

Season's Greetings Freemasons' Hall News



Edition 2

Vol. I

December 2007

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

Freemasons' Hall Management Committee

Festive cheer from the hall committee as agreement to reduce bar beer prices for the month of December was reached with very little resistance so here's cheers to all who attend the hall on a Masonic night in December, but let temperance direct you!

Masonic Halls of South Shields

The decision this year by Hedworth Lodge to close and sell their Hall in Dean Road spurred a thought in the old grey matter of just where our Masonic ancestors held their meetings in our town. And it is with grateful thanks to W Bro Derek Cuthbert, Master of Westoe Lodge that we can now gain an insight to this question. Derek has been the custodian of a set of lecture notes written by W Bro Elwood Potts a Past Master of St. Hilda Lodge, who has sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above after a lengthy and successful Masonic career. The notes cover 6 pages and as such it has been decided that a column will be dedicated to inform readers over the following months.

The Masonic Halls of South Shields

The Early Days

When Freemasonry was established in South Shields in the late 18th Century there were, of course, no Masonic Buildings and. Lodges had to hold their Meetings in taverns. The first Lodge was the St. Bede Lodge founded in 1714 and meeting at The King of Prussia Inn in King Street. This Lodge had a chequered history, removing to Morpeth in 1789, and was erased in 1815. The history of this Lodge has been researched by the late W. Bro. Sinclair Bruce in a fascinating paper which is in the Provincial Museum and Library together with the restored wooden coat of arms of the Lodge.

The oldest existing Lodge in South Shields is St. Hilda Lodge No. 240, consecrated in March 1780. The venue of the Consecrations, is not definitely known but is believed to have been 'The Golden Lion Inn, King Street. In any event the Lodge met there until October, 1822- when the Meeting was held at the Freemason's Arms, the house of the then Tyler, Mr. Grieves. The Lodge returned to The Golden Lion in November 1822 but there was a dispute with

the landlord over payment for candles and it was resolved to remove to the Crown and Anchor, Commercial Street, (the property of Bro. James Hall).

From December 1822 until December 1826, the Lodge met at the Crown and Anchor except for two occasions on 26th and 27th December 1822 when it returned to the Golden Lion for a meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge and the Annual Festival respectively.

In (January 1827 the Lodge returned to the Golden Lion and continued to meet there until May 1861. In May 1861 the Lodge began to hold its Meetings in the Central Hall, Chapter Row and remained there until the new Freemasons' Hall in Fowler Street was opened in March 1863.

Freemasons' Hall, Fowler Street

During the 1850's St. Hilda Lodge steadily increased its membership and in February 1862 a Committee was appointed to consider the provision of a Masonic Hall. On 5th Month 1862 the Committee reported in favour of building a Hall in Fowler Street at a cost of £600.00 and recommended the raising of £800.00 - £200.00 out of Lodge funds and £600.00 in £1.00 shares issued to St. Hilda members only. These shares were to be redeemed out of a special fund provided from the annual savings of the Lodge.

The report was adopted and on 27th. August 1862 the foundation stone was laid with full Masonic Honours, by W. Bro. George Potts, PProvSGW a distinguished Past Master of the Lodge. The water for the cement for the foundation stone was brought in a bottle from the River Jordan, by the Chief Engineer of H.M.S. Melpomene (whose name is not recorded) and presented through W. Bro. Ridley, P.M. By a remarkable coincidence the silver trowel used in the Ceremony was returned to St. Hilda Lodge in October 1990 by a descendant of W. Bro. Potts living in Virginia, U.S.A.

The new Hall was opened on 9th March, 1863. The era of subsisting in other people's property was over, the Freemasons of South. Shields now had a purpose built home in which, to practice their masonry.

St. Hilda. Lodge settled into its new home and Freemasonry continued to flourish in the town to the extent that on 10th April 1882 a petition was submitted for the formation of a new Lodge. The petition was granted and on the 15th September 1882: the Hadrian Lodge No. 1970 was conse-

crated in the Fowler Street hall where it continued to work alongside St. Hilda Lodge, until the premises were vacated.

The Building continued in existence for almost a century thereafter being used for retail shopping. It was demolished in March 1983 to make way for the Denmark Shopping Centre but its location was easily identifiable as it was immediately adjacent to the premises of the Midland Bank which survived the re-development. The actual site is now occupied by Thomas Cook the Travel Agents.

