a flight on Concorde which was arranged by the family.....this flight was the 'icing on the cake' for Vern's career, for this was a project he had worked on and was very proud to be associated with.

Vern also ran the swimming lessons for Frenchay School for many years. Teaching countless children how to swim! Not to mention helping them out as a Father Christmas! Vern was a true gentleman and will be hugely missed by both his loving family friends and colleagues alike.

Anthony J Downes

## ST MARTINS CHURCH

### KNOWLE, BRISTOL

St Martin's church was consecrated on 23rd April 1901 and its church hall opened on the 22nd April 1913, 102 years ago.

Since then various work and restoration has been carried out on the hall, but last year during some minor repairs dry rot was discovered a fungi that digests parts of the wood. Immediate action was taken to cure the problem. All was well until recently, when a smaller section of dry rot was found, easier to put right but with funds running low, the church approached the Province of Bristol to see if a donation could be made to help fund this work.

The Provincial Grand Master agreed that a donation could be made from his discretionary fund.

So on Easter Sunday at the morning service, I was pleased to present on behalf of the Province of Bristol a cheque to the church warden W. Bro. Philip Mackie for £500.

It was a pleasure to address the congregation and give them a brief insight into some of the other charitable work that Freemasons in The Province of Bristol get involved in.

Chris Cook

## The Masonic Samaritan Fund

I have presented to St. Peter's Hospice a cheque for £3,636.00 and Jessie May a cheque for £1000.00. This shows the on going support of The Freemasons' Grand Charity to the nationwide hospice system.

Without the Festival system and the continued support of the Provinces the four London charities could not keep up these donations, thus the importance of our contribution to the MSF 2019 Festival.

Secondly our Provincial Communications Officer Bob White pointed me towards the new Masonic Charitable Foundation website. [mcf.org.uk](http://mcf.org.uk)

If you sign up on this website you will receive a regular e-news letter which will keep you well informed on what is happening with the four charities [especially the MSF] which will help you and your members and they will also send you a free lapel badge.

Thank you all for all your support.

Tim Brunton - Provincial Charity Steward



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# SCOUTCRAFT LODGE

We hope to have the consecration of this new Lodge in the autumn of 2016.

There will be four meetings a year. Hopefully it will be a Saturday when we could have the committee meeting/rehearsal/Lodge meeting and after-meeting all on the same day!

We sincerely hope that this will encourage 'founder' members. Any brother interested would they contact either:

W Bro Pete Wills (WM designate) [lorymerwills@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:lorymerwills@yahoo.co.uk)  
W Bro Bev Dyer (Secretary designate) [bevdyer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bevdyer@tiscali.co.uk)

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W Bro Bev Dyer (Secretary designate) [bevdyer@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bevdyer@tiscali.co.uk)



Powell Lodge at their Demonstration at Lodge on Sincerity, Gloucestershire

# Bristol Masonic Golf Society

After what has been a very good year for the BMGS, I would like thank all those people who have contributed so positively to making it such an enjoyable year for me, as captain.

From the golf point of view, we have been quite successful; only losing one of the games that we played – which is quite an achievement as we played most of our games away from Bristol!

Results were as follows:

Gloucestershire – played at Kendleshire Golf Club - DRAW  
Monmouthshire – Played at the Monmouthshire GC - WIN  
Somerset – Played at Burnham and Berrow - DRAW  
Cornwall – Cancelled  
Wiltshire – Played at Wrag Barn - LOST

There were high hopes at the beginning of the season that we would not lose any of our games and things were looking good until the last game against Wiltshire. On paper it was recorded that we suffered a "Thrashing" by 5 games to 1. (Our only win coming from our PGM and Paul Moody). However, there were some close games which could have gone either way!!!!

In our Open Events organised through the year, the results were as follows:  
Douglas Marsham Tankards, played at Clevedon Golf Club -

Paul Smith & Peter Ellis

Clive Farrow Trophy, played at Henbury Golf Club - Andrew Nunn

Don Foster Trophy, played at Mendip Spring Golf Club - Andrew Nunn

A new competition was introduced at the end of the season, which was open to all lodges in the Province of Bristol. This was a team challenge to find the best golfing lodge and was played at the Wedmore Golf Club on Friday 4th September 2015.

A large number of golfers from BMGS attended Cabot Lodge (the Captain's Lodge) on Friday 13th November, where a presentation of a cheque for £800 was made to the Provincial Grand Master, who thanked the Society for all its hard work over the year in raising funds for the Bristol Masonic Samaritan Fund,

Throughout the year I have learned that it takes a great deal of hard work to make any organisation work – and that is true of the Golf Society. Without the great efforts put in by Ron Brunton, none of the success that we have had would have been possible. He has been Secretary/Treasurer of the BMGS for 9 years! However, after all his hard work, he has decided to pass the mantle on and we greatly thank him for all that he has achieved.

To say a big thank you to Ron and in appreciation for all that he has done - A presentation was made at the Captain's Lodge, where the Lodge Team Champions were presented with the new **RON BRUNTON CUP**.

The trophy being presented to - **Beaufort Lodge**

Individual winner and Provincial Champion for 2015 - Steve Rawlings

With your support next year will prove to be every bit as successful as last year and we hope that everyone will support our new Captain, Keith Irwin and Vice-Captain, Adrian Timms.

Team Winners – Beaufort Lodge

Steve Carter  
Steve Rawlings  
Phil Patrick  
Paul Ashford (Not Present)



Province of Bristol Golf Champion 2015  
Steve Rawlings – Beaufort Lodge

# Inter Lodge Golf Tournament

Held at Wedmore Golf Club - Friday 4th September 2015



*The first hole at Wedmore*

On what was to prove a glorious sunny day 28 players from 7 lodges within the Province of Bristol competed for the coveted Inter Lodge Golf Trophy – the first time that this competition had been held. Running alongside the team competition there was an Individual Bristol Masonic Golf Society Champion Trophy.



*Fantastic views over the Cheddar Valley*

After a hearty bacon roll and coffee, Teams of four, from each lodge, playing a 2 ball, Bowmaker competition with full handicap allowance, set off on the picturesque first tee at Wedmore from 10.00am.

Playing conditions were very good throughout the day, with the course being presented in pristine condition. Competition and rivalry amongst the teams intense - each lodge wanting to become the first ever team to be crowned Bristol Inter Lodge Champions. From the outset it was clear that scoring would be good in the pleasant conditions. Although the first half of the course proving easier than the second with its three long par 5 holes and the difficult par 3 16<sup>th</sup> and par 4 17<sup>th</sup>; and so it proved.

As players completed their rounds they were treated to an excellent rolling buffet meal laid on by the club. Everyone agreed that this was excellent value for money.

Once all the cards had been scrutinised and signed as correct, the scores were calculated and the prizes presented.

Overall winners of the team prize and first winners of the Inter Lodge Trophy were the team from **Beaufort Lodge**, closely followed by The **Sportsmen's Lodge** in second and **Cabot Lodge** in third place.

**Individual Inter Lodge Champion for 2015**

Steve Rawlings - Beaufort Lodge

**Longest Drive** - Kevin Hancock – Lodge of Unity  
**Nearest the Pin** - Kevin Hancock – Lodge of Unity

Thanks were expressed to Wedmore Golf Club for giving us all a superb day. The golf, the food and the service were all first class.

