

THE FREEMASON



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Seana's dream gets funding boost



Sean is pictured with her father Bro Ronnie Brooks, her granddad W Bro Jeff Dickinson and W Bro Stewart Hamilton.

A WOULD-be West End star is delighted after receiving a late curtain call.

Dancer Seana Brooks was over the moon when she bagged herself a place at Laine Theatre Arts – one of the country's most prestigious dance school – this summer.

But without a scholarship offer, the 18-year-old from South Shields thought her dreams were shattered. However not to be out done her father and grandfathers Lodge took up the challenge of sourcing funding.

And eventually offer came from Hadrian Lodge No. 1970, which Seana's dad and granddad both attend.

W Bro Stewart Hamilton, benevolent representative of Hadrian Lodge, said: "I have known Seana for many years through her granddad, and have seen her dance many times".

TalentAid

Support for the gifted children of Freemasons

"We applied for a talent aid grant from the Royal Masonic Trust, which Seana and her mam were successful in securing."

"I'm very pleased we've managed to get her down there. I hope this is Seana's first step to stardom. We are here to help."

Now, after the offer, Seana, who has danced for 16 years, has hotfooted it down to the school in Epsom, Surrey, to start classes.

The Lumsdale Theatre Art student said: "Laine is everything I ever dreamed of, "It's everything I ever wanted. It's just absolutely fabulous.

"I have gone to Laine's summer school for the past five years, so when I thought I

couldn't go I was heartbroken. "When my mam got an e-mail to say the funding had come through I was in complete and utter shock.

"It still hasn't sunk in yet. I had already told myself I wasn't going, and then that happens. It's the ultimate dream. "It's a great opportunity to give something back to anyone and everyone who has helped me on my way."



Her mum Graimme added: "When we found out the funding had come through Seana couldn't believe it. "She had enrolled into Newcastle College and she was enjoying the course, but she couldn't pass up this, and when I rang the college they were thrilled for her, and said they looked forward to seeing what happens in the future."

Her dance teacher Caren Lumsdale, whose son Danny Rowe started at the school in September, said: "She deserves it because she has worked since she was tiny, and it is something she has always wanted. It is wonderful news, and she is getting on so well."

With acknowledgements to Leah Strug, Shields Gazette The TalentAid scheme helps especially gifted children and young people to develop their talents in music, sport and the performing arts.

Grants are means-tested and both children and grandchildren of Freemasons are eligible for assistance, further information can be received from contacting your Lodge Benevolent Representative or at the following on-line link:-

<http://www.rmtgb.org/how-we-can-help-you/talentaid>

Caer Urfa Chapter No. 4345 Wednesday 26th November 2008

Provincial Grand Superintendents visit spurs excellent turn out .



The Provincial Grand Superintendent, E Comp Norman Eric Heaviside, gathers his thoughts before delivering his well received toast at Caer Urfa Chapter's festive board.

Forty eight Royal Arch Companions attended Caer Urfa Chapter to witness the exaltation of Bro Will Robertson a member of Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 and the visit of our newly installed Provincial Grand Superintendent, E Comp Norman Eric Heaviside together with a retinue of his officers that included among other distinguished companions the Deputy Provincial Grand Supt, E Comp R G Snaith, PGSwdB. Second Provincial Grand Principal E. Comp. Derek Warneford. PGStB. And the Assistants to the Provincial Grand Principals - E. Comp Gordon Brewis and E. Comp John Stirman.

The ceremony was well executed though it seemed that the SE was his usual self in ritual terms, giving Strictly Come Dancing contestants a run for their money!!!

39 Companions dined at the festive board where conviviality and of course friendship was the order of the evening, a chill may have been evident outside but once the newly installed heating system eventually kicked in, linked with the warmth of friendship around the table the evening progressed to a happy and successful conclusion.

Craft Promotions 2008

Ninety Five Brethren were the recipients of a promotion at the Craft promotions held on 1st December 2008 with nine from South Shields.



Pictured above from left to right are:-

W Bro Trevor Lewis, PPrGReg. (1970). W Bro Keith Hind, PPrGSwdB. (1970). W Bro Ted Hooper, PPrGReg. (2418). W Bro Alan Richardson, PPrSGW (2935). W Bro Ken U Robson, PPrGReg (2418). W Bro Terence McKenna, PPrGReg (6042). W Bro Rod Swalwell, PPrJGW (240). W Bro Ken Robson, PPrGSwdB. (4750).

W Bro Barry Tallentire, PPrGReg. (9694) was unable to attend due to an unfortunate clash of diary dates - he being away on holiday.

