



## Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Bristol, 2016

A crusty bread roll, a grilled plump pork sausage, a freshly brewed cup of coffee, what more could one want to start this special day in the life of our Province.

My day started with an easy trip to Park Street. Having parked in Trenchard Street Car Park, (all day for a fiver), I made my way to Freemasons Hall. It

Council House, was still undergoing renovation and so was unavailable. St George's is one of the country's leading concert halls. It boasts a superb acoustic and unique atmosphere which attracts the world's best artists, as such it was a fitting venue for our annual meeting.

I won't go into the efforts of the new team of removers, a group of the Dunk-

knew particularly well, thanking them for their attendance and also for the welcome he always receives when travelling to their Provinces himself.

After the traditional salutes, the Chaplain rose and read the in Memoriam list, at which it was noted that sadly 18 respected members of our province had been called to the Grand Lodge above during the past year. We all stood in solemn silence in memory of the deceased and in sympathy with the bereaved.

Moving on, the PGM had a bit of fun with a couple of items on the agenda. Coming to item 11, to agree a recommendation and proposal from the Provincial Grand Treasurer that the Provincial Grand Secretary should receive a £400 grant, he said in an incredulous manner "is anyone prepared to second that" which was met with much laughter. Similarly when reaching item 15, to elect the Provincial Grand Treasurer and after announcing that there was only one nomination, that of W. Bro Vivian John Lewis Bevan, he said rather tongue in cheek, "brethren, you are not giving me much choice here!" again to much laughter. Needless to say both of these propositions were unanimously approved by the brethren.



was about 09:15, and a crowd of visiting dignitaries dressed in the light coloured jackets and black trousers queued at the door to get in. The sun was shining on the newly cleaned portico. However, if you wanted to see the new floodlights you would have to return after sunset. (well worth the effort)

After I entered the hall, I saw our Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Alan John Vaughan, who had obviously got up early, busy meeting and welcoming our guests and ushering them into No 3 dining room, where they were greeted with tea, coffee and bacon or sausage rolls. Lovely.

After a chat and catching up with old friends we made our way up Park Street, to St George's Hall. For the frail and weary, quite a steep climb, especially after climbing the final steps to the reception area. St George's Hall was our chosen venue this year as our usual venue, the

erley's, who were lead by our outgoing and incoming DC's, W. Bro Phil Patrick and W. Bro Phil Harrill, who between them changed the venue into a Masonic Hall, by transporting the equipment necessary from Park Street to St George's, suffice to say when set up you would be fooled to think this was not its normal function.

This meeting was set to be a milestone in the Masonic lives of many Bristol Masons.

Once the brethren were seated and ready for the day's proceedings the Director of Ceremonies, Phil Patrick, announced his instructions. He then retired and prepared for the first of three processions. The first was that of our distinguished guests, they were followed by the Bristol Grand Officers and then the current Provincial Officers who preceded the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and finally the Provincial Grand Master.

The usual agenda was followed and after conducting the roll of officers, apologies and roll of lodges, the minutes were confirmed and the PGM stood and welcomed each of our many guests in turn. It is fair to say that he had an individual and sometimes an amusing word for those he



The next item was to reappoint as Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Very Worshipful Brother Christopher Williams and in so doing the PGM thanked him for his continued support and help during the year, particularly when he was in the country!

The agenda then moved on to what was the highlight of the day for many of the brethren assembled, the Appointments and Promotions for 2016-17. This was the time when past achievements were recognised and future commitments and intentions were expected of the recipients.

The new Provincial Grand Wardens were Worshipful Brother Peter Lorymer Wills as Senior Warden and Worshipful Brother Alan Richard Reed as Junior Warden and these brethren replaced

the outgoing Wardens, Worshipful Brothers Richard Lewis and Joe Davies. The PGM then paid tribute to the out-



going Wardens for their dedication to duty and commented on how well they had represented him at all the lodges, within the Province.

This year also saw the replacement of our Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro Phil Patrick. The PGM thanked W. Bro Phil for all the hard work he had put in over many years, both in terms of the expert way he conducted the ceremonies and in the way he facilitated and organised the transfer of equipment to the three different venues that Provincial Grand Lodge had been held over the past few years.

In his address to the meeting the PGM congratulated those who were to receive new appointments and promotions and said that this was reward not only for past efforts given, but also in expectation of further efforts to come. He also thanked the outgoing Almoner W. Bro Andrew King for his hard work and also the outgoing Librarian and Archivist to the Province, W. Bro John Martin.

The PGM then went on to describe some of the initiatives of Grand Lodge, He said that they had set up a Membership Focus Group to analyse the trends regarding recruitment and retention, remarking that it was in the first three years of membership that we lose the greatest number of our new members. As such provinces were encouraged to appoint a Membership Officer, to oversee the recruitment and retention of members. Therefore, within our Province he required that each lodge should appoint their own membership officer to aid their own recruitment and retention. These officers would work in close partnership with the Provincial Grand Mentor W. Bro John Allen. He also required each lodge establish a five year plan to set out their future direction and to monitor how they were doing against the plan. He emphasised, it was incumbent on every one of us to ensure the future of our lodges.





Moving on, he explained that the Province was doing its bit in promoting Masonry in the wider community of Bristol and described the new flood-lights which had just been installed on the portico of Freemasons' Hall. This would show everyone in Bristol where we are and what that large anonymous looking building was and as such increase our profile. We had also established a presence at various shows and exhibitions in the city, such as the Redland Green and Harbourside Festivals where we had a substantial presence. He then went on to congratulate W. Bro Viv Bevan and the help he had received from W. Bro Paul Robinson in running Park Street Events, our hiring and letting company, who continued to build our profile and make a contribution to increasing our revenue.

