

Provincial Newsletter

Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

UNTIL WE MEET AGAIN: A Message From W Bro Michael A. Williams PSGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master



Welcome to the 5th edition of the Provincial Newsletter.

By now the Installation season should have been well underway and the 2020 team of officers enjoying their roles and making new acquaintances, alas this is not the case. Covid-19 has brought a dramatic halt to our meetings and not being able to represent the Province has been disappointing for those officers concerned.

The Provincial Grand Master, together with the other members of the executive, agreed that due to the unprecedented situation we are now in, to re appoint those officers in 2021, by which time we hope that the virus and restrictions placed upon us will have passed. Brethren who were due to receive first appointments in 2021 will now be considered in 2022, together with those due to receive first appointments in 2022.

We hope that the brethren due to receive their first appointments next year will understand the need to make this decision as a just and equitable way forward for all concerned.

The 2020/21 Year Book is now available, there was an option to postpone its production but it was felt that to maintain continuity of over 140 years it would be produced. For this year it will be available free of charge to members, anyone wishing to receive a copy need only e-mail the office: secretary@pglcornwall.org.uk stating their name and lodge number and a copy will be posted to them. We have been acutely aware that lodges may have incurred financial pressure this year and felt that making the Year Book free will encourage a higher take up and hopefully, brethren who have not previously subscribed will be encouraged to take it next year.

Corona virus has had a major impact on all our lives, be it meeting with friends and families or attending lodge. The rules about how and when we can meet are changing almost daily and we need to be responsive to those requirements. We cannot become complacent, Cornwall has not seen the same level of outbreaks as elsewhere in the country but it is around us nonetheless.

The one thing we must not overlook is contact with each other, even if it is within a small group. Many of our "at risk" brethren may feel isolated at this time and a phone call or e-mail to check on them may provide a small level of comfort they need. Likewise we must not forget our newer brethren, having only just joined; they are unable to enjoy the friendship that freemasonry offers. I would urge their proposers and seconders to keep in regular contact so that when we can resume they will be ready to move forward with their Masonic career.

Until we can meet again, please stay safe.

Worshipful Brother Michael A. Williams PSGD

Assistant Provincial Grand Master



GWR HONOURS SERVICE VETERAN AND LOCAL FREEMASON

HORACE “HARRY” BILLINGE, MBE, LDH



On the 7th October a small entourage travelled from St Austell to Penzance for a rather auspicious occasion. The occasion was the official naming of a Great Western Railway, intercity express train, number 802006, after Cornwall service veteran and freemason Horace “Harry” Billinge, MBE, LdH.

94-year-old Harry, a former Royal Engineer, as an 18-year-old, was amongst the first wave of British forces to storm the beaches of Normandy on the 6th July 1944. He was one of 4 in his unit to survive the initial landing and battled on through Caen and the Falaise Pocket in Normandy.

A recipient of France’s highest award, the Legion d’Honneur; Harry has dedicated the decades since the end of WW2 to raising funds for the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal and the Normandy Memorial Trust. He was also awarded an MBE in the 2020 New Year’s honours list by Her Majesty the Queen for his fundraising efforts.

A humble man, Harry constantly maintains that although he is thrilled with the awards and now the naming of a train after him, it is all in memory of “the lads that never came back”.

As a Cornish Freemason, W.Bro Harry Billinge MBE LdH, himself a Lewis, is a past master of Lodge of Fortitude 131, St Johns of Penge 5537 and Plym Lodge 3821, also a member of various side degrees including RAM and Rose Croix.

Attending the naming ceremony with Harry, Bro Ant Wilkins, a guard with GWR and Cornwall’s Trelawny Club Vice Chairman, also a service veteran and amateur masonic poet, presented W.Bro Harry with a personalised, framed copy of his poetic creation “The Masonic Sacrifice” with which Harry was thrilled.

Bro Ant said “as the VC of the Trelawny Club, I thought it would be remiss if I didn’t ask W.Bro Harry what advice he would give any young mason”. Harry laughed and replied “it is simple really, always step off with your left, and always be ready!”

On completion of the ceremony, W.Bro Harry Billinge MBE LdH, returned to St Austell on the 10:15 Penzance to Paddington service, now named in his honour.

Provincial Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Cornwall



Dear Companions all

As we move towards winter our blank diary, normally filled with Masonic meetings, only serves to remind us even more of what we are missing. I hope that you are all keeping safe and coping with our changed life circumstances.

