

The *South Shields* Freemason

Freemasons' Hall, South Shields.

**SUMMER
2011**



Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham



W Bro Alan Atkinson, W Bro Paul Lansdell and W Bro Norman Dunn

The Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge of Durham was held at the 'Borough Hall, The Headlands, Hartlepool, on Saturday 25th June 2011. With 1081 brethren seated, the Provincial Grand Lodge opened at 10:30am and an hour later and Five South Shields brethren received a promotion or honour. And it is with grateful thanks for sending in a picture of themselves in their Provincial Grand Lodge splendour.

We have W Bro Alan Atkinson, *Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies*, W Bro Atkinson is a member of the Caer Urfa Lodge No. 4345, alongside him we have W Bro Paul Lansdell, *Past Provincial Grand Junior Deacon*, who is a member of Heybrum Lodge No. 4750 and W Bro Norman Dunn, *Past Provincial Grand Registrar* a member of Lord Barnard Lodge No.2935 and of course Caer Urfa ☺

And the good news didn't end there! Just as the Provincial Grand Secretary had completed his report of how many brethren had attended the meeting and how much was raised (£4065.00). The PGM had more news!

For many years the banqueting

arrangements after every Provincial meeting of both Craft and Chapter have been diligently and expertly carried out by W Bro David Bambrough and W Bro Fred Beales.

Their duties on the day are usually assisted by the Provincial DC making arrangements for them to unobtrusively leave the formal meeting before it is closed to entail their early arrival at the dining venue and make final checks before the meal, on this occasion they were asked to remain where they were.

As a final item of "any other business" the Provincial Grand Master asked that Bro Beales and Bambrough were presented to him and announced their immediate promotion to the rarely conferred and highest Provincial rank of Past Senior Grand Warden.

Also promoted on the day was W Bro Tony Davey, *Deputy Provincial Grand Secretary*.

W Bro Subash Pandit of Hedworth Lodge No 2418 and W Bro John Inskip of Westoe Lodge No 5750 received the rank of Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer .

Sound !

Not often said about a building of this age but that's what it means, all the years of repairs and maintenance costs, have borne fruit - so to speak.

The past decade and a half saw a change in pace in the repair and maintenance of the building following the removal of the compulsory purchase arrangements put in place during the demolition of the surrounding streets and construction of the ASDA building.

The hall committee took the view that it should commission a structural survey before any further major works were planned, the survey put forward a costed maintenance and improvement plan, which is affordable and seeks to improve the external aspects further as well as proposing internal improvements and suggestions, one of which was an asbestos survey which led to the identification of low level asbestos traces and the elimination of one and only one high level item being an asbestos clad door to the kitchen area, together with the fitting of three new fire doors within that area.

A by-product of the survey was an introduction of tendering documents for larger works, used as the norm in industry but a change in practice for the hall, it's aim being to get value for money without lowering quality, thanks for this must go to Bro Kenny Hiles of Hadrian Lodge who is also author of the report on behalf of Sanderson Weatherall Ltd.

Works tendered and completed so far are the removal and replacement of all the double doors in the hall with oak veneered six panelled doors and the complete redecoration of the entrance lobby together with carpeting, as well as re-decoration of the external doorways.

Accommodation works in the kitchen area are also complete together with the replacement of the cookers and fridges and other items of equipment. Shelving will also be installed shortly.

The festive board has also been re-decorated and special thanks given to Bro Erskine (Oscar) for his devotion to the call up! As one well wisher remarked—"there should be a 'Mission Statement': Give us the money and the authority and we'll give you a hall to be proud of"



Back to the Future..... *Some words from the Editor*



Welcome to the revamped version of 'The Freemason', the monthly newsletter for South Shields Freemasons, it is nearly 10 months since the last edition 'hit the streets' and many brethren asked why the newsletter had stopped being produced.

The answer lies with yours' truly 'The Editor' – and not to dwell too long on the reasons I will sum it up succinctly **'work, worked its' worst on me'** and I bit the dust both mentally and physically, I think everyone would agree with the physical bit as I have always been and still am the epitome of that muscle toned 'Jack the lad' I have always been..... and mentally....., well the jury has been out about that ever since I joined the fraternity on 9th September 1987 – but the strains of work eventually got to me and I 'lost the plot' one day in September 2009, and then thought I'd won the battle but forgot about the replay that had been fixed for January this year.....

But hey what the heck, the newsletter is back, I'm back to work soon and so hopefully this summer edition of the newsletter will be the start of the regular monthly editions ☺

So what's been happening in the hall since the first 'blackout' in 2009? Well the hall management committee (FHMC) have been as busy as ever trying to repair, maintain, develop and improve the premises for all our Masonic organisations as well as their guests, Masonic and non-Masonic.

They commissioned a structural and asbestos survey to ascertain the state of the building and identify a plan of re-modelling or refurbishment and it came back with a very pleasing thumbs up ☺

Externally

Completely renewed the large flat roof above the main Lodge room extension, at the same time re-furbishing the down-comers and gutters, and the final external side wall elevation (north) this completes repairs and renewals to the roofs and walls of the hall. (At this moment in time)

Internally

Refurbished, redecorated and re-carpeted the Danny Dunleavy suite and re-opened the previously bricked up external access door and fitted numerous Masonic pictures restored by the halls' Archivist, W Bro Martin Schoolkate .

Significantly upgraded the bar area as well as the quality of the refreshments served (both alcoholic and non-alcoholic), re-introduced the Freemasons' Club to raise

awareness of the hall as well as the opportunities it presents within the Freemasonry in the Community theme and refurbished the hall signage.