Next Month:- Freemasons' Hall, Ingham Street



THE FREEMASONS' GRAND CHARITY

£20,000 FOR BANGLADESH CYCLONE VICTIMS

Following the devastation of parts of Bangladesh by Tropical Storm Sidr, The Freemasons' Grand Charity is supporting the relief work of the Red Cross with an emergency grant of £20,000. Around 1 million people are believed to have been affected by the storm which hit the Southern Coast of Bangladesh on 15 November, destroying homes, crops and infrastructure and triggering a tidal surge that swamped three coastal villages.

The official death toll stands at over 3,100 people, but this is expected to rise as rescuers continue to recover bodies from amongst the debris. Some remote areas are still inaccessible and many survivors are without fresh water and food.

The emergency grant approved by the President of the Grand Charity will help to fund the work of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement, providing for the needs of some of the most vulnerable people affected by the storm, including the provision of blankets, food, shelter, medical supplies and basic healthcare.

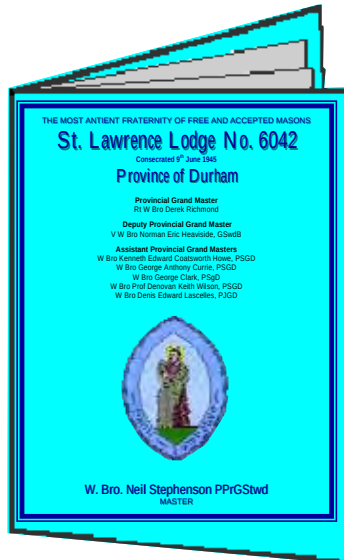


Hadrian Lodge are to change their January 2008 meeting from Tuesday 1st January to Wednesday 2nd January.

St. Lawrence Mark Master Masons are to move their Installation to 8th January 2008.

Craft Installations to date and the new line ups

11th October 2007



ST. LAWRENCE LODGE No. 6042 OFFICERS 2007-2008

W Bro Neil Stephenson, PPrGStwd, PM	Master
W Bro Richard S Howes	I.P.M.
W Bro Donald Scott	S. W.
Bro Brian S Capstick, PM	J. W.
W Bro Terence McKenna, PPrSGD, PM	Treasurer
W Bro Robert W Stobbs, PPrGSWks, PM	Secretary
W Bro Peter Maughan, PPrAGreg, PM	D of C
W Bro Terence McKenna, PPrSGD, PM	Almoner
W Bro Robert W Stobbs, PPrGSWks, PM	Charity Steward
Bro Jack L Ford	S. D.
Bro T. Russell McComiskie, PPrADC PM J. D.	Inner Guard
Bro Alan G Nichols	Senior Steward
Bro Ian S. Cohen	Tyler
W Bro Norman Dunn, PM (4345)	

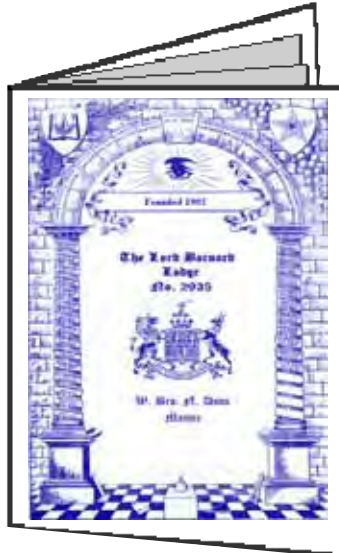
6th November 2007



HADRIAN LODGE No. 1970 OFFICERS 2007-2008

W Bro John George Watkins, PPrAGDC (W Lancs)	W.M.
W Bro Ian Bonar	I.P.M.
Bro Duncan Stephenson,	S. W.
Bro Gary Deans,	J. W.
W Bro John Errington, PPrGReg	Chaplain
W Bro Jeffrey Dickinson, PPrJGD	Treasurer
W Bro David Scott Dunn, PPrGSWks	Secretary
W Bro Peter William Octon PPrAGreg	D of C
W Bro Gordon Hall Finch PPrGSdB	Almoner
W Bro John Hope PPrGReg	Charity Steward
Bro Glen Hutchison,	S. D.
Bro Keith Peacock,	J. D.
W Bro Trevor D. Lewis MSc, PPrSGD	Asst. D of C
Bro Alan Cowell, PPrGStwd	Organist
Bro Ian Reeves,	Asst Sec
Bro Paul White,	I. G.
Bro Shaun P. Hagan,	Steward
Bro Andrew Ford,	Steward
Bro Thomas M. Ellens,	Steward
Bro Bruce N. Simpson,	Steward
W Bro Gordon Rudd PPrGSdB,	Tyler

