

THE FREEMASON



Edition 8

Vol. I

June 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

FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

The pace of change continues with the agreement to replace the heating system with new boilers and new radiators on the ground floor level.



AID FOR VICTIMS OF EARTHQUAKE IN CHINA

The President of the Grand Charity has approved a £20,000 grant to the Red Cross to support relief efforts following an earthquake measuring 7.8 in south-western China. The Freemasons' Grand Charity is the first organisation to support the British Red Cross' response to the worst earthquake to strike China in more than 30 years.

The Red Cross Society of China's local branches have been active in the 48 hours following the quake providing emergency relief to the affected areas, including tents and blankets. Although the official death toll stands at 12,000 this is expected to rise sharply as rescuers gain access to previously cut off areas and thousands of people remain trapped in the debris of collapsed buildings.

The grant of £20,000 from The Freemasons' Grand Charity will be an important contribution to the continuing rescue and relief efforts and is enough to provide approximately 200 relief tents which will provide shelter for many of those affected and act as a first aid point to treat casualties and also 850 quilts.

The announcement of this grant comes just 24 hours after details of a £20,000 grant to assist victims of Cyclone Nargis in Burma (Myanmar) were released.

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 Bambrough, 5 Dudley Avenue, Fulwell, Sunderland, SR6 8HD.

THE NEW MASONIC HALL, SOUTH SHIELDS Cont'd



Earl Percy and the officers of the Provincial Grand Lodge."

Which was drunk with full Masonic honours. Bro Strachan PM and Bro. Harcross PM responded wishing the new hall every success. Bro. Hudson P.G.S. proposed the health of the Mayor, commenting on his position that day, speaking of him in warm terms of praise. He also referred to the presence of the Mayoress at the foundation ceremony, and the toast having been drunk with Masonic honours, three cheers were given for the Mayoress.

The Mayor, who was received with loud and continued applause, replied in a genial speech, referring to his introduction to Masonry and his elevation to the civic chair. In both positions he had tried to do his duty and it would be his care in the future to follow the same line of policy he had marked out for himself.

He concluded to proposing the toast of "visiting lodges" to which Bro Tillman Sunderland and Bro. Moffat Gateshead responded. Bro. Athey proposed the health of the W. Master of St Hilda's Lodge and Bro Binks suitably responded. "Our Absent Brethren" was then given and honoured, and the proceeding was closed according to ancient custom. During the evening songs were given by Bros. Henderson, Brown, Hind, Inkster, Campbell and Hogg.

On the occasion of the laying of the foundation-stone of the building in Fowler Street which is to be superseded by the new hall, the trowel then presented bore the inscription: - "Presented to Bro. George Potts, P.M. by the brethren of St Hilda's Lodge, No. 292, South Shields on the occasion of his laying the foundation-stone of the Freemasons Hall; August 19th 1862."

Before closing the lodge Bro. T.Binks W.M. said they could not think of closing until they had thanked Bro. Mabane for the excellent manner in which he had performed the duty of laying the foundation-stone - Bro Davison W.M. of Hadrian Lodge 1970 seconded the proposal and said that the day would be one noted in Masonic history and he had no doubt would long be remembered by Past Master Mabane and the brethren. Under the direction of Bro. Roddham, Bro. Mabane was duly saluted.

The Mayor responded and said he hardly knew how to find the words in which to thank them for the honour they had conferred upon him that day. He did not expect when he accepted the office of Mayor that such an important ceremony would take place during his year of office. Among the many proud days of his life that would be one of the proudest and one he would have much pleasure in looking back on.

The Lodge was closed in due form. The brethren then adjourned to the house of Bro. Lonsdale, Golden Lion Hotel, King Street where luncheon was served. Bro T Binks WM occupied the chair and Bro. G. Robson SW the vice chair there being a large number of brethren present. Bro. R Hudson P.G.S. responded on behalf of the R.W. Provincial Grand Master of Durham the Most Hon. Marques of Londonderry and the officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. Bro. Roddham proposed the toast "the Rt.W. provincial Grand Master of Northumberland the Right Hon.

WESTOE LODGE No. 4750



The 'Little Waster' will not be there but there'll be a few who may be wearing that flat cap, made famous not only by him but many a 'Geordie'.

