

Freemasons' Hall News



Edition 1

Vol. I

November 2007

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

FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

It's difficult to start just where the vast amount of work has been accomplished over the last few years, what follows is a light hearted view of a few changes.

APRIL 2004

'Shortage of tall Tyler's' following a request to have the Warrant holder lowered, Bro. R. Hutchinson suggested that he make a step in between the seating to aid access and, from May of that year the lives of all those who have struggled to access the holder has been made more easier (and safer).

JUNE 2004

"Weld done" The broken frames under the table tops have now been repaired thanks to W. Bro. R. Turner for the work and Bro. J. Williams for the loan of the equipment.

2007 New Ice Machine

Has been purchased after the previous one gave up the ghost after years of continuous service - the one before that was the famous suicidal version that decided to melt itself into oblivion and nearly took the hall with it!



DONATION TO A WORTHY CAUSE ?

If donating to organisations please make sure that it is processed through the Hall's Masonic Benevolent Association (ISMBA). Better still and at no cost to you complete the form below and enable the ISMBA to reclaim 28% tax on every £1 donated.

END OF AN ERA

The decision by Hedworth Lodge to close and sell the Hedworth Hall in Dean Road has been something we have known for quite sometime, built in the early 1920's and opened in 1925 the hall has been the venue and home for many Lodges and Orders, and has witnessed numerous successful events both Masonic and non-Masonic.

The hall will continue on as a function room and an upmarket restaurant once the new owners take control on December 31st this year and there appears to be no plans for any major structural changes to the building.

The closure, though sad, brings with it the realisation that for the first time in South Shields Masonic history that all Masonic organisations will be housed under one roof. Though their may be better informed historians out there who can prove otherwise.

A lot of time and effort has been put in by the FHMC and especially the Treasurer to ensure that each and every Hedworth Hall Masonic organisation can be accommodated at our hall. As well as making sure that our only non-Masonic organisation the "Karate Club" also continues.

With this enormous change, which it certainly is - brings with it a whole host of opportunities not least of which will be to advance a better understanding of what goes on within all the Masonic organisations' within the town and enable all of their respective members to participate more fully.

This newsletter has been re-introduced to try and inform all members of the tenanted organisations here at Freemasons' Hall what is going on, not just the work of the Hall Committee—which over the last decade has seen a lot of changes within the hall to bring the accommodation up to date—and there is still a long way to go. To what is transpiring both within the organisations and also to individual members.

All of this will take a lot of hard work to achieve especially upon the secretaries of each and every Masonic organisation under our roof to let the Hall Committee know what is happening in their organisation - this could range from information on who is being installed, a social event or ladies evening to special events as charity fund-raising or presentations.

For the individual members the newsletter can also serve as a vehicle for getting their own views across about life as a South Shields mason or if they have Masonic items that they wish to sell.

At the September meeting of the FHMC it was agreed that the representatives should discuss the possibility of bringing together a regular forum whose membership may be the Master, 1st Principals, Commanders, Me Preceptors, MW Sovereigns, Supreme Rulers and Secretary, Scribes, Recorders of each Masonic organisation to enable better communications between all—though this will unlikely be a part of the Hall Committee's function—the outcomes especially for the betterment of communications will probably find its way into these pages.

GIFT AID

(Signing this form will cost you absolutely nothing)

Name _____

Address _____

Post Code _____

I want the Ingham Street Masonic Benevolent Association to reclaim tax on all contributions I make from 1st December 2003 onwards. I pay sufficient tax to equal the amount that will be reclaimed (currently 28p for every £1.00 I give).

Signature _____

Date _____

Thank you for completing this form, please forward it to:-
The Secretary, Ingham Street Masonic Benevolent Association, Freemasons Hall, Ingham Street, South Shields, Tyne and Wear NE33 2DQ



CRAFT INSTALLATIONS IN OCTOBER

Congratulations and best wishes to the following brethren who have taken up the challenge of being Master in their respective lodges for the ensuing 12 months (or until)

W Bro Neil Stephenson
St Lawrence Lodge 6042

W Bro Norman Dunn
Lord Barnard Lodge 2935

W Bro Derek Cuthbert
Westoe Lodge 4750

TEMPLE GETS A MAKEOVER

Following the external refurbishment of the Hall, arrangements were set in place over the summer recess to paint the Temple, W Bro Ken Urquart Robson drew the lucky straw and work got underway in haste.