Thanks were also expressed to Keith Irwin for arranging the day and acting as the link with the club. This was the first time that this competition has been played and it was thought, by all who played, to be a resounding success. It will be repeated again next year.



*Lodge of Unity leaving the 18th*

## The Clive Farrow Cup

Held at Mendip Spring Golf Club

Tuesday 7th July 2015

On a beautifully sunny afternoon, but with very high winds 12 members of the Bristol Masonic Golf Society set off to try to win the Clive Farrow Cup.

In previous years this competition has been a pairs event, but this year the cup was played on an individual Stableford format.



*John Stephens, Allan Badman, Ron Brunton and Tony Griffiths waiting to tee off on the first!*



*Eventual winner, Andrew Nunn teeing off on the first hole.*

## BRISTOL MASONIC GOLFING ASS'N

### Secretary's Report

Dear Golfers

After 9 years as the Bristol Masonic Golf Association's secretary and treasurer, I am passing the mantle to Arthur Grannan and I am sure he will receive the same support that I have received over the years. He will be supported by this year's captain our golden oldie Keith Irwin.

We had a very enjoyable year, only losing one team event and all was looking good for Arthur our captain until our last match against Wiltshire when we suffered a thrashing.

The inter lodge challenge that Arthur arranged was a great success and I hope this becomes a regular event on our golfing calendar.

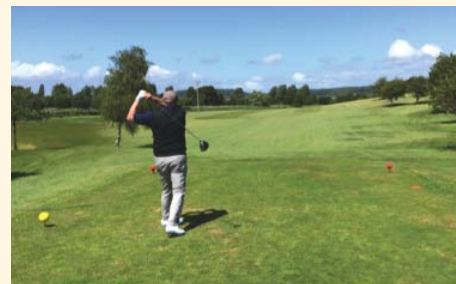
Ron Brunton

Secretary

*I feel sure that we all wish Ron a speedy return to the golf course after his recent hip operation and also a huge thank you to him for all the work he has carried out for the members of the Association over those nine years.*

From the outset it was obvious that scoring was going to be difficult, with the high winds and long rough catching many of the players out.

At the end of the game with all players safely in the clubhouse, the scores were totalled and Andrew Nunn being declared winner, but only after a countback on the back 9 with Les Meaton.



*Keith Irwin driving on the 9th*



After a very enjoyable meal the winner thanked Ron for organising the event and for the staff at Mendip Spring for their hospitality and the condition of the course.



## The Cabot Cup

Played at Bristol and Clifton Golf Club

Tuesday 14th July 2015

The winner of the Cabot Cup chooses the venue for this competition - as Les Meaton won the competition last year and is a member at Bristol and Clifton, this proved to be the course chosen for 2015.



Although the course was in superb condition, the players certainly did not enjoy weather as in the picture above, in fact we had rain for the entire round. This however did not spoil the enjoyment for the 22 players taking part, who all enjoyed a great game of golf.

This year the competition was not only played on an individual basis, but also incorporated a "Better Ball" Bowmaker competition as well.

Once the round had been completed, the players retired to the bar and then the restaurant to be served a very warming and welcome two course meal.

The soggy scorecards were scrutinised and the winners announced.

**Cabot Cup Winner** on 38 Points (on a countback) **Mike Collins** from **Francis Rawdon Lodge**

2nd Place also on 38 points - **Tim Brunton**

3rd Place on 37 points - **Ron Brunton**

Nearest the pin on 7th - **Ben Bracey**

Longest Drive on 11th - **Tim Brunton**

Winners of the Better Ball Bowmaker on 47 points were **Tim Brunton and John Allen**

Organiser, Les Meaton thanked everyone for joining him at Bristol and Clifton - he also thanked the club for the way in which the course was presented and the chef for the meal received.

In turn Les was thanked for organising this event

The venue for next year's Cabot Cup will be chosen by Mike Collins.



*Mike Collins receiving the Cabot Cup from Les Meaton.*



Let the prize giving begin!  
(From the photograph you can see that John Allen is surprised that he had won anything after his round, but very pleased that he had drawn Tim Brunton as a partner)

## 60 YEARS A MASON WBro Geoffrey Jennings



Just a few hours after hosting the annual meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge, the RtW Provincial Grand Master, Alan J Vaughan, was back on duty at that evening's regular meeting of the Robert Thorne Lodge.

After the Lodge had been opened, and the Almoner's report delivered, the PGM requested the Lodge DC to present W Bro Geoffrey C Jennings to him. The PGM announced that it was his very pleasant duty to present Geoffrey with a Certificate to mark the sixty years he had been a member of the Lodge.

An Old Boy of Bristol Grammar School, Geoffrey was Initiated on 12th February, Passed on 12th April and Raised on 11th June - all in 1955. He was Installed as Worshipful Master on 14th October 1972 and, was appointed Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer in 1981 and promoted to Past Provincial Grand Registrar in 2004.

In thanking the PMG for presenting him with his Certificate, Geoffrey gave a brief history of his family's timber business, and its transition from Joinery Manufacturers and Timber Merchants to Timber Importers. This led to 1) him shipping the very first fully packaged pre-slung cargo of timber from the Baltic to the U.K. and 2) his retirement from Bristol to Guernsey whilst in the Chair of King Solomon as Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

Has there ever been a longer cable-tow? Certainly not in Robert Thorne Lodge's history.

## Half Way There - Half Way To Go

Within a few short minutes Rt W Bro Alan was back on his feet, this time to give a résumé of how the Bristol 2019 MSF Festival was doing.



Focussing on the Robert Thorne Lodge, the PGM was pleased to record that the Lodge had achieved over 50% of it's objective and appeared to be continuing on target.

He thanked the Worshipful Master, Bro Roger Tanton, for the efforts being made by the Lodge and presented a Bristol 2019 MSF Half-Pillar to the Lodge, as a mark of the progress made, together with encouragement to "continue the good work".

# TEMPLE LODGE 6673

## CHARITY BEGINS AT HOME – THE GIFT OF SIGHT

By Paul Hanley

**M**y niece Kimberly Milhano Hanley is a 30 year old mother of two, and was born with a rare eye condition called Aniridia. This is an illness whereby no coloured ring or iris is present to allow the eyes to filter out light. This condition was further complicated by glaucoma, cataracts and a dislocated lens. Kimberley was gradually going blind, as her Grandmother had before her.

Over last 2 years her eyes had deteriorated to a point where she was unable to read the top line of an optician's wall chart and it was getting worse.



*Kimberley, before the operations*

Despite her poor eye sight, Kimberley works as a care assistant in a Warmley Care Home, and nursed one of my closest friend's father during a terminal illness. Even with her disability she strives to help others.

Over the last two years she had seen countless specialists and consultants looking for an answer to the hereditary condition which had been thought to be incurable. She discovered that iris eye implants could improve her condition, but ran into problems as iris implants are considered by the NHS as cosmetic surgery. They were therefore not prepared to fund the operations. Having two young children, Koen and Skye, Kimberley was unable to afford the £15k to pay for the operations.

