

THE FREEMASON



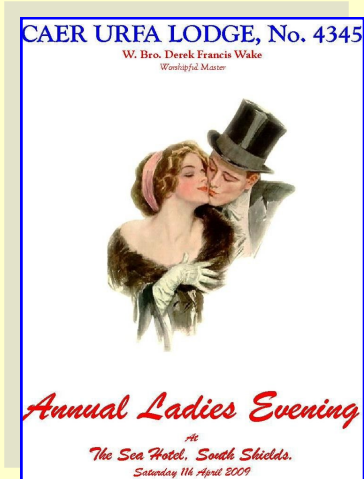
Edition 5

Vol. II

May 2009

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

The 2009 Annual Ladies evening took place on Saturday 11th April 2009, at the Sea Hotel, South Shields, with 95 guests dining.



The evening provided the guests with a superb 3 course meal from a choice of five starters, main course and sweet with tea or coffee afterwards. All the ladies were presented with a jewellery collection gift box containing amongst other items a watch, matching drop earrings, drop pendant necklace and a ring, whilst all the gentlemen and brethren were given a forget-me-not lapel decoration.

The Director of Ceremonies ensured that all were up to speed with what was going on. Following the meal the toast to Her Majesty was given with an unplanned for, rendition of the first verse of the National Anthem thrown in for good measure.

The Ladies of our Worshipful Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens were presented with bouquets.



Following which the Worshipful Master and his Lady, Brenda,

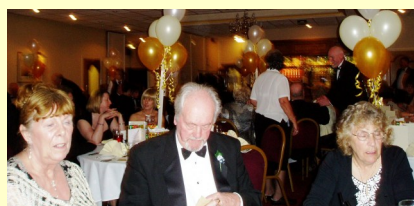
presented Mrs Jean Lawrenson and Mrs Valerie Hamilton with a cheque for £500 to their organisation 'Cancer Connections' based at the Action Station in Boldon Lane, South Shields. Both recipients responded by providing a detailed overview of what their charity does and thanked the Worshipful Master and the Brethren of the Lodge for their generous and welcome donation to help purchase a bungalow to improve their services.



The packed room leaving little room for manoeuvre for our erstwhile and dumbstruck Secretary to eventually deliver the Ladies song unaided this time by his usual prompt cards (bad move) but assisted by Bro Alan Cowell on his super-turbo electronic piano giving out a blistering accompaniment.

The various raffles being completed, the dancing eventually got underway with several performances on the dance floor not too distinct from that witnessed on either come dancing or strictly dancing—however some manoeuvres were straight out of famous films such as Dirty Dancing and one that would have felt at home in either Blazing Saddles or any American cowboy film!

At 1.00pm the evening came to a



close and half an hour later - the last remnants were removed - and we await next years evening - which may be a slightly different affair if not location.

Ladies Night raises money for Masonic & Non-Masonic Charities

Wrekendike Lodge, No. 6401 in South Shields, held a Ladies Festival for the then Worshipful Master, W. Bro Rob Mackins' wife, Nicola. W. Bro Rob and Nicola decided that they would like to use the occasion to raise money for charity.

The evening was a complete success with around one hundred Masonic and Non-Masonic guests in attendance. Entertainment was provided by what has been described as a "dad rock" band, 55° North, and although they were a little louder than most traditional ladies night bands, filled the dance floor for most of their set. A particularly amusing site was seeing masons and their wives dancing to "I predict a riot" by the Kaiser Chiefs.

Funds were raised via a tombola and auction, the prizes having been donated by the Worshipful Master and Brethren of the lodge. The grand total of £1000 was raised on the night, which was donated between the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and South Tyneside Hospital's HeartCall charities, £500 being donated to each. The HeartCall charity funds Heart Monitors for South Tyneside Hospital, and is a charity close to the W. Bro Mackins as both of his parents have benefited from these machines whilst in hospital.