Before the makeover

It had been over seventeen years since the Temple was last painted and that was through the services of Gateshead Council via their Apprenticeship scheme.

Again a Masonic connection was involved in the management of the work in the guise of Bro Paul Wilson and W Bro Geoff Hadaway of Caer Urfa Lodge.

However, to truly understand the enormity of the work that W Bro Ken undertook you have to look at the difference in resources available at both periods—W Bro Ken had only himself and one other whilst the 1990 workforce—albeit apprentices numbered up to fifteen including a couple of Training Supervisors. And there's more.....

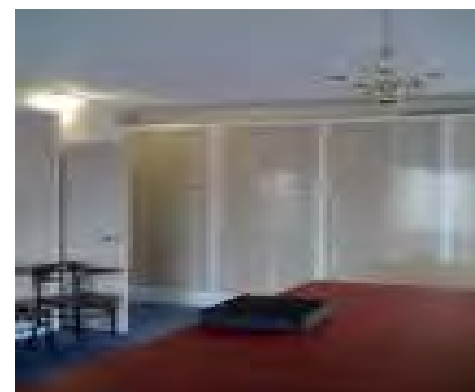


Visitors changing room in the old days!! Circa 2001

Ken has also gone onto re-decorating both changing rooms following the fitment of new cupboards, staircase dockets and landings in time for the Hedworth Hall brethren to move in. The following pictures give an insight to how the changing rooms have been remodelled and redecorated.



Officers changing room in the old days!! Circa 2001



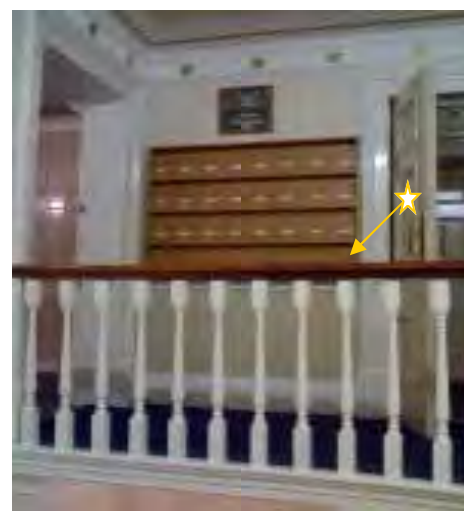
New cupboards in Officers changing room



After the makeover—now with cream walls and Chapter band above the columns



Original 'new' cupboards in Visitor room given a smartening up



Entrance passageway with new letter/summons dockets for Lodges/Orders

What's happening in December ? - a preview

John Readhead Lodge No. 3217	1st Mon	Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935	3rd Tue
Hadrian Lodge No. 1970	1st Tue 125th	St. Hilda Chapter No. 240	3rd Wed
Wrekendike Lodge No. 6401	1st Wed	Hedworth 2418	Last Thur
Tyne Dock Lodge No. 4218	1st Thu	St Lawrence RC Chapter	3rd Mon
St. Hilda Lodge No. 240	2nd Mon	FHMC Committee	3rd Sun 10.30am
Lord Barnard Chapter No. 2935	2nd Tue	Kids Christmas Party	3rd Sun 1.00pm
Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345	2nd Wed 3rd	Prov Grand Lodge of Durham	1st Wed (Ghd)
St. Lawrence Lodge No. 6042	2nd Thu	Provincial Carol Service	2nd Fri (Durham)

Tyne Dock Lodge No. 4218

Ladies Evening

Saturday 24th November 2007

Hedworth Hall, Dean Road, South Shields

Reception 7.30pm

This will be the last Ladies evening held at Hedworth whilst still under masonic ownership

SUGGESTIONS

A docket has been incorporated in the new wall dockets above for brethren to place suggestions in (see arrow)

W hat's on in NOVEMBER ?