Part of that diary, due to take place on 3rd October, is our Annual Provincial meeting which we have held at the Atlantic Hotel in Newquay, for a number of years. Companions among you will know that a Summons has been issued, although sadly the meeting can't, of course, take place. I thought this would be a good opportunity to explain what can, and can't happen within the Province at this time.

The Annual meeting is the time for a new team of Active Officers to be appointed, meaning that sadly others have to step down. I am extremely grateful to all those appointed to Active Rank in 2019 for their support and commitment throughout the Province during the nearly 6 months of their term before the suspension in March. I thank each of them for their companionship, enthusiasm and good humour.

The new team take office from 3rd October and like all of us must be wondering what the next twelve months will bring. I can assure them that whatever happens we will ensure that they have the chance to enjoy the special privilege of serving on an active team. I congratulate them all on their preferment and look forward to meeting and personally congratulating each of them.

I have not yet mentioned my Co-Principals. E. Comps Trevor Dawes and Jeremy Bonner will be obligated and invested as 2nd and 3rd Provincial Grand Principals respectively when we are able to hold a meeting. Until then, E. Comps Paul Gale and David Ward will continue in office. They too served with great distinction, supporting me and my Deputy at Annual Convocations and attending many Exaltation Ceremonies. Sadly, they were unable to attend Supreme Grand Chapter or our neighbouring Provinces, with the exception of Devonshire. Hopefully they will have that opportunity in the future.

There is one change in my Executive as E Comp Michael Barnard, MBE, retires as Provincial Grand Scribe E and I thank him for the manner in which he has guided our secretariat and kept us in good stead both within our Province and in our relationship with Supreme Grand Chapter and our neighbouring Provinces. I welcome E Comp Graham Mansell who will take over as Provincial Grand Scribe E and E Comp Steve Hann who will be his Assistant. I wish them well in the busy time that lies ahead when our meetings resume.

When that happens I look forward to welcoming brethren who choose to take their 4th step in Freemasonry by being Exalted in the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch. Until then I trust that you will keep yourselves well until we can meet again and share the enjoyment of our wonderful Order.

David Pascoe, M E Grand Superintendent



THE LODGE OF LOVE AND HONOUR NO.75

THE MOTHER LODGE OF THE PROVINCE



It is acknowledged that any Lodge is a sum of its participating and supporting members because without their enthusiasm there would be no such organisation; however, some recognition should be given to the surroundings in which our members meet.

Visitors to the Lodge will have noticed numerous differences to the standard Emulation Ritual and broadly this is often captured by the coverall — “it’s tradition within this Lodge”. Those who have listened intently will have heard on the 3 risings the additional phrase ‘and this, the Mother Lodge of the Province’, coupled with that, brethren from the Lodge, when out visiting, are encouraged to mention this fact when giving their greetings. Fate has enabled the Lodge to adopt that privilege and was further endorsed when the Deputy Grand Master, Right Wor Bro Iain Ross Bryce visited the Lodge, accompanied by R.W. Nicholas Barrington, our PGM at the time, on the occasion of celebrating its 250th year in 2001. Also, within the artefacts of the Lodge is a certificate, from London, acknowledging that phrase.

Love and Honour No 75 (initially numbered 209) first met on June 12th 1751 and had a further 6 numbers before the present No 75 was given by Grand Lodge in 1863. Its first master was William Pye and reputedly they met at his house until other accommodation was found, initially, at the King’s Arms in Market Street, Falmouth (very near Prince of Wales Pier). He was a Customs Officer. Seven members from that Lodge formed the first Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall in July of 1752. William Pye was this Province’s first PGM and he was still only a Fellowcraft. He held that position until 1762. Historians are in broad agreement when they mention the growth of Freemasonry during those early years that transport was the key. Hence the reason why many low numbered Lodges are situated either within close proximity of sea ports, army barracks and in the case of Cornwall, mining areas.

Mount Sinai & Fowey being examples of Lodges in Ports, True and Faithful and One and All, the army and St Day and Redruth, mining. It has been reported that the Lodge was censored in the late 1700s and early 1800s because so many people were being initiated but not carrying on their membership.