Re-introduced yearly calendars so that everyone can see at a glance what is happening at their hall, these are displayed in several areas of the hall as well as on the web-site, which also has been upgraded at -

<http://www.southshieldsfreemasons.co.uk/>

Introduced the use of email and pdf formatting of FHMC/ISMBA transactions to improve speed of communications between the committee and reps, whilst reducing costs of postage and printing.

Re-decorated downstairs corridors complete with new lighting and carpets and re-siting of hall administration (dockets, notice boards and wall planners) to side entrance corridor.

Re-decorated festive board room and fitted ceiling fans and new curtains and Masonic themed pelmets, Refurbished, redecorated and re-carpeted the hall entrance lobby as well as renewing all double doors and access doors with high specification Oak veneered fire doors, renewed Lodge room doors with high specification solid oak doors. Repaired the chair-lift and re-introduced the magnetic locking system to the inner main access doors thus increasing the level of security. And employed the first ever window cleaner.

Completely refurbished kitchen and server area, purchased and fitted catering equipment and storage, to enable the caterers to work in a more modern, safe and hygienic area.

So what's next? Well there is still the Masonic glazed entrance doors to be renewed in their existing style but with high specification solid Oak and the completion of snagging works, which are mostly minor but irritating.

The CCTV system has been purchased but is yet to be installed, the area behind the Senior Wardens chair needs to be refurbished and that the floor is level so that all the equipment belong to all the Lodges and Side degrees working in the hall can be stored safely and securely in one place and enable easy access if required. This would free up the cupboards for removal in the first floor rooms and enable the rooms to be returned to their original roomier state.

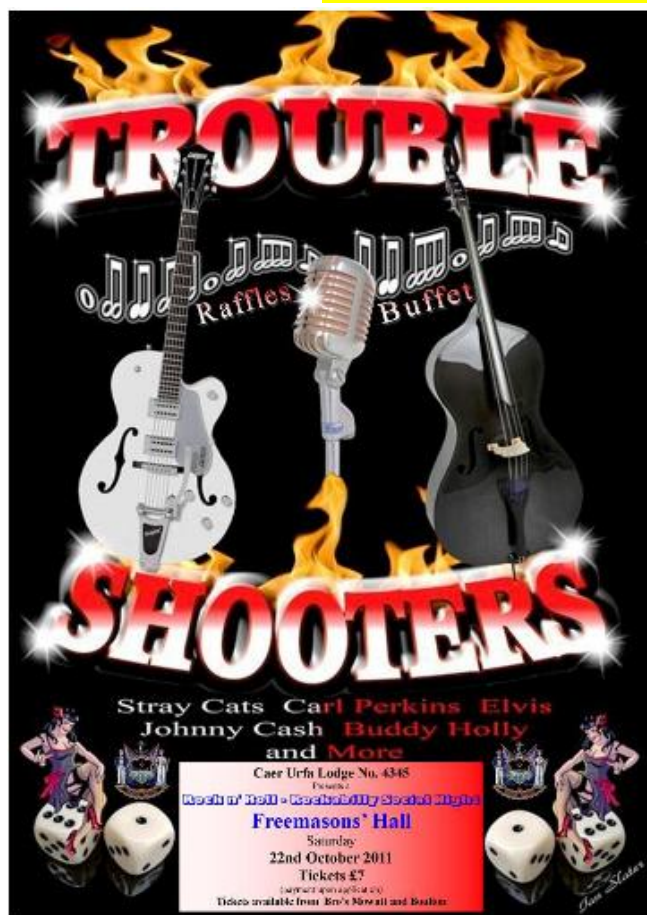
The agreed change of use of the Danny Dunleavy suite back to a Club room more befitting our fraternity awaits only sufficient finance.

Back to my health, I would like to take this opportunity to thank all my brethren friends who have kept a close eye on me over the months and been there for my family and I, it really says a lot about what our fraternity is about and why I am so very proud to be a Freemason.

"No-one would have believed, in the last months of the year twenty eleven, that Masonic affairs were being watched from the timeless space of South Tyneside and beyond. No-one could have dreamed that we were being scrutinized, as someone with a microscope studies creatures that swarm and multiply in a drop of water. Few masons even considered the possibility of others outside our fraternity. And yet, across the gulf of Tyneside, minds measurably similar to ours regarded this fraternity with envious eyes; and slowly, and surely, they drew their plans to join us ☺

aka - Richard 'Geordie' Burton.

October Events



HADRIAN LODGE 1970

The Worshipful Master Cordially Invites you to our

Annual Ladies Evening 2011

To be held at the Sea Hotel, Sea Road, South Shields

Friday 7th October 2011

Reception: 7:00pm Carriages: Midnight

Entertainment & Fundraising

Proceeds In Aid of The Stroke Association & The Alzheimer's Society

Tickets £24 each

For Tickets or Tables, Please Contact Glenn (Worshipful Master)

t: 0794 477 6946

e: glennhutchison_2@hotmail.co.uk

Attire: Evening Dress or Lounge Suit Non-Masons Welcome

Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun
Events@Freemasons' Hall in October						1 Hadrian Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club
John Readhead 3 3217 (3rd degree) Karate	Hadrian 1970 (2nd degree)	4 St Lawrence Lodge of Instruction Karate Spanish Class (am)	5 Tyne Dock 4218	6 Caer Urfu Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club Karate	7	8 Freemasons' Club
St Hilda 240 (3rd degree)	10 Westoe Lodge of Instruction Karate	11 Caer Urfu 4345 (1st degree) Karate Spanish Class (am)	12 St Lawrence 6042 (Installation)	13 Caer Urfu Lodge Committee Lord Barnard Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club Karate	14 Fencing Class Lodge of Fellowship Committee	15 FHMC (10.30am) Freemasons' Club
St Lawrence Rose Croix Karate	17 Lord Barnard 2305 (Installation)	18 St Hilda RAC (Installation) Spanish Class (am)	19 Finchale Knights Templar Priests No.3	20 Hedworth Lodge of Instruction Karate Freemasons' Club	21	22 Trouble Shooters Social Night Freemasons' Club
24 John Readhead Lodge of Instruction and Committee	25 Lodge of Fellowship 9694 Tyne Dock Lodge of Instruction Karate	26 Hedworth 2418	27 St. Hilda Lodge of Instruction Freemasons' Club Karate	28	29 Westoe Lodge Installation Practice Freemasons' Club	30
Westoe 4750 (Installation)	31	THE REAL SECRET OF FREEMASONRY MAKING GOOD MEN BETTER				

BOB COMPLETES TRIATHLON !



