

THE FREEMASON



Edition 2

Vol. III

February 2010

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

Westoe Lodge's February meeting set for Monday 22nd February has been moved to Saturday 6th March commencing at 5pm.

This is to allow a demonstration of the Scottish 3rd Degree to be performed by Lodge Hope Bridge Castle No 827.

Tickets will be priced at £7.00. Anyone who wishes to go can contact W Bro Phil Heppell, Master; at his email address philheppell1@sky.com or when he is visiting.

So don't turn up at the hall on Monday 22nd February unless you are a fan of the Karate

Westoe intend to limit the tickets to 100. The Lodge is also holding a race night on Sat 20th March commencing at 7pm. Tickets will be priced at £6.00 with bar open until midnight.



St George's Evening

Arrangements are now in place to celebrate our patron saint's day.

The event is sponsored by The Caer Urfa Lodge and will take place on Friday 23rd April 2010 at Freemason's Hall, South Shields. Tickets will be on sale shortly and it is hoped that we hit the capacity of the hall as well as having a really great night! - hopefully we will be able to locate the flags that once adorned the Festive Board room and get them dusted off.

The South Shields Freemason's Club

There have been many attempts over the last decade with the last being early 2009, to re-introduce the club set up as part of the hall and open to all masons who are members of lodges and side degrees resident in the hall.

Its earlier history was as part of the second renovation of the building in 1925 when the building was extended and new club rooms built some of which are now set aside as the small temple and Danny Dunleavy suite, leaving only the bar area.

Since mid January the club has re-opened and despite bad weather the attendance has continued to increase and an added opening time of a Sunday afternoon being introduced to reflect that interest, pickles

and snacks are set out, non masons, wives and partners are welcome but like all regulated clubs they need to sign in and be sponsored by a mason of the hall, children however cannot be present in the bar area.

The next opening night will be this Friday and it is hoped that even more masons and their friends attend thereby provide a social environment where brethren can relax and have a convivial drink in a welcoming environment amongst likeminded people and as a secondary aspect utilise your building more and generate income that can only improve its surroundings and services.

On a **Sherlock Holmes** note can anyone direct the Steward to the brand new darts board paid for by the Hall Committee please.

Ataste of Texan Freemasonry is coming to the Province of Durham, sanctioned by UGLE when the first UK branch of an American Lodge launches in the UK.

The Texas Lodge of Research will have a branch at Chester-le-Street, when, at the first meeting on Saturday 13 March the Worshipful Master will come from Texas for the inauguration.

Meetings will then be held on Saturdays following the following four dates; 4th July; 4th Thursday in November; January 19th and 2nd March - all dates special to Texas

Less formal than our traditional meetings, the festive board will be a fun time with wives, friends etc invited to enjoy a good Texas/cowboy evening together, having country & western groups, 'western' food & special entertainment pertinent to that part of the world

Visitors will be welcomed, especially those who are not masons, in the hope it may encourage them to a future in craft masonry

All members of the branch will become formal members of the Texas Lodge of Research in America and, after inauguration, membership of the branch will be by invitation only.

There will be a limited number of tickets available for the inauguration festive board where wives and friends will all be welcome to a great cowboy night.

Tickets are first come first served at £8 each to include dinner (black tie) and entertainment.

Any Freemason interested in becoming a Founder member or requiring further information should contact WBro Dr Alan Bell by email on: abell@criticalstrategy.com

The Magic Of Music and Dance



An evening of spectacular entertainment for all the family is to be held at the Customs House, South Shields on Tuesday 13th April 2010. The show "The Magic of Music and Dance" has been produced by Karen Shiel of the Karen Shiel School of Dance and her husband W Bro Mark Smith, the current Worshipful Master of Nautilus Lodge No 4259 to raise funds for the PGL Durham 2010 festival for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Featuring some of the North East's most talented performers with children from three local dance schools, Karen Shiel school of Dance from Sunderland, Kirsty Ann Tokell School of Dance from Boldon and Rachel Coad School of Dance from Darlington as well as Sunderland AFC's dancing fan and winner of Soccer AM's dance off The Mackem Mover, local singing duo Fiktion and young vocal sensation Miss Stephanie Peacock

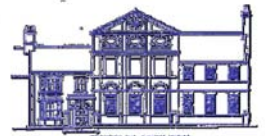
With fabulous costumes, stunning vocals and entertaining choreography this show has something for everyone and all in a good cause.

