

THE FREEMASON



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May 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 Cont'd



PPGSD, Mayor of South Shields, by the brethren of St. Hilda's Lodge, 240, on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the Freemasons Hall, June 10th 1884".

Although this was inscribed to him as Mayor of the borough, it was not on that account that he had been selected by the brethren but simply because of his being a good, faithful and true Mason.

He therefore presented his Worship with the trowel, and charged him well and truly to lay the foundation-stone - The Secretary (Bro. Pearson) then read the inscription on the brass plate intended to be laid on the lower stone. It was as follows:- "St Hilda Lodge, 240.

The foundation stone of the building was laid with Masonic ceremony by his Worship the Mayor, Bro. T.G. Mabane, P.M. P.P.S.G.D. June 10th, 1884. Thomas Binks W. Master; Joseph H. Morton P.M. architect."

The plate was then placed over the cavity, in which was laid a box containing the silver and copper coins of the realm. Cement was then deposited on the lower stone, and the upper stone having been gradually lowered, the hymn "oh praise our God today," was sung. Then his Worship, with the usual ceremony, examined the stone, and finally declared it to be "plumb, level and square, duly prepared and truly laid, and that the draftsmen had worked well Bro Webster having presented the Mayor with a mallet and plans of the work, his Worship returned the latter, desiring the building to be proceeded with until its completion without loss of time.

Three taps of the mallet having been given the stone was declared to be duly and truly laid, and corn, wine and oil were poured upon it with the usual Masonic accomplishments.

The Chaplain then offered up prayer, concluding with the words "so mote it be," and the proceedings terminated. The National Anthem was played by the band, after which the large gathering was photographed by Bro. Burrows and Bro. W.D. Downey, and the procession was re-formed and returned to the Wesleyan School-room in Chapter Row.

There were 210 brethren in the procession, which we understand was the largest gathering of the kind that has been held in South Shields.

The procession proceeded by way of Chapter Row, Market Place and King Street to the site of the new hall in Ingham Street, the line of the route being occupied by large numbers of sightseers who occupied every point of vantage.

There was no crowding, excellent order being maintained by the officers under Supt. Moorhouse. On the arrival of the procession at Wesley Street, the brethren assembled around the stone, on a dais erected for the purpose, the Mayor being preceded by the sword-bearer and followed by the Prov.G. Officers and brethren.

The members of the press were accommodated at a table near the stone and seats were provided for ladies, of whom there were a goodly number present immediately behind.

Two verses of the well known "Old Hundred" having been sung, the usual Masonic foundation-stone laying ritual was performed by the Mayor and Chaplain Br. Rev. W. Harris. Bro. Thomas Binks W.M. St Hilda's Lodge, in presenting the trowel, said it was customary at the erection of all stately and superb edifices to lay the foundation stone in the north-east corner of the building and by dispensation granted by the Provincial Grand Master, they had assembled for that purpose that day.

His Worship had, by the unanimous wish of the brethren of St Hilda's been selected to perform the ceremony and to enable him to do so fairly he (Bro. Binks) had been requested by them to present him with a trowel, which he now asked him to accept. It bore the inscription

" Presented to Bro. T.G. Mabane, PM,

FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The pace of change continues with the agreement following a presentation in the small temple by W Bro Mackins and W Bro Hadaway at the last committee to support the introduction of a website for the hall and South Shields Freemasons.

Those of us who would struggle at finding a name for the site—given the change to this newsletters' title will no doubt not be amazed to learn that the Website's title page is called "Freemason's Hall" and it is hosted on the equally easy to figure out site called

www.southshieldsfreemasons.co.uk



The site will host information on what's happening at the hall and at the various Masonic organisations, together with information on our fraternity and a variety of links and contacts. Each Craft Lodge will have its own web pages with administration rights to add/change content (if the techies can figure that out) as well as links if they wish to their own website. Exciting stuff eh!

However..... before we all get carried away there is still a lot of work to be done to get the site up and running and with the full permission and acceptance of all within the hall of what can and what can't be published, a temporary 'under construction' web site is on-line for those who wish to have a look at what it could look like and comments and suggestions would be very very very very welcome (did I say 'very '4 times?).

