

THE FREEMASON



Edition 9

Vol. I

August & September 2008

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

Provincial Lodge of Durham 2008



On Saturday 21 June 2008, almost 800 Freemasons gathered at the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham.

From within the town three brethren received a promotion or honour.



W Bro Dave King, ProvGSwdB
St Hilda Lodge 240

Dave, says "I was initiated into St. Hilda Lodge in 1995 and Master in 2002 and 2006, although that wasn't the original plan. I had intended to complete the three Degrees and leave it at that. I was encouraged by the D of C, W Bro Rod Swalwell, to go on *"The Ladder"*.

After learning what the ladder was I thought, that's not for me. After further encouragement from Rod I thought, if I go on as Inner Guard I'll have a full year to think of a good reason not to go any further, fortunately I never came up with a suitable excuse.

As the best part of Freemasonry is the people I've met, I joined another Craft Lodge and eleven Side Degrees and I enjoy them all. Having just written this I can't help but remember the words of my late father when I asked if I could join his Lodge, Hadrian, "No, you won't enjoy Freemasonry and it'll be a flash in the pan." Some flash and some pan!

I would like to thank all the Brethren who have helped, supported, advised and encouraged me in my Masonic journey.

And finally I must congratulate a couple of the wags from my Lodge. Within days of being informed of my promotion to Sword Bearer they had a nickname for me, 'Conan the Barbarian'. Could have been worse I suppose".



W Bro Ian Kevin Carter, PPrSGD
Hedworth Lodge 2418

Kevin says; "I was Initiated into Freemasonry in 1992, it was something I had wanted to do for many years but was not sure how to go about joining.

I spoke to W Bro Ken Bullock about it, but he would not entertain me joining without having some kind of idea about the social side of it,

So we went to a soiree at Hedworth and eventually he was convinced that I was really interested, (mind you I am not sure I would have stuck it out if the soiree was all Freemasonry was about!!!!).

Eventually I was initiated and met up again with W Bro Ted Hooper who I had known for many years, he gave me my very first collar and encouraged me from then on.....

I have enjoyed the companionship and I have made a lot of friends, but mostly I have enjoyed raising charitable funds, which to me is one of the main items on a Freemasons agenda.

The pinnacle of it all so far was being given a promotion, and the fact that it was at the Stadium Of Light (which any football fan knows is Gods chosen land) A great honour indeed!!".

W Bro Harold Roberts of Tyne Dock Lodge was also promoted to PPrJGD.

FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Things are starting to hot up at the hall—yes the new heating system has been installed - and it works ! Bro Taylor decided to test it out during Caer Urfa's Instruction Lodge - not only was it sunny and warm outside the building but sweltering inside!!



Provincial Grand Chapter and



Provincial Grand Lodge Installations

4th September 2008

The Installation of V W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside as Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent takes place on Thursday 4th September 2008 at the Borough Hall, Hartlepool. Commencing 11:00am (Chapter) 4pm (Craft). A joint Chapter/Craft celebration luncheon will be held at the Mayfair, Seaton Carew at 1pm and a dining application form is available on the Provincial website. There is no charge to attend the Chapter or Craft installations. The dining fee for the celebratory luncheon is £20.

W Bro Richard B Allison, PPrAGDC

In fraternal remembrance of a departed brother, W Bro Richard B. Allison, aged 48 years. Now free from pain and at peaceful rest, will be sadly missed by the brethren of Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345.

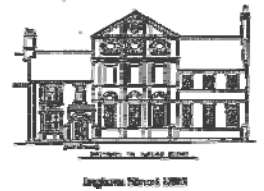


As would have been expected for such a man there were many brethren paying their last respects at his funeral service on Friday, 25th July 2008 and afterwards at the gathering of friends and family at the Sea Hotel, South Shields.

Richard was initiated into Caer Urfa Lodge in 1983 and served as its Master on two occasions, a brother of the Lodge upon hearing of Richards sad demise commented that "In Freemasonry there is an invisible ladder and on every rung of that ladder Richard would be there waiting to give a helping hand to those who choose to climb it"

A Brother who has lived respected and died regretted.