They were in fact emigrating and wanted to belong to an organisation before leaving our shores. The records do show that some were initiated, passed and raised on the same day in order that they could sail with the tide. (Province and UGLE would have a fit if tried today)

Having established that the Lodge per se is the amalgamation of its members perhaps a quick tour of the meeting room would prove beneficial to get an idea of the history in which its members operate.

The Lodge and all the other craft Lodges that currently meet in the Falmouth area have the privilege of meeting in a purpose built building. It is rather old now as it held its first meeting in 1886 but has certain characteristics that enhance our ceremonies. The Temple itself is large and can accommodate well over a 100 brethren which ensures that any brother who is speaking must raise his voice to be heard on the other side of the room. Another characteristic is, that built within, a facility that enables the 3rd degree to be carried out in greater depth than some other Lodges! The outside facade leading to the Lodge is now listed. The members who built it wanted somewhere quiet to enable their meetings to take place, hence the reason why we are situated at the end of a passageway. Evidently the hostleries that were used to hold the meetings previously were very noisy and offered no privacy. When built it was constructed with the idea that the front of the building would be sold off to enable some of the outlay to be recouped.

Visitors, when they first enter the Lodge room and after browsing the many artefacts in the anteroom, are usually impressed by the size and the history within. It is reputedly the largest structure in Cornwall with a hammer beam roof but we have no concrete evidence of this. On the horizontal beams coming out from the walls are the coats of arms of local families and associations having an affinity with Cornwall and/or Masonry.





On the left hand side as you enter (North Wall), on plinths, are three plaster statues representing Faith, Hope and Charity. They were presented to the Lodge by Falmouth Corporation in 1896 and are thought to originate from the Old Town Hall. These plinths are situated above a once open fireplace which has now been covered in.

Looking to the East we see 3 large chairs used by the Master, IPM and Senior Past Master. Also of the same design are the Warden's chairs. Although there is no formal authentication, they are thought to be of a Chippendale design. What is known is that the wood for their manufacture was made from a single bulk of mahogany timber given by a Capt Macnamara in 1752. It must have been a big bulk as Druids Lodge (Redruth) have very similar designed chairs. Inlaid in silver, on the backs of the chairs, are the respective emblem of the office for which it was made. The Master's and Wardens' Gavels are made of ebony and presented to the Lodge at the opening of the Temple in 1886.

Above the JW's chair there is a clock with its hands at twelve to represent the sun at its meridian. When valued at a recent Antiques Road show, in Falmouth, the movement and casing were highly valued but would have to be reguiled to fetch the price mentioned.

On the SW wall there is a flag or wall covering, this was presented to the Lodge by the last Commandant of the castle and is interesting because it shows the union flag before Ireland's saltire was added in 1801, so must predate that union.

Moving to the West wall there is an Opie painting of the Province's 4th PGM, Sir John St Aubyn, a position that he held for 54 years (1785-1839). In one of the display cabinets in the anteroom there are the original Jewels worn by the Master and Senior Warden of the Lodge and were presented to 75 in and around 1800 by Sir John. Looking at him from the East is a modern painting by the renowned artist Johnathon Miller of the 12th PGM (1978-1984), The Hon Robert Eliot - I wonder what they think about it all now?

Underneath the painting of St John is a series of prints depicting Masonry in France. These were presented to the Lodge by W Bro. Carne in 1988.

Unusually the tracing boards are kept on the floor of the Lodge, in the centre, no doubt to allow the brethren to learn and moralise upon. The date of their introduction to 75 is, unfortunately, not known. Mentioned earlier was the word tradition — in 75 the 1st Tracing Board is always kept open ~ maybe a mistake being carried on, but possibly something for everyone to moralise on whatever their station in life when they enter the Lodge.

The general seating area could be considered as ill gotten gains because they came off a ferry after a refit at Falmouth Docks and were offered to 75 for the cost of their carriage from the ship and docks. The then Ship's manager was a member.

In the anteroom there are plaques on the West and East wall remembering those who had the foresight to get the Hall built and also those who unfortunately passed to the Grand Lodge above during the Great War. Comment is often made about the picture of a lady hanging on one of the walls; she was in fact a Mason, reputedly the Hon Elizabeth Leger who used so spy on her father and his fellow Masons when conducting ceremonies at their house in Cork, Ireland. Not knowing what to do about this and after some debate she was initiated at the age of 19. Who said that we don't admit Ladies!