I spoke to Kimberly who then wrote to me telling me her story which I recount as follows;

*With help from my husband, Carlos, I researched Aniridia looking for anything that could prolong my deteriorating sight; although I knew I had also had cataracts, all which increases the risks due to the tissues in the eyes being weaker than normal meaning that specialists would not take the risk to operate.*

*In my quest to find answers and maybe other stories of other people with my condition, I came across iris implantation, so I booked myself in to a laser eye specialist company thinking they could take a look and having my fingers crossed, hoping they could perform the surgery. Unfortunately, they couldn't and I was referred back to the Bristol eye hospital to get further information and answers.*



*Kim receiving cheque from  
W.Bro. Rich Ferris WM Temple Lodge*

*Left to right: Kim Milhano Hanley, W.Bro. Paul Hanley, DC Temple Lodge, W.Bro. Rich Ferris WM Temple Lodge, W.Bro. Alec Herbert SW Royal Sussex Lodge, W.Bro. Rick Ross, WM Royal Sussex Lodge*

*I visited the eye hospital three times, seeing different consultants who were all unsure about taking me on as lack of experience and proven remedies even with the top consultants due to Aniridia being so rare. The risks were too high until I asked "what if I went private?" I was asked to wait outside and after a few phone calls I was called back in and informed that a consultant called Mr Haynes said he would like to see me ASAP in the Clifton CESP (Consultant Eye Specialist Partnership).*



*Kim receiving cheque from  
W.Bro. Rick Ross, WM Royal Sussex Lodge*

*Left to right: Kim Milhano Hanley, W.Bro. Paul Hanley, DC Temple Lodge, W.Bro. Alec Herbert, SW Royal Sussex Lodge W.Bro. Rick Ross, WM Royal Sussex Lodge, W.Bro. Rich Ferris WM Temple Lodge*

*Following a consultation with Mr Haynes, my world changed! He announced I could have my cataracts removed and iris implants inserted. the health of my eyes were absolutely fine and as he specialises in traumatic eye recovery if anything went wrong. He was so positive and confident that he could do it, the answers to my dreams! But I needed 16.5k to pay for it as the NHS considers it cosmetic surgery?"*

Rather than sitting back and feeling sorry for herself and knowing that there was hope, Kim put a plan in place to raise the money herself. Organising events with friends and family, speaking on the radio and being interviewed by the local newspaper to raise awareness of the condition. All these things, hopefully, to help generate money to her improve her plight. Hearing what she was trying to do and that she had raised nearly £5k towards her operations I decided to get even more involved.

Initially I spoke to my Lodge, and explained at a committee meeting the problem. I requested a donation from our Lodge charity fund which was unanimously supported by the members for the sum of £500.

Following this, I attended a 'White Table' dinner with the Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality No. 187 and they allowed me to run a 'Heads & Tails' at the dinner which raised a further £470.

My Lodge Almoner Richard Birkwood, approached Gloucester Province and they agreed to donate £1k to Kim's fund, leaving me, in September to run the Bristol ½ marathon for the 17th time raising a further £1k, a grand total of nearly £3k towards Kim's operations.

In March 2015, the first operation was carried out, followed in July by the second and Kim wrote to me to let me know how things had progressed:

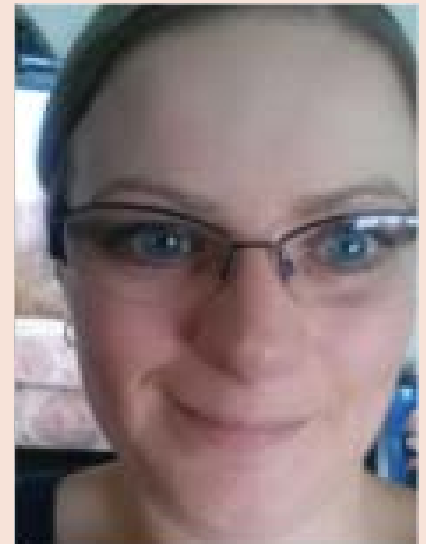
*"£16,500 later, I have had both eyes operated on and I am now well on the road to recovery, still on eye drops and wearing glasses to get the full benefits and feeling amazing!"*

*The difference it has made to me short term is fantastic, but the best bit about it is that it is going to last a lifetime! In a few years, I may need the stitches to come out of my left eye as these were unable to be dissolvable due to the placement/position of my iris implant. But I'm not scared anymore, Mr Haynes says it is a simple procedure and may not even need to happen.*

*I want to say a huge THANK YOU! to your uncle Paul and everybody who has support us both throughout! Your hard work, determination and effort has been astonishing. I am one lucky girl to have such a dedicated uncle!!!*

*"With me new confidence I am becoming a dare devil, I have put myself down to do a skydive for McMillan this year and am so excited, I just can't get enough of seeing everything, even though I'm still partially sighted, I am amazed with how it has all gone!"*

To finish, I would like to thank the following for their support and hard work in transforming Kim and her family's lives.



*Kimberley, after the operations*

From the Temple Lodge No. 6673, W. Bro. Rich Ferris, my good friends W. Bro. Alec Herbert & Rick Ross and from the Royal Sussex Lodge of Hospitality No. 187. From the Province of Gloucester, W. Bro. William Durman, V. W. Bro. Colin Bendon and W. Bro. Nigel Bridges, Secretary of Gloucestershire Masonic Charity Action and all my colleagues at Sitec for their generous support.

Finally to W. Bro. Richard Birkwood Temple Lodge Almoner and his Wife Sally for all their hard work and support - THANK YOU ALL from the bottom of my heart.

## Provinces of Bristol & Somerset Make Presentation to Great Western Air Ambulance

The Great Western Air Ambulance charity has recently received a donation of £6000 from Freemasons in Bristol and Somerset for the purchase of an Airbox Panda which makes it easier for crew to navigate while in the air. The equipment also directs them to the scene of an incident and helps them to find places to land. Previously the crew had to rely on maps.

Representatives from the two provinces visited the airbase in Filton on Friday August 14th to present the equipment to the GWAA crew. Pilot Jim Green said: "During the visit

Since upgrading to a new helicopter, the EC135, in October 2014 the operating costs have risen, and GWAA now need to raise £2million a year to stay operational. Upgrading to the EC135 has meant that the advanced critical care service that operates in the region is now carried out in a helicopter that is compatible with the high standards of medical care and interventions that the team provide. GWAAC has been providing an air ambulance service for 2.1 million people across the counties of Bristol, Bath and North East Somerset, South Gloucestershire, Gloucestershire, North Somerset and parts of Wiltshire for 7 years. The GWAAC critical care team



the masons were shown how the Airbox Panda worked. They were also given the chance to see our new helicopter, an EC135."

Since 2007 Freemasons throughout England have donated nearly £2 million to twenty-two Air Ambulance services to help them save lives. This year the amount raised by masons and their families will total £192,000.

consists of a highly trained and experienced Critical Care Paramedic and Doctor, who bring the skill and expertise of an Accident and Emergency Department to the patient. On average, 20% of incidents that GWAAC attend involve providing emergency care and transfer for children and babies under the age of 16.

*Pictured: Pilot Jim Green (2<sup>nd</sup> from left), representatives from GWAA plus Bristol & Somerset Provinces*

## Helicopter Sales ... Soar!!

Recently, John Brooks, Past Master of Cabot Lodge made an incredibly generous donation to the Province of Bristol of 143 brand new remote controlled miniature helicopters. We decided to sell them to fellow Freemasons and members of the general public.

Sales soon took off and they began to fly out; within a short space of time they had all sold. We believe many will end up in children's stockings this Christmas and some were bought for donation to local charities. Thank you to everyone who purchased a helicopter and all those that helped advertise and sell them.

On Thursday December 17<sup>th</sup> at the Sportsmen's Lodge a cheque was presented to the Provincial Grand Master of Bristol, Alan Vaughan, for £1575 which will be donated to the Bristol 2019 MSF Festival.