FREEMASONS' HALL



AUGUST 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	Caer Urfa Lodge of Instruction	8	10
Karate		Karate		Karate		
St Hilda 240	11	12	13	14	15	16
	Karate	Karate	CAMRA Beer Festival	CAMRA Beer Festival	CAMRA Beer Festival	FHMC (10.30am)
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Karate		Wrekendike Lodge of Instruction		Hedworth Lodge of Instruction	Fellowship 9694 Committee	
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
John Readhead Lodge of Instruction	Fellowship 9694 (10.30am)	Hedworth 2418	St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction		Leek Show (Brigham & Cowan)	Leek Show (Brigham & Cowan)
Karate	Karate	Karate		Karate		
Summer Bank Holiday		Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction				

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

SEPTEMBER 2008

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
John Readhead 3217	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Hadrian 1970	Wrekendike 6401	Tyne Dock 4218	Caer Urfa Lodge of Instruction		
		Karate		Karate		
St Hilda 240	8	9	10	11	12	13
Karate	John Readhead RAC 3217	Caer Urfa 4345	St Michaels & All Angels R 891	Caer Urfa Lodge Committee		
		Karate		Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction		
St Lawrence Mark	15	16	17	18	19	20
Karate	Lord Barnard RAC 2935	Wouldhave Tyne Dock MMM 362	Hedworth 2418 RAC	Rockcliffe RAM 362		FHMC (10.30am)
	Arbeia OSM 296 (Installation)	Wrekendike Lodge of Instruction		Karate	Karate	
Westoe Lodge of Instruction	22	23	24	25	26	27
Karate	Tyne Dock 4218 RAC	Caer Urfa 4345 RAC	Hedworth 2418	St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction		St Lawrence Lodge Practice (10.30am)
Autumn Equinox (Autumn Begins)		Karate		Karate	Gilbert & Sullivan Social Evening	
Westoe 4750	29	30	F H.M.C. MONTHLY DRAWS June 1st £5 No.180 L. Nolan - Lord Barnard 2nd £3 No. 185 I. Smith - St Hilda 3rd £2 No. 218 A. Scott - Hadrian July 1st £5 No.63 M. Hobson - Caer Urfa 2nd £3 No.34 S. Nicholson - St Hilda 3rd £2 No.53 R. Hodgson - Lord Barnard			
Karate	John Readhead Lodge of Instruction					
	Rosh Hashanah Jewish New Year					



Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham

Changes continue at Province with the announcement by the Past Provincial Grand Master Rt W Bro Dr Alan Martin Davison at the recent Annual meeting that he was charged by the United Grand Lodge of England to make a statement. *"The Most Worshipful Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent has been pleased to appoint as Provincial Grand Master in and over the Masonic Province of Durham V W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside, Past Grand Sword Bearer"*.

V W Bro Eric Heaviside was appointed and installed as Deputy Provincial Grand Master on 5th May 2006.

He was made a Mason on 5th May 1962 in Benfeldsyde Lodge No 7807.

He was Master of that Lodge in 1973 and of Nevill Lodge of Installed Masters No 9441 in 2001 and of Durham Lodge of Installed Masters No 4441 in 2007.

His first appointment in Provincial Grand Lodge was to the office of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1983.

He served in the office of Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies from 1988 to 1993 and in the office of Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies from 1993 to 1997.

He was appointed to the office of Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1997 and held this office until 2006.

The United Grand Lodge of England were pleased to make the appointment of V W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside PGSwdB, Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Charge, to be appointed Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent for the Province of Durham from 6th June 2008.



A big smile from V W Bro Heaviside after the announcement he is to be the next Provincial Grand Master

Retirement of Assistant Provincial Grand Master

At the annual installation meeting of Old Dunelmian Lodge 8100 on Friday 11th July 2008 the PGM (designate) announced the retirement of Assistant Provincial Grand Master George Anthony Currie with effect from 3rd September 2008.

Tony Currie was Master of Restoration Lodge No 111 (Darlington) in 1978 and his first appointment to Provincial Grand Rank in 1987 was to PastJGW. In 1994 he became a Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and when WBro Eric Heaviside was promoted from Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to Asst PGM in 1997 Tony was appointed by the then PGM Lord Barnard to that position. He carried out the Provincial Grand

Director of Ceremonies duty with great distinction until 2005 when he was promoted to Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham is extremely grateful to W Bro Currie for his 21 years dedicated service as a senior Provincial Grand Officer and wish him and his wife Jane good health and happiness for the future.

New Assistant Provincial Grand Masters.

On the promotion of W Bro D K Wilson to Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the retirement of W Bro G A Currie, 2 new Assistant Provincial Grand Masters will be appointed. They are to be W Bro David G Carney and W Bro John L Webster.