Information has been sent to the Webmaster at Provincial Grand Lodge to move forward on the accreditation aspect and to ensure that we abide by the cyberspace landmarks!.

Continued next month

FREEMASONS' HALL



MAY 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
			Tyne Dock 4218 1			Hadrian Lodge of Instruction (10.30am) 4 St Lawrence Lodge Practice (10.30am)
Bank Holiday 5	Hadrian 1970 6	Wrekendike 6401 7 KST	St Lawrence 6402 8	Caer Urfa Lodge of Instruction Night Supper 9		Whit Sunday (Pentecost) 11
St Hilda 240 12	John Readhead RAC 3217 13	Caer Urfa 4345 14 2nd Degree Past Masters Night	Hedworth 2418 RAC 15	Rockcliffe RAM 362 Caer Urfa Committee Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction 16		FHMC (10.30am) 18 Trinity Sunday
St Lawrence Preceptory 19	Lord Barnard 2935 20 Arbeia OSM 296	Wouldhave Tyne Dock MMM 362 21	Provincial Grand Chapter 22	PGLD Mentoring Meeting 23		
	John Readhead Lodge of Instruction 26 Spring Holiday	Caer Urfa 4345 RAC 27 Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction	Hedworth 2418 28	St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction 29		

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

JUNE 2008 - pre-view

Day	Masonic Organisation	No.
1st Monday	John Readhead Lodge	3217
1st Tuesday	Hadrian Lodge	1970
1st Thursday	Tyne Dock Lodge	4218
1st Friday	Westoe Lodge	4750
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	240
2nd Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge	4345
3rd Tuesday	Lord Barnard	2935
3rd Wednesday	St Michael and All Angels	891
3rd Saturday	Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham	

St Hilda Lodge - May Meeting

The WM of the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, W Bro Andrew Foster, is giving a lecture on the Lodge at the May meeting. This is a good opportunity for anyone who is unsure of the role of the Provincial Grand Stewards to listen to what he has to say and ask questions. It is particularly of interest to DCs, WMs and SWs, in respect of installations and the role of the Provincial Grand Stewards. However, there are many other functions that the Stewards perform and this is also an opportunity to look further into these aspects.

W Bro Foster will be accompanied by a number of the Provincial Stewards and St Hilda Lodge offers a warm fraternal welcome to all Brethren who wish to attend. W Bro Foster is unable to give this lecture very often due to his heavy workload and certainly it is unlikely that he will do so in the north of the Province for some time.

Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham will be held at the Stadium of Light, Sunderland on Saturday 21st June 2008. A Luncheon will be held the Stadium of Light, Sunderland, at 2.00pm. Applications for tickets, with remittance of £24.00 and S.A.E. (cheques made payable to 'to The Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham') be sent to W Bro D Bam-brough, 5 Dudley Avenue, Fulwell, Sunderland, SR6 8HD.

Lodge Dolphin

Of the Scottish Constitution has arranged for a special dispensation to open their Lodge (they are in recess) to enact a first degree ceremony and are inviting South Shields masons to attend, arrangements are already in hand in respect of travel and accommodation and further details can be sought from W Bro Norman Dunn, Matthew Wann and Bro Will Robertson. At time of print there were 5 places left available. The visit is to take place on Saturday 10th May 2008.

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NEW MASTER'S

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

John Readhead Lodge No. 3217

On 6th April 2008 saw the arrival of W Bro Phil Stephenson, of his Lodge, John Readhead No. 3217. W Bro Phil is a well known brother within the town and an equally enthusiastic Freemason.



W Bro Philip Stephenson,
Master, John Readhead Lodge No. 3217

This is W Bro Phil's second year in office, after having presided last year as John Readheads Master.

Lodge of Fellowship No. 9694



On the morning of 23rd April 2008 W Bro Günther Eduard Keller PM (1970), SWME was installed as Worshipful Master by the Installing Master W Bro Malcolm Hall Fortune, PPrJGW

W Bro Günther is also a well known and extremely enthusiastic South Shields mason, who is also a Past Master of Hadrian Lodge No. 1970 and their continuing exploits are highlighted in another article on this page.