The PGM then said that in 2017, English Freemasonry would be celebrating its tercentenary and that he wanted every lodge to organise something to celebrate this significant event in our proud history. Going on to say that the Province would be doing its bit and that they had already held talks with Bristol City Council in order to establish an exhibition at M Shed of Masonic artefacts etc. M Shed is a new kind of museum working with the people of Bristol creating displays, which make everyone want to come and see. It is a living museum, where the stories of the past spark discussions about the future. A very fitting venue to promote Masonry.

To celebrate the tercentenary the United Grand Lodge of England have engaged a publicity company to produce

four one hour television shows, which would expound the virtues of being a Freemason. The UGLE would have final editorial rights over the series, which would be shown on mainstream TV.

The PGM then gave an update of the total so far raised towards the Province's target for the 2019 Festival for the Royal Masonic Samaritan Fund and said that with three years still to go, the total stood at just under £500,000 and paid particular tribute to W. Bro Steve Bennett, the fund's chairman and his team for their continued efforts.

In winding up his address, the PGM paid tribute to the secretarial team and the Provincial Grand Organist, W. Bro Paul Corder for their efforts and finally last but not least to the staff of St George's Hall for their assistance in ensuring today's event went off so well.

He then wished everyone a safe journey onward and hoped to see many of us back at St George's, next year.

After dispersal from St George's, we reassembled at Park Street, where a drinks reception was held for our guests before moving into two dining rooms where we were treated to one of our chef Fredy's delicious salmon salad meals.

At the conclusion of the day's events and the majority of us made our way home, our PGM settled down for a quiet drink in the bar to prepare himself for an evening visit to the Robert Thorne Lodge.

A long, tiring but very rewarding day I am sure.

*David Maddy*

## Peter Lorymer Wills Provincial Senior Grand Warden



Peter was born and bred in Bristol and now lives at Downend. He has been happily married for 45 years to Gillian, a native of Abergavenny, and they have two sons Gareth and Matthew.

After leaving school Peter was training to become an accountant but with a complete change of direction joined the police force at the age of 19. He served 32 years in the constabulary retiring with rank of Detective Superintendent and spent the majority of his service in CID. Peter was involved in National Detective Training, Fraud Investigation and Major Crime, Spending a short time as Chief Inspector planning Royal Visits and Major Police Operations.

After retiring he worked for 12 years as a wine inspector for the government visiting wine importers, shippers, producers and vineyards both in the UK and major wine producers in Europe. All this to ensure the wine was produced and marketed in compliance with strict wine legislation.

Since retiring from the wine industry he has trained as a Victim Support Volunteer and also a Volunteer Driver for St Peter's Hospice.

From 8 years of age Peter was involved in the Scout Association and at 17 years as a Queen Scout, represented Bristol in the UK Contingent at the World Jamboree in Greece. He became a Cub leader, Scout leader,

district Cub leader and finally the Chair of a Leader Selection and Training Committee. Peter is still very interested in scouting and is now very involved in forming a new Scoutcraft Lodge within the Province of Bristol, and is WM designate. It is hoped that the Consecration will take place in February 2017.

He joined Royal Clarence Lodge in 1970 but resigned in the mid-eighties due to a combination of work commitments as an operational DI and the pressure directed at all police officers who were also masons by senior police management. He rejoined in 1997 upon retirement from the constabulary and was WM in 2000. He became member of Royal Clarence Chapter and in 2005 was First Principal. In 2014 as a member of Impeesa (Scout Lodge) in Downend he was WM and is also a member of Bristol Installed Masters Lodge and First Installed Principals Chapter.

As well as Provincial Senior Grand Warden Peter was appointed as Provincial Grand E for the Province of Bristol at Provincial Grand Chapter on 10<sup>th</sup> June this year.

Peter and Gillian enjoy foreign travel especially cruising. They currently own a holiday home in the beautiful mountain town of Castalla in Costa Blanca, Spain.

*Tony Whitmarsh*

## RWBro Brigadier W E Shackell CBE PJGW visits the Province of Bristol

It was a special evening for The Anchor Lodge No 6502 in the Province of Bristol on Wednesday 1st June when the President of the Masonic Samaritan Fund R W Bro Brigadier Willie Shackell attended their Installation meeting; he personally presented Festival Jewels to four of the Lodge brethren who have recently met or pledged to meet their individual 2019 Festival targets. The Jewels were specially engraved to mark the occasion. He then presented the Lodge with a Second commemorative Charity Pillar Plaque to show that they had already achieved double their 2019 Festival target, commenting that this would be a marvellous effort at the end of a Festival but to do so by the half way point is an amazing achievement. The per capita target was £495 and the 32 brethren had reached £1,067 per member! He then addressed the Lodge and gave a report to the brethren on the work carried out by the Masonic Samaritan Fund across the country and said how pleased he was with the progress of the MSF 2019 Festival in Bristol. He was then presented with a 2019 Festival Firing glass by the Worshipful Master Stephen Huband as a memento of his visit.

R W Bro Shackell later dined with the brethren at their after meeting where he was thanked by The Provincial Grand Master for Bristol R W Bro Alan

John Vaughan for his visit to the Province of Bristol.

In response, he thanked all the lodges in the Province for the fund raising efforts on behalf of the MSF, and was confident that the Province of Bristol would have a successful festival finale in April 2019.

RWBro Shackell, who has been appointed as interim Grand Secretary by the Grand Master and the Board of General Purposes, will be invested as Grand Secretary during the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge on 8th June.