Chris Cook



## A VERY SPECIAL EVENING

Thursday 4th June 2015 was a special day for Robert Thorne Lodge, and for the family of the late Worshipful Brother John Hurley.

The evening began with the Past Master's Meeting, or Board of Installed Masters, when Bro Andrew Moore - as Master Elect - was invited to present himself and his plan for the forthcoming year. This he did in succinct detail, much to the satisfaction of the Past Masters who were present.



After the Past Masters Meeting the Lodge normally has a members-only supper, but tonight was different as Lodge members and their partners were joined by "Big John's" children - Charlotte, Mark and Louise - and grandchildren Joanna, William and Lydia for a Special White Table Supper.

After some detailed planning the mainly Manchester and London based family had gathered in Bristol to carry out John's final wishes - to present legacy cheques to Bristol Grammar School and to Robert Thorne Lodge, and then to have his ashes scattered by Mendip Gliding Club - gliding being one of his many and varied interests.

Although it was an informal evening there was one formality - the presentation of a cheque on behalf of the family; this was preceded by Joanna paying tribute to her Grandfather, to his Masonry and to his Lodge. In return, WM, Bro Roger Tanton thanked Joanna and the family for the cheque and for making this a Very Special Evening.

Though charged with emotion it was a happy event and throughout the evening the room was buzzing with talk and laughter as Lodge members reminisced and learned more about our late Worshipful Brother, and family members learned of the ethos of masonry - some for the first time.

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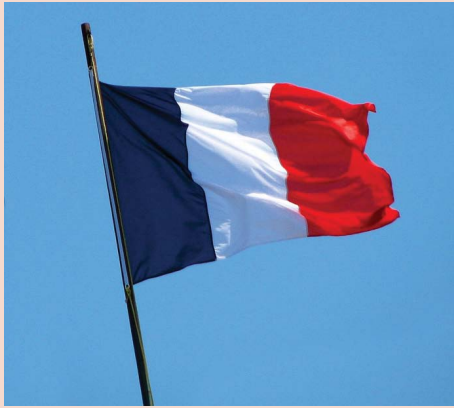
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# LETTER from FRANCE

December 2015

Any attempt to comment on life in France during 2015 would be incomplete without some reference to the horrific terrorist attacks that took place at the offices of Charlie Hebdo in January and subsequently Paris Saint-Denis in November. The public response to the first of these events resulted in a huge demonstration of nationwide support when 6+ million people took part in gatherings across the country, a tangible display of solidarity that almost every town of any size took part in. A year on, 'Je Suis Charlie' posters can still be seen in a number of public buildings, the local library here in Loudun being one of them. It cannot be insignificant that when the Charlie Hebdo magazine went back into publication following the attack, it printed 8 million copies in 6 different languages and sold out – compare this with its previous average monthly circulation of 60 thousand copies, only in French!



If you have occasion to visit Limoges airport (a favourite transit point for many British visitors to this area of France), don't rush through the foyer without taking the time to peruse the display of satirical cartoons, à la Charlie Hebdo, on display there. They are pretty cutting edge and take no prisoners! The French rugby team have been given a particularly hard time this year, and those currently concerning a certain FIFA president and his associates defy description!

The year has seen two events of major local significance. Firstly, the opening of a new Centre Parc at the Bois aux Daims (wood of the fallow deer), about 10km from where we live, and secondly the concomitant opening of a shopping centre just outside of Loudun, about 2km from us. From our point of view this makes 'popping to the shops' a far easier undertaking than it ever was in Bristol. If we pass more than half a dozen cars on our journey we know it is a heavy traffic day, parking is plentiful, the shopping trolleys have not yet developed minds of their own, and nobody tries to sell you the 'Big Issue' or double glazing!

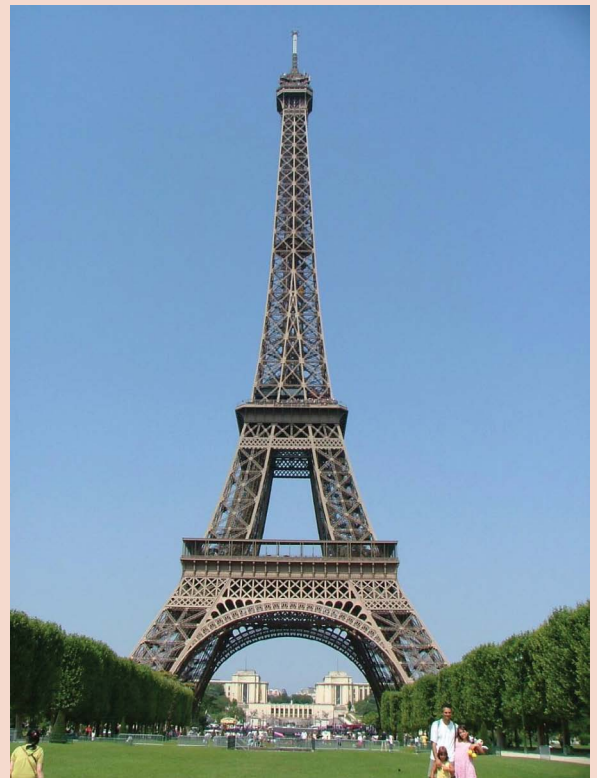
The Centre Parc complex has been about 4 years in development, it occupies an

area of just over one square mile, has 800 chalets and the capacity to entertain 4,500 guests. Built within the confines of the wood, it is completely invisible from the surrounding roads. If it were not for the directional signs you would not know it was there. By way of contrast, the shopping centre (which has also been about 4 years in development) occupies about 4 acres (0.006 sqm) and sticks out like one of a certain royal personage's 'monstrous carbuncles'. Carbuncle or not, it has certainly proved very popular with the locals as well as the visitors to Centre Parc. This summer has seen a significant increase in the number of British and Belgian cars in our area. Sadly for Loudun town centre, most of the cars occupants seem to progress no further than the parking area adjacent to the super 'U'.

The impact of the new shopping centre on the existing businesses in Loudun has not been good. We have seen the last of our independent grocers close, along with the last shoe shop and several other retail outlets. Hairdressers, pharmacies, florists and cafes continue to survive along with somewhat fewer restaurants than this time last year. Other than the weekly Tuesday market, our town centre now has one remaining independent butcher and several boulangeries, for all other edible requisites a visit to one of our four supermarkets is necessary.

When does 22 go into 13? The answer is in France on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January 2016 when our present 22 administrative regions become 13 in the interests of 'slimmed down administration and more efficient and cost effective government', or at least that is what the 'spin doctors' (yes, the French use the same term) tell us. This development is not at all popular around here and nobody we have spoken to, French or Ex-pat, expects the changes to go smoothly and certainly not to achieve any real cost savings. Rural French tend to be very parochial and are concerned that our new region of Aquitaine/Limousin/Poitou-Charentes, with its regional capital in Bordeaux, will become an unwieldy monster with no local empathy. By way of size comparison, the new region is approximately the same size as Wales and Scotland combined and to get to its new capital is, for us, the equivalent of driving from Bristol to Newcastle.

The two stage elections for the new regional



assemblies took place just before Christmas and the swing towards parties of the centre and far right was noticeable. Marine Le Pen's National Front party did particularly well on the back of a wave of nationalism following the November attacks in Paris and even Nicolas Sarkozy and his Republicans are coming back into fashion. Even though we live in an area that is staunchly socialist, many here feel that for Francois Hollande 'C'est la fin des haricots' / It's the end of the beans', a rather apposite expression meaning 'it's the end of the road.'