16th October 2007



LORD BARNARD LODGE No. 2935 OFFICERS 2007-2008

W Bro N. Dunn,	Master
W Bro R. Hodgson, PPrGReg	I.P.M.
Bro L. Taylor,	S. W.
Bro L. Walls,	J. W.
W Bro Wm. Hall, PPrJGW	Chaplain
W Bro A. Richardson, PPrJGW	Treasurer
W Bro J. L. Capstick, PAGDC,	Secretary
W Bro G. M. Stephenson, PPrSGD	D. of C.
W Bro J. L. Capstick, PAGDC,	Almoner
Bro S. Conn,	Charity Steward
Bro J. B. M. Schoolkate,	S. D.
Bro J. Perry,	J. D.
W Bro R. Hodgson, PPrGReg	Asst. D. of C.
Bro J. Hetherington,	I. G.
Bro J. Parker,	Senior Steward
Bro J. Clark,	Steward
Bro A. Ammari,	Steward
Bro G. Dixon,	Steward
W Bro L. Bell, PPrJGW	Tyler

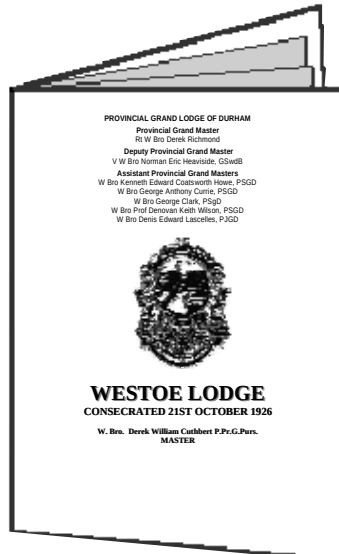
14th November 2007



CAER URFA LODGE No. 4345 OFFICERS 2007-2008

W Bro Matthew Ramsey Wann	Master
Bro Derek Francis Wake	Senior Warden.
Bro Gary Paul Graham Wilson	Junior Warden.
W Bro Michael Maxwell Hobson, PM	Treasurer
W Bro Geoffrey Hadaway, PM PPrAGreg	Secretary
W Bro Brian John Naisby, PM	Director of Ceremonies
W Bro Ralph Blakey Allison, PM P PrJGD,	Almoner
W Bro Robert Clunis Turner, PM PPrAGDC	Charity Steward
Bro Derek Tyler	Senior Deacon
Bro Stephen Callahan	Junior Deacon
W Bro William Malcolm, PPrGSWks (2935)	Asst. Director of Ceremonies
Bro David Jackson	Asst. Secretary
Bro Philip Pearce	Inner Guard
Bro Robert James Gibson	Steward
Bro Will Robertson	Steward
Bro Philip Brown	Steward
Bro Iain Duncan	Steward
Bro Michael Bennett	Steward
Bro Wayne Hayes	Steward
W Bro Norman Dunn	Tyler
W Bro Ronald Armstrong Ferguson	IPM

29th October 2007



WESTOE LODGE No. 4750 OFFICERS 2007-2008

Master	W Bro D. W. Cuthbert, PPrGPurs
I.P.M.	W Bro M. Green PM (PM 3635)
S. W.	Bro T. Errington,
J. W.	Bro P. Heppell,
Chaplain	W Bro G. Robison, PM PPrGSdB
Treasurer	W Bro I. C. Mason PM PPrGReg
Secretary	Bro D. Pickering
D. of C.	W Bro G. Branch PM PPrGSdB
Almoner	W Bro J. Inskip PM
Charity Steward	W Bro K. Robson PM PPrADC
S. D.	Bro J. Hall
J. D.	Bro F. Crooks
Asst. D of C	W Bro J.D. Turnbull PM, PPrGSWks
I. G.	Bro D. Gransberry,
Snr Steward	Bro R. A. Young,
Steward	Bro M. Burbidge,
Steward	Bro S. Brady,
Steward	Bro A. Lindsay,
Tyler	Bro J. Inskip PM,

What is a Lewis ?



A Lewis is 'a three-pronged iron cramp that is inserted in a prepared cavity in stone by which it may be lowered and lifted with precision'. The name comes from the Latin word Lewis, meaning to levitate or lift.

