

THE FREEMASON



Edition 2

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

Provincial Grand Master visits Hall

The Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 completed an initiation ceremony with a touch of class on Wednesday 14th January 2009 at Freemason's Hall, South Shields, Mr. Kevin Scott having expressed a desire to join our honourable fraternity got a little more than he bargained for.

The Worshipful Master W Bro Derek Francis Wake opened the Lodge, and with the normal preliminaries over he received a Deputation of Provincial Grand Officers led by the Provincial Grand Master, Rt W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside. The officers supporting the Provincial Grand Master were:- Prof D K Wilson, PSGD, DProvGM, K E C Howe, PSGD, G Clark, PSGD, D E Lascelles, PGJD, D G Carney, PAGDC, AProvGMs, R Tait, ProvSGW, N Alderson, ProvJGW, A Bunting, PrDGRG, G Jones, PAGDC, D King, ProvGSwdB, J C Parker, PrDGRG, J A Dixon, PrJGD, P Grieveson, PAGDC, G Rumford, ProvAGSec, B K Burn, ProvGStB, S M Patel, ProvGStB, G S Gibbon, ProvGTyler, G Crossley, PGJD, S Waters, PGJD, and D Warneford, PAGDC, G Murdoch, PAGDC, J Capstick, PAGDC and K Wake, PAGDC.

The Worshipful Master welcomed The Provincial Grand Master and the deputation and the Provincial Grand Master accepted the gavel and chair of Master from the Worshipful Master as the two Provincial Grand

Wardens occupied their respective offices within the Lodge for a short while.

The salutations being completed and graciously accepted the Provincial Grand Master handed over control of the Lodge to the Worshipful Master and thanked him for the honour of sitting in the Chair of Caer Urfa Lodge and wished all the brethren gathered a happy, successful and enjoyable evening.

Mr. Kevin Scott was then admitted and conducted through a ceremony of initiation for which the Provincial Grand Master was to later comment as to have been one of the finest he had ever witnessed.

Bro Scott couldn't have been more impressed on eventually witnessing the numbers of brethren present as the Lodge room was full to capacity, but some who were seated, were close friends of his and had come to surprise him which they certainly did, he having no knowledge that any of them were masons, others had also come to support the candidate, the Lodge as well as the Provincial Grand Master in his official visit to the Masonic centre of South Shields. A visit which had originally been planned for December and to the St. Lawrence Lodge but for circumstances beyond the control of Province that visit needed to be cancelled, not that the Caer Urfa Lodge brethren were complaining, as there wasn't a face around that wasn't beaming with pride.

After the Lodge was closed the Brethren retired to the festive board where ninety four brethren enjoyed the meal and an evening of merriment and mirth, the formal

Toasts were observed with the Provincial Grand Master responding to the Toast to the Provincial Officers. A Toast to the Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 was proposed by the ProvSGW, W Bro R Tait and a response given by the Worshipful Master. Bro Alan Best gave the Toast to initiate in the time honoured fashion and a well worded response was given by the candidate Bro Kevin Scott, which at its completion the brethren sang "Brother Freemason's all".

The evening approaching its close the Secretary of the Lodge W Bro Geoff Hadoway, PPrAGreg presented the Provincial Grand Master with a tankard bearing the lodge's name and engraved with a modern and ancient square and compasses and alongside in the presentation box lay an appropriate bottle of ale to fill it with.

An obviously delighted Provincial Grand Master and his deputation then took their leave well satisfied with the outcome of the evening as well as comfortable in the knowledge that freemasonry is thriving not only in Caer Urfa Lodge but also within this particular Durham Masonic centre.

Royal Arch Chapter



South Shields welcomes new line ups within one of its Chapters namely, Caer Urfa Chapter No. 4345 which on Wednesday 28th January 2009 held its Annual Convocation that saw E Comp Robin Francis Knight PPrGReg, installed as 1st Principal by E Comp William Malcolm PPrGSN, E Comp Brian John Naisby installed as 2nd Principal by E Comp Knight and Comp Norman Dunn installed as 3rd Principal by E Comp Naisby.

Representing the Provincial Grand Superintendent was E Comp Peter Cresswell Birtwisle, PGStB, PPrGSN, ProvDGDC, accompanied by E Comp Kenneth Urquart Robson, ProvGPrinSoj

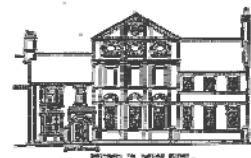


The Provincial Grand Master and Deputation pose with the Worshipful Master of Caer Urfa Lodge and his officers, after the Lodge



E Comp Naisby, E Comp Birtwisle, E Comp Knight, E Comp Dunn & E Comp Robson.