*Bob White*





## Alan Richard Reed Provincial Junior Grand Warden

Alan was born in Norton Fitzwarren Somerset in 1955 and moved to Bristol in 1959. He has three sons and five grand children with another grandchild due October. He worked in Architectural, Chartered Surveying and Facilities Management until made redundant in 2003. That setback prompted Alan to start working for himself and he continued running a practice of providing Surveying Services for various National Chartered Surveying Companies – predominately measured surveys and building plans throughout the UK. He has just completed a commission to survey and produce details for 16 Building Society offices from Poole in Dorset to Aberdeen and Belfast.

In 2009 he moved to West Molesey, Surrey, and then in 2013 to Littlehampton, West Sussex all this time commuting to Bristol for his Lodge and Chapter meetings with a round trip of 200 to 300 miles

Alan was initiated into Powell Lodge No. 2257 on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1991, installed as Worshipful Master on the 27<sup>th</sup> May 2002 and in 2003 Alan again became WM.

He continued travelling to Bristol after 2009 not only for the meetings of the Powel Lodge but as First Principal of the Chapter of Charity No. 187 into which he was exalted in October 2000. During his time in Surrey and Sussex he was secretary of two Lodges and WM of Sportsmen's Lodge. In 2012 he initiated his eldest son Jamie into Sportsmen's Lodge and later exalted him into the Chapter of Charity and this was one of the most moving experiences of his Masonic career.

Alan moved back to the South West in September 2015, and is currently living in Almondsbury

His philosophy:-

"Masonry should be fun for the right reasons, tinged with the right amount of solemnity, particularly during the ceremonies when we, as brethren, should do our utmost to uphold the proud traditions of the Bristol ceremonies".

It's good to see the Province and more Lodges are using Social Media as a way of attracting new members and spreading Masonry into the wider world. We will wither and die unless we can maintain the momentum of new members, as from them come our new initiates.

He found Social Media very useful in visiting other Provinces when living so far away from Bristol and made contact with a fellow twitter user which enabled him to attend a number of Lodge Meetings in Littlehampton. This was particularly evident when on one visit to an Installation Ceremony he was noticed by the Past Provincial Grand Secretary as a Bristol Mason.

Primarily we should also ensure that our junior Brethren are not ignored but encouraged to learn and make the necessary advancement. He believes that many can learn the words but you have to understand the meaning behind each ceremony to fully appreciate it.

In his spare time Alan plays golf at The Kendleshire, with a handicap of 17- some would say that this is his main occupation!

He also enjoys rugby, cricket, walking and red wine, with red wine being the favourite.



Tony Whitmarsh

## Red Cross of Constantine - Division of Somerset and Bristol

### Grand and Divisional Rank Appointments.

The Annual Divisional Meeting, which traditionally takes place on the third Saturday in April each year is always well attended both by the knights of this Division and also by guests invited from the other Divisions in England, Wales and Benelux and Heads of Other Orders meeting in Somerset and Bristol.

This year we were honoured by a visit from the Grand Eusebius of the Order R. Ill and Ven. Kt. Dr. The Reverend Charles Peter Bernard Blackwell-Smyth, G.C.C., who was accompanied by R. Ill. Kt. Keith B. Jackson, G.C.C., Grand Historiographer, who acted as the Grand Marshal for the day.

We congratulate all of the knights who received first appointments to Divisional Rank as well as those receiving promotion.

Congratulations too to the Knights who were honoured by the Grand Sovereign at Grand Imperial Conclave, held on the 5th July 2016, at Freemasons Hall, London, and who were Invested with Grand Rank for the first time, namely: Ill Kts. Richard Cooper, Jim Padwick, Robert Morgan and Stephen White and receiving promotion in Grand Rank, Ill Kt Ian Maxey.

### Divisional Officers Luncheon

The eight Conclaves of the Division meet in places as far apart as Frome in the East, Taunton in the West, Yeovil in the South and Bristol in the North of this large geographical Division,

As therefore the Officers filling the posts in the Divisional Team can come from any one of these Conclaves, it is sometimes the case that knights actively involved in one Conclave will only meet some of the knights in one of the other Conclaves when they both become Divisional Officers.

Following on from the success of a 'Service of Thanksgiving', held in the Lord Mayor's Chapel, Bristol, ably organised for us by P. Kt. Steven Hawkins and a luncheon at Bristol Freemasons Hall, thanks to input by Ill Kt Basil Woodward and Em Kt Andrew Baxter, held in May 2015 to celebrate 150 years since the Order was established in it's present form, the Intendant-General, R Ill Kt David J Palmer, had decided that we should establish a regular annual luncheon where Divisional members, could get together in an informal setting with wives and partners with the intention of getting to know each other better.

So for the first time since the Division was formed in 1995, Batch Country House Hotel was the setting for the 'Divisional Officers Luncheon'. This was attended by both of the previous Intendants-General, namely R Ill Kt Kenneth J Gough KCC, 2nd photo, and R Ill Kt Paul Cooper KCC. 3rd photo, as well as of course the incumbent I-G, his deputy, Ill Kt Derek W Larner, and as many of the present and past Divisional Officers as were able to attend, all accompanied by wives and partners.



The weather was dry, sunny and warm, being the first Sunday in June 2016, and the setting and menu was appreciated by all. The success of the event was encouraging and the intention is to repeat the event in future years.



## Visit to Prague

On February 1st 2016, W. Bros. George Canecky and Peter Flook from Dolphin Lodge 4464 visited the No. 1 Narod Lodge in Prague.

It was the second visit for George and the first for Peter, indeed his first visit to Prague.