On Friday 6th June 2008, Westoe Lodge will be holding their Regular Lodge meeting with the festive board reserved for a little less formality where the brethren celebrate the 'Geordieness' of our town, with connections to masonry in the guise of various 'Geordie masonic' speeches, harmony and traditional fayre. The Lodge has been holding their Geordie nights for many a year now and they are awfully good fun!

Ye knaa what ah mean leik!

FREEMASONS' HALL



JUNE 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						Hadrian Lodge of Instruction (10.30am) <i>Corpus Christi</i>
John Readhead 3217 2 <i>Westoe Lodge of Instruction</i> Karate	Hadrian 1970 3		Tyne Dock 4218 5 Karate	Westoe 4750 6 "Geordie Night" Karate	St Hilda Ladies Evening The Sea Hotel 7	1 <i>Shavout (Hebrew Pentecost)</i>
St Hilda 240 9 Karate		Caer Urfá 4345 11 <i>Hedworth Lodge of Instruction</i> Karate			Caer Urfá Lodge Committee 13 Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction 14 Karate	FHMC (10.30am) 15 <i>Father's Day</i>
	16 Lord Barnard 2935 17 Karate		18 St Michaels & All Angels R† 891 Karate	19 <i>Summer Solstice (Longest Day)</i> Karate		20 21 22
23 Karate	24	25 Karate		26 St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction Karate	27 Karate	28 29
30 Karate						

KEY BLUE Craft RED Chapter GREEN Side/Higher Degrees BROWN Instruction/Practice BLACK Meetings PURPLE Karate

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

JULY 2008 - pre-view

Day	Masonic Organisation	No.
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	240
3rd Saturday	Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham	

BONES

It has been said that the membership of a Committee, is made up of four sets of bones.

There are the **Wishbones**, who spend all their time wishing someone else would do the work.

Then along with them are the **Jawbones**, who do all the talking about the work and very little else.

Another group is the **Knucklebones**, who knocks everything that anybody else tries to do.

But the **Most Valuable** are the **Backbones**, who get under the load and **Actually Do The Work**.

Any resemblance to persons living or dead is purely coincidental.

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Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1UY

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St Hilda Lodge - Ladies Evening

The Lodge will be holding their Ladies Evening at The Sea Hotel on Saturday 7th June 2008, W Bro Phil Johnson and his lady welcomes all those who attend to celebrate an important aspect of Masonic life in thanking the wives, mothers, sweethearts, girlfriends and partners for their invaluable support to enable brethren to carry out their duties as officers and brethren. The evening commences at 7.30pm with a reception with a banquet, raffle and dance.

W Bro Tony Davey, of St Hilda Lodge No. 240 handed over a £1,800 cheque to help buy special outdoor seating for the children at Bamburgh School, in Northam Avenue, South Shields.

The seats, which have been placed around the grounds in sunny areas, allow children to sit in the sun and chat to their friends during play times. There is even a triangular picnic bench where children in wheelchairs can relax with their friends too.

Deputy head teacher Paula Selby said: "We appreciate the seats. It's nice for the children to be safe, and sit and sun themselves, and have a chat." The cash was raised through a variety of fundraising activities, including generous donations from Lodges and the Hall Management Committee.

Pictured is W Bro Phil Johnson, Master of St Hilda Lodge and members of the Lodge, with children and staff.



SATURDAY 10TH OF MAY 2008



Twelve brethren prepared to travel the short distance over the border to Lodge Dolphin in Falkirk. I use the word 'prepared' advisedly as for one of our travellers the lack of concentration probably failed him when he agreed to travel, but more of that later.



Bro Will Robertson was our driver and had made the travel arrangements even to the extent of having a personal 'Sat Nav' in the form of our attentive Treasurer, W Bro Michael Hobson who brought along his device, less we got lost (which we did) - though others thought it a wheeze to get a comfy seat up front.

Bro Will began picking up those travelling at pre-arranged points, leaving Bro Phil Heppell to last as he lived the other side of the Tyne. W Bro Dunn acting as steward alleviated all on board of their due contributions and eagerly awaited the presence of Bro Phil, who after waiting patiently beside a service station walked toward the bus, strangely... he was dressed in a suit and carrying his briefcase, whilst we were in our best casual gear.....err....