FREEMASONS' HALL



DECEMBER 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
John Readhead 32171 <i>Karate</i>	Hadrian 1970 <i>Karate</i>	Wrekendike 6401 3 <i>Karate</i>	Tyne Dock 4218 4 <i>Karate</i>	Caer Urfa Lodge of Instruction <i>Karate</i>		
St. Hilda 240 (Installation) <i>Karate</i>		Caer Urfa 4345 10 <i>Karate</i>	St Lawrence 6402 11 <i>Karate</i>	Caer Urfa Lodge Committee <i>Karate</i> Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction		
St Lawrence R C 293 <i>Karate</i>	Lord Barnard 2935 16 6.30pm start	St. Hilda 240 RAC <i>Karate</i>		Hedworth Lodge 19 of Instruction <i>Karate</i>		FHMC (10.30am) 21 Winter Solstice
				St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction <i>Karate</i>		
Hedworth 2418 29 <i>Karate</i> Muharram (Islamic New Year A.H. 1430)				FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE Festive cheer from the bar in the form of a reduction in prices for the month of December - so here's cheers to all who attend the hall on a Masonic night in December, but let temperance direct you!		

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

JANUARY 2009 - pre-view			<i>It's confusing this being a Freemason...</i>
Day	Masonic Organisation	No.	
1st Mon	John Readhead Lodge	3217	It's confusing, this being a Freemason; everything's different and strange, From the minute you finally become one; your life gets all rearranged,
1st Tues	Hadrian Lodge	1970	You try to learn about ritual, and what all the Brethren do, Should you stand at the back and just listen, or be at the front of the queue?
1st Wed	Wrekendike Lodge - Installation	6401	Just when you think that you're moving, and a piece can be placed on the board, You find yourself looking and wondering, why has that guy got a sword?
1st Thurs	Tyne Dock Lodge	4218	So you ask a series of questions, and ever more answers arrive, Which lead to ever more questions and a pile of books by your bedside?
2nd Mon	St. Hilda Lodge	240	The spouse thinks you're getting stranger; the laptop's filled with web sites, Provincial and Grand Lodge and Cornerstone, Quatuor Coronati and the likes,
2nd Wed	Caer Urfa Lodge - PGM Visit	4345	A new suit hangs up in your wardrobe, cufflinks and white shirt beside, And you mutter to yourself in a language, much different from normal Tyneside,
2nd Thurs	St Lawrence Lodge	6402	You start once a month with a Lodge do and then it gradually gets ever more nights, She never thought you'd wear a dickie-bow, or shower and shave and smell nice,
3rd Mon	St Lawrence R C - Installation	293	It's confusing; this being a Freemason, there's so much to learn and to do, Yet you know there's always a Brother, ready and willing to help you,
3rd Tues	Lord Barnard Lodge	2935	Your gloves and apron in a suitcase, your shoes lie polished by the door, It's confusing this being a Freemason, but what could ever give you more?
3rd Thurs	St Michaels & All Angels R C - Installation	891	In the company of your Brothers, everyone's all just the same, Out for a sociable evening, yet they know much more of the game,
Last Mon	Westoe Lodge	4750	So maybe this being a Freemason, is all about just being you, The mistakes that you make, the errors you take, to others is nothing quite new,
Last Thurs	Hedworth Lodge - Installation	2418	They may be older and, or wiser, they may be senior and or grey, But you're a Brother to them to the day that you die, and that's all that matters, anyway,
<p style="text-align: center;">THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER</p> <p style="text-align: center;">In the immortal words of one Past Master... "You know? It doesn't get any better than this!"</p>			It's confusing, this being a Freemason, but for all my mistakes along the way, I'll never regret my decision, to be part of something so great!
			Thank you my proposer and seconder, and thanks' to each one of you, May your journey through life be a good one, may your hopes and wishes come true,
			Happy Christmas and every day after, may your patience be never abused, I don't mean to be constantly wanting; it's just that I'm getting confused...
			Bro Shaun Ralph Hagan

NEW MASTER'S

Over the last month the Masonic world in South Shields celebrated the arrival of 2 more new Masters to continue the task of the rejuvenation of their Lodges in particular and Freemasonry in general, and we wish both of them every success.



W Bro Duncan Stephenson
Master, Hadrian Lodge No. 1970

On Tuesday 4th November 2008, Hadrian Lodge No. 1970 changed their Master as Bro Duncan Stephenson was installed into the Chair of King Solomon expertly and proficiently by W Bro John G Watkins.

Now forgive me if brethren already aren't aware but Bro Duncan has been around for quite sometime - not that I am saying too long but I recall him at my Installation in 1994 and he hasn't seemed to have aged one little bit since those bygone days.



W Bro Duncan Stephenson, congratulated by W Bro Andrew Foster PAGDC, PPRDGDC.