Bro Bob a member of Mowbray Lodge and frequent visitor to our hall as well as a damn fine guitarist as demonstrated at the Freemasons' Club buskers evenings, completed the London Triathlon event held on the 31st July and raised some funds for Cancer Research UK, this was a 1500m swim in 00:52:36, a 42Km bike 01:25:59, then a 10Km run 01:06:30, Total 03:37:24

As Bob say's "Cancer seems to have touched everybody's family and I have friends and family battling with it at the moment. Many thanks to all my sponsors for their kind donations with your help better treatments will be made available."

Donating through **Justgiving** is quick, easy and totally secure. It's also the most efficient way to sponsor me: Cancer Research UK gets your money faster and, if you're a UK taxpayer, **Justgiving** makes sure 25% in Gift Aid, plus a 3% supplement, are added to your donation.



So please sponsor me now at

<http://www.runningsponsors.org/bobsummerson>

Many thanks

Bob

Hundreds say goodbye...

Friday 12th August 2011 saw hundreds of mourners fill St Paul's Church in Jarrow to celebrate the life of our Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro David George Carney.

Many even stood in the rain outside, as every inch of the church was full to capacity. The wonderful ceremony that followed was a fitting tribute to a man that so many will miss dearly and the Eulogy delivered by Rt W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside gave an insight into the person who touched so many lives.

David, proud father of 3 boys, Stephen, Adam and Daniel and a loving husband to wife Pauline was born on the 27th February 1951 and during his 60 years excelled in everything he became involved with.

He was initiated in to St Paul Lodge No3242 in Jarrow in 1977 and became a Founder of Palmer Lodge No9255 in 1987. David was always keen to help his fellow Mason, his Lodges and the Province of Durham and led by example holding both Secretary roles at the same time, one of them for 21 years before becoming Director of Ceremonies of both until the time of his death on the 2nd August 2011.

David was also a Past Principal of St Bede Chapter No1119 and Senior Warden of Jarrow Mark Lodge No701.

The pinnacle of David's Masonic career came in September 2008 when he was installed as Assistant Provincial Grand Master by the Provincial Grand Master at Borough Hall in Hartlepool, a position he held with great pride, carrying out important work within the Province with great distinction until May of this year when his deteriorating health forced him to retire.

One of David's other great Masonic achievements was the founding of Palmer Lodge. This came about from the creation of Ellison Hall Social Club in 1978 where David was Secretary for almost 25 years. This club was created from a derelict old building, formerly Hebburn Hospital and it was a massive venture to restore it to such a superb social centre. There is no doubt that its success was largely due to David's initiative, drive and solid hard work, along with the team of helpers who surrounded him.

It was at Ellison Hall were David met Pauline and they married in St Paul's Church in 1980.

David the husband, the father, the work colleague, the Mason or the friend, whichever of these roles you remember David Carney as, I am sure that we are all better for the privilege of having spent time with him.



W Bro David George Carney, Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master, Past Senior Grand Deacon, lived respected, died regretted.

JOHN READHEAD MASONIC GOLF COMPETITION



The competition took place on Thursday 15th September 2011 at Whitburn Golf Club.

It was a nice day for golf but unfortunately only 15 competitors turned up, 8 South Shields masons and 5 non masons.

This did not deter the standard of play and the overall winner of the Elwood Potts Trophy with a score of 39pts was Bro Kenny Hiles of Hadrian Lodge, second was W Bro Mike Mullen of Hadrian Lodge and third was Bro Steve Phillips of Hadrian Lodge.

W Bro Dave Dunn and Duncan Pentland had gone around all the lodges to promote the event and ask the brethren to assist by buying raffle tickets.



The draw was made on the day and first prize went to Bro Ronnie Amar of Hadrian Lodge, second prize to Bro Gordon Thompson of Hedworth Lodge and third prize to Bro Kenny Hiles of Hadrian Lodge.

Thanks to the donations of the brethren and to those who played the sum of £275 was raised which will go towards the Chapters appeal to donate a large sum to the Royal College of Surgeons. The non masons shield was won by Mr Bert Roscome.

W Bro Dave Dunn

Goodbye to a helpful guy

On the 4th April 2011 we lost a great guy and helpful Brother, namely W Bro Robert Stobbs, the suddenness of his passing left everyone who knew him in shock. W Bro Stobbs was an enthusiastic Freemason and contributed widely to the development of the hall committee and just as importantly this newsletter, the sheer number of photo's and details provided by Bro Robert helped to provide a well informed and visual representation of the events that unfolded during the Masonic year—he was also widely known for his impressive annual calendar which he would produce and sell for charity. A publication that will be sorely missed in South Shields because of it's attention to detail and the information it contained.

His funeral service was held at South Shields Crematorium, on Monday, April 11, at 1.30pm. And donations in lieu of flowers, if so desired, were requested to be given for the Provincial Lodge Durham Charities, needless to add there was a large number of mourners at his farewell.



A lady from a our recent past but who was she? And who was her relation that she sometimes work with?