FREEMASONS' HALL



FEBRUARY 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
						Hadrian Instruction Lodge (10.30am) 1
John Readhead 3217 KST Karate 2	Hadrian 1970 3	Wrekendike 6401 INSTALLATION of W Bro JP Haynes 4	Tyne Dock 4218 KST Karate 5	Caer Urfa Lodge of Instruction 6 KST Karate	7	St Lawrence Lodge Practice (10.30am) 8
St Hilda 240 KST Karate 9	10	Caer Urfa 4345 11	St Lawrence 6042 KST Karate 12	Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction 13 Caer Urfa Lodge Committee	14 The Mariner Royal Arch Chapter No. 3217 Gateshead	FHMC (10.30am) 15
St Lawrence R 293 (Enthronement) 16	Lord Barnard 2935 KST Karate 17	St Hilda RAC 240 18 Wrekendike Lodge Of Instruction	St Michaels & All Angels R 891 (Enthronement) KST Karate 19	Hedworth Lodge of Instruction 20 KMH Karate	21	22
Westoe 4750 23 KST Karate	John Readhead Lodge of Instruction 24 KMH Karate	Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction 25	Hedworth 2418 26 INSTALLATION of W Bro E Dochwray	St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction 27 KMH Karate	28	

Amalgamation Ceremony of Four South Shields Royal Arch Chapters

Hedworth No. 2418, Lord Barnard No. 2935, John Readhead No.3217 & Tyne Dock No. 4218 Into

The Mariner Royal Arch Chapter No. 3217

Saturday February 14th 2009 at the Masonic Temple, Alexander Road, Gateshead. The ceremony will start at 10.30 am and a Festive Board held at approximately 12.30 pm at a cost of £12.00.

Tickets from - The Ticket Secretary, J. Wilkinson, 7 Mill Grove, South Shields, Tyne & Wear. NE34 8DX.

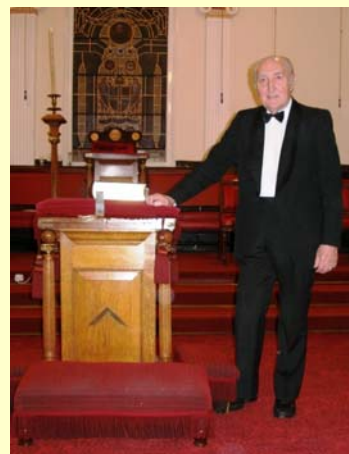
KEY BLUE Craft RED Chapter GREEN Side/Higher Degrees BROWN Instruction/Practice BLACK Meetings PURPLE (Karate) KMH = Main Hall KST = Small Temple

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

MARCH 2009 - pre-view

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 - Installation	4218
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	240
2nd Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge	4345
2nd Thursday	St. Lawrence Lodge	6042
3rd Monday	St Lawrence Preceptory - Malta	293
3rd Tuesday	Lord Barnard Lodge	2935
3rd Tuesday	Arbeia OSM	296
3rd Wednesday	Wouldhave Tyne Dock MMM - Installation	362
3rd Friday	Rockcliffe RAM - Installation	362
4th Wednesday	Caer Urfa Chapter	4345
Last Thursday	Hedworth Lodge - Installation	2418
Last Monday	Westoe Lodge	4750

Popular Mason to celebrate his 50th



W. Bro. Joe Harding, PPrJGD., (P.M. 3242) who has been the Tyler of St Hilda Lodge since December 1999 will be receiving a 50 year membership of the Craft Certificate at St Paul 3242 Lodge on Thursday 5th March 2009, Jarrow Masonic Hall, 4 Grange Road, Jarrow NE32 3LD. At such a special event Bro Joe would welcome the company and support of many of his friends on the night.

LODGE UGIE 939

Bro Duncan Thomas Pentland joined Hadrian Lodge No 1970 in December 1973 as a Lewis.

Due to work commitments he moved to Aberdeen where he joined Lodge Ugie 939.



W Bro Duncan Pentland PM

He went through the chair of the lodge in 2003.

After the unfortunate death of his wife and subsequent retirement he returned to South Shields where in 2007 he rejoined Hadrian Lodge but kept his membership of Lodge



Rt WM, Officers and Brethren of Lodge Ugie 939

Ugie.

On Wednesday 28th January 2009 he was asked to be part of the installation team and asked if any brethren would like to accompany him.



Some of the contingent from South Shields enjoying a drink or two following the Installation with their hosts.

W Bro Duncan Stephenson, master of Hadrian Lodge, W Bro David Scott Dunn, Sec. W Bro Ian Bonar PM together with W Bro Michael Mullen, master of Athelstan Lodge and Bro Bob Ford JW of John Redhead Lodge were only too keen to accept the invitation.