David Carney was WM of St Paul Lodge No 3242 (Jarrow) in 1987, the same year he was a founder member of Palmer Lodge No 9255 (Hebburn) and it's WM in 1988 and 2002. Appointed to Provincial rank as PJGW in 1996 and to Grand rank as PAGDC in 2006 he is also a member of Beamish Temple Lodge No 9815 (Stanley).

John Webster was WM of Old Dunelmian Lodge 8100 (Durham City) in 1996 and the Lodge of Freedom No 4027 (Stockton on Tees) in 1998. He was appointed as Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 2003.

The changes are due to take place on Thursday 4th September 2008 immediately following the installation of V W Bro N Eric Heaviside as Provincial Grand Master. It is hoped that many Durham Brethren will attend on this day to enjoy the occasion and support the new appointees.

The present Assistant Provincial Grand Masters KEC Howe, G Clark and DE Lascelles are to be re-appointed on 4th September.

Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Meeting Stadium of Light Sunderland

On Saturday 21 June 2008, almost 800 Freemasons gathered at the Sunderland Stadium of Light for the Annual Meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham.

Shortly before 1030am the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies WBro Paul Patterson called the brethren to order and made the required health and safety messages while "Welcome to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham" was displayed on the electronic scoreboard.



A formal procession of distinguished guests then entered the stadium led by the Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies Andrew Forster and George Jones. The guests included 3 Provincial Grand Masters from Cumberland and Westmorland, Yorkshire North & East, and Yorkshire West Riding.

V W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside, Deputy Provincial Grand Master (in charge) entered the stadium preceded by the Sword Bearer and followed by two Standard Bearers. He

opened Provincial Grand lodge at 1045am.



The work of Provincial Grand Lodge was undertaken with all due ceremony and as the Brethren departed the general consensus - a good day had by all (once they got into the hospitality areas for thawing out). There was gratitude expressed for all involved in the organisation of a splendid occasion but an acceptance that despite all the good work Freemasons do, they cannot change the weather.

The Most Hon the Marquess of Northampton, DL. Pro Grand Master, (and Pro First Grand Principal), will be the Installing Officer of the Grand Superintendent and Provincial Grand Master on 4th September 2008.

All Durham Freemasons are asked to make every effort to ensure an excellent attendance on the day and make his journey worthwhile.



Provincial Grand Lodge Visit September 2008

The Provincial Grand Master (designate) intends that a deputation of his officers will attend **Tyne Dock No 4218** Presentation of 50 and 60 year certificates on Thursday 4th September 2008.



FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY NEWS BULLETIN

The latest edition of the bulletin is now available, all Lodge Secretaries have been issued with sufficient copies to be distributed to their members, there is also a downloadable 'pdf' copy available at the following link:



<http://www.durhamfreemasons.org/FIC/bulletin/summer08.pdf>

Freemason's Hall Widow's Trip



The widows trip was on 8th July, we left from South Tyneside College where cars could be left after loading the wheelchairs on the coach for those that had them. There were 48 altogether, widows, widowers and a few elderly couples. We stopped at Heartside for coffee and then down through the Vale of St. John (Sid Waters at this point was describing various trees and forests that he had been involved with) to Windermere. Here we served a beautiful packed lunch on board also tea and coffee as well as soft drinks if required, we stopped for about 3 hours (where a pint was most welcome) we then set off for Glenridding, where we were booked in for afternoon tea at the inn on the lake, which was very high class. Afternoon tea over we set off for home about 6pm. All the ladies received a box of chocolates on the homeward journey. Everyone enjoyed the day out so much that they have asked if we can do it again next year. Plans are already being formulated subject to all the lodges being in agreement even those that didn't respond this time. (ps we had a brilliant sing song on the way back).

W Bro Gordon Finch

OCTOBER 2008 - pre-view

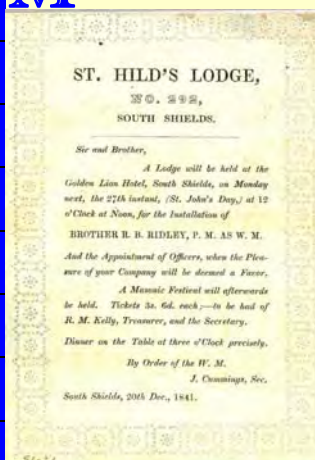
All Information Given In Good Faith - Please check in event of a visit

Day	Masonic Organisation	No.
1st Monday	John Readhead Lodge	3217
1st Tuesday	Hadrian Lodge	1970
1st Wednesday	Wrekendike Lodge	6401
1st Thursday	Tyne Dock Lodge	4218
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	240
2nd Tuesday	Lord Barnard Chapter	2935
2nd Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge	4345
2nd Thursday	St. Lawrence Lodge	6042
3rd Monday	St Lawrence Rose Croix	293
3rd Wednesday	St. Hilda Chapter	240
3rd Tuesday	Lord Barnard Lodge	2935
4th Wednesday	Lodge of Fellowship	9694
Last Monday	Westoe Lodge	4750
Last Thursday	Hedworth Lodge	2418

H ADRIAN Lodge - Ladies Social Evening

The Lodge will be holding a Ladies Social Evening at the hall on Friday 10th October, the evening starts at 7.30pm with a late licence, tickets cost £15 and will be available soon.