Holmes Lodge No. 2571
presents

**An Enactment of the
American First Degree**

performed by the Brethren of
St. Alban Lodge No.5322

Wednesday 26th October 2011, 7pm.
Corbridge Road Masonic Hall, Byker, NE6 1HY

*"Two Nations divided by a common language..." (George Bernard Shaw)
"... united by the Fraternity that is Freemasonry" (Anon)*

To assist the caterer, please notify WBro Andrew Smith if you are attending and wishing to dine - Telephone 0191 267 6599 (home) or email smith.aj.1@pg.com

American First Degree

Symbolic Explanation of the Ceremony of Initiation

Whilst the friendships made are extremely important and not to be underestimated in any way, the key to enjoying your Freemasonry to the full lies in understanding it. However, in coming to understand the meaning of our Ceremonies, we have a problem, for different Brethren will interpret them in different ways. What is more, none of them will be wrong.

After all, if we were all able to understand the Ceremonies in a uniform manner, there would be little point in coming to our Lodges to witness them time after time, as their significance could perhaps be explained in a single visit. Over a period of time, the ritual you see, hear and learn, will prompt you to think about it more widely and more deeply. This will lead you to consider the one constant that should be in our minds - How can we improve ourselves as building blocks for the Temple we are contemplating?

This is a challenging concept for anyone who has just been initiated and gone through a Ceremony that may be viewed on the evening of their Initiation as confusing, perhaps somewhat bizarre and more than likely a little nerve wracking!

The ceremony represents the birth of Man. At birth we are all naked, without possessions and rely upon the help and guidance of others until we reach maturity and can, in turn, extend help to others.

You may remember that just before you entered the Lodge Room you were confronted with the challenge, — "Do you feel anything?" This symbolic challenge was designed to intimate to you that you were about to engage in something serious and solemn.

A second challenge awaited you inside the door of the Lodge; "Are you free?" After you vowed that you were free of any bondage, the blessing of the Almighty was invoked upon the proceedings.

Then almost immediately came the third and most important challenge of all, "In all cases of difficulty and danger, in whom do you put your trust?"

There is, of course, only one answer to this question. "In God" for the Christian: "In the name of Allah" for the Moslem; in other words, in the name of the Supreme Being appropriate to the religious persuasion of the Candidate.

To avoid possible offence and to promote unity among all men, the Supreme Being of all denominations is referred to as the Great Architect of the Universe.

The hoodwink or blindfold that you wore represented the darkness before birth and education and also made it possible for you to be led from the Lodge Room without seeing it, if you refused to continue with the Ceremony.

The Cable Tow placed around your neck was an emblem of the bondage which comes from ignorance, but together with the poignard which was presented to your naked left breast, also served to control your movements during the ceremony.

You were divested of all metallic objects so that you could not bring any offensive weapons into the Lodge to disturb its harmony. The naked heel and the slipshod are because the ground is consecrated and the knee is bare so that there is nothing between it and the Earth when the Obligation is taken. The trouser leg is also rolled up to demonstrate the Candidate is a free man, bearing no marks of a leg iron. The Left Breast is made bare so that the points of both the poignard and the compasses can be felt next to the heart and also to prove that the Candidate is not female!



It is appropriate that you entered the Lodge Room in a state of darkness, for it symbolised the gateway or beginning of life. You proceeded down the North side, a place of darkness. Your movements around the Lodge Room followed the path of the sun in the Northern Hemisphere, where our ceremonies originate. It rises in the East, reaches its highest point in the South then sets in the West and returns to the East through the hours of darkness.

After convincing the Brethren you were properly prepared to be made a Freemason, you made significant declarations about your honesty to the Craft.

You declared that you offered yourself freely and voluntarily as a Candidate, that you wished to serve your fellow man and that, if you were admitted, you would adhere to the established customs of the Order. You were then advanced to the pedestal by three steps, the beginning of your journey to the East, or light, in Freemasonry.

You stepped off each time with the left foot, the left side traditionally symbolises evil. Each step with your left foot was symbolical of putting down evil. Each step represented your growing confidence. Upon reaching the pedestal, you entered into an obligation of concealment.

On your knees before all the assembled brethren, you vowed to hele and conceal what you might learn. Both words have the same meaning, namely, to cover over. The word 'hele' is derived from the Anglo-Saxon language used in England before the time of William the Conqueror. The

word 'conceal' comes from the Norman French.

Both words are used to ensure that the vow of secrecy was clearly understood. You were made a Freemason in the body of a Lodge "just, perfect and regular". 'Just' because the Volume of the Sacred Law was open on the Master's pedestal; 'perfect' because there were seven or more regularly made Freemasons in attendance; and 'regular' because the Lodge has a Warrant from the United Grand Lodge of England, which gives authority to perform the ceremony.

After being restored to material light, you were informed of the three great though emblematical lights, or guides, in Freemasonry, the Volume of the Sacred Law, the Square and the Compasses. You received light at the pedestal facing East, symbolising birth and became a Brother among Masons. Having taken the great and solemn obligation of a Mason, you were entrusted with the Sign, Token and Word of an Entered Apprentice Freemason.

A great deal happened to you during the ceremony and it would not be surprising if you have difficulty recollecting them. Do not let this concern you, for your Mentor will go through them again with you, before the next Lodge meeting.

You were invested with the badge of a Freemason, which is a simple white lambskin apron derived from the aprons worn by the ancient operative masons. It symbolises purity and innocence, white being the emblem of purity and the lamb being usually considered as the symbol of innocence.

This badge is the basis of all Masonic aprons and it is adorned to show the progress a Brother has made in the Craft.

The badge is more ancient than the Order of the Golden Fleece, which was established in 1430, or the Roman Eagle, which the early Romans carried at the head of a staff as an emblem of honour. It is more honourable than the Most Noble Order of the Garter founded in 1346, the highest order of knighthood in the world.