Name	No.	Day/Time/Date	Installation	Name	No.	Day/Time/Date	Installation
John Readhead Lodge <i>2nd Deg - Receive the Asst PGM, W. Bro. George Clark, PGSD</i> Hedworth	3217	1st Monday 7.00pm 5th Nov	April	John Readhead Royal Arch Chapter Hedworth <i>Installation of E Com J. Wilkinson, PPrDGR as Z E Com W. T. Dixon, PGStB, PPrGSN as H E Com M. Donkin, PGReg as J</i>	3217	2nd Tuesday 7.00pm 13th Nov	November
Hadrian Lodge <i>Installation of W Bro John G Watkins PPrAGDC (W Lincs)</i>	1970	1st Tuesday 5.30pm 6th Nov	November	Hedworth Royal Arch Chapter Hedworth	2418	3rd Thursday 7.00pm 15th Nov	January
Wrekendike Lodge <i>2nd Deg - Demonstration</i> Hedworth	6401	1st Wednesday 7.00pm 7th Nov	February	Tyne Dock Royal Arch Chapter	4218	4th Tuesday 7.00pm 27th Nov	March
Tyne Dock Lodge <i>1st Deg - Mr W Hamilton (Masters' Brother)</i> First meeting at Ingham St.	4218	1st Thursday 7.00pm 8th Nov	March	Caer Urfa Royal Arch Chapter	4345	4th Wednesday 7.00pm 29th Nov	January
St. Hilda Lodge <i>Election night - Lecture by W Bro B. Hope on Santa Anna and the Alamo</i>	240	2nd Monday 7.00pm 12th Nov	January	St Lawrence Lodge of Mark Master Masons Hedworth	1093	2nd Monday 7.00pm 12th Nov	January
Caer Urfa Lodge <i>Installation of Bro Matthew R Wann SW ME</i>	4345	2nd Wednesday 5.00pm 14th Nov	November	Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge of Mark Master Masons	362	3rd Wednesday 7.00pm 21st Nov	March
Lord Barnard Lodge Hedworth	2935	3rd Tuesday 7.00pm 20th Nov	October	Rockcliffe Royal Ark Mariners	362	3rd Friday 7.00pm 16th Nov	March
Westoe Lodge	4750	Last Monday 7.00pm 26th Nov	October	St Lawrence Preceptory of the Provincial Priory of Durham	275	3rd Monday 7.00pm 19th Nov	January
Hedworth Lodge Hedworth <i>Lecture by W Bro B. Hope on Santa Anna and the Alamo</i>	2418	Last Thursday 7.00pm 29th Nov	February	Arbeia Conclave of the Order of the Secret Monitor	296	3rd Tuesday 7.00pm 20th Nov	September

NOVEMBER—at a glance (H = Hedworth Hall)

DAY	NAME	DAY	NAME	DAY	NAME
1st Monday H	John Readhead Lodge	3rd Monday H	St Lawrence Preceptory	Last Monday	Westoe Lodge
1st Tuesday	Hadrian Lodge	3rd Tuesday	Arbeia OSM	Last Thursday H	Hedworth Lodge
1st Wednesday H	Wrekendike Lodge	3rd Tuesday H	Lord Barnard Lodge	OTHERS	
1st Thursday	Tyne Dock Lodge	3rd Wednesday	Wouldhave Tyne Dock MMM		
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	3rd Thursday H	Hedworth RAC		
2nd Monday H	St Lawrence Lodge MMM	3rd Friday	Rockcliffe RAM		
2nd Tuesday H	John Readhead RAC	4th Tuesday H	Tyne Dock RAC		
2nd Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge	4th Wednesday	Caer Urfa RAC	Last Saturday H	Tyne Dock Ladies Night



REGALIA FOR SALE

Mark Master Masons Apron



Proceeds to RMBI Festival
£15.00

Contact : W Bro Geoff Hadaway
Secretary, Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345
Email:- Secretary@caerurfalodge.co.uk

Social Club

Friday 9th November 2007

8.00 pm - 11.00pm

BAR OPEN

Curry & Rice n' Poppadums

Proceeds to RMBI 2010

Members n' Non Mason's Welcome

CELEBRATING OVER 40 YEARS SERVICE

One of the longest established karate clubs in the UK, having operated unbroken since 1965, will continue to ply its sport in the hall following the recent closure decision at



Staying put!