Tickets are only £8 each and available now by calling the Customs House box office on 0191 4541234 or Visit the Customs House Website at <http://www.customshouse.co.uk>

Mark has set up a website dedicated to the show so either visit www.2010show.webs.com or ring him on 07988 853550 for more details
Mark Smith email: mgsparkyuk@hotmail.co.uk

FREEMASONS' HALL

FEBRUARY 2010



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
John Readhead Lodge No. 3217 1st Degree Karate	Hadrian Lodge No. 1970 1st Degree Karate	Wrekendike Lodge No. 6401 (Installation)	Tyne Dock Lodge No. 4218 2nd Degree	Caer Urfa Lodge Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club		St Lawrence 6042 Practice (10.30am) Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
St Hilda Lodge No. 240 2nd Degree Karate	Westoe Lodge Rehearsal & Committee	Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345 1st & 2nd Degree Karate	St Lawrence Lodge No. 6042 1st / 2nd Degree	Caer Urfa Committee Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club		Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
St. Lawrence Rose Croix No. 293 (Installation) Karate	Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2395 3rd Degree Karate	St Hilda RAC No. 240 Wrekendike Lodge of Instruction	St. Michael & All Angels Rose Croix No. 891 (Installation)	Hedworth Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club		FHMC (10.30am) Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
	John Readhead Lodge of Instruction Karate Hadrian Lodge Committee	Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction & Committee Karate	Hedworth Lodge No. 2418 (Installation)	St Hilda Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club		Hadrian Lodge 1970 Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm

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

Day and months of meetings of Masonic Organisations at Freemason's Hall

ORGANISATION	DAY	MONTHS	INSTALLATION
John Readhead Lodge No. 3217	1st Mon	Mar, Apr, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	April
Hadrian Lodge No. 1970	1st Tue	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	November
Wrekendike Lodge No. 6401	1st Wed	Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	February
Tyne Dock Lodge No. 4218	1st Thu	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	March
St Hilda Lodge No. 240	2nd Mon	All	December
Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345	2nd Wed	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	November
St Lawrence Lodge No. 6042	2nd Thu	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Oct, Dec.	October
Lord Barnard Lodge No. 2935	3rd Tue	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Jun, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	October
Hedworth Lodge No. 2418	Last Thu	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov, Dec.	February
Lodge of Fellowship No. 9694	4th Wed *	Apr, Jul, Aug & Oct (10.30am)*	April
Westoe Lodge No. 4750	Last Mon	Jan, Feb, Mar, Apr, May, Sep, Oct, Nov.	October
Mariner Royal Arch Chapter No. 3217	2nd Tue	Mar, May, Sep & Nov.	March
St Hilda Royal Arch Chapter No. 240	3rd Wed	Feb, Apr, Oct & Dec.	October
Caer Royal Arch Chapter No. 4345	4th Wed	Jan, Mar, May, Sep & Nov.	January
Wouldhave Tyne Dock Lodge No. 362 of Mark Master Masons	3rd Wed	Mar, May, Sep & Nov.	March
St. Lawrence Lodge No. 1093 of Mark Master Masons	3rd Thu in Mar, 4th Mon in Jun & 2nd Thurs in Nov		March
Rockcliffe Lodge No. 362 of Royal Arch Mariners	3rd Fri	Mar, May, Sep & Nov.	March
St. Lawrence Preceptory No. 275	3rd Mon	Jan, Mar (Malta), May & Nov.	January
St. Lawrence Rose Croix No. 293	3rd Mon	Feb, Apr, Oct & Dec.	February
St. Michael & All Angels Rose Croix No. 891	3rd Thu *	Feb, Apr, Jun, & 2nd Thu* in Sep.	February
Arbeia Conclave No. 296 of the Order of the Secret Monitor	3rd Tue	Mar, May, Sep & Nov.	September

ALL OUR ANCESTORS

W Bro David Dunn has again been busying himself researching and photographing various Masonic memorials in our local graveyards and came across the following .