They witnessed a second degree ceremony and attended the after meeting in a restaurant pub nearby.

They were well received and there was a lively discussion about the revival of Masonry in Czech Republic after the fall of communism in 1989.

There are now 18 Lodges operating mainly in Prague but some are now established in provincial cities such as Brno and Ostrava.

It has taken a long time to establish this contact, but they can now look forward to a fraternal visit to Prague in the very near future.

Hopefully, in time, the Province of Bristol will be able to develop close Fraternal links with Prague and other Lodges in Czech Republic.

Below is seen W.Brother George Canecky presenting the Worshipful Master with a Bristol Province Firing Glass with W. Brother Peter Flook standing on the other side of the W.M looking on.

The original painting in the background with a Masonic theme was painted by a world known Art Nouveau artist who was also a leading Prague Mason, Alphonse Mucha.

*George Canecky*



## Aortic Aneurysm Screening - Follow Up

Following my article in the last edition of The Bristol Standard about making Brethren aware of the Aortic Aneurysm Screening programme, I have received some feedback which is very encouraging and I'm really glad that this is being taken very seriously, as Aneurysm's don't go away!

Just a couple of weeks ago in early June, I had a letter from the widow of one of our Brethren from Colston's Lodge, to say that she herself had an Aneurysm a few years ago following a routine hospital visit and following surgery she has managed to continue with a healthy and active life.

I still cannot stress enough the importance of Brethren having a routine scan, as there is usually no warning when it bursts and certainly there isn't a second chance!

My latest scan, in June revealed that it has indeed grown and whilst writing this article am waiting for some additional tests (CT Scan etc.) to ascertain the extent of the aneurysm. I will be having an operation at the end of July, on my birthday of all days. The usual process from an operation takes a couple of months to acceptable fitness, but can take up to six months, so I'm told for a full recovery.

As you will understand, I am obviously very passionate about the problem and I again urge any Brother who is over 65 years old and who hasn't had a scan, to contact the number below and make a simple appointment for a check that only takes about 20 minutes. It can also be hereditary, so if you have a history in your family, it would be sound advice to get yourself checked out. As I mentioned before, this condition is mainly a male problem, but it can affect a small proportion of females.

If, however, you are a male 65 years old and over and have never been called for a scan, you should contact the number below.

Can I reiterate what I detailed in the last Standard that all males who live in the Bristol, Bath and Weston health areas can request a scan and this will be sorted by the Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm team. Your GP will automatically be notified about an individual's condition. It is very possible that there are Brethren in our Province who already have an Aneurysm and don't know it.

There are advisory leaflets about this in the bar at Park Street which gives a lot of information. Otherwise contact The Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, AAA on 0117 414 8610. Arrangements are usually made so that you can attend your own or a nearby health surgery.

*Michael D Satherley - The Lodge of Unity*

## BLUE MONDAY

I wanted to let you have some feedback on the very successful event held at the Galleries on Monday 28th January (Blue Monday), which was attended by nearly 50 charities and other organisations (including excellent representation of the Craft and Bristol Province by Bob White and company), and which was visited by an estimated 1000 members of the public.

Bristol Province donated a generous £500 towards the event, which was 25% of the overall cost of staging the event, so our sincere thanks for supporting this fantastic community event. The event was held on the ground floor of the Galleries and increased the footfall of shoppers to over 1500 people on the day. It took place on the 'most depressing day of the year'.

The event included lively music, acupuncture and massage, delicious smoothies powered by bicycle, and opportunities to learn about and take part in exercise, including a visit from the Lord Mayor of Bristol.

Over 100 members of the public completed our feedback forms on the day, with many respondents commenting positively on the benefits of the event, particularly with having so many charities and support agencies from Bristol in one place for easy access and hopefully information by shoppers and people most in need.

Almost 25% of the people who responded to our feedback forms and gave us their postcodes live in the 10% most deprived areas of the city, most likely on very low incomes, and benefitted directly from the advice, information and positive mental health and well-being provided by the Blue Monday event.



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## 1985 Circle

W.Bro. Mike Huggins, Secretary



Our 30th Anniversary celebrations continued through the latter half of 2015. We visited Acton Court, on the Latteridge Road, Iron Acton. We were given a conducted tour of this early Tudor Courtier's House which has a rich history and state apartments built especially for the visit of Henry VIII and Anne Boleyn. We are so fortunate to have interesting buildings such as this on our doorstep.

Our next activity was to visit Dyrham Park where the National Trust has been implementing a major renovation project involving re-roofing the house. The building was encased in scaffolding and this was totally covered by sheeting. Not only did this protect the property and the work force from inclement weather, it enabled visitors to take a lift to roof level to see the work in progress – a thoroughly fascinating visit and one which is very unlikely ever to be repeated. It was wonderful to see at close quarters the craftsmanship of the carpenters and stonemasons.



We couldn't let the opportunity of a group photograph pass!

Our Circle topped off the year with a weekend break at the Royal Glen Hotel in Sidmouth. We had a very enjoyable stay, celebrating our Anniversary in style with a black tie dinner on the Saturday evening. Despite the variable weather, this was a lovely way to bring our members and family together and to demonstrate once again, how strong our Circle remains despite the elapse of 30 years. We finally brought the year to a conclusion with a pre-Christmas get together for tea and mince-pies.

The Circle now has plans in place for 2016 with W.Bro. Bob Gray invested as President at our AGM held at The Wishing Well, Codrington. Once again a varied



programme has been devised which includes a Fraternal visit to the Redcliffe Lodge, a tour of Dents Glove factory in Warminster, barbecues, a visit to the Bath Cheese Company, Kelston and an opportunity to relive the 60's with an afternoon at Ten Pin Bowling! In the autumn this year our traditional weekend break will be at Salisbury, which is a new venue for the Circle.