The French have a penchant for food based idioms, so here are a few to ponder for 2106.

Raconteur des salads/To tell salads. In English we often say that liars are 'telling porkies', but the diet-conscious French have a healthier expression for 'lying', so watch out for anyone with a reputation for 'telling salads'.

Beurre/Buttered. Perhaps not as strange as our expression 'to get plastered', but it means the same. If you had a heavy night, you were 'battered'!

And for the New Year, 'Nous vous souhaitons la pêche', we wish you a happy and healthy 'Nouvelle année'

Bob Quick



## Cabot Lodge and a Little Piece of History

A little piece of history was created on Saturday 7th November when Cabot Lodge performed a Bristol 3rd Degree ceremony in No 10 Lodge Room (Indian Temple) at Great Queen Street, London.

Nothing remarkable about that you might say, as several lodges from the Province of Bristol



have already performed Demonstrations of the Bristol workings in that temple before. Quite right – however, this was not a demonstration but an active Raising with a “Real” Candidate; something that, in nearly 300 hundred years, has never happened before in Grand Lodge.

The first move to make this happen came about when Bristol Lodge, No 4522, London asked W.Bro Dr Graham Pegg, secretary to the Cabot Lodge, No 3884, if they would perform a demonstration of a Bristol 3rd Degree ceremony in Grand Lodge.

After some discussion it was agreed that we would be only too happy to oblige, but as the Cabot Lodge had 4 candidates who would need to be raised in November and December, it was suggested that, rather than perform a demonstration, we would raise one of the candidates during the ceremony in Grand Lodge!

This needed to be carefully thought out and

planned! Dispensation would need to be sought from both Metropolitan District and from Bristol Province! With a desire to make this happen, the paperwork was duly completed and sent to both Provinces for consideration.

Once agreed by both parties, a small group began planning for the day – this included trips to Grand Lodge to view the lodge room and consultations with WBr Tim Day to agree on the equipment that would need to be taken on the visit.

The day duly arrived and at 8.00am a full team of Cabot officers met at Shrubbery Road, in Downend. Once the coach arrived, all the equipment and the Cabot Lodge members boarded for the trip to London.

On arrival at Great Queen Street, it was all hands to assist in taking the equipment to No10 Lodge room to set up for the ceremony later in the day.

Once everything had been positioned to the agreement of the DC and Tyler, a rehearsal was held to give the officers of the lodge a feel for this magnificent temple. To be fair, it was not the best rehearsal that the lodge had ever undertaken, but after a light lunch, supplied by Bristol Lodge, everyone was ready to take their place in the temple.

The lodge room slowly filled to capacity with over 200 people taking up every available seat. It was also good to see that many brethren from Bristol had made the journey to support Cabot Lodge.

Bristol Lodge opened their lodge and conducted their business before handing over to the Cabot Lodge to process into the Temple and open the lodge in the best of Bristol tradition.

The memory of the rehearsal dimmed as every officer of the Cabot Lodge stepped up to plate to perform a superb 3rd degree ceremony. The questions, which were asked by Bro Kevin Carter, were responded to by our candidate, Bro Luke Cormack, in superb manner.

There was great anticipation as the lights dimmed at the commencement of the grave scene. As this part of the ceremony progressed, many of the brethren craned to see the proceedings being performed by the Cabot team. The scene was set for the watching brethren by the sombre perambulations around the grave. A glimmer of light coming in through the two small windows at either end of the lodge room gave the

delivery of the sentences, being pronounced by W.Bro Baggs, even greater significance as they echoed around the silent Indian Temple.

The raising was superbly communicated by W Bro Geoff Beynon followed W.Bro. D J Garrett imparting the secrets of the Degree in splendid fashion, assisted by W.Bro. G A Ten Broeke. W.Bro. D H B Tarr delivered the address on the Working Tools of the Degree in fine form, before the lodge was closed by the Worshipful Master by means of the Long Closing – imparting the substituted secrets in true Bristol Fashion.

At the completion of the ceremony, there was a great buzz of excitement as the brethren left the temple, with many trying to talk to the Cabot officers about the ceremony that they had just witnessed.

Everyone congratulated the Worshipful Master, W.Bro Richard Blacker and his team, on performing such a superb ceremony.

One visiting Grand Officer noticed that there were no books in evidence throughout the ceremony!!!!

Following the ceremony there was a joint After Meeting/Festive Board held in the Connaught Rooms adjacent to Grand Lodge. Again this was a splendid occasion with speeches from both Worshipful Masters and other members of both lodges. Strong bonds have been made over the years between Cabot Lodge and Bristol Lodge – these have only been strengthened by this event and it is intended that fraternal visits will be made between both lodges over the coming years.



Thanks were expressed by the members of the lodge to W.Bro Graham Pegg, W.Bro Les Meaton, Bro Paul Smith and W.Bro Richard Blacker for all the work that they had put in to make this visit such a success.

Quote from our candidate, Br Luke Cormack . .

I would like to start by thanking Cabot Lodge for this rare and very historic opportunity of being passed to the 3rd degree in such a beautiful building.

I had a very enjoyable, yet dramatic experience, which I will never forget.

I would like to thank the Worshipful Master and all his officers on such a brilliant ceremony.

Although I was very nervous on the day, I found comfort from all the brethren who joined me on this special occasion.

I will hold dear and treasure this occasion for ever; and look forward to being able to support Cabot Lodge in the coming years.



## SPORTSMENS LODGE

### STARFISH POOL APPEAL



On the 26<sup>th</sup> November 2012 the lodge was pleased to make a donation of £2000 to the friends of Claremont School, Redland, to help towards the one million pounds required by them to build and maintain a hydrotherapy pool for Bristol's disabled children.



The warm water, high air temperature and relief of bodyweight provided by a hydrotherapy pool enable people to move in ways that they cannot manage on land. For many disabled people, who may live with pain all the time, their first session in a hydrotherapy pool can be their first time without pain. On Monday 14th July 2015 I was invited to attend the opening of the Starfish pool by the HM Lord-Lieutenant of the County & City of Bristol, Mary Prior accompanied by the Lord Mayor of Bristol and fund raisers and supporters of the appeal. On behalf of Amy Flood, Appeal Coordinator, the Sportsmen's lodge was thanked for its contribution.

Chris Cook

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## The Freemasons' Grand Charity donates £600,000 to hospices



THE FREEMASONS'  
GRAND CHARITY

The Freemasons' Grand Charity continues to support hospices with a total donation of £600,000 in 2015. 245 adult and children's hospices across England and Wales have received funding, to provide essential services to those affected by terminal or life limiting illness. Among those to receive assistance are Dorothy House Hospice in Wiltshire, Hope House Children's Hospice in Shropshire and Marie Curie Hospice, Cardiff and the Vale in South Wales.

