

THE FREEMASON



Edition 6

Vol. I

April 2008

Freemasons Hall, Ingham Street, South Shields, Tyne & Wear NE33 2DQ Tel: 0191 456 0137

Shields Gazette

And Shipping Telegraph

Established 1849

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 11, 1884

One O'clock Edition

THE NEW MASONIC HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS



Yesterday afternoon, the foundation stone of the new Masonic Hall, South Shields, was laid by the Mayor of the borough, Bro. T.G. Mabane P.M. P.P.G.S.D., with full Masonic honours. The weather being fine, there was a large turn out of the general public to witness the procession. A special Lodge was held in the Wesleyan School-room Chapter Row, at half past two, and at which there was a large attendance of the brethren of the district.

The Lodge was duly opened by Bro. Thomas Binks, the Worshipful Master of St. Hilda Lodge No. 240, who was supported on the right by Bros. Mabane, PM, W. Wright, PM, J.S. Wilson, PM, and on the left by Bros. G.S. Shotton, PM, W. Davidson, WM, 1970; J. Roddam, PM, J. Robertson, PM, T. Potter, PM, J.J. Athey, PM, G. Lawson, PM, the Rev. W.C. Harris, Prov.G. Chaplain.

Among the provincial officers and lodge officers present were:- Bros. R. Hudson, Prov.G.Sec. Durham, Thomas Coulson PM, 24, PPGD, J. Roddam, PPGD, T.G.Mabane, 240, PPGSD, Durham, T.Y. Strachan, PPGW, Northumberland; John.J. Clay PM, 97, PPGS of W; M. Frampton PM, 94, PGSB, M. Douglas PM, 80, PPGJD, James Watt, PPGO; Geo. Hardy PGAD of C; W.M. Bell, PPGAD of C Northumberland; I. McCulloch PPGJW; John Tilman PPGS of W; Joseph Robertson, PM, 991, PPGP; J.G. Tulloch PPGS of W, Northumberland; W.J. Ward, PM, 431 PPJGW, Northumberland; J. Harcuss, PPJGD, Northumberland; Thomas Haswell, PPGO Northumberland; J.H. Thompson, IPM 240; Thomas Potter, PM; J.S. Wilson, PM, PPGS of W; George Robson, SW; A.E. Cowling, JW; J. Hinde, PM Treasurer; F.L. Pearson, Secretary; J.A. Hall, SD; George Wilson, IG; Robert Purvis, SS; H. Hinde, JS; John Brown, Tyler, 240; J.G. Kirtley, WM 949; J.E. Nelson, WM, 80; J.C. Moor, WM, 97; James Hogg, IPM, 659; J. Eadington, SW,

659; J.G. Nasbet, IG, 97; T.A. Moffett, JD, 424; James Sedcole SW, 1119; G.H. Heslop, JD, 431; W. Ross, SW, 1970; G.R. Webster, 240; J. Armstrong, PM, 1274; W. Twizell, PPSGW, Northumberland; Joseph Probert, PM, 424; T. Renton, WM, 1119; M.J. Wheatley, JW 1970; S. Chadwick, WM, 1643; C.L.Laws, SD, 431.

The Secretary having read the circular calling the special lodge, and the dispensation granted by the Prov.G.M. the Marquis of Londonderry, for holding the same, which had been received for Bro. R. Husdon, Provincial Grand Secretary, the lodge was adjourned, in order that the brethren might proceed in procession to the site of the new Masonic Hall in Ingham Street.

The procession formed up in Chapter Row, the roadway being kept by a number of police officers under Chief Constable Moorhouse.