Thankfully, due to the enthusiastic support, the 1985 Circle remains strong and active; long may it continue.

## Steve Bennett Third Provincial Grand Principal

*'WE MUST ALL DO OUR BEST TO FIND CANDIDATES TO KEEP THE BRISTOL ROYAL ARCH WORKING FLOURISHING' URGES STEVE*

One of the greatest accolades that can be bestowed on a Bristol Royal Arch Mason must surely be being appointed to an office in Provincial Grand Chapter.

For Excellent Companion Steve Bennett it was the invitation to become Third Provincial Grand Principal. "I feel greatly honoured," says Steve, who is also chairman of the Bristol 2019 MSF Festival."

The additional involvement in Masonic activities within the Province does not worry him. Aged 65, Steve has spent much of his time in Masonry serving the Craft and Royal Arch. He arrived in Park Street in November 1990 when he was initiated in Anchor Lodge 6502.

He was exalted into Cabot Chapter in September 1994 and in 2003 was installed as First Principal. In the same year he took on the role of Founder Third Principal of Matthew Chapter.

In 2004 he was appointed Provincial Grand Registrar and in the same year became Provincial Grand Chaplain in the Craft.

Not frightened of hard work he was installed as First Principal of the Matthew Chapter in 2005 and again in 2010 when he was also promoted to Provincial Grand Scribe Nehemiah.

"I am passionate about the Bristol Royal Arch ritual and to ensure it is there for future generations we must continue to keep it a pure and unique Bristol working, continually promoting membership amongst members of the craft. It is pleasing to

see that some Chapters are regularly arranging social activities to include family members and prospective Chapter members and I look forward to supporting them whenever possible during the coming year in office" says Steve, who is married to Jane. They have two daughters and value highly time spent with their grandchildren.

"We must also encourage new members to get their wives and partners to become involved in all our social activities so that Masonry is very much a family affair. My wife Jane has always been very supportive of me in my masonic career, especially when raising funds for charity".

He admits that the next few years are going to be extremely busy for him promoting the 2019 festival for the Masonic Samaritan Fund. "But it is a very important cause providing vital support for Companions and their dependants that I hope all Chapters within the Province will fully support," says Steve.

He has already served Provincial Grand Lodge in a number of offices. In 2013 he was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden, and in April this year was appointed to PAGDC.

Steve still finds time to enjoy taking part in activities outside masonry. He is a member of both the Masonic Golf and Provincial Clay Shooting Societies and enjoys a good game of golf at his local club in Weston super Mare. Just as well then that he is retired,

but says that his days are as busy as when he and Jane were running their property preservation business. His evenings during the coming year as Third Provincial Grand Principal will be just as busy!

"I will make every effort to visit all the Chapters in the Province as often as possible and I look forward to seeing Companions taking pride in our unique ritual and enjoying with them their after meetings and social events".



## A day trip to Gibraltar

About twenty years ago, the late W. Bro. Richard Laurence and myself, with our wives, went to Spain and took a day trip to Gibraltar. While there, we found the Masonic Institute building and said we should arrange a visit to one of the lodges. In those days you had to fly from Heathrow which was a bit of a drag to say the least. This year EasyJet started direct flights from Bristol to Gibraltar, flight time two hours fifteen minutes and I decided now was the time to fulfil that dream.

My first task was to check with our Provincial Secretary that the Lodges in Gibraltar are 'regular' i.e. recognised by our own United Grand Lodge of England; he assured me there would be no problem. The next step was to see if there was any enthusiasm from the Brethren in our St Nicks for a fraternal visit to Gib. I was pleasantly surprised, in no time I had signed up 13 brethren (plus wives and partners); 26 in total representing four lodges Saint Nicholas, Colston, Dolphin and Lodge of Agriculture (Somerset).

I investigated masonry in Gibraltar and found there are 15 Craft Lodges, 5 Royal Arch Chapters, 5 Mark Lodges and 5 other orders. When you consider that the population of Gibraltar is only 30,000, a lot of lodges to say the least. Some orders are part of the Gibraltar District under our own United Grand Lodge of England and some are under the Grand Lodges of Scotland and Ireland.

My next task was to find a lodge meeting that co-

incided with an EasyJet flight, The Royal Lodge of Friendship was the obvious choice.

The Royal Lodge of Friendship has a long history, dating back over 225 years, and they have had a number of prominent members, including Prince Arthur, Duke of Connaught, as well as, four recipients of the Victoria Cross. I contacted the Royal Lodge of Friendship Secretary and we agreed that members of St Nicholas would make a fraternal visit in May 2016 to see a 2nd Degree ceremony.

We were shown around the Masonic Institute building which proved very interesting with displays of lodge memorabilia and information on the Victoria Cross holders; a lot of history, much of it military. Before the Lodge meeting we waited in the bar (a round of drinks for 12 £19.80!!!!!!) before moving to the temple for the ceremony.

The temple was very colourful with banners, badges and flags and we enjoyed a first class Second Degree ceremony. The Worshipful Master gave an explanation of the Tracing Board in the 'risings' and our Worshipful Master presented their Worshipful Master with a cheque for £500.00 for a local charity to fund research into Childhood Cancer (Royal Lodge of Friendship matched this with £500 from their own funds).

To celebrate the visit, Royal Lodge of Friendship presented our Worshipful Master with a mounted crystal model of Gibraltar.

We then joined our ladies at the Lord Nelson for dinner (an excellent four course meal) and an enjoyable evening of convivial company.

We had a very interesting and enjoyable trip and I am now thinking of the next one! Malta looks interesting?

Brother Eric Sortwell



## *Pictures of the visit*





## Arthur Bryan Jenkins 60 years a mason

Sixty years ago, a young, smartly dressed, spritely, enthusiastic and probably anxious young man, Arthur Bryan Jenkins took his first step on the Masonic ladder.

Bryan, as he likes to be known, must be one of a very few brethren who was initiated, passed and raised in Brunswick Square. This being one of several venues used

has watched more than fifty Worshipful Masters installed in the chair of this lodge. He has enjoyed both the 50th and 75th anniversary meetings and has produced the history of the Lodge for both celebrations.

A lot has changed since Bryan was initiated in those far off days, openness being just one of them. Today, you can take a stroll along



by Bristol masons after the building was destroyed in an air raid in 1940

Bryan's Masonic career is a credit to us all, he worked his way up through all the offices until he was installed as Worshipful Master in 1972. Natural progression took him through the Provincial offices and he is now P.Pr.J.G.W, soon to be P.Pr.S.G.W. He has been active in other degrees including, Chapter, Mark, K.T. & Rose Croix and in each case progressing to the chair then on to higher offices.

Bryan was the Lodge secretary of St Nicholas Lodge for fifteen years and ensured that the long established traditions of the lodge were maintained whilst assisting and guiding the Masters and the new members.

During his membership of St. Nicholas Lodge he has served no fewer than two Grand Masters, six Provincial Grand Masters and

the harbour side and be invited to join Masonry as well as at one of the many open days organised by Bristol Masonry.

In the old days at the after meetings it was out of the lodge room and either over to the Mauretania for a quick drink or into the dining room where the drinks were lined up on the tables. Raffles, Christmas parties and social functions were unheard of other than the traditional Ladies night, even the trip to visit a Lodge in Gibraltar would not be considered.

Over the years Bryan has searched for the answer to so many questions and even at his age, is still searching for answers. He feels that we are in good heart and although many of us will not see the next sixty years our Order and the St. Nicholas lodge in particular will continue to flourish as it has for the past 300 years.

*Tony Whitmarsh*

## Bristol Masonic Golf Society v Monmouthshire

*Played at Thornbury Golf Club - Wednesday 8th June 2016*

This, our first home game of the season, was played in almost tropical weather conditions at Thornbury Golf Centre. Old acquaintances were rekindled as both teams met up in the clubhouse for a welcome bacon roll and coffee before the team pairings were made.

As both teams stepped out onto the long par 5 opening hole at Thornbury, there was an air of confidence amongst the Bristol team – having won the first game against Gloucester a couple of weeks previously. And so it turned out, as news filtered down amongst the groups playing on the course that Bristol were winning in most of the pairings.

The excellent condition of the course coupled with the weather lead to some brilliant golf being played by both teams.

At the conclusion of the rounds, it was obvious that the match would be tight, although some of the scores from both sides didn't reflect the tightness of the games! After a well-deserved drink, both teams sat down to an excellent two course meal served by the staff at Thornbury.

On the conclusion of the meal the results were announced, with Bristol winning the contest by 4 games to 2!



Our captain, Keith Irwin, received the coveted Miner's Lamp trophy from the Monmouthshire captain – who immediately announced that they would win it back again next year!!!

Keith thanked Monmouthshire for their friendliness in all the games. He also thanked the club – not only for the condition of the course but the efficiency of the staff and the quality of the food provided.

Although Monmouthshire lost the match, they did win both "Nearest the Pin" competitions and also the "Longest Drive" Competition!

We look forward to playing them away next year.



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## Don Foster Singles Competition

Henbury Golf Club  
Tuesday 21st June 2016.

Once again the Bristol Masonic Golf Society was blessed with superb weather as the players strode out onto the first tee at Henbury Golf Club for the Don Foster Trophy.



This was a singles Stableford competition, played off a full handicap allowance.

As the first groups began their round, it was obvious that scoring, even with a full handicap allowance, would be difficult at Henbury, as it had recently played host to their "Open Club Championship". Although the greens and fairways were in superb condition, the first and second cuts on the fairways had been left that little bit longer – thus penalising the wayward shot!

The competition was played in groups of three with players of a similar handicap. This led to some competitive games.

There were two, "nearest the pin" competitions – at the 7th and 13th holes – with several players hitting the green and believing that they had won. The competition was played in Great Spirit and as the scores were recorded it was obvious that the results were very close.

However, as in all competitions, there can be only one winner – and that prize went to: **Paul Moody** with a very creditable score of 36 points, closely followed by **David Branch** on 33 points and tied 3rd were **Adrian Timms** and **Steve Carter** on 32 points.



Nearest the pin competition:  
**Wilf King** at 7th  
**Adrian Timms** at 13th

After the presentations, the players sat down to a very enjoyable two course meal provided by the catering staff at Henbury.

Captain Keith thanked all those who had played in the competition. He also thanked Henbury Golf Club for presenting the course in such a wonderful condition and the catering staff for providing a very enjoyable meal.

P.S. – There is a video of Steve Carter's tee shot at the par 3 - 13th – which didn't land on the green! If anyone would like to view this and the words of wisdom uttered by Steve as a result, then a donation to the Bristol Masonic Samaritan Fund can be made – or Steve, you can buy the original copy for £100!!!!