Sutton Coldfield Demonstration Team

On Friday 4th April 2008, by kind permission of Caer Urfa, and by dispensation, Hadrian Lodge No 1970 held their monthly meeting.

Over 90 masons were present to witness a First degree ceremony as worked in the 1760's worked by the Sutton Coldfield demonstration team.



Acting Senior Deacon
Bro Ken Short, St. Hilda Lodge No 240

The team being somewhat depleted Bro Ken Short of St Hilda lodge acted as SD and Bro Stephen Howe of Hadrian Lodge acted as candidate.

They played their part well and looked every inch the perfect substitutes in their respective garb as these fine photos suggest.



Acting Candidate
Bro Steve Howe,
Hadrian Lodge No 1970

The Tyler, a dishevelled but jovial chap doubled as the JD. (that's him on the left of the picture) ensured that a very enjoyable and witty demonstration was witnessed by all, and certainly kept the Master and his brethren on their toes, whilst he kept his face in the punch bowl!



At the festive board, thanks to the generosity of all, the sum of £400 was handed to the Sutton Coldfield Team who donated it to the Samaritan Fund.



The Team's next outing is at Phoenix Lodge No 94 on Friday 6th June 2008 where they will demonstrate a 2nd degree ceremony.

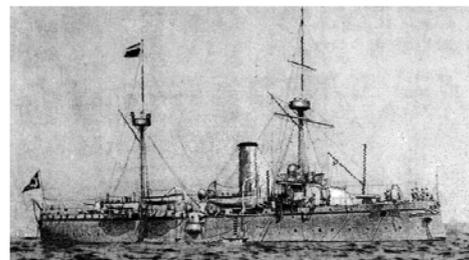
Hadrian Lodge No. 1970 ...again!

From our intrepid reporter W Bro Cuthbert comes this tasty morsel....

From the Northern Echo, Friday 12 August 1887:

"A Chinese Freemason"
Unusual Ceremony

Last night, a Masonic ceremony of unusual interest was held at South Shields on the occasion of holding a lodge of emergency in connection with the Hadrian Lodge of Freemasons, for the purpose of initiating Lieut King Yung Woo, belonging to His Imperial Majesty's Chinese Cruiser Ching Yuen, at present lying in the Tyne."



The Ching Yuen took part in the Battle of the Yalu River against the Imperial Japanese Navy on 17 September 1894 and was sunk later at the siege at Weihaiwei. Though no records at present state whether Bro Woo was on board at the time.

BROTHER LIGHTFOOTE'S JOURNAL

The Recollections of an Eighteenth-Century Gentleman of the Craft



June 7th 1795
Feast Day of St. Robert of Newminster

Weather: changeable

From the heath covered mountains of Scotia I come...

St. Robert of Newminster, I read, was accused of "excessive familiarity with a pious woman." A perfect example of ecclesiastical hypocrisy if ever there was one: either he wasn't that familiar or she wasn't that pious but one simply cannot, as the actress said to the bishop, have it both ways.

I regret the recent lacuna in the hitherto uninterrupted flow of this journal. It is due to my taking a tour of the north country from which I am newly returned. Scotland proved to be most stimulating, perhaps a little too stimulating, and I refer not only to the effect of the local produce. It was however, a night of debauchery that led to a day of discovery. As to whether what I witnessed is historical fact or hysterical fantasy I confess I am still unclear; perhaps setting the facts down in writing will help.

I was enjoying a fine dinner at a fine inn in the fine city of Edinburgh in the company of a fine gentleman by the name of MacDonald, a local burgher who raised what he claimed to be the best beef in the land. "Mark well my words, Lightfoote," quoth he, "One day MacDonald's will be known throughout the world!" I drank his health and told him that I hoped it would be, and he drank my health and assured me that it would and we drank each other's health to settle the matter and then sat wondering what next we might drink to. Imagine my surprise when he raised his glass to "The craft and vocation of Massonerie."

I downed my goblet of Glen Hoddle and offered him my hand and found, to my delight, that I was in the company of a mas-

ter of the mystic art - and the long night wore on. At some stage I assume that I must have agreed to accompany him on some sort of expedition on the following day but my memory at this point becomes, like the highland landscape, shrouded in mist.