Chief Executive of The Freemasons' Grand Charity Laura Chapman said:

*"Every year Freemasons and their families work together to raise funds to ensure the incredible work of hospices can continue. The dedicated care they provide is highly valued by local communities and Freemasons believe strongly in continuing to support this."*

*"We are so grateful to the Freemasons for their generosity in supporting our work. 35 people with terminal illness will now be able to enjoy a week of comfort, reassurance and excellent medical care from one of our staff nurses."*

**Abigail Graham, Trust Fundraiser at St Joseph Hospice**

Fundraising Co-ordinator Tania Wood at Dove Wood Hospice said: *"Your continued support really does help us to make a positive difference to the lives of local people in palliative care. With your help we're able to plan ahead effectively, ensuring that our patients receive both expert medical care and emotional support, which is tailored to each individual and their family."*

Since 1984, nearly £12 million has been donated to hospices' services by The Freemasons' Grand Charity.



## Freemasons donate £30,000 to support communities affected by Cumbria floods

The Freemasons' Grand Charity has donated £25,000 to The Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund 2015. The emergency grant will support individuals and families who suffer financial hardship as a result of flooding, as well as wider community relief and rebuilding projects. A further £5,000 has also been donated directly to the Provincial Grand Master Benevolence Fund. This will go towards helping masons and non-masons affected by the flooding in the Province of Cumberland and Westmorland.

Deputy Provincial Grand Master Keith Young said: *"This is an example of Freemasonry working in, and within, the community."*

The adverse weather in Cumbria has plunged individuals and families into particularly horrendous circumstances. It's important that we do what we can to support these communities and minimise any potentially long term devastating effects."

Laura Chapman, Chief Executive of The Freemasons' Grand Charity

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is committed to supporting communities affected by severe weather, having previously donated to the Somerset Community Foundation and the British Red Cross in

2014. Any Province concerned about their local situation can contact Katrina Baker (details below) for further information.

Katrina Baker  
Head of Non-Masonic Grants

**Tel: 020 7395 9314**

**Email: [kbaker@the-grand-charity.org](mailto:kbaker@the-grand-charity.org)**

If individual Freemasons are affected by the recent events, an application for a Masonic Relief Grant can be made through their Provincial Grand Almoner. However, it should be remembered that the normal financial assessment will apply to such applications.

*Photograph sourced from BBC News*



## British Red Cross celebrates 30 year partnership with The Freemasons' Grand Charity

Over the past 30 years, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has developed a strong partnership with the British Red Cross, supporting their work both at home in the UK and around the world. Last year, following a grant to fund a new emergency vehicle in Sussex, The Grand Charity surpassed the £2 million mark in donations to the Red Cross. This milestone has been recognised by the Red Cross who have thanked Freemasons for their continued support.

emergency vehicle in West Sussex. To date, over £650,000 has been donated to the service, allowing the Red Cross to deploy 20 new emergency vehicles, train hundreds of volunteers and help over 90,000 people who have been affected by fire or other emergencies in the UK.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is proud of its partnership with the British Red Cross and to have reached this important milestone of over £2 million in funding.



The partnership between The Freemasons' Grand Charity and the British Red Cross highlights the impact two organisations with a shared focus and a drive for change can have on the lives of people in need. The consistent support of the Freemasons has allowed us to plan and shape our services so we are able to live up to our promise 'refusing to ignore people in crisis' both in the UK, and abroad.

We are lucky to have such dedicated support, and I look forward to continuing our partnership.

*Mike Adamson, Chief Executive at the Red Cross*

Since 1984, The Freemasons' Grand Charity has helped the Red Cross respond to a huge range of emergency situations across the globe, providing life-saving assistance to those affected by natural disaster. Most recently, £50,000 was donated to help the victims of the Nepal earthquake.

The Red Cross not only provides support to those facing disaster abroad but also to those affected by crises across the UK. In 2014, when large areas of the country experienced severe flooding, The Red Cross played a critical role in assisting those affected and The Grand Charity supported these relief efforts with a donation of £20,000.

The Grand Charity has also played an important role in funding the Red Cross's Fire and Emergency Support Service since 2000 when £300,000 was awarded to fund the establishment of 10 services across the UK. Most recently, £48,000 was donated to fund a new

News of our support in the media:

- British Red Cross thank Freemasonry on Red Cross Website
- Feature article in Freemasonry Today outlining support for Red Cross in the UK
- Red Cross Vehicle in Sussex: Chichester Observer, 01/08/2015
- Red Cross Vehicle in Sussex: Worthing Herald, 01/08/2015

*Copyright: British Red Cross*

## Freemasons help change young lives with £500,000 donation to Scout Association

In 2008, The Freemasons' Grand Charity pledged to donate £500,000 to the Scout Association. Seven years and half a million pounds later, this grant has been hugely successful in its aim to encourage and expand Scouting.



The money was used to encourage more young people to join the Scouting movement and to support local Scouting. This has included providing start-up and activity grants and much needed equipment, such as activity books and games. In total, **over one million young people received new materials and equipment and over 23,500 have joined Scouting thanks to this grant.**

"These grants have been vital. The Freemasons have made a measurable difference to the lives of children in Scouting."

*Mark Winson, Regional Development Officer*

### Programme Materials

**£125,000** was used to help revise existing publications such as "Nights Away" as well as contributing to new materials such as "Join In Jamboree" and "Our Sporting Adventure".

**Nearly 1 million** young people have benefited from these resources and learned new skills as a result. Start Up Grants

**£125,000** was used to provide all new Scout sections with a universal grant of £100 as a contribution towards their set-up costs.

**1,675 new sections** received grants to buy necessary materials. Groups were able to use these funds for their most pressing needs. In some cases this would have been used to buy uniforms, especially in areas of poverty and deprivation, and others used the funds to buy essential equipment and resources.

**Over 23,500** young people are now involved in Scouting thanks to these grants.

### Activity Grants

**£250,000** was distributed to 49 Scout Counties in England and Wales to support a range of activities to encourage and expand Scouting.

**Thousands** of young people and volunteers have benefited from these grants and many others have been exposed to Scouting and the opportunities it provides thanks to greater advertising and awareness.

Speaking about the impact of this donation, Derek, a District Commissioner stated:

*"The grant helped a deprived community to access uniforms, equipment and programme resources to engage the young people."*

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is proud to have supported the Scout Association in their mission to encourage and expand Scouting across the country. This project has successfully enabled thousands more to access the opportunities that Scouting provides and has made a significant difference to the lives of many young people and adult volunteers.

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# TEMPLE LODGE 6673 OUR YEAR 2015

## RETURN OF OLD FRIENDS & A COLLAR DEDICATION

*By Paul Hanley DC*

2015 was a busy year for Temple Lodge, and for our WM, W.Bro. Richard Ferris, who has delivered two 1st, Two 2nd, and Three 3rd Degrees, together with the Installation ceremony. He has also been very active visiting many of the other Lodges in Bristol.

Richard is a long standing member of Temple (1997), who I first met in 1999 when, as Inner Guard he 'stuck me' very pointedly, almost drawing blood, as I entered the Lodge for the first time, reciting those immortal words "as this is a prick to your flesh at this time..." something we all remember from our initiations and something that every time I see him reminds me of that evening.

As I stated, Richard has been a member of Temple Lodge for many years, but due to work commitments during the 00's, he spent several years away living and working in London, keeping his membership alive with us, and attending intermittently when work and family commitments permitted.

In 2010, he became WM of the Elizabethan Lodge No. 7296, and learnt how not to recite Bristol ceremonies. Although he has subsequently moved back to the Bristol area, becoming WM of Temple Lodge this year, he has put a lot of effort into converting back to Bristol workings.

This year, Richard wanted to get his Bristol Masonry right and although a Past Master in Emulation, he wanted to have the full Bristol ceremony, including the inner workings, so in September we kicked off our year with the full ceremony delivered by our then acting WM W.Bro. Colin Lias. This set the year off to a flying start.