Love and Honour has been privileged to sponsor many other Lodges within the Province, especially in the early days. The Lodges and Chapters that meet in Falmouth all have an association with either great Masons or the town and would welcome you at any time.



PROVINCIAL GRAND DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES W. BRO. ROBIN N. WEBB PAGDC PROVGDC



Brethren we are living through some extraordinary times. The virus has changed the way we live and looks as though it will continue to do so for some time. Unfortunately it has necessitated the suspension of all Masonic activity in the Province for the foreseeable future. Some of us have taken the opportunity to meet remotely via Zoom or telephone which does at least keep us in contact with one another and whilst we are unable to meet we could of course use this time to learn a new ritual or brush up on something previously accomplished.

Most of you know me, I will nevertheless give you a brief history of my Masonic journey, I was initiated into Tregenna Lodge in 1989, Master in 1995, 2000/01 and 2018. I am a member of Robert Elliot and Cornish Masters Lodges in both of which I hold the office of Director of Ceremonies. In St Ia chapter I held the position of MEZ in 2005 and 2019. I am a member of the Rose Croix, Mark and Royal Order of Scotland. My first Provincial rank was Steward promoted to Past Senior Deacon, Past Junior Grand Warden and Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies when Right Worshipful Brother Stephen Pearn became Provincial Grand Master in 2015.

The roll is enjoyable but can be demanding. My duties include attending, or ensuring a D.C. is available to attend, all meetings where a ruler is present including Installations, 50/60/70 year Certificate Presentations, Banner Dedications and other Lodge celebrations. I provide assistance to Secretaries and Directors of Ceremonies if they require clarification with ceremonial or ritual queries.

The standard of ritual practice in our province is impressive, our Installation meetings are customarily well rehearsed and run smoothly. It is clear a lot of time and effort goes into their organisation and I would like to thank all involved for their hard work.

Brethren stay safe, I look forward to the time when we can meet again and enjoy each other's company once more.



L to R: W. Bro. Graham Johnson, DC, MW W Bro. Nigel Eustice, W. Bro. Norman Rundle, Secretary and W. Bro. Mike Rees, Treasurer before the WM's Team vs Secretary's Team this year at Looe Golf Club.

CORNISH LINKS LODGE NO 9481

Cornish Links Lodge was consecrated on 26th September 1992, by Rt. W. Bro. the Hon. Robert Eliot, Provincial Grand Master and the first Master was W. Bro. B C Beattie.

In 1991 the Provincial Grand Master had an aim to form 80 lodges in the Province of Cornwall, his 79th lodge was to be a bowling lodge but they dropped out so Rt. W. Bro. Robert Eliot turned to Rt. W. Bro. Nick Barrington who at that time was Asst. Prov. G. M, Rt. W. Bro. Nick wrote to 25 golfing brethren and 23 agreed to become founding members. Today, there are 3 remaining founding members; W. Bro. Peter Kinsman, W. Bro. David Dale and W. Bro. Ronnie Andrews.

The first secretary was W Bro Mike Howell who remained in office for 3 years, to be followed by W Bro Peter Kinsman who held the office until 2015. Cornish Links Lodge has flourished since giving wonderful support to the festival appeals of 2002 and 2013.

The Lodge played matches each year against Somerset Links Lodge and Gloucestershire but at present we play matches against Somerset and Bristol, which last year formed their own golf lodge. Due to Coronavirus the matches were not played this year. We aim to play again in 2021 and win back the trophies.

At present we have 36 members with most still actively playing golf, we hold three meetings each year, May, June and installation in September which Rt. W. Bro. Nick Barrington

expected to be conducted to a high standard and we still aim to do. The majority of the Brethren are Past Masters in their mother lodge with two Grand Officers and number have held active Provincial Grand Ranks.

Most of the Brethren support the Cornwall Masonic Golfing society which also raises money for Masonic Charities.

Our own golfing calendar starts with the Barrington Trophy following the May meeting, June we hold a guest day and August/September the WM's team takes on the Secretary's team. We play golf at different courses throughout Cornwall so a new challenge at each meeting. The away matches, when we play Somerset or Bristol on alternate years, can be anywhere from South Bristol to Yeovil, where most of the golf course is in Dorset.

Cornish Links Lodge is a friendly lodge which aims to enjoy golf and raise money for masonic charities, membership is open to all handicaps from single figures up to 28, we would welcome any Brother who would like to join.