Apart from signifying purity and innocence, the apron also denotes friendship. We are urged to use this symbol as a guide in our daily lives and never to disgrace the principles for which it stands.

You will remember being placed in the North East corner of the Lodge, body upright, feet in the form of a square. This is where you represented the foundation stone of a new building, the building of your new Masonic life. Be upright in life, deal with every man on the square and continue to look to the East for learning. On this foundation you were challenged, 'to raise a superstructure perfect in all its

parts'. The North East corner has been well chosen for this foundation stone as it represents the point where you move from the North, the place of darkness and ignorance, to the East, the place of light and learning. Make learning a life-long ambition.

The Charity lecture challenged: "Have you anything to give"? You were deliberately prevented from accepting the challenge. All valuables had been taken from you.

It demonstrated that charity comes from the heart and is a way of life not just a payment. Your dress and absence of valuables must have made you ponder in what ways you can demonstrate charity. It was meant to be a constant reminder of your obligation to relieve the distress of indigent or needy Brethren. Charity may take the form of your time, your energy, your friendship or financial assistance. The practice of charity in its broadest sense is the foundation and springboard for other qualities in life.

The twenty-four inch gauge, the common gavel and the chisel are the Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice.

They shape the rough stones of the future building. Symbolically, the twenty-four inch gauge teaches you how to use time; part in prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe; part in caring for your neighbour and part for yourself, particularly as it relates to your family, your work and your recreation.

Your Masonic life is a symbolic rough stone that needs to be shaped for the intended structure. The common gavel represents the voice of conscience, which is ever ready to warn us when we may tend to err. It reminds us with every knock to keep down all vain and unbecoming thoughts.

The chisel points out the advantages of education and discipline. As the workman uses the chisel to give form to the shapeless mass of stone, so education transforms the ignorant person into a civilised being.

The Working Tools which were presented to you are to teach the basis of a good life which is explained in more detail in the Charge



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Acknowledgments to UGLE



Busy night at Caer Urfa Lodge

Things got rather busy at the September meeting of the Caer Urfa Lodge, with the principle reason of the night of raising two brothers to the sublime degree of a Master Mason, being augmented by the presentation of a 50 year certificate to Bro Brian Pickering by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Denis Lascelles and then the dedication of a replacement Lodge Banner for it's ageing original.

The candidates Bro Paul Howden and Bro Stuart Crooks were expertly raised and all due credit to the officers and Brethren who performed the ceremony.



W Bro Derek Tyler, W Bro Rob Black,
Bro Brian Pickering, W Bro Denis Lascelles
and W Bro Michael Hobson



Bro Potts, W Bro Tyler, WM.
W Bro Atkinson, Bro Wilson, W Bro Welsh,
W Bro Black, W Bro Malcolm & W Bro Lascelles

The idea of replacing the banner was long in it's process but once agreed, W Bro William Malcolm leapt into action and arranged for the purchasing of the replacement.

Following thorough practices the banner party led by W Bro William Malcolm and containing Bro Andrew James Potts the Lodges newest member as well as Bro Paul Wilson, W Bro George Welsh and W Bro Alan Atkinson, the replacement banner was duly dedicated by W Bro Rod Black Asst Provincial Chaplain and presented to the Lodge, the original banner will be expertly framed and displayed within the hall.

The Green Thing

In the check out line at the store, the cashier told an older woman that she should bring her own grocery bags because plastic bags weren't good for the environment.

The woman apologized to him and explained, "We didn't have the **green** thing back in my day."

The cashier responded, "That's our problem today. Your generation did not care enough to save our environment."

He was right – our generation didn't have the **green** thing in its day.

Back then, we returned milk bottles, soda bottles and beer bottles to the store. The store sent them back to the plant to be washed and sterilized and refilled, so it could use the same bottles over and over. So they really were recycled.

But we didn't have the **green** thing back in our day.

We walked up stairs, because we didn't have an escalator in every store and office building. We walked to the grocery store and didn't climb into a 300-horsepower machine every time we had to go two blocks.

But he was right. We didn't have the **green** thing in our day.

Back then, we washed the baby's nappies because we didn't have the throw-away kind. We dried clothes on a line, not in an energy gobbling machine burning up 220 volts – wind and solar power really did dry the clothes. Children got hand-me-down clothes from their brothers or sisters, not always brand-new clothing.

But that young man is right; we didn't have the **green** thing back in our day.

Back then, we had one TV, or radio, in the house – not a TV in every room. And the TV had a small screen the size of a handkerchief (remember them?), not a screen the size of the state of Manchester.

In the kitchen, we blended and stirred by hand because we didn't have electric machines to do everything for us.

When we packaged a fragile item to send in the mail, we used a wadded up old newspaper to cushion it, not Styrofoam

or plastic bubble wrap. Back then, we didn't start up an engine and burn petrol or plug into the electricity socket just to cut the lawn.. We used a push lawn mower that ran on human power. We exercised by working so we didn't need to go to a health club to run on treadmills that operate on electricity.

But he's right; we didn't have the **green** thing back then.

We drank from a fountain when we were thirsty instead of using a cup or a plastic bottle every time we had a drink of water.

We refilled writing pens with ink instead of buying a new pen, and we replaced the razor blades in a razor instead of throwing away the whole razor just because the blade got dull.

But we didn't have the **green** thing back then.

Back then, people took the bus and kids rode their bikes to school or walked instead of turning their mums and dads into a 24-hour taxi service.

We had one electrical outlet in a room, not an entire bank of sockets to power a dozen appliances. And we didn't need a computerised gadget to receive a signal beamed from satellites 2,000 miles out in space in order to find the nearest pizza joint.

But isn't it sad the current generation laments how wasteful we old folks were just because we didn't have the **green** thing back then?