In speculative Freemasonry a Lewis can be found in every lodge on the Senior Warden's pedestal, attached to a Perfect Ashlar - a finished stone - that in turn is suspended from a tripod or derrick.

In Freemasonry a Lewis represents strength. The grip of the Lewis that lifts the stone is likened to the grip given to raise the candidate in the third degree. This, to many Freemasons, represents one's own ability to improve oneself and rise above one's vices and faults.

A Lewis has also come to be the term used to describes the son of a Freemason.

The reason for this is quite simple as is explained in the explanation of the first degree tracing board. A son of a Mason's duty is to support his parents in the same way a Lewis supports and lifts a rock.





Name	No.	Day/Time/Date	Installation	Name	No.	Day/Time/Date	Installation
John Readhead Lodge 1st degree Mr C Ivory Hedworth Hall	3217	1st Monday 7.00pm 3rd Dec	April	Caer Urfa Lodge 3rd Deg—Bro W Robertson Harmony at Festive Board by South Tyne-side Academy of Musical Performance, there will be a fraternal visit by Lodge Dolphin of the Scottish Constitution	4345	2nd Wednesday 7.00pm 12th Dec	November
Hadrian Lodge The 125th Anniversary Celebration Banquet at 8.30pm (ticket only)	1970	1st Tuesday 7.00pm 4th Dec	November	St. Lawrence Lodge Special Festive Board including quiz competition.	6042	2nd Thursday 7.00pm 13th Dec	October
Wrekendike Lodge 2nd Deg - Demonstration Hedworth Hall	6401	1st Wednesday 7.00pm 5th Dec	February	St. Lawrence Rose Croix Chapter Hedworth Hall	293	3rd Monday 7.00pm 17th Dec	February
Tyne Dock Lodge 2nd Deg - Bro W Hamilton	4218	1st Thursday 7.00pm 6th Dec	March	Lord Barnard Lodge Fraternal visit by Hedworth Lodge No.2418 1st Deg - Mr T E Proctor Hedworth Hall	2935	3rd Tuesday 7.00pm 18th Dec	October
St. Hilda Lodge Installation of Bro Philip Johnson SW ME Celebration Banquet at 7.30pm W Bro Dr Rakesh Balla PPrSGW will be representing the Provincial Grand Master	240	2nd Monday 4.30pm 10th Dec	January	St. Hilda Chapter Ballot for Bro Donald George Frazer Exalt no more than two:- Bro Gary G Deans Bro Paul Garry White Bro Donald G Frazer if elected	240	3rd Wednesday 7.00pm 19th Dec	October
Lord Barnard Chapter Installation of Ex Com S. Bell as Z Ex Com G. M. Stephenson as H Ex Com B. R. Alexander, PPrAGSoJ as Hedworth Hall	2935	2nd Tuesday 7.00pm 11th Dec	November	Hedworth Lodge Christmas Meeting Open Night Short meeting followed by Festive Board open to wives, partners & non masons with Felling Brass band accompanying carol singing. Hedworth Hall	2418	Last Thursday 7.00pm 27th Dec	February



Jim & Rita Harker Masonic Regalia
Dress Gown Robe
Regalia altered and refinished.
Why buy new?

KT Mantle + Tunic: £80.00
White Mantle + Tunic: £70.00
Procurator Mantle + Tunic: £80.00
Chapter Surplice: £30.00

Discounted Swords

17 Benedict Road, Unilever
Sunderland
SRS1 1DX
Tel: 0191 514 1486

KIDS Christmas Party
Sunday 16th December 2007
At Freemasons' Hall, Tynaham Street, South Shields.
Ticket £3.00
1.00 pm until 5.00 p.m.
Disco, Refreshments, Prizes and Prezies

W Bro Ken Robson
Freemasons' Hall Management Committee

Masonic activity ceases at the Hedworth Hall on 31st December 2007, so you had better get your skates on should you wish to have one last look.

Tyne Dock Lodge held the last Ladies Evening there on Saturday 24th November 2007.



Tyne Docks Final Finale at Hedworth

170 brethren their wives, partners and friends turned up to enjoy a most splendid evening.

South Tyneside Academy of Musical Performance who are all volunteers, provided the entertainment and were rewarded for their efforts by the Master, W Bro Peter Hamilton with a cheque for £200.