W. Bro Rob Mackins presents a cheque for £500 to the treasurer of the Heart-Call charity, W. Bro Geoff Murdoch

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

FREEMASONS' HALL



MAY 2009

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
				1	2	3 Hadrian Lodge of Instruction (10.30am)
Bank Holiday	4 Hadrian 1970 3rd Degree Past Masters Night	5 Wrekendike 6401 KST	6 Tyne Dock 4218	7	8 Caer Urfa 4345 INSTRUCTION NIGHT SUPPER 2nd Degree Demonstration 7.00pm start	9 St Lawrence Lodge Practice (10.30am)
10 St Hilda 240 3rd Degree	11 The Mariner RAC 3217	12 Caer Urfa 4345 Double 1st Degree Past Masters Night	13 St Lawrence 6402 1st Degree 6.30pm start Election Night (Note change of start time)	14 Rockcliffe RAM 362 Caer Urfa Committee Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction	15	16 FHMC (10.30am) Trinity Sunday
17 St Lawrence Preceptory Westoe Lodge of Instruction	18 Lord Barnard 2935 2nd Degree Arbeia OSM 296	19 Wouldhave Tyne Dock MMM 362	20	21 Hadrian 1970	22 Céilidh	23 24
25 Spring Bank Holiday	26 Caer Urfa 4345 RAC (Note change of date/day) John Readhead Lodge of Instruction	27 Provincial Grand Chapter Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction	28 Hedworth 2418 1st Degree (tbc)	29 St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction	30	31

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

JUNE 2009 - pre-view

Day	Masonic Organisation	No.
1st Monday	John Readhead Lodge	3217
1st Tuesday	Hadrian Lodge	1970
1st Thursday	Tyne Dock Lodge	4218
1st Friday	Westoe Lodge	4750
2nd Monday	St. Hilda Lodge	240
2nd Wednesday	Caer Urfa Lodge	4345
3rd Tuesday	Lord Barnard	2935
3rd Thursday	St Michael and All Angels	891
4th Saturday	Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham	

Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham will be held at the Borough Hall, Hartlepool, on Saturday 27th June 2009 at 10.30am

A Luncheon will be held in the Mayfair, Seaton Carew, at 2.00pm. Applications for tickets, with remittance of £18.00 and S.A.E. (cheques made payable to 'Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham') be sent to W Bro D Bambrough, 5 Dudley Avenue, Fulwell, Sunderland, SR6 8HD. No later than 1st June 2009.

Change of start time for St Lawrence Lodge.
The May meeting for St Lawrence taking place on Thursday 14th May 2009 will see a change of start time from 7.0pm to 6.30pm. It is the 'Election Night' of the W.M. Elect, the Treasurer and other brethren to take positions in the Lodge, it is also a 1st Degree initiation but that will not stop visiting brethren from entering the Lodge at about 7:00pm. if they so wish.

Caer Urfa Lodge are holding their Annual Instruction Lodge Supper on Friday 8th May 2009, the night will commence at 7.00pm in the Temple where the Senior Officer Bro Gary Wilson, SW will officiate proceedings which will take the form of a 2nd Degree, the Festive Board that follows will enable fellow brethren from the Lodge and elsewhere to bring along non-masons. This year the Festive Board will be 'Wrekendike Stew' named after that well know and well loved Lodge of the same name - in fond memory of the stew's first outing earlier this year at the said Lodge! The stew will be accompanied by stottie and butter etc, etc and the bar will be open until 11.00 pm!



Boundary Court is a private retirement housing complex of 48 two bedroom apartments on King-sway in the centre of Bishop Auckland.

A few apartments remain available - further details will be published next month and in Freemasonry Today - Details are also available on the Provincial website;

<http://www.durhamfreemasons.org>

NEW MASTER'S

April saw the celebrated arrival in South Shields of two more new Masters to continue the task of the rejuvenation of their Lodges in particular and Freemasonry in general, and we wish them every success.

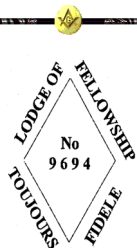
John Readhead Lodge No. 3217

On 6th April 2009 saw the arrival of W Bro Rob Mackins, of his Lodge, John Readhead No. 3217. W Bro Rob is a well known brother within the town and an equally enthusiastic Freemason.