This year we have been unable to hold any meetings because of the 'lockdown' but been able to play golf, in June we played at Carlyon Golf Club with the Barrington Trophy won by W Bro Mike Rees, early September the WM vs Sec at Looe Golf Club, Secretary's team won this year. Late September we held our guest day at Newquay Golf Club with the guests showing the members how to play golf by winning most of the prizes!

BUILDING THE PRESENT TEMPLE OF DUNHEVED LODGE NO.789 IN 1877



In February 1874, a Committee was set up to go into the matter of acquiring premises for the Lodge after a proposition had been carried to the effect that it was time that Dunheved had its own Lodge premises.

Bro. Col. J. H. Deakin offered the sum of £100 towards the cost of the new structure, and Bro. J. K. Lethbridge conveyed most of the site in Tavistock Road unconditionally to the Lodge. In 1875 an architect, Mr. James Hine, was instructed to prepare plans for a Masonic Temple, which he was to submit by January 1876, Mr Hine also designed Dunheved College and the Wesley Chapel.

In February 1876, the tender of a Mr. Burt, a well-known local builder and contractor at Launceston was accepted in the sum of £675 for the construction of the new buildings. On 16th May 1876, an Emergency Lodge was held for the purpose of laying the foundation stone.

This was obviously a red-letter day in Dunheved and must have created very considerable local interest. The brethren, clad in full regalia and with banner aloft, marched in procession from Broad Street to the site in Tavistock Road. They were led by the Launceston Borough Band and accompanied by their Tyler with drawn sword. At the site of the new building the brethren formed a hollow square, and the foundation stone was then formally laid by Bro. George Ross of Ogbeare Hall.

During the actual construction of the building it became necessary, as often happens, to alter the plans some extent. The Lodge having acquired an organ (presumably the one still in use today) an organ recess was now provided.

Other additions included the beautiful moulded circle in the centre of the ceiling of the Temple, the bay window in the refectory, and the washhouse and larder in the Caretaker's quarters. All these added amenities cost a further £40.

The building of the Temple necessitated strenuous efforts to raise funds to pay for its construction. The brethren accordingly arranged to hold a bazaar and staged a concert in aid of the building fund.

When the building was completed, it was necessary to arrange a mortgage of £300 to meet, with money already raised in various ways, the total expenditure of over £700.

Considering the alteration in the value of money and the comparatively small number of the members of the Lodge in those days, it was really a considerable achievement to have raised over £400 in so short a time. The present members of Dunheved Lodge owe a great debt of gratitude to their forbears for their provident care and initiative in providing a Temple which has so admirably served the purposes of the Lodge for many years in spite of the additional demands made upon it by a greatly increased membership.

On July 5th, 1877 Dunheved saw the "Masonic Hall" dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master of Cornwall, The Earl of Mount Edgcumbe.

To mark the occasion Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall again met in Launceston and a special train was run from West Cornwall for brethren attending the Lodge. On that day Launceston Station itself must have been an impressive sight.

The first regular Lodge meeting in the new building was on 31st of May 1877, a few weeks before the formal ceremony of dedication.

In 1877 the Lodge was embellished by a tessellated pavement given by Bro. T. P. Trood, in the same year, the sword of Napoleon III was presented by Dr. Scoffern. With the obvious intention of assisting in furnishing the Lodge, each Brother was asked in 1877 to present a chair to the Lodge.

The building of the Masonic Hall which incorporated quarters for a resident tyler and caretaker, made it necessary to appoint someone to that office. The first tyler appointed was a Sgt. Fidler

The Temple stands in its own grounds and consists of a two storied building. On the ground floor are the caretaker's quarters, the refectory, cellar, ante-room and offices [now the refectory, bar, kitchen and wash-room]. On the first floor, which is approached by a flight of steps leading to a porch (in addition to stairs from the ground floor of the building) are two ante-rooms. The Temple itself runs almost the whole length of the building.

For those wishing to learn more of the history of Dunheved Lodge No.789 from 1860 to 1960 you can find a PDF provided for your viewing by clicking this link: <https://bit.ly/31K15Wh>

CORNWALL 2024 FESTIVAL NEWS – #FEST2024



I'm sure many members throughout the Province look at some of the social media posts and articles on the United Grand Lodge of England's website. Recently throughout London was the "Open House Weekend" where a number of buildings were opened to the public. Grand Lodge was no exception.