Please forward this on to another selfish old person who needs a lesson in conservation from a smartass young person.



Visit the link below or give him the dosh in person (if you know who he is !!!!! (see last page)
<http://www.justgiving.com/robert-hope-ford>

He's raised £170 on line so far and has a target of £400 so dig deep and help him make it.

Supporting St Clares Hospice

Caer Urfa Chapter celebrations

The September meeting of the Chapter was a night of celebrations, not only did the Chapter reach its 75th anniversary but marked it in style with the dedication of the new Past First Principals board and the new officers collars kindly donated by E Comp William Sinclair Malcolm (to use his Sunday name), the Chapter members were also delighted to host an official visit by Provincial Grand Chapter led by the Most Excellent Provincial Grand Superintendent E Comp Norman Eric Heaviside, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, E Comp Derek Warneford. PGSwdB, and supported by the Second Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp Paul Philip Paterson. PGStB, the Third Provincial Grand Principal, E Comp Michael Sydney Snowball PGStB, and the Assistant to the Provincial Grand Principals, E Comp Dr John Halshaw as well as many other distinguished PGC companions.



E Comp Robin Francis Knight gave a well researched and informative talk on the Chapters 75 year history, which was followed by E Comp Michael Sydney Snowball who carried out the dedications of the Board and the collars with a 'fiery' and very well received explanation of the history of the name of the Chapter.

The celebrations continued at the Festive Board where upon E Comp David Dunn of St Hilda Chapter presented a cheque raised from the proceeds of the recent Golf competition to the Most Excellent PGS.

As one Masonic friend of mine once said about Freemasonry "You know, it just doesn't get any better than this" and this particular night proved him right again.

Very Worshipful Brother Peter Stracey, PGSwdB

The death occurred on 29th September 2011 of Very Worshipful Brother Peter Stracey, PGSwdB and our condolences go out to his family.

VWBro Peter Stracey, PGSwdB, PDProvGM, was made a Mason on 14th December 1950 in St Lawrence Lodge No 6042 in South Shields. He was Worshipful Master of St Lawrence Lodge No 6042 in 1958.

He joined Durham Lodge of Installed Masters No 4441 on 7th July 1971 and was Master of that Lodge in 1988.

He has been elected to Honorary Membership of 16 Craft Lodges, mainly following duties performed at their consecration.

His first appointment to Provincial Rank was to the office of Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1966, Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1968 to 1977 and appointed an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1977 to 1980 and then from 1980 held the office of Deputy Provincial Grand Master until 1992.

He was honoured in 1973 in the United Grand Lodge of England and received the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and promoted in 1979 to Past Senior Grand Deacon and in 1982 received the honour of Past Grand Superintendent of Works. In the year 1991 he received the appointment of Past Grand Sword Bearer.

He was a dedicated member of the Provincial Benevolent Committee over many years and its Chairman for most of them. He introduced a Sheltered Housing scheme to the Province and Peter Stracey House at Fulwell was named after him.

He was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry on 26th March 1952 into Caer Urfa Royal Arch Chapter No 4345. He was First Principal of that Chapter in 1961 and 1962.

He has been elected to Honorary Membership of 5 Royal Arch Chapters.

His first appointment in Provincial Grand Chapter was in 1966 as Provincial Second Grand Principal and in Supreme

Grand Chapter he was appointed to Past Assistant Grand Sojourner in 1981, promoted in 1986 as Deputy Grand Sword Bearer, followed by a further promotion in 1990 to Past Grand Sword Bearer. In 1984 he was appointed Deputy Grand Superintendent and held the office until 1992.

He was advanced in the Degree of Mark Master Masons on 12th March 1962 into St Lawrence Mark Master Masons Lodge No 1093, and installed into the Chair of Worshipful Master in 1968.

He was appointed in 1971 as Provincial Grand Senior Warden, and in Grand Mark he was appointed as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1981 and promoted to Past Grand Senior Deacon in 1987. In the year 1993, he was honoured with Past Grand Junior Overseer.

He was elevated into the order of Royal Ark Mariner on 15th October 1971 and into Rockcliffe RAM Lodge No 362 and continued in membership until 1993.

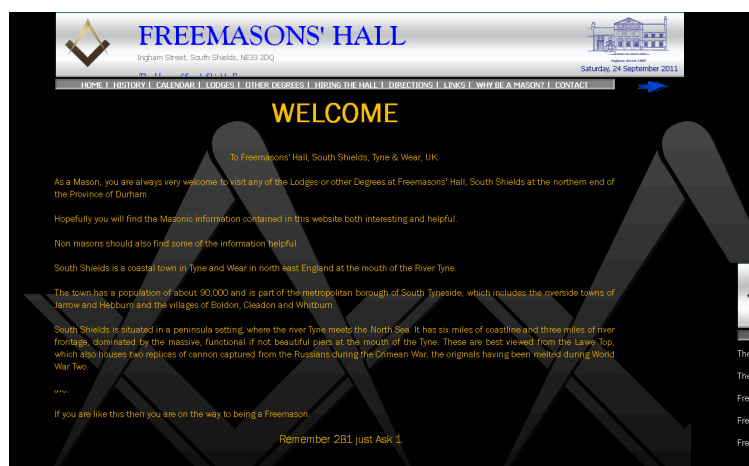
He was installed into the degree of Knight Templar on 9th September 1963 into St Lawrence Preceptory No 275 and became Preceptor in 1975. He became the Provincial Deputy Marshal in 1975 and held the office until 1978. In 1979 he became the Provincial Marshal and in 1992 he was promoted to Past Provincial Chancellor. In 1981 he was appointed in Great Priory as Past Deputy Great Sword Bearer and in 1993 was promoted to Past Great Registrar.