I was informed, subsequently, by a number of witnesses, that I was helped up the stairs pledging undying loyalty to the Jacobite cause. Whatever the cause, I spent a most uncomfortable night, haunted by strange and terrible dreams, full of dreadful images culled from the penalties of my obligations and awoke, fully believing that I had suffered that of first at least, to a furious knocking, as though a regiment of tylers were practising their art. I rose from my bed, then rose from the floor, twice, before crawling to the door to be confronted by a pair of naked knees.

These belonged, I was informed, in an accent that would have been incomprehensible had I not been awash with whisky, to Willie, who was a ghillie, and had come to take me to Rossilly.

I am informed that the journey is but a few miles; perhaps we went via Penzance, using only the old, green roads, for in the ancient tumbrel that MacDonald had provided, it seemed to take days. The laird himself, Willie told me, was unable to be present due to some pressing emergency with the bullocks, at least I think that's what he said.

Rossilly, when we got there, was a ruin, as indeed was I, though my guide informed me that it had been extensively restored some forty years previously. It is an ancient chapel wrought in the most hubristic style, like a gothic cathedral shrunk in the wash. Willie recited a lengthy history of the place, painfully committed to memory and delivered in the style of a drunken deacon dictating the doings at the wardens' pedestals. I missed much of it as I was busy puking into the sparkling burn that flows merrily beside the road, but from what I could gather it is believed that a descendant of Joseph of Arimathea had brought Excalibur here after the battle of Bannockburn and that this was the basis of Freemasonry: something along those lines, anyway.

I was in no condition to argue and weakly agreed to overlook the premises according to his master's wishes, fully expecting Willie to give me a guided tour. He, however, was unwilling to go within fifty paces of the place, muttering something about the curse of the pharaohs. He handed me a pistol and said he'd await my return, but not beyond sunset.

Anxious to complete my penance, and in the certain knowledge that MacDonald was laughing his tartan socks off at the thought, I stumbled towards the forbidding pile. I had to put my shoulder to the door to

gain admission and fell through it to find myself on my arse, on a damp floor, staring at a rotting roof that threatened to join me at any moment. The place was encrusted with crude carvings, decayed to the point at which their content could be construed as anything that an over-fertile imagination might conceive. I stumbled about in the gloom, searching for meaning and busting for a piss. At the far end of the place were three pillars; I relieved myself, copiously, against what must have been wisdom as I had no strength and there was little beauty involved in the act. As I concluded my libation, I received such a fright that, had I not just emptied my bladder, I'd have wet myself. A dark shape swooped down at me: was it a bat?, was it a ball?, was it a heavy maul? I will never know, but I tumbled backwards, a cocked piece in both hands. Inevitably, one of them went off.

The report was tremendous, the noise echoing around the vaulted chamber. The ball rebounded off the stonework and flew back past my head: I'd damn' near shot myself in the sacristy. Shards of shattered statuary showered down on me. At this point I must have lost my presence of mind.

I came to in the carriage, with a petrified Willie looming over me. I told him that there was something unspeakable in that place, a veritable pool of horror. The man's eyes widened, a myth was materialising. The rest, as they say, is history... Or is it?

Masonicword (Answers to April's puzzle)

Across

- 2. DUNLOP
- 5. GOTHIC
- 7. ROSSLYN
- 10. LIGHTFOOTE
- 11. MOUTER
- 14. HIRAM
- 16. HARRY
- 17. EUCLID
- 18. PADDY
- 20. EUROPA
- 22. FRENCHMANS
- 24. LIGHT
- 25. MABANE
- 26. BRINKBURN
- 27. SUTTON
- 28. FREEMASONS

Down

- 1. ADAMSON
- 3. PHILANTHROPY
- 4. SCOTT
- 6. FELLOWSHIP
- 8. SHEFFIELD
- 9. NORTH
- 11. MACKINS
- 12. TUSCAN
- 13. RICHMOND
- 15. MOORHOUSE
- 19. ASHLAR
- 21. ANTIENTS.
- 23. MARK

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