During the year Richard, supported by Pat Clark our ADC, informed us of his intention of presenting the lodge with a new WM collar. He informed us that he wanted to present a collar that detailed some of the history of the lodge and as such the names of every Past Master would be engraved onto plates on said collar.

The Lodge committee on behalf of the Lodge welcomed his kind offer and the WM made arrangements for this to happen at our September meeting. Running up to the meeting Richard informed us that on top of all the business usual for our last meeting of the season (ballots etc.) a 3rd degree cere-

mony, the visit of the WM and Brethren of Athelstan Lodge on the occasion of their 23rd Fraternal Visit, and the collar presentation, that we would be honoured by the presence of the PGM for Somerset, RW Bro CA Stuart Hadler, who would be returning his father's, (WBro The Rev CAC Hadler), Past Masters jewel from 1967, so a very full night was planned.

On discussion with the PGM, he informed us that the collar 'presentation' would in fact be a Dedication Ceremony and he had requested the Rev Steven Hawkins to write the ceremony for the event.

On the Sunday prior to our meeting on Friday 5th June, our Secretary received the Dedication Ceremony, and as DC, I was somewhat panicked as our rehearsal had been on the previous Thursday. The ceremony would require a lot of orchestrating of members around the Lodge in an orderly manner, which without practice would much to be desired. A few quick e-mails and the support of Tony in the bar, we had a rehearsal room booked for the following Thursday night.

Friday came very quickly, and 30 minutes before our meeting was due to start (planned to start 15 minutes early) I was having a quick run through the Dedication Ceremony with the honour guard, Deacons, and Collar bearers to ensure everyone who had not attended the rehearsal knew what to do.

Like all DC's, I do tend to be a bit of a worrier but I need not have, as the PGM took the lead and guided us through the Province's new Dedication Ceremony, which left me to ensure that we all moved to the right places at the right time, which I am glad to say we did, and delivered a well-received Ceremony. The Rev Steven Hawkins regaled us with a history of regalia, collars and their symbolism during the oratory and our WM looked fine and proud as our PGM bestowed the new collar upon him.

Following the Dedication, the PGM for Somerset, RW Bro CA Stuart Hadler, presented his father's Past Masters jewel to our WM who was subsequently presented with it as his past masters Jewel in September.

A fine night was had by all topped off by a stunning meal from Freddy organised by our Treasurer Jeff Kerr. All, in all, an excellent way to finish for the summer.

I would like to commend the Temple Lodge officers for their support and dedication in making the ceremonies dignified and to Temple Lodge's high standards and thank the visitors, guests, the Rev Steve Hawkins and the PGM's for their support and participation in making this a first for Temple and a first for the Province.

Here's looking forward to 2016.



## IN AND AROUND BRISTOL

### Blaise Castle

Flint fragments show Blaise Castle Estate was probably first inhabited by Neolithic farmers. Bronze Age, Iron Age and also Roman activity throughout the hill-forts in the area together with other



archaeological finds have been recognised and the site was scheduled as an Ancient Monument in 1982. The name Blaise appears to have come from a Saint Blaise during the time the land was granted to the Bishop of Worcester as part of the Kingdom of Mercia after the Anglo-Saxon invasion.



The estate with its castle and 650 acres of parkland is now a favourite of many a visitor to the area. The grounds were laid out by Humphrey Repton a leading landscape gardener of the time and the impressive carriage drive leading from the house still exists. There are several panoramic viewing spots namely Lover's Leap and Potter's Point and Goram's Chair is also a "must see"! Stratford Mill was re-erected within the gorge after Chew Valley Lake was flooded to form a reservoir. Renovations of the mill are ongoing. At the southern end of the gorge, Hazel Brook joins the River Trym on its journey towards Sea Mills. Kings Weston Hill to the west of the castle also forms part of the estate.

Although referred to as "a folly", Blaise Castle was built in 1766 to a design by Robert Mylne and it was inhabited well into the 20th century with lavish internal decoration. It was built on a hill above the Avon gorge overlooking Bristol and Avonmouth with views across to South Wales.

Blaise Castle mansion house was designed by William Paty and built in 1796 – 1798 by John Harford, a wealthy Bristol merchant. Harford also had Blaise Hamlet built to house his servants and tenants in 1811.



## The Red Lodge Museum

There are more than 400 years of history in this museum which started as a "royal party house" of the 16th century and later a Victorian reform school for girls!

The Red Lodge is situated in Park Row and is a historic Elizabethan house. It was originally built at the top of the gardens of the Great House of St. Augustine's Back (the present Colston Hall). The Great House was constructed in 1568 on the site of an old Carmelite Priory by John Young, the descendant of a merchant family and courtier to Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. When first built, the lodge would have been used as a guest house and entertainment pavilion where the Young family could promenade their guests through their eight ornamental gardens and orchards to wine and dine them. The walled garden is an excellent example of an Elizabethan Knot Garden housing many plants that could have been found in English gardens by 1630. The box hedge "knot" is copied from the design incorporated into the ceiling of The Bedroom and the trellis is copied from a French 17th century design.



John Young died in 1589 shortly after the Red Lodge was completed and his son Robert inherited the entire estate. The inheritance was soon spent and Robert had to convey the Red Lodge to Nicholas Strangeways to avoid seizure. By 1595 the building was rented out to various tenants as a residence separate from the Great House which was subsequently sold to Sir Hugh Smyth of Ashton Court.

In the 1730's major extension work took place at the Red Lodge after its acquisition by John and Mary Henley. The Great Oak Room, Small Oak Room and Bedroom were, however, largely untouched and rich Tudor decoration can still be admired today. John died before work was

finished leaving Mary childless and unable to inherit. He wrote in his will, however, that Mary had the right to live in the Red Lodge for one month in every year. The Lodge could, therefore, not be sold or leased out long term.



The building was then leased to tenants practising medicine working at the Bristol Royal Infirmary and the Great Oak Room was used as a dissection theatre! In the 19th century, further building works took place to the entrance in Park Row and also the addition of extra rooms.

Lady Byron bought the building in 1854 using Lord Byron's endowment and gave the Lodge to Mary Carpenter to use as a school. Mary was a keen reformer and founded the first ever Girls' Reformatory at the Red Lodge to further her radical ideas of improvement and nurture for the nation's poor, in contrast to the workhouses and prisons, the common solution in the Victorian Era. The Lodge remained a Reform School until 1917.



In 1919, James Fuller Eberle bought the building for the Bristol Savages and the Bristol Corporation, saving the historic interior from being pulled apart and sold piecemeal. The cost of the upkeep was too much for The Savages so CFW Denning built the Wigwam in the garden in 1920 and converted the Victorian Laundry into their studio leaving the Tudor, Georgian and Victorian building to the Corporation now Bristol City Council.

The Lodge has been twice renovated since, once in 1920 and again in 1956 and finally opened as a museum. Well worth a visit!



## Remembrance Sunday



On Sunday 8<sup>th</sup> November, approximately twenty five Bristol Freemasons congregated on College Green together with representatives from the armed forces etc. to join in the remembrance Sunday parade marching down past the Hippodrome to the Cenotaph in the centre of town, where the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Bristol Worshipful Brother Chris Williams laid a wreath in remembrance along with the Lord Mayor and other local dignitaries.