## Douglas Marsham Tankard

Played at Clevedon Golf Club  
Friday 29th April 2016

The day dawned bright and sunny but high winds blowing across the Bristol Channel from the west threatened to make this a difficult day's golf for even the most accomplished golfers. This being the first golf competition of the year for the Bristol Masonic Golf Society – everyone had been hoping for a superb day!

As the hour hand moved from morning to afternoon; so the weather changed with dark clouds gathering in the west being quickly pushed in the direction of Clevedon.



However by 1.00pm, 20 golfers were eager to get to the first tee for what would be a very keenly fought competition. Although a heavy shower blighted the first 10 minutes, the sky cleared and the rest of the round was completed in beautiful sunshine.

Last year the competition was played as a Pairs Better Ball Stableford, but this year the competition was organised as a Pairs Greensome Medal, with both players driving off then selecting one of the drives before alternating shots to complete the hole.

The course was in very good condition, but it was obvious from the outset that scoring would be difficult due to the strong breeze and the position of some of the holes on the greens.

Clevedon has to be one of the most scenic courses in the area with views along the Gordano Valley; across the Bristol Channel to Wales; down towards Steep Holme, Flat Holme and the Quantocks; and inland to the Mendips.

As the last team made its way back to the clubhouse and handed in their scorecards it was indeed the case that scoring had been difficult.

Many of the teams had found the conditions very testing and with every shot counting to the score,

there were some very big numbers being posted. Everyone however enjoyed the challenge of the competition and the course!

However after a superb meal, organised by Paul Smith and provided by the catering staff at Clevedon Golf Club, the winning places were announced.

The Douglas Marsham Tankard was awarded to the best Net Medal team score on the afternoon – with only 10 points separating the top 4 teams:

3rd place, with a net team score of 78

Joe O'Connor and John Cross

2nd place with a net team score of 73

Colin Rogers and Arthur Grannan

1st place with a net team score of 70

Paul Smith and Tony Flintoff



*Paul Smith with the winner's Prize  
(Tony Flintoff could not stay for the meal)*

Nearest the pin on 3rd and nearest the pin on 13th with 2nd shot was Colin Rogers. Everyone agreed that it had been a great start to the Golf season.

BMGS Captain for the year, Keith Irwin, thanked everyone for supporting the event; to Clevedon Golf Club for providing a golf course in such a good condition – and also the catering staff for providing a wonderful meal.



*Colin Rogers with a big smile and his prizes!!*



## Bristol Masonic Golf Society v Gloucestershire

Played at Knowle Golf Club  
Thursday 12th May 2016.

Having played this fixture last year in almost monsoon conditions at Kendleshire, it was a pleasant surprise to see the sun shining after a couple of days of non-stop rain.

Both teams duly arrived at Knowle Golf Club; coffee and bacon rolls being served in the sun on the patio outside the clubhouse. Gloucestershire had reclaimed the trophy the previous year by halving the match, so the golfers of Bristol were keen to take back the trophy.



The pairings were made and Bristol was led off by our PGM, Alan Vaughan, partnered by Mike Collins. With handicaps of 7 and 10 respectively, it was assumed that this would give us a big advantage and bearing on the match itself – but this was not to be, as the pair were 3 down by the end of the first 9 holes. Things had to change if the team were to com-



pete against this strong Gloucestershire team. And change they did as both Alan and Mike played some superb golf; not only getting back to "All Square" but nearly snatching a win on the 18th!

As each of the first five teams came to the 9th hole it was obvious that the match was going to be tight, being up in two, down in two with one all square. But as the last two pairings came through, the situation changed with both being in front by some margin. With the whole team rallying to the cause, it became obvious that Bristol were going to prevail this year and win back the coveted trophy donated by W.Br Don Foster.

As the news of the progress of each of the pairings was relayed to our Captain, Keith Irwin, a broad smile spread across his face as he realised that we would be regaining the Trophy.



The golf course was in immaculate condition for the game. It is an oasis of wildlife in the middle of a built up, residential part of Bristol.

Many sightings were made of deer and squirrels as groups progressed around the course.

At the end of proceedings the scores were 4 ½ to 2 ½ in favour of Bristol.

Knowle Golf Club not only presented the course in near perfect condition, but provided a superb two course meal, served in their newly refurbished clubhouse.

As the Gloucestershire captain, Michael Jacques presented the trophy to Keith Irwin; he assured his team that they would put in a stern challenge next year and take the trophy

back!!!! We shall see!



Keith thanked Gloucestershire for the way in which they had played and also Knowle Golf Club for supporting our match in the way that they had. It was hoped that we could perhaps play at Knowle next year – but this time it would



## The Clive Farrow Trophy

Weston-super-Mare Golf Club  
Monday 4th July 2016

15 players turned up at Weston-super-Mare in overcast but warm conditions to challenge for the Clive Farrow Trophy. Some players were even brave enough to play in shorts!

As the players made their way to the 1st tee, there was a slight breeze blowing from the South West. Any breeze at Weston-super-Mare can cause the best of players to lose their confidence – especially on the 5th hole with the beach bordering the whole length of the fairway!

Although the course was in tremendous condition, scoring was proving to be difficult- especially on the front 9, where even the lowest handicappers struggled to score well.

The back 9 at Weston is a little more sheltered and scoring improved accordingly.

Having scored only 10 points on the front 9 Tim Brunton went on to shoot a 22 on the back 9, taking him from last place to a very creditable 2nd.

The only person to score better than his handicap was Roger Unwin, who with a score of 37 point became the 2016 Clive Farrow Trophy Champion.

Tim Brunton 2nd on count back with 32 points Mike Biggs and John Cross were 3rd =, also with 32 points. Unfortunately Roger could not stay for the meal afterwards, so the trophy and 1st prize of a round of golf for 2 at Weston-super-Mare Golf Club will be presented at a later date.