Duncan is one of those Brethren that is here, there, everywhere and has been a part

of the Masonic furniture so to speak of South Shields that without his presence the evening or event would seem dull.

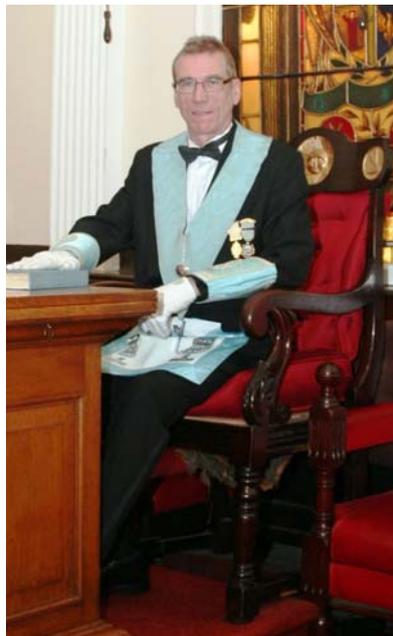
W Bro Duncan's heroics with endangered wildlife is legendary he has successfully tamed many a beast the most notable being the wailing Great Highland Bagpipe a ferocious beast if placed in the wrong hands but Duncan manages to get a fair decent tune out of the old windbag he carries, without strangling the chanter too much or droning on for too long.



W Bro Stephenson showing off his gift from the Brethren from the Irish Constitution in attendance

His Festive Board was also fairly lively from all accounts, his speech being one that brought mirth and merriment amongst those present - the hall up to its capacity - diners participated in a very enjoyable evening.

Then it was Caer Urfa Lodge's turn to change the man at the top and on Wednesday 12th November Bro Derek Francis Wake was expertly installed into the Chair of King Solomon by W Bro Mathew Ramsey Wann, IPM.



W Bro Derek Francis Wake,
Master, Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345

Strange things happened on the afternoon of Bro Derek's installation as he patiently awaited the arrival of Bro Will Robertson to pick both him and W Bro Ralph Allison, he looked out the window and saw a large American Limousine park outside his house,

with an equally large chauffeur who got out and strode up the garden path, quickly he asked the man if he was lost? The chauffeur remarked that he was looking for Bro Derek Wake - stunned Derek's jaw slammed onto the pavement as his neighbour W Bro Allison came into view - Yes! Gotcha!

Bro Jamie Stanley of Hedworth Lodge was the main culprit behind this, though eagerly assisted by Bro Will and all of Derek's officers, even the chauffeur was a Mason!



The Caer Urfa 12 including Master Elect Bro Derek Wake upon their arrival at the hall

W Bro Derek is a man of many talents some of which have, because of national security need to remain secret, though one talent he had is setting fire to one of his fellow brethren's hair, the poor recipient of that close encounter to serious harm was, none other than W Bro Alan Atkinson, who true to Masonic custom has forgiven him completely. Unfortunately his Lodge brethren and friends true to a tradition peculiar to its history immediately gave him the nickname 'Dangerous' and Derek himself now rarely answers to his Christian name, preferring to adopt the name placed upon him.



W Bro Derek Francis Wake,
Seated with W Bro Bernard Hope PPRJGW

W Bro Bernard Hope P.A.G.D.C. represented the Provincial Grand Master and witnessed a very well conducted installation ceremony.

It goes without saying that we wish all the newly installed Masters together with the officers and brethren of their Lodges every success and happiness in the year ahead.

OBITUARY

W Bro Kenneth R Wilkinson
PM 2418, PPrSGD, PZ2418
3rd November 2008

In fraternal remembrance of a departed brother, W Bro Kenneth R Wilkinson, aged 77 years. Now at peaceful rest, who will be sadly missed by the brethren of South Shields.

Many brethren paid their last respects at his funeral service at South Shields Crematorium on Monday 10th November 2008.



W Bro Ken was the beloved husband of Audrey, and much loved father of Lesley and Christine and proud grandad of Sarah, Amy, Fiona and Claire.

W Bro Ken had earlier this year given a copy of his history of Hedworth Lodge No. 2418 of which he was Master of in 1990 and 1991 to Bro Derek Tyler of Caer Urfa Lodge with the view in mind of sometime in the future revealing that history through the pages of this newsletter. In respect of this, an editorial containing the history will commence this month.

Masonic Mentoring Matters

"Joining any new organisation can be quite a nervous and even daunting experience, especially when one knows little about the organisation. This can apply in both work and social situations. Most organisations have some form of Induction Programme, which helps new members, not only to understand the organisation they have joined, but also to become familiar with the customs, practices and routines of that organisation.