W Bro Hamilton (right) presenting cheque to Colin Bourdieu of STAMP

Social Club

Friday 7th December 2007

8.00 pm - 11.00pm

BAR OPEN

Curry & Rice n' Poppadums

Proceeds to RMBS 2010

Members n' Non Mason's Welcome

Actively Supporting Freemasons' Hall, South Shields

NEW MASTER'S

Over the last two months the Masonic world in South Shields has celebrated the arrival of 5 new Masters to continue the task of the rejuvenation of their Lodges in particular and Freemasonry in general, and we wish them every success.

October brought the arrival of W Bro Neil Stephenson a Past Master of his Lodge St. Lawrence No. 6041 and a dedicated freemason, already well known in the town for the passion he shows to the Craft.



W Bro Neil Stephenson, PPrGStwd, Master, St. Lawrence Lodge No. 6042
Neil is anxious to put forward plans to progress his Lodge and a few things are already in the pipeline to enhance the Festive Board - see what's happening in December for more.

Then along came Westoe Lodge's turn to change their Master, this came in the shape of Bro Derek Cuthbert, PPrGPurs. Bro Derek took a very long time to get to the Chair despite many an attempt by brethren in his Lodge to entice him over the years. Well he's there and as everyone else already knew W Bro Derek fits that Chair exceedingly well.



W Bro Derek Cuthbert PPrGPurs
Master, Westoe Lodge No. 4750

His Lodge won't be meeting in December so if you want to take a visit to Westoe Lodge No. 4750 they meet on the last Monday evening except June, July, August and December, Derek wishes everyone a very merry Christmas and looks forward to seeing as many brethren as possible at his first meeting in January 08"

He joined Hadrian in 2002 and proceeded to go through all the offices, resulting in him being elected as Master.

W Bro John was installed in the Chair of Hadrian Lodge on Tuesday 2nd October by W Bro Ian Bonar. This year also sees the arrival of Hadrian's 125th Anniversary and we are sure that with John at the helm and ably assisted by his Past Master's Officer's and Brethren the work ahead will sail through smoothly. - see what's happening in December for more information on the 125th Celebrations.

Next in line came Bro Matthew Ramsey Wann of Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 and I have to declare an interest here as he is now the Worshipful Master of my lodge so I will have to choose my words carefully....

Matty has been in the Craft for seven years



W Bro Matthew Ramsey Wann
Master, Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345

Not content with being the Master in one Lodge in October that being Caer Urfa, he went and agreed to do it all over again in his second Lodge, Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935. So for the first in many a year we had the same brother presiding over two Lodges at the same time (with dispensation I add).



W Bro Norman Dunn,
Lord Barnard Lodge No. 1970

Norman took the Chair for the second time in Lord Barnard on Tuesday 16th October 2007 at the Hedworth Temple and also decided that when he steps down from his 'other Chair' in Caer Urfa he would act as its Tyler - probably for some respite as he will certainly need it!

November arrived and first in line was W Bro John George Watkins of Hadrian Lodge a past master of Borsdane Lodge No. 6460 meeting at Hindley in the Province of West Lancashire, of which he is still a member of



W Bro John G Watkins, PPrAGDC (W Lanks)
Master, Hadrian Lodge No. 1970

visiting at least twice a year.

Originally from Houghton-le-Spring W Bro John left the north east in 1963 to pursue his career in mining returning to the north east in 2000 to "be beside the seaside" and just as importantly to resolve his wife's desire who had suffered serious ill-health to return home to be closer to her family.

and during that time successfully completed all his allotted tasks in all the various chairs reaching the penultimate and was installed by the guiding hands of W Bro Norman Dunn on 14th November 2007.

Matty was proposed and seconded in to Freemasonry by W Bro Ralph Allison and W Bro Richard Allison respectively and is married to Diane, the daughter of Ralph and Jean so you will know doubt understand that both of his Masonic proposers are extremely proud to see him in the Chair of the Lodge that they have both served twice as its Master - however it is unlikely that Matty will get that honour for quite sometime such is the health of the Lodge's progressive ladder.

BILL NISBET

MASONIC SUPPLIES

Regalia, Rituals, Alterations, Repairs,
Furnishings....

Finest quality assured with personal attention
to all orders and enquiries.
Lodge Record Books and stationery.

1 Jonquil Close, Chapel Park Estate,
Westerhope, Newcastle upon Tyne NE5 1UY

Tel or Fax 0191 264 2156