W Bro Rob Mackins,
Master, John Readhead Lodge No. 3217

The Installing officer being W Bro Phillip Stephenson's who following a second year in office, after having presided last year as John Readheads Master, could not stop smiling once the new Master was ensconced into the Chair.



Lodge of Fellowship No. 9694

On the morning of 22th April 2009 W Bro Paul Perkins PPrGSuptWks was installed as Worshipful Master by the Installing Master W Bro Günther Eduard Keller.

W Bro Perkins is also a well known South Shields mason, and a Past Master of several Lodges within and without of the town.

Night at the Races with Lord Barnard



We were all in our starting-boxes for the first race by 8pm on Saturday night. The venue was Ingham street Races and the whole event was in aid of charity. There was a very good crowd on the terraces and the atmosphere was excellent with some 90 in attendance.



While we were enjoying our first drinks and nibbles, the Worshipful Master welcomed everybody and thanked them all for coming to support this evening which had been organised by our Senior Warden with much on the help on the evening from the lodge officers.



On the big screen in the room we could see how the races were to be conducted as ably explained by W. Bro Michael McTavy and W. Bro John Haynes our race masters they were assisted by two lovely ladies who sold the tickets and sorted out the winnings for each race. We each had a race card with 8 races



and 8 horses in each race. The 8 horses had been named by their sponsors, with many crazy names making a sensible choice very difficult. The names were great fun though, especially when you saw which of them won. The first race was soon away and created plenty of noise with "Knacker Ned" romping

home, as a horse with a name like that naturally would!!! The winnings for that race were shared out to all who had picked him.

Things were in full swing very soon, with each race proving how difficult it is to pick a winner!

Everyone enjoyed taking part though



and the room was full of shouts and comments as each race thundered to its inevitable conclusion.

In the interval we enjoyed a pie and pea supper, and more drinks.

The last race was a auction race which



the punters could bid for a horse the bidding was very lively with lots of bids flying across the room. One deluded punter, however, was convinced he could buy a thorough-bred race horse for £ 1.20. After repeated attempts he was finally led away and administered more "Speckled Hen", this cured him thankfully!

The evening concluded with the Raffle,



with lots of prizes, and a lovely assistant calling out each number.

A great night at the races was had by all with many staying right up to the bar closing at 12pm The Worshipful Master closed the evening and announced that the evening had raised the huge amount of £1000 which would be split equally to three charities, one of which would be RMBI and the other two from names picked from the suggestions of our guests.

Bro Martin Schoolkate



**A Centenary History
of Hedworth Lodge No. 2418
1891–1991**

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

Part Four

**I. THE NORTH EAST CORNER 1891-1921
The officers and management of the Lodge**

Certain pieces of the Lodge regalia were donated during this period: the Master's snuff box by Bro Appleby in 1892; the Lodge banner by W Bro Nelson in 1897 to commemorate the sixtieth year of Victoria's reign; the charity plate by Bro Willis in 1905 on his installation, and still offered to candidates to-day; the silver heads of the Deacons' wands, by two brethren who chose to remain anonymous.

It was a period of steady growth, with the number of candidates each year seldom falling below fifteen. Despite cordial relations with the other lodges of the town, there were signs that the accommodation available at Ingham Street was not always equal to the number and sizes of lodges as masonry expanded in South Shields.

In 1904 the move of Lord Barnard Lodge to the Whitehead Street Temple, Tyne Dock, clearly illustrated this expansive mood. The management experience of the Lodge and its financial strength were such as to provide for a bold and lastingly significant development, the move to Westoe, and the bringing into use of a third Masonic hall.