Masonic documents discovered at South Shields library



South Shields Dec 27th - The Brethren of St. Hild's Lodge, No. 292, held their anniversary festival in their Lodge-room, at the Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, when the Officers were installed for the ensuing year. After the ceremonies were concluded, a numerous company of the Members, and visiting Brethren, sat down to an excellent dinner, and the afternoon was spent in harmony and conviviality.

Special thanks to our intrepid Masonic researcher W Bro Derek Cuthbert for the photographs of early St. Hild's [Moderns] documentation.

The St. Hilda's Lodge No. 240 was established in 1780 and met at the Golden Lion Hotel, King Street, South Shields, Durham. In 1780 the lodge was named the St Hild's Lodge but in 1849 the spelling was changed to St Hilda's Lodge.

B EER FESTIVAL

The 2008 South Shields Beer Festival will be CAMRA's second beer festival organised by the Sunderland & South Tyneside Branch of CAMRA.

The festival runs from 14 to 16 August at the Hall. The organisers have put together a selection of 26 cask ales from small breweries from as far afield as Cambridgeshire and Lanarkshire.

The range includes dark milds, bitters, porters, wheat beers and strong India Pale Ales.

Local brewers, Jarrow and Bull Lane will be represented and the organisers are pleased to have locally brewed Double Maxim and Samson following their return to Wearside last year. Sunderland-based Bull Lane will also be launching two new beers at the festival including an unhopped lemon and ginger beer. Beers from 2 new breweries, Ironbridge in Shropshire and Yard of Ale from Ferryhill in County Durham, will also be available.

There will also be a traditional cider and perry. The festival is run entirely by unpaid CAMRA volunteers and admission at all sessions is free to CAMRA and EBCU members and will cost non-members £2.

A souvenir glass will be for sale or hire.

Opening hours will be:

Thursday: 4.00 pm to 10.00 pm
Friday: 12.00 pm to 10.00 pm
Saturday: 12.00 pm to 10.00 pm

The provisional list of ales that will be available are;

Brewer	Beer	ABV
Bateman	Salem Porter	4.7
Bull Lane	T J DoYLES Neck Oil	4.2
Bull Lane	Jason's Jinja Ale	4.0
Castle Rock	Black Gold	3.5
Copper Dragon	Scotts 1816	4.2
Derby	Business As Usual	4.4
DMBC	Double Maxim	4.7
DMBC	Samson	4.1
Enville	Saaz	4.2
Enville	Ginger Beer	4.5
Everards	Original	5.2
Hanby	Golden Honey	4.5
Hop Back	Crop Circle	4.2
Ironbridge	tbc	
Ironbridge	tbc	
Jarrow	Bitter	3.9
Jarrow	Swinging Gibbet	4.1
Oakham	Bishop's Farewell	4.6
Saltaire	Fuggles Bitter	3.9
Sarah Hughes	Ruby Mild	6.0
Spitting Feathers	Basket Case	4.8
Strathaven	tbc	
Thornbridge	Jaipur	5.9
Townhouse	Centennial	4.3
Windle Goat	tbc	
Yard of Ale	First Yard	3.9

RETIRED department store manager Bro Frank Ellis of Tyne Dock Lodge is hoping his birthday wish-list sets a precedent others will follow.

As the former Royal and Merchant Navy man was approaching his 90th birthday, he wrote to family and friends telling them he didn't want any money on presents. Instead, he asked them to make a donation to his favourite charity – Heartcall.

The charity raises funds to support coronary care services at South Tyneside District Hospital.

Bro Ellis's wife of 66 years, Nell, died of heart failure almost three years ago.

On top of that, he has been a friend of Heartcall founder W Bro Syd Nicholson for 40 years. Now, Bro Ellis, of Ingham Grange, Westoe, is encouraging others to follow his example by using their birthdays to help charities.