A GENTLEMAN FREEMASON

JOHN HARRISON BARNES

John was initiated into Tyne Dock Lodge No 4218 on 4th October 1956 Occupation - Carpenter.. He was passed on 3rd October 1957 and raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason on 5th December 1957.



John was Installed as Master of Tyne Dock Lodge in March 1966. In 1995 he was honoured with the Provincial Rank of PPrGReg.

John took over as Director of Ceremonies in 1992 a position he enjoyed, ensuring that all ritual was delivered correctly and that the ceremony ran smoothly.

He was exalted into Tyne Dock Chapter on 27th September 1960 and was Installed as 1st Principal on 24th March 1998 and in 2004 he was given the rank of PPrGSwdB.

John was a very competent cornet player and an active member of Harton Colliery Band, he was also a founder of the South Shields Cricket Club where his son, Steven, is the chairman.

John, or 'Whistler' as I knew him, as when he went to his allotment he travelled through the cemetery and down Mitchell Gardens whistling marching tunes as loud as he could in all weathers, we eventually came to an understanding that if my bedroom curtains were closed John would stop his whistling in Mitchell Gardens and resume when he was half way down my street, I could still hear him.

John took on the role of Master of Mortimer Road Allotments as a number of masons had gardens there and John would always be asking questions. In 1996 John was awarded the M.B.E. for services to the Port of Tyne Authority. John died in 2004 aged 76yrs, and is sadly missed by all that knew him.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Denis Lascelles and his Director of Ceremonies visited Caer Urfa Lodge in January to attend a double 1st degree and to present



the Worshipful Master, W Bro Gary Wilson with a 60 year membership certificate for Bro William Coser Stewart who was unable to be in attendance, the Worshipful Master will be taking the Certificate for presentation to Bro Stewart who lives in Kent at the soonest opportunity, and any brother willing and able to accompany him should let him know as soon as possible.

A cross the Border

Nine trusty brethren of three South Shields Lodges travelled 159.6 miles (Sat Nav) to the 'small town' of Falkirk across the Hadrian Wall into bonny Scotland, to visit Lodge St John Slamannan to witness not just a Scottish version of a 3rd degree but also a unique opening of a Lodge which needs to be seen to take in its depth of Masonic stricture.



Having been to a few Scottish Lodges one is always impressed by the word perfect and ceremonial exposition of ritual that is carried by the youngest and oldest of their members, however dependent upon which part you are in this beautiful land will depend if you can fully understand the 'English' spoken as dialects change dramatically!

The welcome is excellent as is usual in the best of Masonic Lodges and one that should be franchised to others, feeling at home came quickly and the night progressed.

The four candidates one wearing a pink shirt..... I have to admit I sometimes can never understand the differences in dress code given our English mode of dress, but nevertheless its owner seemed to be more than up for the 'adventure' that awaited him, and his

continuous smile throughout the ceremony and after which will continue to perplex me, or does he just have one of those faces?



The lodge progressed into the work of the third degree and the four candidates suitably attired were put through their 'paces' and I don't use that word lightly as I have to admit that at times my hands came to my face in a motion likened to 'shock'?



The dramatic ceremony enacted by the officers of the Lodge surely impressed upon the candidates the hideous nature by which our Grand Master met his death and will definitely stay within their memories for quite sometime, though the exertions upon their stamina and physical wellbeing should last for say..... a week at least?.



W Bro Norman Dunn having already presented a gift of Durham Cufflinks to W Bro Michael Grover of Lodge Dolphin 911, a very good visitor to South Shields Lodges, similarly surprised the Right Worshipful Master of Lodge St John Slamannan, who as you can see above was as they say 'gobsmacked'.

The night was so good and so profound that one of our members has now applied to join, but does he know the joining member ritual that he will face, but then a week later..... to those trying to guess he is the one with the bow tie next to the brother with a ripped shirt, I'm still puzzled how that happened?.....

60 Year Membership



BROTHER LIGHTFOOTE'S JOURNAL

The Recollections of an Eighteenth-Century Gentleman of the Craft

Saint Andrew, as I've said before, is a great favourite of mine; I named a son after him, so I did. It is recorded that he was Our Lord's first disciple, a fisherman by trade, who, when summoned, didn't simply abandon all and follow, but ran and told his brethren.

By his actions, the saint demonstrated two of the traits that Lightfoote most admires in a man: he failed to do as he was told and succeeded in spreading joy, for when offered a great gift – the greatest gift of all – his first thought was to share it. I bless his name whenever there's fish on the table and I never get gut rot!

Note: the best accompaniments to fish, I find, are the white wines of Burgundy, but if these are not available, ale will suffice. Raw fillets of herring, flamed in gin, is a quite spectacular appetiser, but perhaps not for those of a delicate constitution.



A candidate for initiation has been proposed in the Stonic Lodge and this has caused great consternation. His name is Andrews, Nathaniel Andrews, and he is a rat catcher by trade. When his curriculum vitae was read out by his proposer, a fishmonger, there was a distinct and uncomfortable stirring in the ranks.

A brother who considers himself a gentleman, but is, in fact, a lawyer, raised objection on the grounds that having a rat catcher in the lodge might lower the tone of our proceedings.

Nathaniel's seconder, a wheelwright, countered that, though rat catching was unquestionably a dirty job, someone had to do it.

The lawyer, with all the insolence of his office, observed that no-one had to be a rat catcher. Had this fellow, he enquired, been dragooned into service? Did there exist a verminous equivalent of the press gang – the rat pack, perhaps?

No, Master Andrews had elected to be a rat catcher; he could have been a fishmonger, or a wheelwright, or a butcher or a baker or a candlestick maker, but rat catching was his chosen profession, and thus it was acceptable to choose to despise him for it. Laughter ensued.

Lightfoote rose.

I enquired of the fishmonger as to whether Nathaniel was a family man. I was informed that he had a wife and two strapping sons, all three of whom he kept in warmth and comfort and always fed with fish on Fridays.

Next, I asked the wheelwright if he knew what the rat catcher did on Sundays and was informed that he and his family, all impeccably dressed, drove to church in a dog cart (perfect in all its parts, esp. the wheels) where they furnished the choir with a soprano, and alto, a tenor and a bass. I observed that this gentleman – and I laid stress on the word – seemed to me to exemplify domestic harmony, and got a laugh livelier than the lawyer's!

The wheelwright saw fit to add that his friend was also an accomplished player on the bassoon. I was constrained to concede that none of us is perfect. This reduced the brethren to incontinent mirth.

Lightfoote came to the point: **rats**.

Rats are a plague on this city. Rats, some say, brought the Great Plague and this was only purged in the Great Fire. He who toils to rid us of such a pestilence must therefore be considered a Great Man, who does a greater service to the populace than most lawyers (on reflection, 'most' is superfluous).



Consider this: as we are not all operative masons, but rather free and accepted, or speculative, might we not ponder the possibility of free and accepted rat catchers and, indeed, speculative rats? Intolerance, injustice, intemperance and insolence are spread, like the foulest canker, from the middens of mean minds to infect humanity at large? Who resists? Who remains steadfast in the faith? Who cuts off the tales of those that tell tales and holds tight to the truth? We do, brethren. Thus are we rat catchers all, are we not?

There was silence in the House of judgement.

Nathaniel Andrew has been accepted as a candidate for initiation and I am confident that he will be an ornament to the lodge and a handy fellow to know if one has an infestation – and who among us doesn't, from time to time?

I've done a ditty:

In his rat catcher's breeches and rat catcher's hat; Behold now our brother: the rat catcher, Nat. Not one of life's loafers but one of its doers;

He toils in the gutters, he delves in the sewers. In the damp and the darkness he fights the good fight, To arise, from the mire, in triumph, to light

And so to the herrings, flamed in gin, and good night's sleep, if the two be not mutually exclusive.

STOP PRESS

Hi everybody, We had the most unbelievable night at Spice 1 ! A 100% turnout. I would like to thank everyone who came along and supported the night. Woodface were incredible, and thanks to Shah and all the boys for making it a memorable night. we raised £1300 for *Children Today*. Another fundraising event will take place at Spice 1 on 7th April, more info next month PLUS pics from this event.

W Bro Duncan Turnbull