Financial management and contact with the wider craft

Hedworth Lodge had grown out of Hilda and Hadrian, and was for many years a tenant lodge in Ingham Street. The rent, first set at £10 per annum by 1895 had been raised to £20, with a further increase to £25 proposed for 1896. It had been anticipated that as the Lodge grew so would its funding and its ability to defray some of the Ingham Street costs. After 1897, when balance sheets were first sent to all members, it is possible to see how the lodge funds were built up and applied. In 1900 the annual subscription was one guinea and the balance of funds stood at £24. By 1917, with the same annual subscription but a membership increased from 78 to 236, the balance had reached £700. In 1921, with a membership of 341, invested funds stood at £1024, capital well beyond the immediate needs of the Lodge, capital enough to consider a move to Westoe.

Throughout the period contact with other lodges, including those outside of the Borough, was maintained through fraternal visits, first advertised in the lodge circular of May 1892, and subsequently regularly advised with the attendant transport arrangements. From 1895 a yearly visit from Province was taken as a matter of form, and the Lodge was fully involved in 1903 and 1920 when the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held in South Shields. The growth of the Lodge, in terms of members and funds, made possible its own contribution to the spread of masonry.

The Hedworth Royal Arch Chapter was formed in January 1912, and a daughter lodge, Caer Urfa, consecrated in November 1921, on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of Hedworth. Caer Urfa later chose to remain in Ingham Street, indicating the strength of old loyalties.

The impact of national events: the war years

When, in May 1897, Bro J. B. Nelson presented the Lodge with its first banner, he commented that the year was also that of the Queen's Jubilee tangible reminder of the mason's obligation to work in harmony with the nation's heritage. In the early days there was a particularly wide base Lodge charity. Hedworth responded to needs generated by Masonic brother by the local community and by wider national developments.

The first recorded charitable donations, made in February 1895, were £51 to the Mayor's Relief Fund and £5 to aged freemasons and their widows. 1895 ten guineas were donated to the Ingham Infirmary, two guineas to Indigent Sick Society, and thirty guineas to Masonic charities. At the time the Boer War, from fairly limited reserves, the Lodge contributed £5 each to the local Reservists Fund and to South African Masonic Relief, plus ten guineas to the Mayor's Fund for Shoeless Children. In May of 1912 guineas were raised for a fund associated with the Titanic disaster.



THE LAST ABLE CRANE

S.R.Hagan

*There's little chance of another keel being laid,
On the river where the mighty were made,
Where the huge and the sleek and the needed and unique
Once grew every week on the Tyne*

*There's little chance for the thousands of men,
For bringing skill's to the son's who'll follow them,
'Cause the last has been born and there's nowt for the morn'
No hooters at dawn on the Tyne*

*They sold-off the last chance to retain,
When unbolted, the last able Crane,
Was despatched to deliver on an Indian river
You can now feel a shiver on the Tyne*

*I watched some men remember and cry,
When those great Swann-Hunter Cranes were floated by,
Their tomorrow was now gone, prospects are now none
What will now become of the Tyne?*

*There's little chance of another keel being laid,
On the river where gone is the trade,
Where the artisan and meek are retrained to be geek,
One grows every week on the Tyne*

DURHAM MASONIC GOLF COMPETITION

The annual competition for the **RAVENSWORTH GOLF CHALLENGE TROPHY** will be held at Woodham Golf & Country Club, on Friday 12th June 2009. Tee times are reserved from 1pm to 2pm.

The format will be in pairs on a "Fourball, Better-Ball, Stableford" basis with full handicaps up to a maximum of 24.

Applications are invited from Brethren to represent their Lodge, Chapter etc, as a pair.

Concurrently, there will be an individual competition which will allow Brethren who are unable to find a partner from within their Lodge etc to join us for an excellent day's golf. This will also be on a Stableford basis, full handicap, with a maximum of 24. All players are automatically included in this.

There will be coffee/tea on arrival, and the golf will be followed at about 6-30/7pm by a 2-course meal, the presentation of prizes, and a raffle. (Dress: smart casual)

The cost for the whole day is £32 per person. For further information, and extra application forms, contact:

W Bro Allan Gurney
07802-700423 (mobile);
0191-581-3464 (work).

An answer-phone is available on both numbers.
Closing date for entries is : Saturday, 6th June 2009
A copy of the application form has also been issued to Lodge Secretaries.