The order of procession was as follows:

- Band of the 3rd Durham (South Shields) Artillery Volunteers
- St George's Ensign carried by Bro. Hadley, boatswains mate, supported by Bro. W.Baker, chief gunner and Bro. J.Vimby, gunner, H.M.S. Castor
- Tyler of St Hilda's Lodge with Sword, Bro. Brown
- Brethren of St. Hilda's Lodge and visitors two and two
- Acting Architect with Plans and Mallet, Bro Webster
- Cornucopia with Corn borne by Bro. Athey P.M.
- Steward Ewer with Wine by Bro. Potter P.M. Steward
- Ewer with Oil by Bro. J.T.Wilson P.M.
- Organist Bro. G.Wilson
- Director of Ceremonies Bro. Roddam P.M.
- Secretary with Constitution and Plate with Inscription Bro. F.L. Pearson
- Treasurer with Phial and Coins Bro. Hinde
- Corinthian Light by a Past Master
- Two Junior Deacons with Columns
- Junior Wardens with Plumb
- Bros. M.J. Wheatley and A.E. Cowling
- Doric Light by a Past Master
- Two Senior Deacons with Columns
- Senior Wardens with Level Bros. W. Ross and G. Robson
- Chaplain with Vol. Of Sacred Law Rev. W.C. Harris
- Ionic Light by a Past Master Bro. Wright
- Steward The W. Master of 1970 with Square Steward
- Bro. W. Davidson
- The W. Master of 240 with Trowel Bro. T. Binks
- Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, past and present
- Prov. Clothing, according to rank.
- Prov.G. Sword Bearer Bro. M. Frampton
- His Worship the Mayor
- Steward Bro. T.G. Mahone P.M.P.P.S.G.D. Steward



On Saturday 8th March 2008, the Funeral was held for the late Rt W Bro Derek Richmond, who died in Office as Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Durham, on Wednesday 27th February 2008.

The Service was held at St Barnabas Church, Linthorpe Road, Middlesbrough where Derek had worshipped all of his life and most of that time as a member of the Church Choir.

The Service was led by the Vicar Canon Eric Wilson, assisted by the Provincial Grand Chaplain W Bro The Revd Michael Snowball.

As could have been expected, the Church was full to overflowing with in excess of 400 people being present. The Service of Celebration and Thanksgiving was performed with much love and great sensitivity and was so appropriate for the love and respect that everyone had for Derek. The hymns were especially chosen by the Family, to enable all present to have a good sing and created a sound that Derek would have been delighted to hear.

There is a link on the Provincial Grand Lodge website where the Order of Service is attached and includes people from all his various aspects throughout his life including his Church, Education, Teesside Eisteddford and of course his Masonic activities.

Throughout the Service the various contributions spoke of his charm, his compassion and his great energy, in supporting and caring for all with whom he came into contact.

A Eulogy was delivered from the Masonic point of view, by W Bro His Honour Judge Peter Armstrong and his address is also given on the Provincial Grand Lodge website details below.

In attendance were Lord Barnard and Dr A M Davison and his wife, along with 3 Provincial Grand Masters and one Past Provincial Grand Master from neighbouring Provinces.

With fraternal and sincere acknowledgements to Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham

<http://www.durhamfreemasons.org>



Continued next month

FREEMASONS' HALL



APRIL 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
		1 Wrekendike 6401	2 Tyne Dock 4218	3 Hadrian 1970	4 St Lawrence Lodge Practice (10.30am)	6
John Readhead 32177 (Installation) KST	Lord Barnard RAC 2935 KST	Caer Urfa 4345 2nd Degree	St Lawrence 6402	Caer Urfa Lodge Committee Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction	Caer Urfa 4345 Ladies Evening Sea Hotel	13
St Hilda 240 KST	Lord Barnard 2935		St Michaels & All Angels R+ 891			FHMC (10.30am) 20
St Lawrence R+ 293 Queens Birthday Westoe Lodge of Instruction	St Lawrence MMM 1093 (Installation) KST	St Hilda RAC 24023 Fellowship 9694 (Installation 10.30am) KST	Hedworth 2418 KST	St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction KMH		
Westoe 4750 KST	John Readhead Lodge of Instruction	Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction KMH				

KEY BLUE Craft RED Chapter GREEN Side/Higher Degrees BROWN Instruction/Practice BLACK Meetings PURPLE (Karate) KMH = Main Hall KST = Small Temple

All events start at 7.00pm precisely unless otherwise stated - All Information Given In Good Faith - Please check in event of a visit