For those of you that have seen the Infographic you will know that 1,300 people visited Freemasons' Hall across the two days, this was a brilliant opportunity for the Masonic Charitable Foundation to explain the role that we play in supporting charities and individuals up and down the country .

Above are two photos taken at Freemasons' Hall, one outside and the second the MCF & TLC stand inside.

Those that regularly check the MCF's Website or Social Media feeds, will have seen recently that an additional grant has been awarded to AGE UK. £250,000 has been awarded to Age UK's 'Emergency Coronavirus Appeal'. This donation builds on ongoing work between the two organisations, which joined forces in 2018 on a £1 million three-year programme, funded by the MCF, to help older people feel less lonely and get the most out of life. As the scale of the coronavirus crisis became apparent, the MCF agreed that resources from this programme could be re-purposed to support older people through the pandemic. The new £250,000 grant will provide extra resources for this vital work.

Laurie Boulton, Fundraising Director at Age UK, said:

"This is a period of great anxiety for everyone, but especially for older people and their loved ones. Age UK is determined to be there for older people who need our help and especially for those who have no one else to turn to in this time of crisis. The generous support we've received from Freemasons through the MCF will help us reach many more older people, and we're determined to rise to the challenge and continue to provide comfort, hope and practical support to those who need it most"

Since I last updated you all on the 1 to 2020 Club a number of further draws have taken place. The results are below and letters will be arriving soon to the lucky winners!



1st Prize £75 S. Trevains (Lodge No. 330)

2nd Prize £50 T. Morris (Lodge No. 8302)

3rd Prize £25 I. Morris (Lodge No. 121)

1st Prize £75 Towan Lodge No. 7684

2nd Prize £50 Phoenix Lodge No. 331,

3rd Prize £25 T. Evans (Lodge No. 5738)

1st Prize £75 Cornishman Lodge No. 9350

2nd Prize £50 Cotehele Lodge No. 2166

3rd Prize £25 St Lukes Lodge No. 5371

The first year of the 1 to 2024 Club has been a brilliant success. Mike Barnes (Draw Co-Ordinator) and myself will be writing to all participants shortly in regards to continuing your membership for next year. If any Member or Lodge wishes to partake or increase their membership please get in touch by downloading an application form from the Provincial website.

As mentioned in previous editions, if you do wish to make a single donation or set up a regular payment plan to qualify as a Festival Steward please visit:

<https://mcf.org.uk/donate/?festivalId=1263>

For any information on how you can support the 2024Festival, the 1 to 2024 club or the MCF in general, please do not hesitate to get in touch by emailing me at:

fest2024@pglcornwall.org.uk

W Bro. David Trevains

THE FESTIVAL OF 2024



Every few years, Grand Lodge may make a decree,
For charity we make so much, but can we make more? Let us see.
A drive to, in a dedicated year, an indeterminate amount we can collect,
And donated to worthy cause, our ideals fulfilled, or so we can reflect.

Charities of the order abound, merged, all under one hat,
Easing control, and speed of delivery, one could ask for no more than that.
Branded Masonic Charity Fund, and for the festival of 2024,
Brothers work hard, with ideas or in support, raising more and more and
more.

We give or raise as much as we can, seeking naught for ourselves in return,
Knowledge that we have done our part to help, sincerely, is our only
concern.
Who really benefits? funding and providing for who, we may want to know,
Anyone or any cause when in need, but there is in fact, a greater seed we
sow.

As Free and accepted brethren of the finest, most ancient, fraternal order,
Our ritual and knowledge, encompassed by charity, as our figurative border.
To those in society who know little, or refuse to learn and accept,
We continue our good work, regardless, earning many a cowans respect.

Through giving and charitable acts, we set the finest example,
Whether we give little as we are poor, or plenty, if we find in our pocket
ample.
And through exemplary conduct others may learn, and by invite or request,
May assist or be initiated, as we help, in them, to bring out their very best.

Brothers let us pull together, we brethren of the mystic tie,
2024 is not so far away, and whilst we work so hard, time will certainly fly!
The Masonic Charity festival, culminating next, in two thousand and
twenty four.
Let us, my Brothers, make this the greatest success yet, another one we can
again, be thoroughly proud of for sure!