The coach door opened and Bro Phil alighted and the door smartly closed by W Bro Dunn, with Bro Will launching the coach onto its destination. W Bro Dunn quickly apprised Bro Phil of the dues required, for which he rather meekly (I thought he was in shock) handed over the requisite amount - blurting out something like, "by George that's a lot for a quick trip up to Scotland and back" - from which W Bro Norman replied "well not really given that the amount pays for the hire of the coach, fuel and overnight stay"..... - "Over night stay?" came the reply..... and the rest is history.....almost - but more of that later....

Bro Will, safely navigated within a mile of our destination when 'Sat Nav' sprung into action. And.... after a time we arrived at our rather pleasant hotel, settled in and tucked into our expensive lunch (£7 for a cheeseburger and chips!) Anyway the more important issue was at hand - getting ready and finding our way to the Lodge. Three taxis it took, and all of the drivers having the same blind 'Sat Nav' that we had, however we arrived and were welcomed with open arms by our Scottish brethren - the evening was to be a first degree and we quickly spotted the initiate sitting alone in the corner of the lounge - looking green at the gills and nervous, which after we had finished talking to him seemed to have

calmed down (not).

The Lodge opened without us, as patiently we waited to be called in as the 'Official Deputation'. There we were in our positions when the door opened and we were summoned to enter in all due fashion.

The ceremony of initiation commenced and was conducted masterly and with sincerity - the candidate probably unaware of just how well the officers conducted themselves - as our Master would probably say "it doesn't get any better than this". The meeting over the official photographer aka the Junior Deacon started his happy snapping until just about everyone had been framed, whilst other officers quickly converted the temple into a festive board area and a splendid buffet was laid.



Harmony was provided in the form of an accordion playing brother, telling a variety of jokes between the intervals, unfortunately I couldn't understand a word he was uttering - but everyone else were in fits.



A series of presentations were made - one from our hosts and three from us (we weren't going to be out done!).



Our hosts, as expected of good masons were extremely hospitable and generous in spirit - the latter being more visible - though supplying gin did seem to raise an eyebrow!

The Lodge evening concluding - an alert was made for a brother to attend a telephone call from his wife to ascertain his whereabouts, needless to say Bro Phil didn't bite.

Our hosts entertained us with a myriad of

otherwise unknown local songs and comedy routines, which I could understand (must have been the microphone earlier).

The night growing late we bade our farewells and were treated to a lift home by two of the tea total brethren, I was transported in a low riding Calibre, with five on board the journey was done at a snails pace to ensure that the car didn't come to grief on speed humps that littered the streets, the rest of our entourage were transported in a Range Rover whose driver had the sole purpose in mind of getting from A to B in the shortest possible manner - judging by the greyness around the gills of W Bro Alan Atkinson when he alighted and who only managed to calm down after a few in the hotel bar.

Strange things bars..... we decided to look after Alan to ensure he was okay (if you believe that you'll believe anything). And plonked ourselves next to a group of ex-service personnel on an annual get together - to cut a long story short its funny how universal masonry is after finding out how many were Freemason's, finally we said goodnight to our new found brethren and retired.

Next morning up with the larks, a hearty breakfast and we were on our way home, with 'Sat Nav' kicking in again and our journey acquiring more minutes than expected, giving Bro Phil more time to contemplate his inevitable destiny! I haven't seen Bro Phil since.

The journey home was uneventful apart from my fellow passengers taking pity of my circumstances and ensuring that I had a single seat this time (within the bus) - though this didn't last long as the other half of the Statler and Waldorf partnership decided to go walk-about within the bus, swapping seats until he had got the seat he felt comfortable in But was he? One will never know, will one?

In Freemasonry "it doesn't get any better than this" could be one way of describing our venture, but I think that most, if not all aspects of the life of a freemason can be rolled up into this saying - so roll on the credits.

The Cast



Left to Right

W Bro Alan Atkinson, Bro Phil Heppell (4750), W Bro Norman Dunn, W Bro Ralph Allison, W Bro Michael Erskine (6036). W Bro Matthew Wann, W Bro Phil Johnson (240), RWM David Coventry, Bro Ian Williams, Bro Will Robertson, W Bro Michael Hobson, W Bro Geoff Hadaway, Bro Philip Pearce.

Acknowledgements to the Muppet Theatre for the use of Statler & Waldorf.