Hedworth Hall and the imminent arrival of the Lodges and orders formerly tenanted there.



Arrangements have been made to ensure that the club can use the main hall or small temple. And looking at the pictures who would be brave enough to evict them !! Its founder, Mr Daniel Chaganis (6th Dan) was an original student of Master Tatsuo Suzuki (8th Dan)



The club teaches traditional Wado karate techniques with a strong emphasis on the application of karate in today's society and in realistic street situations.

Wado Kai is a dynamic style of karate, which emphasises speed and body evasion, instead of meeting an attack head on with a hard clash of limbs and bodies.

It is therefore very suitable for women and children to learn as a method of self-defence, which will lead to a greater feeling of self-confidence.

Further details are also available over the telephone by contacting Daniel Chaganis on 0191 4253724.

B UDDING PERFORMERS SET TO DO THE TWIST

WANNABE performers were asked to give a little bit more at auditions this month.



South Shields Gilbert and Sullivan Society is putting on Oliver! next year at the Customs House.

Because the group don't have a junior section, it is holding auditions for youngsters – with two of the contenders set to land the roles of Oliver and the Artful Dodger.

The castings were for 36 boys and girls, who look between about six and 11 years of age, and can hold a tune.

They were held on Saturday, September 29, at the Masonic Hall in Ingham Street, South Shields.

Director Gwyneth Hunter, who also directed Annie, the last show the society did with a child chorus, said: "The children took part in vocal and workshop movements, and then they will be asked to audition for the committee in small groups for the chorus.

The audition attracted lots of interest from young wannabes and again showed the general public the facilities available within the hall.



Auditioning...Matthew Bulmer, Jessica Lamb and Katie Smith

The Society celebrates its 60 years anniversary in 2008. They are performing 2 shows each year at the Customs House Theatre. Each show runs for a week to audiences of up to 400 people per night. Their chosen show for 2008 is "Oliver" which will include many young people in the community.

Although they are an amateur society their overheads are the same as professional companies, for example theatre hire, musicians, stage sets and costumes. Letters from Mrs Maureen Hope (wife of W Bro John) have been sent to all lodges asking if they would be willing to give a donation.

Sponsorship would allow them to promote a company by adding a firm's branding to their posters and other publicity. A donation would also give advertising space in their programme.

Ideally they would like sponsorship for some years ahead so that they can minimise any rise in ticket prices, although any contribution will help them to keep local amateur theatre alive in South Shields and justify their charitable status. Any donations could also claim tax concessions under the gift aid banner.

More information can be obtained from Maureen c/o W Bro John Hope or by writing to her at 3, The Cloisters, Harton Village, South Shields, NE 34 6EG

FIRST SOUTH SHIELDS BEER FESTIVAL 16 to 18 August 2007



The Hall played host venue to CAMRA's first ever Real Ale Festival. The event proved to be not only a sell out success in more ways than one, but also allowed people previously unconnected to masonry get an insight into hall's facilities.



Grand opening of the Festival by Erasmus Bottle, the 'alternative' historian

Those masons who attended were pleasantly surprised by the many questions regarding our fraternity that were made, and were quick to promote the fraternity in the good light that we know it deserves—both sides of the gender divide were curious to know what goes on and most were astonished to learn that there wasn't just one lodge that met in the hall

Quality beer promotes quality conversation



Quality beer promotes quality conversation

There was only 6 pints of beer left when the first South Shields Beer Festival closed. Over the 3 days of the festival, over 200 ale lovers drunk their way through 25 different beers, a real cider and perry.

Which just goes to show that some people do drink in Shields that are not necessarily from the town!



Contented drinkers!

Hopefully given the success of this first festival CAMRA will hold their next South Shields event at our premises.