Day	Masonic Organisation	No.
1st Tuesday	Hadrian Lodge	1970
1st Wednesday	Wrekendike Lodge	6401
1st Thursday	Tyne Dock Lodge	4218
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	240
2nd Tuesday	John Readhead Chapter	3217
2nd Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge	4345
2nd Thursday	St. Lawrence Lodge	6042
3rd Wednesday	Wouldhave Tyne Dock Mark	362
3rd Thursday	Hedworth Chapter	2418
3rd Friday	Rockcliffe Royal Ark Mariner	362
4th Monday	St. Lawrence Preceptory	275
4th Wednesday	Caer Urfa Chapter	4345
Last Thursday	Hedworth Lodge	2418

C Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345
On Friday 9th May 2008, Caer Urfa Lodge will be holding their Annual Lodge of Instruction Night supper. This is an annual occasion when the Instruction Lodge opens its doors to visitors to view a re-enactment of a degree, the lodge dress is casual and no regalia is worn, afterwards there is a festive board with the usual Friday supper of Fish and chips. The festive board is open to non masons, which enables brethren who may have potential candidates to bring them along to witness and join this part of a Masonic evening, this has in the past proven to be a good way to attract fit and proper gentlemen into the Craft, though the toasts delivered will be different - tickets with remittance of £4.50 available now.

S t. Hilda Royal Arch Chapter No. 240 will now celebrate its 150th Anniversary on **Wednesday 23rd April 2008** - Tickets £10.00.

A nnual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham will be held at Seaton Carew, on Thursday, 22th May 2008

R usty Nail Degree
Here's an idea from our brethren across the pond, they hold what is delightfully called a "Rusty Nail Degree" for members who have not been in a Lodge for a while and need a refresher course.

I read with interest the article "St. Lawrence Lodge on the Square". It was very pleasing to see one of the younger South Shields Lodges adopting the oldest chapter's squared table format. I know this format has been in use since at least 1980. If anybody could inform me when St. Hilda Chapter first used this seating arrangement I would be pleased to know. As the article states "Imitation is the sincerest form of flattery"

Jim & Rita Barker Masonic Regalia
Craft Chapter Mark
Regalia altered and refurbished
Why buy new?
3ct Mantle + Tunic £90.00
Mulla Mantle + Tunic £80.00
Preceptory Mantle + Tunic £20.00
Chapter Surplice £30.00
Discounted Swords
17 Benedict Flood Baker Standard sizes only
Tel: 0193 514 1496

E Comp John Errington St. Hilda Chapter No. 240

NEW MASTER'S

February saw the celebrated arrival in South Shields of one more new Master to continue the task of the rejuvenation of their Lodges in particular and Freemasonry in general, and we wish them every success.

On 6th March 2008 saw the arrival of W Bro Leslie John Lovelock, Master elect of his Lodge Tyne Dock No. 4218. W Bro Les was a permanent member of staff based at the Territorial Army base at Frenchman's Fort, and in the 1990's W Bro Allan Collier and W Bro William Jeromson whilst attending many social functions at the fort began



W Bro Leslie John Lovelock,
Master, Tyne Dock Lodge No. 4218

to get questions about the Craft from W Bro Les, and after a while he asked—and the rest is history! W Bro rose through the ranks of the Lodge and was installed Master in the year 2000, representing the Lodge at many Lodges in and outside of the town, in recent years his ill health prevented him from attending his Lodge on a regular basis but he rose to the challenge and took the chair at the Past Master night last November, he then asked if his name could be put forward with that of W Bro Peter Hamilton—again the rest is history.

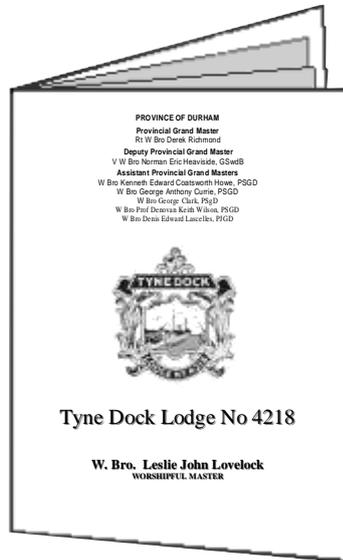
W Bro Les was installed by W Bro Hamilton another stalwart of Freemasonry in the town who carried out the ceremony of installation with admirable distinction.