He was perfected into Rose Croix Masonry on 16th April 1962 into St Lawrence Rose Croix Chapter No 293 and was Most Wise Sovereign in 1973. In 1981 he was the First Most Wise Sovereign of St Michael and All Angels Rose Croix Chapter No 891. In 1975 he received the 30° and in 1985 was promoted to the 31°.

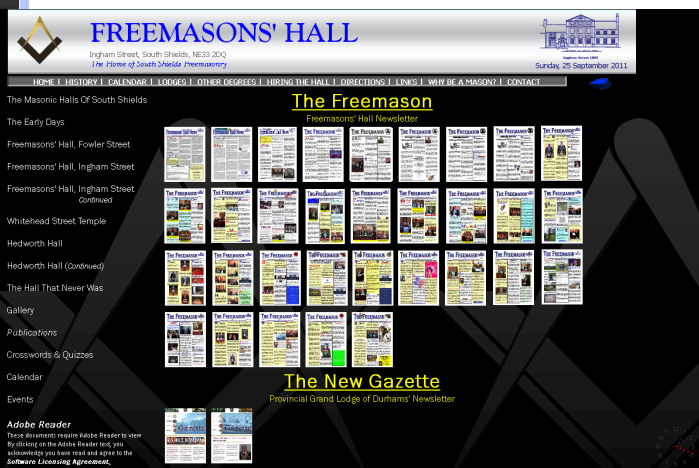
A solicitor by Profession at South Shields and a resident of Ponteland, Peter Stracey has had failing health in recent years and died peacefully with his wife Pat at his side. They have three married daughters.

Acknowledgements to PGLD

www.southshieldsfreemasons.co.uk



Launched in April 2008, the hall website has been updated and contains all the past editions of this newsletter as well as items of Masonic interest and history of the hall and a variety of links and contacts



The site will host information on what's happening at the hall and at the various Masonic organisations, together with information on our fraternity. Each organisation has its own web pages as well as links if they wish to their own website. Exciting stuff eh!

New Provincial Grand Secretary and Scribe E Appointed



W Bro Phil Rann

The Provincial Grand Master, Rt W Bro Norman Eric Heaviside took the opportunity, during a visit to Rowlands Gill Lodge 4694 at Burnopfield, to announce the appointment of W Bro Phil Rann as the new Provincial Grand Secretary and Scribe E. for the Province of Durham.

Phil is a Past Master, and the current secretary, of the Lodge of Progress 8259 which meets in Chester-le-

Street, and a member for Cuneceaster Chapter as well as being the East Area Information Officer for the Province of Durham.

As a founder member of the Durham Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge, Phil is well known in the East of the Province where he has acted as A.D.C. for many representatives of the PGM at installations over the past few years.

Phil will be formally invested during the next couple of weeks but has already started his work at Provincial Office.

As a change to the traditional role of our Provincial Secretary, W Bro Phil is to undertake the role on a part-time basis rather than being full time employed.

Floating doors !

As part of the many improvements at the hall over the last 2 years, the nickname applied to the new oak doors has to be unique.

But reminds me of the time when on the set of 'The Charge of the Light



Brigade', when, wanting to see stray horses wandering through the battle, Curtiz directed the wranglers to "Bring on the empty horses", and David Niven and Errol Flynn cracked up laughing. Niven later made this "curtizism" immortal by naming his autobiography: "Bring on the empty horses."

This time it is the brass kick plates applied to all the doors that provide an optical illusion where it seems as though the doors are hovering above the new carpets in the lobby.



The Freemasons' Club and Bar



The weekly opening of the Club bar, where members and guests can enjoy a social drink and bar snacks in good company, comfortable surroundings with like minded people, while the frenetic world outside sails by.....

At a time when membership in community groups is on a decline, our numbers are growing "We are the oldest and largest fraternal organization in the world, we are founded on high moral standards and ethical values—the old-fashioned core values of honesty, integrity, justice. We also have a philanthropic side. In other words, we try to help people in need not only within the fraternity but without,"

We are 'The Freemasons' contributing to the progressive and peaceful emancipation of human beings beyond any particular religion or political ideology.

The making of a Freemason.

It's not just about the friends you have, your status in life, or the money in your pocket, Its the love you have in your heart for your fellow man that makes you who you are.

If you are like this then you are on the way to being a Freemason.

Remember 2B1 just Ask 1

There is also a buskers night, so bring your toys, we've an amp and a mike...combined with the Sunday evening opening of the bar, relax in comfortable, safe and secluded surroundings and enjoy an evening amongst friends and family.



Brigham and Cowan's Leek & Flower Show



TWO South Tyneside charities have received a cash boost, thanks to the growing skills of a group of talented gardeners. Brigham and Cowan's Leek and Flower Show again drew the crowds when it was held at the Hall.

The annual event aims to give members of the club, the chance to showcase their horticultural skills.

The night also raised cash for local charities. This year's beneficiaries were St Clare's Hospice in Jarrow, and South Shields Lifeguards. Each received a cheque for £380. Club secretary Steve Heron said: "This was yet another very successful year for Brigham's Leek Club. "We had around 150 people attending the presentation night, where a large raffle was held. "Cups and prizes were also presented to the winners of the categories. "Funds collected are being donated to St Clare's Hospice and South Shields Lifeguards, which we support every year."

Winners of the show include Mark Lloyd, who took the top spot in the leek category. He also won the most points in the show. David Lee grew the best onions for the third year in a

row, while most points in flowers went to Stephen Scott. Best exhibition was awarded to Keith Maskell.

St Clare's Hospice in Primrose Terrace provides day and residential care for patients suffering from life-limiting illnesses. A spokeswoman for the hospice said: "We are really pleased that they think of us every year. "It is a challenging time for all charities, so we are grateful for all their support. "It costs around £2m a year to run the hospice. This includes the cost of staff, the drugs we use as well as the normal day-to-day running costs of the building. "The local community are really key in helping us to raise these essential funds by doing things like this."