After the service, the Freemasons marched behind the Military Band up to Freemason's Hall in Park Street.

*Shaun Lloyd P.G. Stwd*

## RADISSONN BLU HOTEL BEDDING DONATION

Bristol Freemasons have in the past been offered various items of charitable goods to distribute to local charities and organisations. The email we received recently from Bro Chris Peach, General Manager of the Radissonn Blu Hotel (city centre) was to say at the least different!! He was offering for distribution to local charities;

200 pillows	140 mattress protectors
72 mattress toppers	55 single duvets
24 double duvets	

They were clean and tidy, boxed up, and loaded onto trolleys ready to go.

Our priority was to make contact with these local Hostels to see if they were in need of bedding. Emmaus Bristol, St Pauls, Salvation Army, Wade Street, and Park Hostel, St Werburghs. These charities all agreed to take some bedding.

So WBro Chris Cook Provincial Grand Charity Steward with help from W Bro Andy Jones (The Bailly Lodge) began their collection of nearly 100 boxes and trolleys. They were met at 10.30 prompt outside the staff entrance of the Radissonn Blu Hotel, where a very willing team of helpers assisted them with the loading, but with the boxes being so large and the trolleys so tall they had to make numerous trips back to the hotel to reload. 3.30pm was the time of last drop and they had been successful in placing all the bedding to the 3 charities.

All the Charities thanked Chris and Andy and the Freemasons of Bristol for the generous and much needed donation.

*Bob White - PCO*

# Masonic Organists an Endangered Species



## Calling all Free range Organists or Feral Piano Players

The Province is in need of keyboard musicians willing to train as ceremonial organists to maintain our traditions and to increase the availability of live music

Interested Brothers should e-mail Miles Harding [miles.h@tinyworld.co.uk](mailto:miles.h@tinyworld.co.uk) or Tel 01454 774498



Mr Christopher Williams  
Deputy Provincial Grand Master  
12 Old Gloucester Road  
Frenchay  
Bristol  
BS16 1QW

11<sup>th</sup> December 2015

Dear Mr Williams

### The Lord Mayor of Bristol's Children Appeal – Donation

I am writing to you as Patron of The Lord Mayor of Bristol's Children Appeal, to thank you for so generously supporting the 2016 charity appeal.

Your donation of £1000 from the Bristol Freemasons is a wonderful and much appreciated donation that will help to support the charity's work for disadvantaged children.

This volunteer-led charity needs to raise £66,000 each year and through the generosity of people like you, we ensure 1,650 of the most disadvantaged children living in Bristol have a £20 voucher for food and a £20 voucher for a toy or clothing. These are children who otherwise would have a very bleak Christmas. The charity works closely with social workers to ensure that children who are most in need receive this support.

We hold fundraising events throughout the year from a carol concert to Santa's sleigh collections and a gala dinner in February for which tickets can be purchased at <https://galadinner2016.eventbrite.co.uk>

Please consider how else you might be able to help by spreading the word about the charity and its work and how people can help by organising sponsored events, by selecting The Lord Mayor of Bristol's Children Appeal as their 'charity of the year', and by booking tickets for the dinner.

On behalf of the charity and the city's most disadvantaged children, thank you again for your kind support.

Yours sincerely

*Clare Campion-Smith*

Cllr Clare Campion-Smith  
The Lord Mayor of Bristol

Lma026

The Lord Mayor of Bristol's Children Appeal, The Mansion House, Clifton Down, Bristol BS8 3LJ  
Reg Charity No. 288262



*The Provincial Barn Dance proved to be a great success*

## BMCCC Visit To Highnam Court – August 2015

Members of the Bristol Masonic Classic Car Club paid a visit to the Province of Gloucestershire 2018 Festival Appeal family day out at Highnam Court. Situated two miles west of Gloucester, it is a Grade I listed mansion built in 1658 and surrounded by fine landscaped gardens, including four lakes, rockeries, a fernery, knot garden, a one acre rose garden and fine lawns. It was once the home of Sir Hubert Parry, the composer of "Jerusalem" and the present owner has restored the Victorian gardens and increased their size to 40 acres.

On arrival we were greeted by the event organiser and Gloucestershire Mason,

John Slade who thanked us for attending.

We enjoyed complimentary champagne, strawberries and cream. There were at least 75 classic cars on display ranging from Jensen Interceptors, and a Bristol 411 to a Ford Thunderbird, all of which were in pristine condition.

Further treats were in store, notably Roman Grosjean's Formula 1 car and accompanying virtual simulator. I must confess after trying it out my career as a racing driver is unlikely to take off, after driving the wrong way around Silverstone!

After a fun day, our three classic cars headed home in convoy. Stewart and Sandra McKendrick, in their 1959 Austin Healey 3000, Jim and Jenny Shine in their 1969 MGB Roadster, Chris and Cathy Cook in their 1966 Austin Mini Cooper. Opting for the scenic drive back to Bristol we stopped at a delightful pub in Newnham on Severn (A48) overlooking the Severn Estuary. We had a thoroughly enjoyable time and look forward to returning next year.

If you are the owner of a classic or future classic car and would like to join the BMCCC please email me at [cj69@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:cj69@blueyonder.co.uk)

Chris Cook



*Above: Sandra McKendrick, Cathy Cook and Jenny Shine*

## Another Great Success for the 2000 Circle

by Peter Wills

During weekend of 22/24th January the President of the 2000 Circle W.Bro Richard Collins, his wife Rose, members of the Circle, wives, partners and guests (a total of 93) enjoyed a wonderful weekend at the Victoria Hotel, Sidmouth. Entertainment of horse racing and dancing to a live band together with good food and wine resulted in this successful event.

Almost £700 was raised for the Devon Air Ambulance and Make a Wish Foundation. This success followed other popular events during the year including a Sunday Lunch, weekend Cruise and Christmas Party at Park Street. All members look forward to another great year when W. Bro Ian McKenzie-Jones becomes President of this active and thriving Circle at the AGM on Saturday 5th March.





## Editorial farewell

It has been seven years since I took over the position of editor of the Bristol Standard, and yes it feels those years have gone so quickly. I have had a great time with, I must admit, a huge learning curve. At first I had no idea how to tackle the job but Mike Flynn who at the time was PGM and supported by Alan Vaughan, then his deputy, persuaded me that that there was nothing to it! 'no comment'

It must be said, however, that without the support of the brethren of the Province who have given me reports and stories to print I could not have achieved the quality of the 14 issues that I have produced.

First and foremost, I would like to thank Phil Thorne for his guidance and expertise in the publishing and printing of The Standard.

I was lucky to find brethren like George Halladay with his stories of 'IN and AROUND BRISTOL', Bob Quick with his

'LETTERS from FRANCE', Dave Maddy with his reports on Provincial Grand Lodge and other major events, Arthur Grannan with his 'Brownie127' and especially the two Provincial Secretaries with the members of their office and many more.

In those seven years there have only been two items that I considered were a little too risque to be included and there was about the same number of complaints which were, as I remember, me putting the wrong Lodge No. with the story.

Finally I would like to thank Alan Vaughan and Chris Williams for giving me a free hand, without any interference, for the way that *The Standard* was presented to you its readers. I wish my successor all the very best wishes for the future and to you all a happy and healthy 2016.

In the meantime, if you have any reports, please send them to me and I will pass them on to the new editor.

Tony Whitmarsh



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Province of Bristol

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Opinions expressed are entirely personal.

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