"Harrumphed"

NEW MASTER' OF LODGE OF FELLOWSHIP No. 9694

Last month South Shields celebrated on the morning of 23rd April 2008 the installation of W Bro Günther Eduard Keller PM (1970), as Worshipful Master of Lodge of Fellowship No 9694. At the time of printing a picture was not available of W Bro Eddie so here he is.



W Bro Günther Eduard Keller
Master, Lodge of Fellowship No. 9694



E Comp Kenneth Urquart Robson
ProvGPrinSoj
Hedworth RAC 2418

E Comp Robson is an ardent supporter of both the Craft and the Chapter being recently installed as 3rd Principal of Hedworth Chapter No. 2418 in January. E Comp Ken has been Z in 2003, 2004 and 2007 and is now back into the 3rd Principals Chair. E Comp Ken was given the honour of Provincial Grand Principal Sojourner at the May meeting and hearty congratulations is afforded to him.

E Comp Alex well known in the town and is the Secretary of St. Hilda Lodge No. 240, who attained the chair 1995, and promoted within the Craft to PPrGStB he was exalted into St Hilda Chapter rising to 1st Principal not only in 1998 but remaining there for the following year as well. E Comp Alex was awarded the honour of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and well deserved.



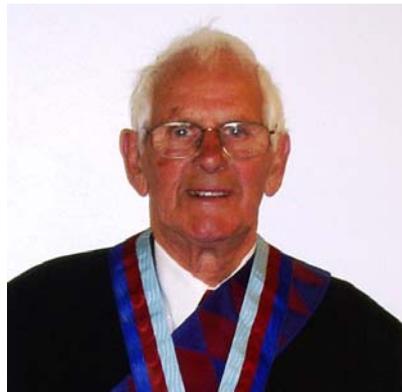
E Comp Rahmon Seif Nassor
PPrAGDC
Caer Urfa RAC 4345

E Comp Rahmon initiated into Caer Urfa Lodge in December 1988, he rose to the Chair not once but twice the first time being 1993 and again in 2000 it was also in this year that he was promoted to PPrAGReg. A Chapter member of longstanding E Comp Rahmon was installed as 1st Principal in 1998, the promotion this year to Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies being well deserved.

Provincial Grand Chapter 2008



Nine Companions from South Shields were the recipients of a promotion at the recent Provincial Grand Chapter meeting held on Thursday 22nd May 2008 at the Mayfair Suite in Seaton Carew.



E Comp Robert Clunis Turner
PPrDGReg
Caer Urfa RAC 4345

E Comp Bob was initiated into Caer Urfa Lodge No 4345 on Wednesday 12th December 1984 and took the Chair of the Lodge in November 1991. After being exalted into the Chapter E Comp rose to 1st Principal not once but twice staying in that position for the years of 2003 and 2004. E Comp Turner is well known for his contributions to Freemasonry and congratulations are given to him being given the honour of Past Provincial Deputy Grand Registrar



E Comp William Arthur Montgomery
PPrAGDC
Caer Urfa RAC 4345

E Comp Bill was initiated into Caer Urfa Lodge in June 1989, rising to the Chair in 1995 and in 2002 promoted to PPrAGReg. A Chapter member of longstanding E Comp Bill was installed as 1st Principal in 2000, the promotion this year to Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies being well deserved.

The following Companions also received promotions but no pictures are as yet available (hopefully in the next edition!)
E Comp D Bambrough, PGStB, PPrGSN, ProvGJanitor 3216, E Comp B Tallentire, PPrGSN, ProvGOrg 3217 and E Comp G R Dockwray, PPrGreg 4218



E Comp Frederick Alan Peat Beales,
PGStB, PPr3rdGPrin, ProvGDC
Caer Urfa RAC 4345

E Companion Fred was initiated into Caer Urfa Lodge No 4345 in June 1982, and within four years was its Master in 1986, in June 1994 he was promoted to PPrJGD and nine years later in June 2003 to PPrJGW.

Fred was exalted in 1984 into Caer Urfa RAC 4345 in May of that year, rising to Z in 1990 and again in 1995, subsequently promoted to Prov3rdGPrin in May 1996, and in April 2001 to ProvDGDC, in 2001 was given Grand Chapter honour of PGStB.

Not content with being in the Craft and Chapter, E Comp is busy in other Orders. At the May 2008 meeting, E Comp Fred was promoted to Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies—congratulations Fred!



E Comp Alex Tudberry
PPrAGDC
St Hilda RAC 240