Royal Ark Mariners

Otherwise known as The Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners



W Bro Harry Norman,
Worshipful Commander
Rockcliffe Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 362



TYNE DOCK LODGE No. 4218 OFFICERS 2008–2009

W. Bro. LESLIE JOHN LOVELOCK	Master
W. Bro. PETER HAMILTON	I.P.M
W. Bro. FREDERICK EREST DUNMORE, PPrGSwdB	S.W.
W. Bro. LAWRENCE WALLS	J.W.
W. Bro. IVOR SAVILLE, PPrJGW	Chaplain.
W. Bro. HAROLD LLEWELYN ROBERTS, PM	Treasurer.
W. Bro. THOMAS TAYLOR TURNER, PPrGSwdB	Secretary.
W. Bro. PAUL PERKINS, PPrGSWks.	D. of C.
W. Bro. TREVOR CHARLES MURRAY, PPrGSwdB., PM 2418	Almoner.
W. Bro. PAUL MARTIN LANSDELL, PM	Charity Steward.
W. Bro. JOHN TERENCE MATTIMORE, PPrAGDC.	S.D.
Bro. PHILIP ROUTLEDGE	J.D.
W. Bro. JOHN HARVEY, PPrGSwdB	Asst. D. of C
W. Bro. MAURICE WILLIAM POWELL, PPrGSwdB	Organist
Bro. JOHN COURTNEY	I.G.
W. Bro. WILLIAM JEROMSON, PPrGSwdB	Tyler.

On Friday the 14th of March W. Bro Harry Norman was installed as Worshipful Commander of the Rockcliffe Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 362. W. Bro Harry is also a Past Commander of the Clavering Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 896, which meets at the Gateshead Masonic Temple.

The degree, although worked under the aegis of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons, and requiring every candidate to be a Mark Master Mason, has no historical connection whatsoever with that degree. Mark Grand Lodge's rule over the 'Ancient and Honourable Fraternity of Royal Ark Mariners' is simply a quirk of fate. It stands entirely alone and totally unrelated to any other degree in Freemasonry.

The history of the Degree is an obscure and difficult subject and the number of historical facts that have emerged over the years have indeed been small. As a result the precise origins of the Royal Ark Mariner degree are unknown.

The degree relates to the building and voyage of Noah's Ark, and it is attached or 'moored' to Mark Lodges and usually bear the same numbers and names. Rockcliffe Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners is 'moored' to Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 362. Unusually the Rockcliffe Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners takes its name from the house that belonged to John Readhead in Westoe village rather than from the mark lodge it is 'moored' to.

Mark Master Masons

Wednesday the 19th of March saw the installation of Bro. Ken Robson into the Chair of Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 362. W. Bro Ken is a dedicated and enthusiastic South Shields mason and the Mark Lodge can look forward to some excellent ritual during the next twelve months.

The Mark degree is the largest of the additional degrees, tracing its origins back to the mid 1750's. It is organised on the same style as the Craft, with A Grand and



W Bro Kenneth Urquart Robson,
Master, Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge
of Mark Master Masons No 362

vincial Lodges. The regalia for the Mark is similar to that of the craft and includes aprons, collars and jewels.



Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

To mark the 150th Anniversary of the formation of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons in London, the Library and Museum of Freemasonry displayed many unique documents and rarely seen objects relating to the early years of this Grand Lodge.

Mark Masonry developed from an ancient ceremony during which each craftsman selected for himself a private mark with which to designate his work and registered this mark with an appropriate authority. As with other Masonic organisations, its ceremonies centre on the story of the building of Solomon's Temple.

These ceremonies were first performed in 1769 and a separate governing body or Grand Lodge was established in 1856.

MA in the History of Freemasonry and Fraternalism

It would be very remiss of me as an HR professional and a member of the correspondence circle of the Centre for Research into Freemasonry at Sheffield University, not to bring something to the Masonic educational table.