He said: "I suppose you might want presents in your 20s and 30s, but when you get to my age you're not bothered". "I have everything I need. Why not help a worthy cause instead? After all, every penny counts."

Bro Ellis, formerly manager at Binns in King Street, South Shields, and a buyer for William Woods in nearby Ocean Road, enjoyed his birthday bash at the town's Sea Hotel.

The party was attended by family and friends from near and far, including daughter Christine and his three grandchildren, who had travelled up from their home in Somerset to wish him well.

His birthday celebrations raised £410 for Heartcall.



All heart ...Bro Frank Ellis, left, gives his birthday gift to W Bro Syd Nicholson.

W Bro Nicholson said: "We're really grateful to Bro Frank for using his birthday to help us". "Every donation we receive is much appreciated."

SOUTH SHIELDS MASONIC GOLF COMPETITION

The competition took place at South Shields Golf Club on Thursday, 12th June 2008. The golf course was in very good condition and enjoyed by all who took part, as well as the golf in parts!

The winners of the competitions were:-

The John Readhead Cup (South Shields Brethren)

1st Bro D Pentland, Hadrian Lodge 38pts
(Pictured below)



2nd W Bro M Wann, Caer Urfa Lodge 36 pts

3rd W Bro B Scott, St. Hilda Lodge 33pts

The Elwood Potts Shields (Visiting Brethren)

Bro C Harvey Amity Lodge 32 pts

Ron Kitchingman Trophy (Guests)

Bro Duncan Taylor 28 pts

As a result of the Golf Day and supporting raffle, a total of £301 was raised by the South Shields Lodges towards the 2010 RMBI Festival. **Raffle results** drawn at Lord Barnard Lodge on Tuesday 17th June 2008 are:-

Peter Maughan	Whisky
Fred Rylance	Whisky
Gordon Thompson	Vodka
Billy Malcolm	Port
(Any port in a storm Billy)	
Tom Watson	Whisky Mac
Brian Atkinson	Cava
Ron Naisbitt	Asti
Neil Stephenson	Wine

Raffle winners can contact W Bro Bryan Scott after 6-30 on 4177972 to arrange delivery or wait until the next lodge meetings after the recess.

MASONIC BOWLS CUP FINAL WINNER

Bro Bill Peacock (Hadrian) was the successful winner of the 2008 Masonic Bowls Competition, and is pictured below (left) with runner up Dennis Fitton.



FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

Once the Beer Festival is over the task of redecoration of the Festive Board area will begin, its going to be a busy time for W Bro Robson as he balances work loads to do the job justice which we all know he has the expertise to achieve.

Arrangements to fit a hearing loop system are taking place as well as the possible introduction of an air conditioning system.

BROTHER LIGHTFOOTE'S JOURNAL

The Recollections of an Eighteenth-Century Gentleman of the Craft



April 23rd 1795

St. George's Day; the Anniversary of Shakespeare's Birth.

Weather: Cold

November 13th 1795

Feast of St. Homobonus

Weather: unseasonably mild

Mrs Lightfoote has been disagreeable of late...

Homobonus is the patron saint of tailors. Sadly, my tailor passed away earlier this year. Like Homobonus, he was a good man, and he is sorely missed by all who knew him. Homobonus is also, by the by, the patron saint of the city of Cremona, where the violins come from, but no-one was ever fiddled by Bilgorri; let light perpetual shine upon him.

Mrs. Lightfoote has been most disagreeable of late, I know not why, I find myself easy enough to agree with. She, on the other hand, finds nought but fault in me: if I stand, I should go, if I go I should stand. On Wednesday evening last I could stand no more of it and went - to an extraordinary meeting of the Stonic Lodge. When I say that this was an extraordinary meeting, I don't mean that in the ordinary sense, for all our meetings are extraordinary: extraordinarily agreeable, unlike my spouse aforementioned. What I mean to say is that this was an extra meeting, summoned for a date upon which we do not, ordinarily, meet, which is once a month, on the ides, except when we don't, as in March. Under ordinary circumstances I would be happy to attend a meeting weekly; with my wife disposed towards me as she is currently, nightly! I was, therefore, the first one down to the Yorick Tavern and had downed a quart before the Tyler arrived to prepare the upper room.

The official visit

Anyway, the reason for us meeting again, happily, a mere fortnight after parting, equally so, previously, was an Official Visit from an Officer of the Grand Lodge: a new experience for all of us, and one that I looked forward to with interest. The taproom gradually filled up with brethren and I, relishing release from the petticoated persecutor, the trumpet-tongued tormentor, to wit, the wife, gradually filled up with beer. I confess that, by the time we were called to order I was as full as a bull's bundle and in the first stage of inebriation: Jocose.