Freemasonry presents as a complex organisation and can be highly confusing especially to new members. Coupled with the help from Proposers and Seconders, the Mentoring Scheme should enable new members to feel comfortable and at ease in the Masonic environment. The Mentor appointed by the Lodge will provide the constant source of help and advice, as well as providing answers to all the many questions new members will want to ask."

Rt W Bro D Richmond,
Past Provincial Grand Master

Every Lodge, should, in theory have a mentoring scheme in operation and have identified a Lodge Mentor. The Provincial Mentoring Scheme is steadily making ground and it is up to us to ensure that it is as successful as possible.

Why do we need a Lodge Mentor?, recent years have seen a decline in the

number of Freemasons. This is due, at its most simplistic, to the fact that those members who leave the Craft, for whatever reason, are not being replaced by new members. Society is changing and there is little we can do that we are not already doing to attract candidates, but much can be done to retain those members who are already in.

There are many reasons for the loss of members, all of which are recognised and well discussed by Freemasons. It is equally recognised that whilst some of these reasons are **beyond** our control, some are **within** our control - in short most point to a lack of essential knowledge by a new Mason who, in his confusion, decides to cut his losses and get his fulfilment elsewhere.

The Provincial Masonic Training and Education Committee has produced a series of booklets aimed at making the transition from a prospective candidates initial approach through to initiation, passing and raising as well as providing guidance to Lodge Mentors as they carry out their important work, each Lodge Secretary will have been given information on these booklets and about the scheme, so if you have a prospective candidate or someone has approached you for information on our organisation there is now information at hand that will make your endeavours of explaining our complex organisation that little bit easier and hopefully a lot more productive.

See Bro Shaun Ralph Hagan's poem page 2



A Centenary History of Hedworth Lodge No. 2418 1891-1991

By

Kenneth R Wilkinson, BA MEd,
WM 1990 - 91 and 1991 - 92

Part One

I. THE NORTH EAST CORNER 1891-1921

Formation and membership

The foundation of Hedworth Lodge was given due attention by Hodgson when, in 1903, he published his History of South Shields. Since 1780 masonry had been established through St. Hilda's Lodge which appears to have occupied a series of rented premises before the first purpose built Masonic Hall was opened in Fowler Street, in March 1863.

An increase in membership, including the foundation of Hadrian Lodge in 1882, justified a new site for a Temple at Ingham Street, opened in February, 1885. The foundation stone of the Ingham Street Temple was laid by Bro T.G. Mabane, at that time Mayor of the Borough, and subsequently the first Master of Hedworth Lodge.

The close and open relationship be-

tween masonry and the life of the Borough could be seen in the way lodges held certain functions in local hotels and in the acceptance by the Shields Gazette that masonic events be reported in much the same manner as the proceedings of the town council or the magistrates courts. Masonry flourished, occupying a confident and well regarded place in society.

Bro Mabane was a mason of remarkable energy who had founded the Would-have Lodge of Mark Masons in 1885, and led the petition to found a third craft lodge in South Shields, the Hedworth Lodge.

The earliest steps taken in the foundation of Lodge 2418 reveal a change of name which it is not easy for the historian to explain. The procedure to be followed, and which would most certainly have been followed by a practising solicitor, was to petition the Provincial and Grand Lodges, to secure not less than seven signatories for the petition, to offer a name for the new lodge, and to gain the support of the lodges (St. Hilda and Hadrian) from whom the petitioners came.

The minutes of St. Hilda show that the new lodge was first referred to as "Trinity, later changed in 1891 to Hedworth Lodge". No record of this change of name survives in the archives of Provincial Grand Lodge, in contemporary accounts, or in the earlier

history of our own lodge. This leaves any explanation quite conjecture 'Trinity' may have been chosen as a suitable title for the third lodge in the Borough, or to emphasise the long association of the town with seafarers.

There was an earlier 'Trinity' in the register of Grand Lodge, but this did not prevent the formation of a later Trinity Lodge at Darlington in 1925. The change to 'Hedworth', once Trinity had been dropped needs no such speculation. Lodge 2418 was second of the two lodges within the Province to be named after Hedworth Williamsons, the first being Williamson Lodge No.94 in Sunderland, the eighth baronet lived at Whitburn Hall and was the Provincial Grand Master from 1885 until 1900.

The Shields Gazette, using virtually the same form of words as those later printed in 'The Freemason', quoted Canon Tristram, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master: "The growth of masonry in South Shields was such as to necessitate the foundation of the Hedworth Lodge, and the Lodge was formed from the law of growth, not by division or difference of opinion or difficulty of management, but simply from the unwieldy numbers in other lodges. In this masonic spirit he had every reason to hope and believe that Hedworth Lodge would be a credit to Masonry and an ornament to South Shields."