By Bro Anthony Wilkins. Penwith Lodge No 8538, Millennium Lodge No
9708 & Cornwall University Lodge, Lodge of the Chisel No 9398

CORNISH BY CHOICE



“Never volunteer for anything- or you might get asked to write an article for the newsletter. You guessed it – I didn’t listen so here goes”.

In 2018 after a number of holidays we decided to make Cornwall our home and become an “Emmet” or as we prefer to say “Cornish by Choice”. The only question was where? We did look at a number of houses and decided Liskeard would be ideal for us as it was more or less central with excellent links into England should the need arise.

Having been a Buckinghamshire Freemason for over 15 years, initiated, passed and raised in Wolverton Trinity 7917 and keen to continue my masonic adventure, I did some research into lodges in the Province of Cornwall. The local lodge (St Martin’s 510) met in Liskeard a few weeks after we moved so I contacted the secretary to ask if I could attend as a visitor. On the appointed date and with some nervousness I walked up into the town to meet my new found brothers.

After the normal proofs of identity etc, I was warmly welcomed into the lodge and the meeting was opened, so far so good.

Eric Morecambe came to mind as I grappled with the opening ode, the words I knew, but the tune I didn’t! My vocal range went all over the place as I tried to accommodate this version and hoped the brothers near me didn’t hear me sound like an out of tune foghorn!!

Onwards into the evening and I found myself listening and observing with interest to the differences in the lodge opening to the one I had been used to in my mother lodge and province. For me, this is why I enjoy freemasonry, the small differences in the way some ritual is performed and by whom.

What next I thought keeping a keen eye on the DC? Saluting provincial officers past as well as present was next, new to me but a nice touch.

Rather naively, thinking I had overcome all of the challenges I would face, I settled into observing the business of the Lodge, which of course is similar wherever you go. I did notice there was an awful lot of actual squaring of the lodge “must be fit to be a deacon in Cornwall” I thought.

As the meeting started to draw to a close, my mind started to think about the festive board and looking around the lodge realised I was the only visitor on this occasion. After a moment of panic, I started to think about what I might say at the appropriate point, if asked. I was happily contemplating this and not paying attention to what was happening in the lodge when....

The DC asked the Master if he would be happy to take greetings from other lodges? With time honoured masonic notice, I was suddenly aware the DC was heading towards me. It’s always strange when you are the only one to stand and try to get all the words correct (well sort of) without babbling.

With only the closing hymn to sing I thought “well I’ve made it through without any problems” well not quite. The closing ode much like the opening one had its own challenges, once again I knew the words but not the particular tune (foghorn part 2). One final thing, I had been used to alms being collected towards the end of the meeting. However, not this time and on the way out a smiling brother held out the alms pouch, you never seem ready for these things when they are in a different order do you?

The Festive Board, I was more familiar with and felt I could at last relax, however this is a dangerous thing to do as in most lodges some things are different. St Martin’s did not disappoint and without thinking was almost ready to give fire after each toast, what a learning experience! I also left with a joining form, some masonic traditions never seem to change.

I am now very happily a member of St Martin’s both in Craft and Chapter (although the current situation has prevented me from being formally accepted into Chapter) I am also a Permanently Invited Guest (PIG) at The King Arthur Lodge 7134 (a first for me).

I have certainly missed meeting my fellow brothers over the last 6 months or so. My thanks must go to Brian Smith (ESSA Lodge 6287) whom I knew from St Martin’s for inviting me to their weekly Zoom meetings. I have met (virtually) a number of Cornish brothers and many more from around the UK and the rest of the world

A final thought, my acceptance into all lodges I have visited has been one of brotherhood and friendship. I hope to be of use to the Province in some way and look forward to getting back to actual lodge meetings next year (fingers crossed).

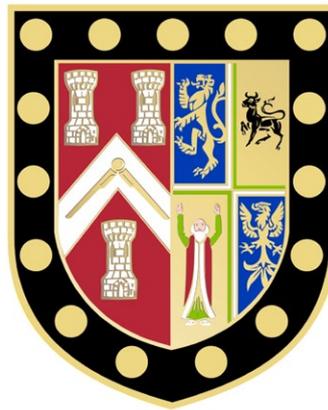
W Bro John Lawrence PPJGD, PPGStwd (Bucks)

Provincial Newsletter

Provincial Grand Lodge of Cornwall

If you have a story you would like to submit for consideration to The Provincial Newsletter
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