## The Grand Charity

has donated a total of £75,000 to flood relief in Lancashire and Yorkshire in the wake of devastation caused by storms over the festive season. The donations will give continued support to individuals and families suffering as a result of flooding, and follow on from a £30,000 grant last month to the Cumbria Flood Recovery Fund 2015 and the province of Cumberland and Westmorland.



With record levels of rainfall in parts of Cumbria, Lancashire and Yorkshire thousands of homes have been flooded, with whole communities left without power and essential supplies. The money will go towards helping those in financial difficulty, as well as supporting local projects and rebuilding efforts.



## Jerusalem Lodge donate £600 to the The Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre (BHOC)



On the 8th of March Bro. Shaun Lloyd (Charity Steward) and W.Bro. Bill Frost (Worshipful Master) met charity workers from Above & Beyond in Freemasons Hall Bristol and presented a cheque to Bristol Haematology and Oncology Centre on behalf of Jerusalem Lodge. The money was raised from their recent Ladies Weekend in Paignton Shaun Lloyd (P.G.Stwd)

## Jerusalem Lodge thank you

Jerusalem Lodge had an extra-special celebration at their recent Installation After-Meeting. As well as welcoming in their WM for the ensuing year; Bro. Andy Friedman, the Brethren were saying a hearty 'thank you' to their IPM W. Bro. Bill Frost who has just completed an amazing fourth year in the Chair.

Bill has been Worshipful Master in 2008, 2010, 2014 & 2015. This is a record in the history of Jerusalem Lodge - no other WM has taken the Chair four times in the Lodge's 160 year history!

To mark this great achievement and as a token of the gratitude of the Lodge for his dedication and service, Bro. Shaun Lloyd presented Bill with a commemorative Bristol blue glass decanter inscribed with the grateful thanks of the Lodge.

*Shaun Lloyd*

## First Degree Demonstration

The Worshipful Master of the Matthew Lodge young William Hicks showed just how it is done "Bristol Fashion" to the Installed Master's Lodge of Wales. The visit to Llanelli started on a misty morning in Park Street Saturday the 11th of June supported by a contingent of enthusiastic members and helpers who assisted Steve Bennet to load his small van with all the accoutrements that our Tyler Tim Day advised

were required to fit out the Lodge room in readiness to perform the ceremony. Off we went van loaded to the hilt (swords included) and a seventeen seater mini coach. To pastures anew and a world that time has long forgotten, feelings were high as we paid to pass over the River Severn into the home of the greenest, green grass, the sky cleared and the sun shone to light our way. On the radio, possibly as requested Sir Thomas Jones Woodward or as we know him Tom Jones sang 'Delilah' accompanied with great passion by the Matthew male voice choir. Feelings were high as we arrived at the Masonic Hall in Harries Avenue, Llanelli.

This Majestic structure was built on a plot of land purchased on 2nd of August 1935 for the then princely sum of £565. By the 21st of August a tender to build the Hall was approved and the foundations laid very shortly after. The cost of building was £1,500 and the opening ceremony on September 15th 1936 was by the Right Worshipful the Right Honourable Lord Kensington, The Provincial Grand Master.

On our entrance into the glorious building we were met and welcomed with coffee and biscuits as it was only 11.30am and the Lodge would be tyled at 2.00pm.

The two pillars that once stood in the Temple are now placed in the entrance doorway and stand as sentinel to the beautifully decorated Temple although the globes which used to atop them have long since been removed. On the matting to greet the visitor were the words 'Croeso' and declares welcome in the native language in the Principality of Wales.

At 2.00pm the Installed Master's Lodge of Wales was opened, minutes and any other details attended to and called off to allow for us to set it for a ceremony that was to delight the filled to capacity Lodge. All seats were taken as their members watched and listened to every movement and syllable that was to form a demonstration to be proud of.

The candidate for the ceremony was borrowed from the Installed Masters Lodge and per-

formed admirably with just a little help and instruction from our DC. The heat of the day and lack of air movement could be blamed for a few of their members that allowed their eyes to close and with head back and mouth open, no doubt were taking in all of the relevance to the words used in this amazing ceremony. The Sword bearers were precision in its simplistic execution, assisted by Gareth Evans our entered apprentice of one week! Jason Spencer-Smith and John Bassett the Senior and Junior Wardens performed admirably, The Senior Deacon Adam Watts ably demonstrated the working tools. The Secrets imparted beautifully by Nigel Hicks and all parts of this most enjoyable ritual were carried out flawlessly to the delight of the assembled throng. To mass applause our Worshipful Master and his Wardens paraded out and retired to the bar for a small celebratory libation leaving our own Tony Griffiths in the Lodge room to assist the closing of the Installed Masters Lodge with the glorious music we take so much for granted.

The after meeting or festive board was a delight with its uncomplicated menu and plentiful supply of wine, after several toasts and the Full Monty of Welsh spoken and sung with great gusto we said goodbye to our hosts,

It was time to wend our way home in the full knowledge that the world famous Bristol Workings had been imparted to and enjoyed by a contingent of Past Masters of Lodges all around Wales and would no doubt be the basis of a great deal of discussion in their own relevant Lodges and in time will lead to visits to Bristol by the very appreciative Welsh contingents,

All regalia and paraphernalia was loaded back into the vehicles and the relatively short trip back to Park Street was enjoyed by all in the minibus with merriment shown by the triumphant relief of a day which had been long awaited, rehearsed and enjoyed to the full, some were quite happy to close their eyes sit back and contemplate the success of the day,