All went well to begin with, according to due

form: we sang our opening air:

Gathered again are we, brethren of Stonic;
Firm and upstanding like columns Ionic;
Tuscan, Corinthian, Composite, Doric;
Strongly established on tenets historic.

The lodge was opened in due form and with ancient ceremony at about ten past six precisely. The minutes of our last meeting were read, confirmed and approved and then there was a report and we were informed that our honoured (though uninvited) guest was without and demanded(!) admission. Lightfoote's suspicion was aroused.

Proud as a peacock

In he marches, proud as a peacock and done up like a dandy, followed by a waddling retinue of jingling johnnies, straight up to the Master's pedestal where he's offered the gavel, which, happily, he declines. They all take their seats, he on the Master's right hand, and we're invited to salute him, repeatedly. He greets us well, as well he might, and we proceed to pass Brother Catchpole to the Second Degree, in the course of which I give my celebrated rendering of the explanation of the tracing board.

We proceed, seamlessly, to the risings, the closing and the festive board: a magnificent haunch of beef accompanied by good ale and some excellent Burgundy, both of which Lightfoote partakes of liberally, wishing to prolong the pleasure of the present and blot out the dismal prospect of futurity, viz, return to Mrs. Lightfoote. The mixture of the grape and the grain advanced me, like Catchpole, to the second degree: Bellicose.

We keep our speeches brief at Stonic: 'talk short, drink deep' is the motto, and so it was until our honoured guest got up on his hind legs. He proceeded to lecture us on our several failings, claiming that our demeanour was, in general, irreverent and our ritual, in particular, irregular. He made special mention of my contribution, claiming that my witty paraphrase of the tale of Jephtha and Ephraimites constituted an innovation in the ritual and suggested that I, and everyone else, might care to attend a Lodge of Instruction.

At this point, Lightfoote, already feeling clamorous and turbulent, broke out into full-blown fury. I rose to respond, noting that the Worshipful Master looked a little pale. I reminded the Grand One that he was a guest and it wasn't a guest's place to tell his host how to behave; if he didn't like us, he would have to lump us. Further, I reminded him of the address made to the brethren on installation night, which points out, quite unequivocally, that our end and aim is primarily to please ourselves, not the Grand Lodge, the Emperor of China, my wife, the landlord's dog or anyone else!

Like a cup of last night's claret, it didn't go down well. The Master's face was by now white as a sheet and our Honoured Guest's black with fury, symbolising, it occurred to me, the joys and sorrows of our chequered existence; I was moving, inexorably, from the bellicose to the morose: drunkenness in the third degree.

Off went the Grand Officer, with his flashy flunkies in tow, leaving the world to darkness and to me. I begged the Master's forgiveness, realising that I had severely damaged his chances of promotion. He, to my surprise and delight, refused

to accept my apologies and called for a flagon of Rhenish. To general applause he reminded us that we were not all operative masons but rather free and accepted and that that surely meant that we were free to accept who and what we wanted. My sorrows were drowned! I passed, softly and silently, to the supreme degree: Comatose.

I awoke in my own bed with the rays of that glorious luminary pouring in on me as the golden wine had poured the night before.

Remarkably, I felt supremely well, fortune, apparently favouring the brave, but the best was yet to come: enter Mrs. Lightfoote. I fear the very worst, but all wifely concern she is, bearing bacon and eggs and a flagon of ale, stroking my hair, mopping my brow...

It seems that the brethren who bore me home had informed her, in hushed tones of wonder and admiration, of how I had, single-handedly, fought off a band of brigands who were molesting a dear old lady. Was it so, she asked, was Lightfoote truly a hero? It was true, I confessed, simply, for women have no understanding of allegory.

Reproduced with grateful acknowledgements to David Wilkinson, Publisher - Freemasonry Today Spring 2000 - Issue 12

FREEMASONS' HALL MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

GOOD HOME REQUIRED (Apply within)

Following the changes at our hall a number of items now require a new home, in particular we have two spare electronic organs, both in working order looking for a good home - no reasonable offer refused.

We also have a number of bentwood chairs (see pictures)



Removal and transportation will be the responsibility of the lucky new owner (s).

Donations received will be thankfully applied to good Masonic use.

For further details please contact:-

W Bro Peter Octon or send an email to the following address:-

williampocton@blueyonder.co.uk

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER