

THE FREEMASON



Edition 3

Vol. III

March 2010

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

NEW MASTER

Over the last month the Masonic world in South Shields celebrated the arrival of another new Master tasked with the leadership and rejuvenation of their Lodge in particular and Freemasonry in general, and we wish Him every success.



On Thursday 25th February Bro John Wood SWME was expertly installed into the Chair of King Solomon of Hedworth Lodge No. 3218 by W Bro W Bro Ernest Dockwray, PM, PPrGSwdB

W Bro Malcolm Donald Ormiston, PAGDC, PPrJGW represented the Provincial Grand Master and ably accompanied by his acting ProvDC W Bro Lee Taylor, PPrGSTwd.

The South Shields Freemason's Club

The club continues to attract brethren from Lodges within and from outside of the hall, the last three Friday's have seen the introduction of brain challenging quizzes by W Bro Norman Dunn and recently from Bro Phil Brown's impromptu quiz left St Hilda/Hadrian Lodge outright winners

A free curry and rice has usually been supplied by the Jaiho restaurant in Ocean Road with only a request to those enjoying it to donate to a charitable fund, last Friday the Jaiho curry was replaced by a Spicy Chow Mein prepared by our trained chef and Steward Bro Alan Cowell, thankfully the prawn crackers greatly assist the cooling down of the tongue as its was more fiery than a spicy Chow Mein, but thankfully received regardless.

So popular has the club been that efforts will now be made to introduce higher quality

beers and lagers.

The Sunday afternoon introduced to reflect that interest, with pickles and snacks are set out, were guests of masons, 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. Last month we asked if there was a *Sherlock Holmes* who could direct the Steward to the halls darts board. The plea falling on deaf ears a new board as well as a pool table has now been donated.

A proposal to appoint Bro Martin Schoolkate as a co-opted member to carry out the archiving of all the documents, books and pictures lying around in the many rooms of the hall was put forward and accepted at the last FHMC Committee, Bro Peter Chapman a member of Hadrian Lodge had already pledged a PC for Martins' use and the only other outlay will likely be a flatbed scanner, and Bro Stobbs of St Lawrence Lodge offered to provide this, this was gratefully accepted.



Bro Schoolkate

The work itself could have positive outcomes for the hall in that the many artefacts could be exhibited as it would appear that only upstairs do we have items on show, and possibly the room the FHMC meet in could house some of the exhibits with the use of wall shelving.

Bro Schoolkate will be often found at the desk in the Candidates room where the computer and scanner will be set up soon, this initiative has seemed to have been a welcome arrival for the hall committee with many brethren expressing their delight.

If you would like to help Bro Schoolkate identify some of the excellent though 'buried' treasures around the hall please contact him.

RACE NIGHT.

The event is sponsored by The Westoe Lodge and will take place on Saturday 20th March 2010 at Freemason's Hall, South Shields. Tickets will be priced at £6.00 with bar open until midnight.

Lodge donation is a boost for charity



KIND-hearted Freemasons have been lending a helping hand in South Tyneside.

St Hilda Lodge No 240 has donated £500 from its charity coffers to the National Association of Colitis and Crohn's Disease.

The cash boost is part of a plethora of donations the lodge hands over every year.

The National Association has particular relevance to the lodge, as member Michael Chatt suffers from colitis, an inflammation of the colon.

Don Fraser, master of the lodge, said: "The Grand Lodge of England handed over £30,000 to the Red Cross the day after the Haiti disaster and locally we regularly help out individuals and groups.

"Last year we helped fund a lady's trip to South America, where she was supporting people with learning difficulties.

"Michael is the caretaker at Harton Technology College and he's trying to raise public awareness of the association.

"He and his friend, Mark Thompson, took part in the Boxing Day dip at Shields last year, raising another £1,000 for the association."

The St Hilda's Lodge is one of 11 Freemasons' Lodges based our hall.

W Bro Fraser added: "Stephen Conn, a member of the Lord Barnard Lodge and its Charity Steward, also has a son who suffers from colitis.

"Aside from the charity efforts, we're also planning an open day in the near future, and will be inviting the public to come along to meet us and see what we are all about."

THE REAL SECRET OF
FREEMASONRY
MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER

FREEMASONS' HALL

MARCH 2010



Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
John Readhead 1 Lodge No. 3217 2nd Degree (4345) Karate	Hadrian Lodge 2 No. 1970 3rd Degree Karate	Wrekendike 3 Lodge No. 6401 2nd Degree (4345)	Tyne Dock 4 Lodge No. 4218 (Installation) W Bro TREVOR CHARLES MURRAY, PPrGSwdB	Caer Urfa Lodge 5 Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club Karate	Westoe Lodge 6 No. 4750 5.00pm Start Lodge Hope Bridge Castle No 827	St Lawrence 6042 Practice (10.30am) Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
St Hilda Lodge 8 No. 240 3rd Degree Karate	Mariner RAC 9 No. 3217	Caer Urfa Lodge 10 No. 4345 1st Degree Karate	St Lawrence 11 Lodge No. 6042 2nd Degree	Caer Urfa 12 Committee Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club Karate		Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
St. Lawrence 15 Preceptory 275 (Malta) Karate	Lord Barnard 16 Lodge No. 2395 3rd Degree Arbeia OSM 296	Wouldhave 17 Tyne Dock Mark (Installation) Wrekendike Lodge of Instruction Karate	St Lawrence 18 Mark 1093 (Installation)	Rockcliffe 19 Lodge RAM 362 (Installation) Karate	Westoe Lodge 20 No. 4750 Race Night 7.00pm Start	FHMC (10.30am) 21 Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
Westoe Lodge Rehearsal & Committee 22 Karate	John Readhead Lodge of 23 Instruction Hadrian Lodge Committee	Caer Urfa RAC 24 No. 4345 Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction & Committee Karate	Hedworth 25 Lodge No. 2418	St Hilda Lodge of 26 Instruction Freemasons' Club Karate		Hadrian Lodge 1970 27 Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club 12—3.00pm
Westoe Lodge 29 No. 4750	John Readhead 30 Lodge No. 3217 (Installation) Bro ROBERT ALLAN FORD SWME	Hadrian Lodge 1970 31 FGPC				

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



Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham

2010 RMBI Festival Dinner

You will be well aware that the 2010 RMBI Festival Dinner is to be held at Rainton Meadows Arena, Houghton-le-Spring on Thursday 23rd September 2010.

Planning for this Event is now well advanced and we now need to have some idea of the number of Brethren and their Wives / Partners who may wish to attend this function.

It is anticipated that the Event will accommodate up to 700 people and as it is the climax of 6 years hard work it could well be over subscribed. It is to be organised with the overall objective being one of high quality Food, Service and Hospitality, which we hope will ensure that the Province of Durham will again be seen to have achieved high standards.

Of course, with high standards comes higher than normal costs and the Ticket price, though not yet finalised, is expected to be in the region of £45 to £50 per person. Full details of the evening will be circulated in early April.

It will be of tremendous assistance to the Organisers of this function, if anyone who is interested in attending can forward their name to the Treasurer of the 2010 Festival Dinner, before the end of March. His details are :

Mr Nigel I Foster

E-Mail : niffoster@hotmail.com

1, Ashcroft Road, Darlington. DL3 8PD

Please note that this information does not place any obligation or guarantee to supply tickets but should be seen as an expression of interest and no more.

MASONIC TRAINING AND EDUCATION COMMITTEE

A Seminar for Wardens and Deacons entitled

"Preparing for the Chair"
will be held at

the Masonic Hall, Station Road, Shiney Row,
Houghton-le-Spring, DH4 7PQ
on Tuesday, 18th May 2010
commencing at 7.00 pm.

Tea/Coffee will be available from 6.30 pm.

The evening will consist of discussing the roles of Wardens before and after they become Worshipful Masters of their respective Lodges. These discussions will cover the many and often overlooked aspects leading to the Chair and beyond.

If you wish to attend, please fill in the pro forma issued to your Lodge Secretary and return it to Provincial Office no later than Friday, 30th April 2010. Please note that the number of places is limited and early application is therefore advised. If you do not hear to the contrary, we shall expect to see you at the Seminar.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

J. Bryan Scott, Chairman, MTEC

Mentoring Workshops

A series of Mentoring Workshops have been planned at the following venues:-

Monday 29th March at Gateshead Masonic Hall

Wednesday 14th April at Stockton Masonic Hall

Monday 19th April at Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall

Wednesday 28th April at Durham Masonic Hall

All the meetings will run from 7.00 – 9.00pm.

The agenda is to share good practice, practice listening skills, assess where we are with regard to mentoring as a Lodge and as a Province and to plan further activities.

I do hope that Lodge Mentoring Co-ordinators, Lodge Mentors and anyone interested in becoming a Mentor will attend as it will be good to come together as a mentoring 'community'. The Provincial Mentoring Advisers will be in attendance.

I will also feed back from the recent Mentoring Conference held at Grand Lodge on February 10th.

There is no need to book, just turn up on the night. If you cannot make the meeting in your own Area then feel free to attend one of the others.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

A.Keith Robinson, Prov. G. Mentor

TLC Teddies Project

Thank you all for your continued and generous support of Teddies for Loving Care. We are now into the fifth year of the TLC project in the Province of Durham and it continues to be a great success, with over 26,000 teddies having been distributed to the eight A&E hospitals. In other words, more than 26,000 injured and distressed children have been comforted and treated with a TLC Teddy in our Province.

As you will know, the scheme is funded entirely through the generous support of brethren and lodges on a continuous basis and the contributions for this year are now needed. If you have already donated, or have made arrangements to do so during this year, please accept our grateful thanks on behalf of the children and the hospitals. If you have not done so, may I request that you send the form obtainable from your Lodge Secretary with your donation, preferably £40 minimum, to Provincial Office. Please feel free to send more if you are able to offer greater support. **Every pound buys one teddy.**

May I thank you in advance for your kind help.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Harry Norman, Chairman

HAITI APPEAL

You will be well aware of the desperate situation facing hundreds of thousands of people in Haiti, following the recent earthquake.

The Grand Charity, on behalf of all Freemasons, made an initial donation of £30k to the Red Cross the day after the disaster occurred, in order to assist with blankets, tents, water and other essential items.

The Grand Charity has also opened a Relief Chest so that individuals or Lodges can make a donation to the Fund.

To further support this Disaster Appeal, The Provincial Grand Master is suggesting that Lodges might like to consider donating the proceeds of a Raffle, in the next few months, to this most worthwhile cause. Any Lodge desirous of taking up the suggestion can either send the proceeds direct to Grand Charity, or alternatively they can forward the donation to Provincial Office who will then send it on to The Grand Charity.

Yours Sincerely & Fraternally

G Rumford, PGSec

Duncan Turnbull Kilimanjaro Trek Charity Fund Raising Night Wednesday 7th April 2010

At
Spice
featuring
David Taylor
Winner of the 2009 British Isles Close-up Magician of the year
Member of the Magic Circle

Start 7pm activities meal raffles
Ticket £20

1 South Avenue, South Shields, Tyne & Wear, NE34 6QZ

Hi everybody, We had the most unbelievable night at Spice 1 in January with 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 at Spice 1.



We raised £1300 for **Children Today**. Can I ask those that were there to give me feed back.



The next night on the blocks is the 7th April and we'll be back at Spice1, a fantastic night is lined up with the amazing no the unbelievable!, no the stupendous , the



incredulous **David Taylor** tickets priced the same as before and early application is advised for what should prove to be another cracker of a night
Thanks again!

W Bro Duncan Turnbull, Westoe Lodge No.4750



BROTHER LIGHTFOOTE'S JOURNAL

The Recollections of an Eighteenth-Century Gentleman of the Craft

DATE: November 13th, 1785 Feast of Saint Homobonus

WEATHER: Chill

OUTLOOK: Warming

Homobonus, as his name implies, was a good man. Trained by his father in the craft of tailoring, he earned an enviable reputation for skill, precision and integrity. He never cut corners, neither did he pad his part – or his accounts.

On top of his professional probity he was renowned for his piety, his generosity in alms giving and his care for the needy and the sick. During the Gloria at Mass, on this day in 1197, he stretched forth his arms like Christ crucified and fell dead. He is the patron of Cremona, though he was never guilty of fiddling.

I have always felt uncomfortable in the company of fellows who are too well groomed. Beardless youths may be excused their indulgence in peacock displays but primping and preening are unseemly in a man. Lightfoote spends little time before his looking-glass; he has better things to do.

It is now thirty years since I was initiated into the Stonic Lodge. It had been my father's Lodge and it saddens me still that he never lived to see me enlightened in it. I console myself with the wearing of his apron.

I suppose that one could say, without fear of contradiction, that it has seen better days, as have we all, but I live in hope – nay, I am firmly confident – that it shall see better days yet, if only when worn by another. It's a little ragged around the edges, it might even be described as grubby, but it is, after all, work clothing: artisan's attire.

A brace of my brethren – brothers by blood as well as by bond, builders by trade as well as by predilection! – appeared at our last meeting most splendidly attired. Their lambskin, as if purged by hyssop, was whiter than snow, their satin shone like spun glass and their gold thread glittered like the sun itself.

Verily, Solomon is all his glory was not arrayed like one of these and great was the interest shown in their finery.



Lightfoote remained aloof as the origin of these remarkable garments was discussed. They had been “designed” and produced, using locally sourced materials, by messrs. Oistrach and Katz of Whitechapel. Sewn into the lining of each apron was an embroidered label which read “Dressing the Discerning: OK” They had cost fifteen shillings each.

Lightfoote could remain aloof no longer! I remember the days when, for fifteen shillings, a man could indulge in a long, liquid lunch in St. James's, sleep it off at the opera, have dinner in St. Martin's Lane, stroll up into Soho to seek further diversion, should he be up to it, and still have change for a sedan chair home.

When the suggestion was put forward that, were the entire Lodge to be OK equipped, the price would drop to ten shillings – a substantial discount! – Lightfoote felt obliged to intervene. There are twenty-nine members of the Stonic Lodge; twenty-nine times ten shillings equals fourteen pounds ten, a sum of money that would clothe the orphans of the parish for a year! There was silence in the House of Judgement.

The brethren, especially the two with the new pinafores, looked crestfallen. Lightfoote felt a pang of guilt. Had he been a little hard? Had he been a little self-righteous? Pompous? A canting old hypocrite? What would his father have said? Dear me... Lightfoote, albeit with the best of intentions, had been disputatious, and we all know whither that may lead. A solution had to be found.

A voice whispered in his ear. Beam-

ing, I addressed my sullen brethren. My father, I informed them, would be pleased that I was wearing his badge but sad that it was shabby. I would therefore be happy to purchase and OK apron, for ten shillings, but only on the understanding that I would deposit a like sum with the treasurer towards a Christmas box for the Lodge's widows and assistance to the local poor. Better still, I would make the total up to a guinea in order to demonstrate that a mason, when he can, will always put others above himself, after which I would wear my new apron with satisfaction, pride being a sin. Wisdom in judgement, Strength of purpose and Beauty in adornment would all be demonstrated at once.

Motion carried nem con. Now we all feel good because we have done good and we look good into the bargain.

Everything is OK.

*There was a young fellow of fashion
Whose spending on clothes knew no ration.
He insisted on breeches
With very tight stitches
He looks lithe but I'm told he lacks passion.*

STOP PRESS

Just in case nobody has realised but the next meeting of the John Readhead Lodge No. 3217 will be on Tuesday 30th March 2010 this replaces the April meeting because of the Easter Monday, this will also be the Installation of Bro Robert Allan Ford, Senior Warden in Charge - Master Elect

The Editor