The ceremony commenced at 7.20pm and did not end until 10.40pm talk about putting a shift in.



Rt WM, Officers and Brethren of Lodge Ugie 939

Afterwards, the hall was set up for "harmony" sandwiches, soup, stovies (a type of tattie hash) and of course lots of festive board cheer.



Masonic Hall, Mintlaw



Interesting artefacts in the Mintlaw, Masonic Hall.

W Bro Stephenson then delivered the Masters Song which had not been heard before and it went down a storm. W Bro Stephenson continued to entertain the brethren with a rendition of Scottish songs.

A truly Masonic evening was had by all.

Mad March Hare Fancy Dress Night

SATURDAY 7TH MARCH 2008
18.00pm - 23.00pm

Ticket £10.00

2.00pm to 2.30pm

Any Get Up Will Do!

Just Bring Your Sense of Humour

Tickets not returned by Monday 2nd March 2008 will be deemed as sold.

Also Visit: http://www.ugie939.co.uk

M. S. O.

If it is available he can get it!

Provincial and Chapter ties are available from W Bro Dave Dunn at a cost of £8.

Clip-on Provincial ties at £9.50

For further info email Dave at:

daviddunn@blueyonder.co.uk



W Bro David S Dunn MSO
(Masonic Supplies Officer)

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

27th February (York)

Masonic Order of Athelstan - Provincial Meeting

28th February (Durham City)

Royal Order of Scotland - Annual Meeting

11th March (12noon - Freemasons Hall, London)

*United Grand Lodge Quarterly Communication
Investiture of new Pro Grand Master and DepGM*

25th March (7pm) Gateshead (North Area)

*Provincial Grand Almoner briefing sessions for
Lodge Almoners & Benevolent Representatives*

27th March

Royal Ark Mariners Annual Investiture (Ferryhill)

28th March

Rose Croix - Durham District Meeting (Gateshead)

25th April (Seaton Carew)

Knights Templar - Provincial Priory Annual Meeting

27th April (7pm) (Shiney Row)

MTEC seminar for Permanent Officers

29th April (4pm - Freemasons Hall, London)

United Grand Lodge Annual Investiture

30th April (11am - Freemasons Hall, London)

Supreme Grand Chapter Annual Investiture

30th April (7pm - Ferryhill)

MTEC seminar for Wardens

"Preparing for the Chair"

20th May (Birmingham)

Great Priory of the Temple Investiture

27th May (Seaton Carew)

Royal Arch Chapter - Annual Convocation

9th June (Freemasons Hall, London)

Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons -

Annual Investiture

12th June (Birmingham)

Knight Templar Priests - Grand College Annual

20th June Annual Meeting & Investiture (Gateshead)

Order of Secret Monitor -

Provincial Grand Conclave

24th June (Lancastrian Suite, Dunston)

Provincial Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons

Annual Meeting

27th June (Hartlepool and Seaton Carew)

CRAFT - Provincial Grand Lodge Annual Meeting

2nd July (Durham City)

Knights Templar -

Annual Malta Meeting & Investiture

4th July at Raby Castle, Staindrop

Raby Gala

14th November (Durham City)

Royal & Select Masters - Annual District Meeting

17th November (Birmingham)

Great Priory of Malta Investiture.

28th November (Gateshead)

Red Cross of Constantine - Durham Division

Annual Meeting

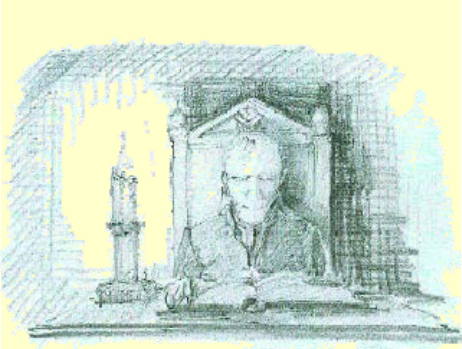
30th November (Lancastrian Suite, Dunston)

CRAFT - Provincial Grand Lodge

Promotions Meeting

BROTHER LIGHTFOOTE'S JOURNAL

The Recollections of an Eighteenth-Century Gentleman of the Craft



January 1st 1781
Feast of Saint Sylvester
Weather: Deep, crisp, even, etcetera
Outlook: Improving, hopefully

Ring out the old;
Ring in the new!
Or vice versa...

Sylvester, as every schoolboy knows, was made bishop of Rome in the year 314 and is credited with having baptised the emperor Constantine. Other than this highly improbable feat, almost nothing is known about him but that has not deterred a lodge of Freemasons naming themselves after him on the grounds that their inaugural meeting was held on his feast day.