Drawing of a Freemasons Meeting circa 1700's

Since at least the middle ages, fraternal bodies ranging from guilds to friendly societies have provided a social framework for local, regional and national life. They have contributed to the establishment of networks crossing cultural and political borders in Europe and throughout the world and their members have been exposed to elaborate rituals of initiation. These associations share an emphasis on mutual aid and a general ideology of brother- and sisterhood. Freemasonry is one of the largest and best-documented of these organisations and its history is a primary focus of this programme.

Fraternal organisations have often influenced the nature and structure of civil society. Studying their history provides insight into the structures underpinning past societies, such as forms of networking and trans-national contact and also sheds light on major themes of social history such as gender, ethnicity, public space and the emergence of functional elites. Studying a wide range of fraternal organisations provides you with an awareness of the development over time of different values, systems and societies.

University of Sheffield has a strong tradition of academic research into freemasonry. Professor Douglas Knoop (1883-1948) contributed substantially to new scholarly approaches in the area and the Centre for Research into Freemasonry—the first Centre devoted to the academic study of freemasonry in the UK—is situated in new premises named in honour of Knoop. The MA in the History of Freemasonry and Fraternalism draws on the Centre's research programme and will provide students with a range of historical skills, allowing you to pursue independent research. The MA also provides an introduction to the bibliographical, archival and other skills relevant to this field of study. Taught within the Department of History, the MA is designed to



develop a range of generic skills as you follow up your core interest in the history of fraternalism. These skills will be transferable both to other fields of historical research and to non-academic endeavours.

During the academic year of 2008-2009 the programme will be taught in Sheffield with a distance learning MA planned for 2009-2010 or 2010-2011. Further details can be found at the link below from which this information was referenced to.

<http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/history/ma/freemasonry>

50 Year Certificate

E Comp Charles Bartram Adamson
St Hilda Royal Arch Chapter No. 240

On Thursday 13th March 2008, E Comp John Errington, D of C and Com Keith Hind, SE visited E Comp Charles Bartram Adamson in his home in Winchester and were proud to deliver his 50 Year Certificate. E Comp Adamson was exalted on 19th February 158 and was First Principal in 1963.



The Certificate had been presented in the Chapter at the February meeting by E Comp Derek Warneford, Provincial Second Grand Principal, and received on Charles's behalf by E Comp Toy Davey, First Principal of the Chapter. E Comp Warneford asked that his personal best wishes and congratulations be conveyed to E Comp Adamson. Comps Errington and Hind happily obliged.

Charles was also presented with a suitably inscribed mini decanter and glasses, a gift from the Chapter to mark this special occasion. Charles' pleasure and pride were very evident. In turn he asked that his thanks be conveyed to Provincial Grand Chapter, E Comp Warneford and all those who had made the occasions possible.

A good while was spent reminiscing before John and Keith had to leave. Both agreed that the visit had been one of the most rewarding duties they had ever had the pleasure to perform.

On a Less serious note.....
 Caer Urfa Lodge held their social evening with the theme of a 60's and 70's night, on the right are just some of the 'contestants for best outfit' - and one in particular is already mentioned in this edition as being installed into the

Chair of the Mark can you spot him?
 The event raised over £300 for Breast Cancer Care and it was one of the most enjoyable ways possible of having fun



whilst fleeing the pockets of the willing!



There were special prizes for the best get up and the floorshow above shows some of the hopefuls, unfortunately the Editor had already swung the vote of the judges and walked away with best male outfit winning a disappearing Easter Egg, whilst the best female outfit was won by Jackie the wife of our intrepid painter and decorator extraordinaire W Bro Ken Robson seen in the line up three from the right.

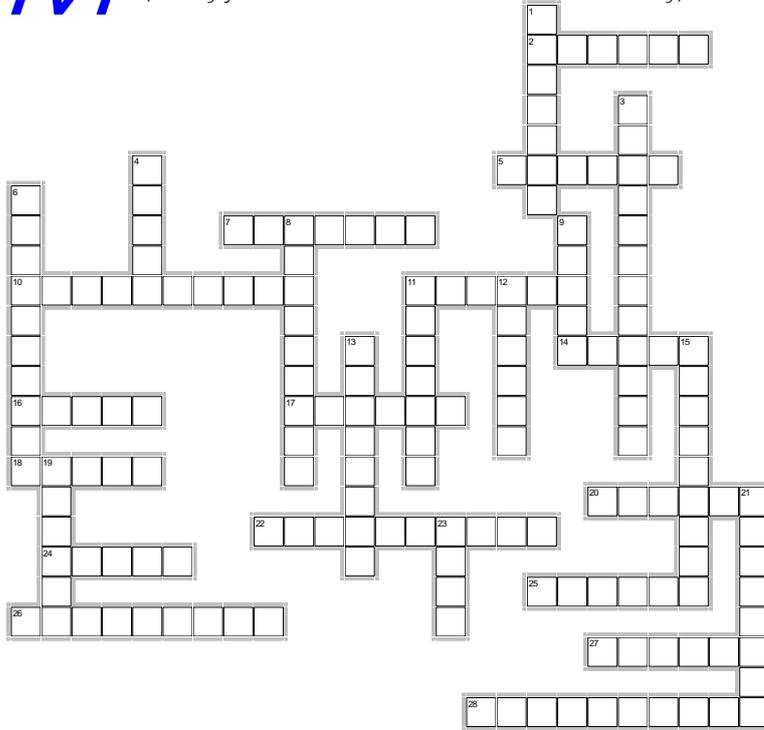


Above are some of the senior officers of the Lodge, who for want of a better reason - definitely let their hair down on the night!

A special mention has to go to W Bro Peter Octon and his 'Mam' for getting into the spirit and dressing up as naughty school kids - unfortunately we can't locate any better photos for future use! But this grainy snapshot of him in the background of another photo provides an idea.



Unless someone out there has some???????



Across

- 2. 'Tyred' out? no this ones still going strong on the emerald isle
- 5. Erased in 2006
- 7. 5 miles south of Edinburgh and built in 1446
- 10. Thanks to Freemasonry Today for this gentleman's journey's
- 11. Surname of a beloved Tyler of the town, sadly missed
- 14. The widow's son
- 16. RAM Commander
- 17. 47th Proposition
- 18. **An unusual name for a Master's Installation!**
- 20. A Irish hotel with an unlucky history
- 22. TA base
- 24. Promotions to be at this football stadium
- 25. Mayor of 1884
- 26. We nearly ended up in this part of the town
- 27. Olde worlde freemasonry comes to town
- 28. Renamed club

Down

- 1. Not named after a fireplace but has been in for 50
- 3. Our late PGM's first Lodge
- 4. Bryan keeps close hands on the bottle at this presentation
- 6. Youngest lodge in the town
- 8. **City with two football teams and 'Masonic' university**
- 9. In an Emulation Lodge the Treasurer is usually seated in the ...
- 11. Master of the first Wednesday Lodge
- 12. Noble Order of Architecture not shown on a Grand Lodge certificate
- 13. Derek was his first name
- 15. Chief Constable kept the crowds in check
- 19. Starts off rough and ends smooth - one hopes!
- 21. In 1755 this breakaway group met initially in the Turks Head Tavern, Soho.
- 23. In this degree every Craftsman has one

The crossword is based upon the contents of this and March's newsletter as well as a sprinkling of Masonic history and news throughout the ages - have fun! If you want to try the on-line version then use the link below:-

<http://southshieldsfreemasons.pwp.blueyonder.co.uk/CW%20April.html>

A

ll of our yesterday's

Never a day goes by when we are reminded about our past, whether it be work, family, personal or Masonic related, it is with thanks to the sterling efforts of W Bro Derek Cuthbert that we are reminded again of our Masonic history , W Bro Derek has compiled the article taken from the Shields Gazette of 1884 featured on the front page and has also managed to obtain early photos of the two buildings built by St Hilda Lodge and these are set out below the one on the left is the opening of the electric tram service and behind the first tram you will be able to make out the roofline complete with Masonic symbols of the Fowler Street Temple, by this time it was not used as a Masonic building.

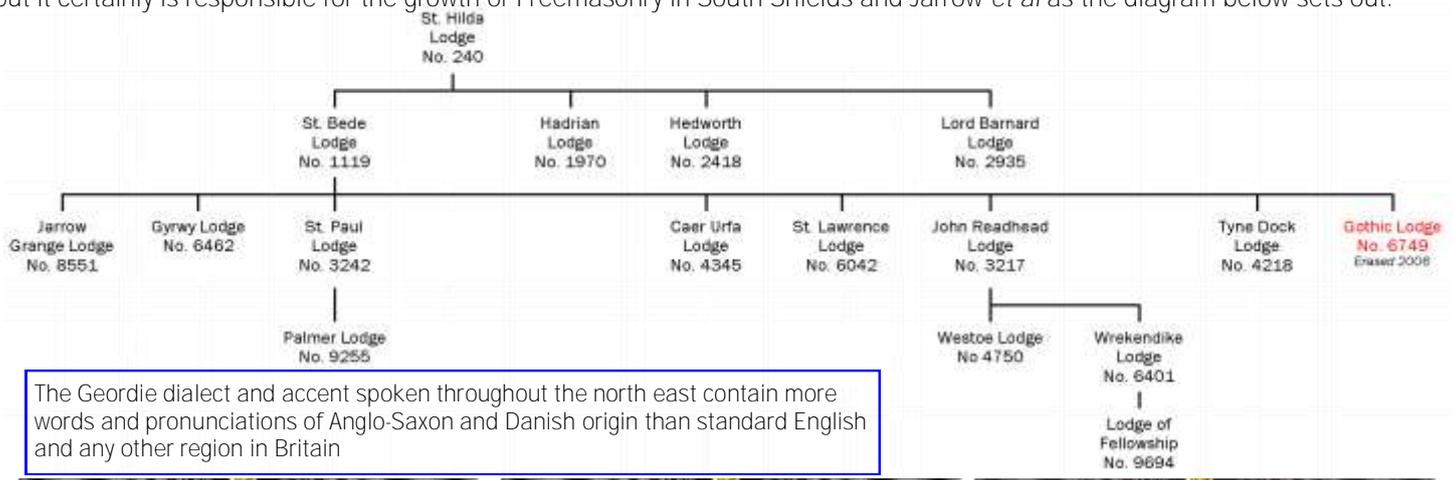


On the right those with a careful eye will be able to see the main entrance to our present hall, where the man is walking is just about in front of Brigham & Cowans entrance is, the strange buildings to his left are air raid shelters.



St. Hilda Lodge was not the first lodge in the town as later editions will discuss

but it certainly is responsible for the growth of Freemasonry in South Shields and Jarrow *et al* as the diagram below sets out.



The Geordie dialect and accent spoken throughout the north east contain more words and pronunciations of Anglo-Saxon and Danish origin than standard English and any other region in Britain

“A TRAVELLING BROTHER’S JOURNAL”

The Hazy Recollections of a Twenty first -Century Gentleman of the Craft

The ‘Paddy Masters’ Installation

Belfast 19th March ‘08

05:27 is not a time of the day known to all, indeed some refused to believe it possible to wake-up “Before the crack of 10 o'clock”, still there we were, en route to Newcastle Airport for the Hadrian Lodge (1970) with guests visit to Ireland, Belfast indeed.

Security is nowadays, a requirement we must endure, especially if we are to safeguard the world from such items as: Foot-Spray and Beard-Combs (no names mentioned!) anyway the plane ‘rotates’ on time. 40ish minutes later, we are in the Emerald Isle. Thanks ‘EasyJet’.

It’s now just after 8 o'clock and we’re met by V W Bro Des McCormick and W Bro William Hamill who so kindly drive us into Belfast. Too early to get into our hotel rooms, we head off for an Ulster Fry, that’s a breakfast including potato and soda breads, wonderful!



M W Bro George Dunlop
Grand Master of Ireland

Those who’ve been before are warmly greeted by the cafe staff and those like me, new to it all, are made to feel special.

We also just ‘happen’ to get a greeting by the Grand Master of Ireland M W Bro George Dunlop, just “popping-by”. Did I mention feeling

special?

It’s now after 10 o'clock and all of us are alert, or rather just escorted to the recently purchased and refurbished Grand Masters Lodge for a tour and “fabulous so it is” as the Irish say, mind you, one of the pictures there does bear a bearded resemblance to one of us, (IG) I promised not to say.

The Belfast Eye

Time to decide and discover more and whilst the Guinness calls for some of us, we of the more sensible nature decide to try the ‘Belfast Eye’.

200ft up, in an air-conditioned gondola we (the sensible 3?) view this majestic city from the Black Mountain to Strangford Lough, the two cranes that still dwarf the Harland and Wolfe shipyard where the Titanic was built and the city is justifiably proud of its days as a builder of liners and aircraft (Short Bros.)

The Irish tell of the White Star Line seeking enquiry following the tragic loss of the Titanic,

“She was fine when she left here! She was built by Irishmen but sunk by an Englishman”



now 6 in numbers (still sensible?) boarded an open-topped bus for a tour, and then it started!: sleet and wind. But, like the hardened northerners we are, we ‘stayed-put’. Hypothermia Tours Ltd. took us from Stormont to the areas where the ‘troubles’ occurred and although security gates are still evident it’s so good to feel that this city has rebuilt in more ways than one. The people of Belfast are so warm and inviting, so full of wit and character, I do wish “all well for the future”.

OK so the magnificent 6 (freezing, wet, bedraggled, tired, hungry and sober) jumped off the bus to join the Guinness Mob. The place may be called ‘Robinsons’ but there’s only one type of ‘Barley Water’ we explorers need. This pub is opposite the Europa Hotel and the story goes “That’s the most bombed Hotel in the world, but don’t worry, since they fitted bomb-proof glass any blast is contained inside”, gee thanks for that information,

“Slante”

Crumlin Road Masonic Hall, home of J Pim Thompson Masonic Lodge No. 349

The Lodge beckons our attendance so at the understood time of 1800hrs, there we all are, standing on the Crumlin Road, smart as darts (clothing sense only!) and freezing again, 20 minutes or so later everyone else arrives.

One of us must get an Irish watch?

The Irish have a saying “May you be half-an-hour in heaven, before the devil knows you’re dead” it’s a wonderful sentiment, but the Hadrian Lodge Mob et-all could have frozen to death that night, two of us work on the railway and are practiced at keeping things on-time, half-an-hour to us means exactly 30 minutes/ish, with a tolerance of course, allowing a discrepancy between digital and analogue time!

We are about to join the Installation of



It was fine, indeed sunny up to the point we, by W Bro Stephen McCormick as W M for the second time, 10 years after his first appointment’. The ritual delivered by brother V W Bro Des McCormick is amazing, how do some remember so much yet deliver so beautifully? One thing I have learned is that there is so much to learn? We retire to the Festive Board, and the fare is every bit as delicious as the menu promises. The ‘Baileys Cheesecake’ is something particularly enjoyed by some of us, ask a certain connoisseur or IPM if you wish?

Now for the main event, the highlight, the reason for our journey to this wonderful place?

The Paddy Master’s Installation!

Now I’m not allowed to reveal any of the ritual that takes place at the appointment, but if a picture is worth a thousand words, check these for a ‘taster’?



???

This is gonna hurt tomorrow



Morning! And a traditional North Eastern breakfast, (that’s two paracetamol and black coffee) and then down to eat the more

tourist kind. Well some of us managed it in time? We “gan-oot-furra-mooch-about-the-toon”, naturally there’s “stair-rods-hoyin’-doon” but even with the foul weather it is all too soon time to leave.

‘Desi’ McCormick is ready with the transport and we say our “Farewell to Belfast.”

Naturally our flight is delayed ‘just a little’, and the sun comes out just as we take-off! 13 of us spent 36 hours on this voyage, proof that 13 does go into 36 and so fabulously, thank you to all!

Bro Shaun Ralph Hagan

In my introduction I said I was inspired and I would ask the new boys to write a few words. You must agree, it has proved to be a brilliant idea. This article is exactly as written other than increasing the font size. Thank you Shaun, you will be called upon again.

W Bro Keith Hind

Special Thanks to all those who have contributed - I have tried to include as much as possible hence the six pages !! And hopefully kept any mistakes to the minimum

The Editor