It is particularly pleasing when our hall can step in and provide the resources of our hall to support the Brigham and Cowan's Leek show organisers, especially in light of the magnificent fund raising they do on behalf of local community enterprises that we as Freemasons also support as part of our activities and also within the concept of Freemasonry in the Community, Mr Heron also echoed these sentiments in his letter thanking the hall management committee for enabling their show to go ahead and with the added bonus of providing refreshments to his team and the many visitors.



BROTHER LIGHTFOOTE'S JOURNAL

The Recollections of an Eighteenth-Century Gentleman of the Craft



June 7th 1795
Feast Day of St. Robert of Newminster

Weather: changeable

From the heath covered mountains of Scotia I come...

St. Robert of Newminster, I read, was accused of "excessive familiarity with a pious woman." A perfect example of ecclesiastical hypocrisy if ever there was one: either he wasn't that familiar or she wasn't that pious but one simply cannot, as the actress said to the bishop, have it both ways.

I regret the recent lacuna in the hitherto uninterrupted flow of this journal. It is due to my taking a tour of the north country from which I am newly returned. Scotland proved to be most stimulating, perhaps a little too stimulating, and I refer not only to the effect of the local produce. It was however, a night of debauchery that led to a day of discovery. As to whether what I witnessed is historical fact or hysterical fantasy I confess I am still unclear; perhaps setting the facts down in writing will help.

I was enjoying a fine dinner at a fine inn in the fine city of Edinburgh in the company of a fine gentleman by the name of MacDonald, a local burgher who raised what he claimed to be the best beef in the land. "Mark well my words, Lightfoote," quoth he, "One day MacDonald's will be known throughout the world!" I drank his health and told him that I hoped it would be, and he drank my health and assured me that it would and we drank each other's health to settle the matter and then sat wondering what next we might drink to. Imagine my surprise when he raised his

glass to "The craft and vocation of Masonerie."

I downed my goblet of Glen Hoddle and offered him my hand and found, to my delight, that I was in the company of a master of the mystic art - and the long night wore on. At some stage I assume that I must have agreed to accompany him on some sort of expedition on the following day but my memory at this point becomes, like the highland landscape, shrouded in mist.

I was informed, subsequently, by a number of witnesses, that I was helped up the stairs pledging undying loyalty to the Jacobite cause. Whatever the cause, I spent a most uncomfortable night, haunted by strange and terrible dreams, full of dreadful images culled from the penalties of my obligations and awoke, fully believing that I had suffered that of first at least, to a furious knocking, as though a regiment of tylers were practising their art. I rose from my bed, then rose from the floor, twice, before crawling to the door to be confronted by a pair of naked knees.

These belonged, I was informed, in an accent that would have been incomprehensible had I not been awash with whisky, to Willie, who was a ghillie, and had come to take me to Rossilly.

I am informed that the journey is but a few miles; perhaps we went via Penzance, using only the old, green roads, for in the ancient tumbrel that MacDonald had provided, it seemed to take days. The laird himself, Willie told me, was unable to be present due to some pressing emergency with the bullocks, at least I think that's what he said.

Rossilly, when we got there, was a ruin, as indeed was I, though my guide informed me that it had been extensively restored some forty years previously. It is an ancient chapel wrought in the most hubristic style, like a gothic cathedral shrunk in the wash. Willie recited a lengthy history of the place, painfully committed to memory and delivered in the style of a drunken deacon dictating the doings at the wardens' pedestals. I missed much of it as I was busy puking into the sparkling burn that flows merrily beside the road, but from what I could gather it is believed that a descendant of Joseph of Arimathea had brought Excalibur here after the battle of Bannockburn and that this was the basis of Freemasonry: something along those lines, anyway.

I was in no condition to argue and weakly agreed to overlook the premises according to his master's wishes, fully expecting Willie to give me a guided tour. He, however, was unwilling to go within fifty paces

of the place, muttering something about the curse of the pharaohs. He handed me a pistol and said he'd await my return, but not beyond sunset.

Anxious to complete my penance, and in the certain knowledge that MacDonald was laughing his tartan socks off at the thought, I stumbled towards the forbidding pile. I had to put my shoulder to the door to gain admission and fell through it to find myself on my arse, on a damp floor, staring at a rotting roof that threatened to join me at any moment. The place was encrusted with crude carvings, decayed to the point at which their content could be construed as anything that an over-fertile imagination might conceive. I stumbled about in the gloom, searching for meaning and busting for a piss. At the far end of the place were three pillars; I relieved myself, copiously, against what must have been wisdom as I had no strength and there was little beauty involved in the act. As I concluded my libation, I received such a fright that, had I not just emptied my bladder, I'd have wet myself. A dark shape swooped down at me: was it a bat?, was it a ball?, was it a heavy maul? I will never know, but I tumbled backwards, a cocked piece in both hands. Inevitably, one of them went off.

The report was tremendous, the noise echoing around the vaulted chamber. The ball rebounded off the stonework and flew back past my head: I'd damn' near shot myself in the sacristy. Shards of shattered statuary showered down on me. At this point I must have lost my presence of mind.

I came to in the carriage, with a petrified Willie looming over me. I told him that there was something unspeakable in that place, a veritable pool of horror. The man's eyes widened, a myth was materialising. The rest, as they say, is history... Or is it?

Tyne Dock Lodge are having a
gavel night in January 2012

Letters to the Editor to return next
month - so get writing and email
them to
ghadaway@blueyonder.co.uk

Also anyone who has spare regalia
they want to advertise contact
above with details.

Bro Andy Ford of Hadrian Lodge