It seems odd to me that a lodge should meet on New Year's Eve, but if one insisted on so doing, one might have expected them to call themselves the Auld Acquaintance or the Neo Annum or something of that sort, but the facts remain that Sylvester does and that they didn't, so there.

Further it might be supposed, quite reasonably, that a lodge that does meet on the evening of the last night of the year might order its affairs in such a way that their business would be concluded in good time for the brethren to disperse to see in the new with their families and friends...

No. Sylvester holds its installation meeting on December 31st, the lodge being tyled at eleven o'clock in the evening precisely. By tradition, the duly elected, humble representative of King Solomon must be placed in his chair on the stroke of midnight in order that the minutes (no pun intended) may show that the lodge was, with the turning of the year, reborn and formed anew. Appealing, if gently eccentric, thought Lightfoote when he first heard of it; greatly eccentric, thinks Lightfoote now.

How did Lightfoote hear of the strange and singular Lodge of Sylvester? He'd invited a young fellow called Stacey to join-

him for supper at The Antlers Club and the boy had failed to arrive.

It turned out that Master Stacey had allowed himself to be gulled into viewing some engraved prints of an highly questionable nature in some dungeon in Duke Street, plied with strong drink and induced to purchase a series entitled *Beyond the Pail* or *The Dairymaid Undone*, but I digress. As I loitered in the lobby, I noticed that another lurked likewise.

I didn't recognise him and, on making polite enquiry, discovered that he was a guest who's inviter had failed to make the rendezvous. We shook hands and, in so doing, revealed that each of us was brother to the other. Lightfoote's course was clear, particularly as the supply of juggled hare might at any moment be exhausted: Sir Victor Mortimer became my dining partner.

If one could choose at birth whose snout might sit next to one's own in the trough of life, it would be Mortimer's, for a more amenable tablemate a man could scarce imagine.

The Perfect Guest

He ate hardly a mouthful of meat, sweet, or bread, But he paid close attention to all that I said; Of the wine and the brandy he took scarce two sips, But he chuckled at every one of my quips.

I must gather these verses together at some point; men have made fortunes from lines nowhere near as neat as this: Spenser, for one. Where was I?

Mortimer... By the end of the meal I had gladly accepted his invitation to attend his lodge's installation meeting. The following morning I informed Mrs. Lightfoote, who chuckled not. I was informed that elaborate arrangements were already in place for a lavish, new year celebration. I countered that, with six weeks to go, her plans could hardly be far advanced. I shall not attempt to employ this gambit again.

I was still limping slightly when the cab dropped me off in an alleyway down below The Strand at half past ten on December the thirty-first. There was a sound of revelry that night, as one might imagine, but the silence that enveloped me as I stood before the door of Sylvester's sanctum was positively sepulchral. I raised my hand to knock but the door swung open, groaning, to reveal Sir Victor, smiling and bidding me enter.

Within, the brethren were gathered and ready. I could not help but observe that the lodge appeared to be in need of an injection of new blood; not one of them was under seventy and many were considerably over!

Their manners were courtly but they were all, like Mortimer, pale and wan, even their regalia was worn and threadbare, like those beeswing banners one sees, sad-hanging in cathedral churches.

The lodge was opened in due form and the minutes were read; I wondered when they might last have had an initiate; I wondered, come to that, when last they'd entertained a guest. The current master was absent, on business overseas, apparently, and so a (very) senior past master was to conduct the proceedings.

The ancient, doddering candidate for the master's chair was presented and the ceremony of his installation proceeded accordingly, leading inevitably and inexorably to the crowning moment when he was placed in the Master's chair, at which point a sudden, violent draught extinguished the candles and the room was plunged into utter and profound darkness.

In the silent, breathless moment that followed I heard all the bells of London strike the hour: a new year was born. Flints were struck and wicks relit and my surroundings gradually became visible again. The aged brethren around me smiled indulgently, all was well, and then my gaze fell upon the new master. Seated in Solomon's chair was a boy who looked no older than the aforementioned absentee Stacey.

I blinked and rubbed my eyes but it was no apparition, the face that grinned back at me, and winked, was as smooth and unblemished as that of a Dresden figurine.

As the ceremony proceeded I was struck cold, during the address to the master, by the suggestion that the inferior brethren of the lodge were of too generous a disposition to envy his preferment - or were they merely biding their time.

At the conclusion of the meeting, Mortimer informed me that he was looking forward to his second term as master, in just a few years time. It seems that masters of Sylvester are in the habit of disappearing, following their installation, often going abroad for extended periods, but, my host assured me, they always return, eventually, just as he had.

I have been invited to join this lodge but I am reluctant so to do; the prospect worries me strangely. Perhaps my eyes were playing tricks; perhaps I'm getting old.... If so, so be it.

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER