



# News & Views



## BEARS TAKE TO THE ROAD AT PGM'S RECEPTION

ACTIVE OFFICERS OF THE YEAR took a few minutes out from the Provincial Grand Master's Informal Reception to see the TLC Bears scheme extended to the St. John Ambulance Brigade. Assistant Commissioner for Operations, Marion Linnington and her companion Georgina Doney watched with delight as their ambulance was filled to the roof with the multi-coloured Bears and a formal handover made by the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Grand Charity Steward, Geoff Tuck.

Although we normally associate St. John Ambulance with administering First Aid at various events, they do of course attend everything from car accidents to major emergencies and it is in this area that the Bears will be most effective. We already have experience of the difference a TLC Bear can make to a distressed child and introducing them to all St. John Ambulances in Hampshire is a logical extension to the TLC Bear scheme.

Back in the relaxed atmosphere of the King's Court Centre the Reception continued on its well-ordered way. The amount of work involved in getting over 130 people to the right place at the right time should not be underestimated and it is a

credit to Peter Musselwhite, George Mars and the team from the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge that it all went so smoothly.

The Provincial Grand Master gave a short address in the Lodge room stressing the important part the ladies play in supporting their other halves and Bryan Olive presented Jenny Bellinger with a fine bouquet expressing grateful thanks from those present.

But the majority of the time was spent just meeting other Brethren, their wives and partners and being careful not to talk too much "shop".

The weather was extremely kind and after a pleasant lunch during which a silver band, headed up by fellow Mason Richard Lyon, played a selection of jazz and light music there was the opportunity

to retire to the very pleasant grounds of the Kings Court Centre.

This event is in its second year and is designed to give Active Officers a chance to meet others from across the Province with whom they will be serving in the coming year. It is also an opportunity to say thank you to the ladies without whom so much of what we do would not be possible.

*'a logical extension to the TLC Bear scheme'*

### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Message from the PGM 2
- Oakley had a Ball 3
- Masonry Universal 4
- Popadom Plan 4
- Biblia Sacra Your Letters 5
- What a Knight 6
- The Travels of Karwan 7
- In the Community Royal Arch Features 8

AND A LOT MORE

# Provincial Roundup

## What's in a Word?

**MY PATENT** from the M.W. The Grand Master appoints me as Provincial Grand Master for Hampshire and Isle of Wight. I believe that the use of the word "for" and not, as I sometimes hear, "of" has great significance. I interpret "for" as imposing on me important duties of both service and representation.

My duty of service to our Province stretches far beyond ensuring efficient administration of our affairs. I feel responsibility for the care of all our Brethren and their families, hoping that you, in turn, practice the Grand Principles of Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth in your daily lives.

I am well aware that I cannot (and do not!) "Please all of the Brethren all of the time". When making difficult decisions, however, I hope to ensure that I am doing my best for the Craft in general and accept responsibility for such actions. I do, of course, seek and receive much wise counsel from the Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Masters and the Provincial Grand



Secretary when necessary and appropriate.

We all have a responsibility for the well-being and good reputation of Freemasonry in general and this Province in particular, which we hold in trust for future generations. My "representational" function is in many ways less onerous but of equal importance. This naturally involves regular attendance at Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge, meetings of our Rulers Forum Group and visits to many other Provinces

throughout the South of England and the Channel Islands to attend their Annual Meetings. I have also been privileged to serve on committees involved in the setting-up of the Rulers Forum and looking at the future of our Charity systems.

The contributions our Province makes to the community at large are now publicly recognised. As examples, last July Jenny and I represented the Province at the formal launch of the new Air Ambulance Service, and in October I attended a reception at the House of Commons to celebrate ten years of Naomi House Children's Hospice and also the formal re-opening of Cathedral House in Portsmouth where a plaque now recognises the contribution made by "The Masonic Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight".

As I have been heard to say to R.W. Bro. Ernest Moss, it is no sinecure that he handed-over to me, but a challenging, worthwhile, and (usually) enjoyable responsibility.

I am most grateful to so many Brethren whose support goes so far to ease the task.

R. W. Bro. Brian Bellinger  
Provincial Grand Master

## The China Fleet Story

**THE PROVINCIAL LECTURE** this year is the fascinating story of the China Fleet Lodge of Instruction, starting as the Hawkins Lodge of Rehearsal on board H.M.S. Hawkins, the Flagship of the China Fleet, from its inception in 1929 to eventual closure in 1942.

Discover with me the details of the unique circumstances of its operation within His Majesty's Ships deployed on the China Station, covering an area that stretched from Japan in the north to Java in the south.

We explore how the Second World War impacted on it and the subsequent deployment of the Fleet. We see how the entry of Japan into the war and the loss of Hong Kong and Singapore affected the membership and how final closure was brought about by the sinking of a submarine depot ship, not as one might expect in the China Seas, but in the Eastern Mediterranean. For details and bookings contact **Ronald Childs** on 01329 843458.



## Steward's Lectures

**DOES YOUR LODGE** have gaps in its schedule this year? Rather than doing another demonstration, maybe your Lodge would appreciate a Lecture? Hampshire and Isle of Wight Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge have a number of Lecture Teams willing to travel to your Lodge and perform a Lecture. For details contact **David Foot** on 01329 221803.

## Editor Required

The Year Book Part 2, covering allied degrees, urgently needs a new Editor as the incumbent is retiring. Applicants will need their own Apple Macintosh computer and should be familiar with Quark Express. If you are interested please contact **Derek Hadow** (only) on 01329 664826.

## Almoner's Corner

**THE MAJORITY** of Almoner's Seminars have taken place and the last one will be at Cosham Masonic Centre on Tuesday the 29<sup>th</sup> of January starting at 7 pm. Please use this opportunity to attend if you have not managed to get to the Seminar attached to your area. I would like to record my thanks to Geoff Scott and his team for the support and help in organising these Seminars.

A booklet "The Roles and Responsibilities for Lodge Almoners and Charity Stewards" has been finalised and will be printed and sent to all Almoners, Charity Stewards and Group Almoners.

I would like to remind all Brethren that this year's Masonic Holiday in Bournemouth is from Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> June to Saturday 12<sup>th</sup>

July. Applications please to The Provincial Grand Secretary and advice regarding suitability to me.

I would like to thank all Lodge Almoners for supplying me with the number of widows that you have in your care. This information (numbers only) has been sent to The New Masonic Samaritan Fund so that they can send you 'In Need' to pass on to widows and inform them of the Charity's intended move. The NMSF is now allocating £10,000 per day to Brethren, Widows or Dependents.

Lastly I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for the sterling pastoral work undertaken with Brethren, Widows and Dependents.

W. Bro. Malcolm Childs  
Provincial Grand Almoner

**FOR YOUR DIARY**  
Provincial Annual General Meeting  
Wednesday 2nd July  
Southampton Guildhall

Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter  
Saturday 14th June  
Portsmouth Guildhall

## There is a Report

### Oakley had a Ball

**WELL A GRAND SUMMER BALL** ACTUALLY and what finer place to start celebrating your 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary than Oakley Hall, an elegant 18<sup>th</sup> Century Georgian Manor set amongst 315 acres of beautiful gardens and rural land to the west of Basingstoke. Even better when the hall was the former home of the Lodge's first Worshipful Master and a founding member, R.W. Bro. William Wither Bramston Beach MP, who was the Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and Isle of Wight in 1869, a position he held for some 32 years. Oakley Hall itself boasts a distinguished past with links to Jane Austen who was a good friend of the Bramstons. It is rumoured that her novel, *Mansfield Park* is modelled on Oakley Hall and that the main character Lady Bertram was based on Mrs. Bramston.

Oakley Lodge welcomed over 300 guests, including the Provincial Grand Master and his wife Jenny, to the reception, dinner and dance in this splendid setting. Worshipful Master, Maurice Parsons greeted



guests from a number of Basingstoke Lodges as they arrived and soon the reception areas and library were the scene of much jollity. The PGM and Jenny took this opportunity to meet many Brethren and their wives and to enjoy a joke with the Worshipful Master and his wife Jennette.

Volunteer Director of Ceremonies Henry Cole in full red tinseltailor's tailcoat announced the entry of the PGM to much acclaim and the fine meal was enjoyed by all. Before the dancing began the Worshipful Master presented a total of £6,000, raised by Basingstoke Masons, to St. Michael's Hospice and Naomi House Children's Hospice. From left to right David Gibbons of St. Michael's Hospice, Hilary Jokes and Kate MacDougall of Naomi House and the PGM.



The Lodge held its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary meeting in November when it was honoured by an official visit by the PGM accompanied by officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. The proud history of the Lodge was recalled in a series of carefully orchestrated readings, given by members of the Lodge, enthralled members and visitors alike with an insight into the history of Oakley Lodge from its foundation in August 1857 at the Black Boy Inn in Church Street to the present day where it takes its distinctive place as the oldest of the five Lodges that meet in the Basingstoke area.



### RMBI President Welcomed

**SOMETIMES IT'S A DIFFICULT CHOICE** for a Master to select the charity to support during his year in office. For Peter Bland the decision was made easier when V.W. Bro. Willie Shackell CBE (on the right) President of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institute graciously accepted an invitation to Peter's Installation at Mid Wessex Lodge of Installed Masters and kindly agreed to give some background on the work of the RMBI.

V.W. Bro. Willie explained that with 11,000 residents and 18 homes to support, one of the biggest challenges is raising approximately £10,000 a day to support its charitable activities. About half this money has to be found from the Masonic Festivals system and individual donations. A proportion of the costs are recovered from the local authorities and residents' contributions but the RMBI relies on the generosity of the Fraternity to raise the balance through donations and legacies.

The RMBI provides a comprehensive range of services to older Freemasons and their dependants including care in its Homes and Sheltered Accommodation and practical support to those who wish to remain in their own homes. The work of RMBI is perhaps best known to us through our contacts with Zetland Court in Bournemouth.

For information on the work of the RMBI visit their website at [www.rmbi.org.uk](http://www.rmbi.org.uk)

### Window on the Past

**FREEMASONS OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT** played a significant role in rebuilding St. Thomas's Church Newport I.O.W. in 1854. Albany Lodge were invited to assist Prince Albert in laying the foundation stone and after some controversy, the then PGM of The Isle of Wight, (a separate Province until 1863) Thomas Willis Fleming, agreed that full Masonic Ceremonial could be observed. The impressive occasion was attended by over 400 Masons from nearly every Lodge in Hampshire as well as The Isle of Wight, ranged under their respective banners. Mark Masons including Albany Mark T.L. and the Companions of Albany Chapter were also present. A list of the members and their marks was deposited under the foundation stone. They also presented the magnificent stained glass East window, the panels of which tell the story of King Solomon's Temple from its building to its destruction, tying in both Craft and Chapter.



So when the Church launched an appeal towards its restoration the Lodge decided the best way to support this was to arrange a Family Thanksgiving Service. This was attended by around 150 Island Masons, wives, families and friends, joined by (left) APGM Alan Hamilton and his wife Barbara and (right) Group Representative Dave Perkin and his wife Doreen. All enjoyed a thought provoking service lead by Canon Dr. Stephen Palmer, Vicar of Newport. Readings by members of the Lodge encompassed the Craft, Chapter and Mark and many side degrees. The service was followed by a reception organised by the Lodge in the Parish Hall. *thanks to Steve Darrness*

### CONGRATULATIONS

Fair Oak Lodge No. 8191 on their 40th Anniversary

Border Garrison Lodge No. 7538 on their 50th Anniversary

## There is a Report

### Masonry Universal

**MEDINA LODGE** that meets at Cowes on the Isle of Wight were contacted, following communication with the Provincial Office, by

Ursula Engemann on behalf of her father, a German Mason who planned to visit the U.K. and was keen to attend a Masonic meeting. The Lodge was able to confirm that W. Bro. Claus was a member of a Lodge recognised by the English Constitution and he sent them a copy of his "Masonic Passport". They also found that he spoke little or no English so with the help of the Provincial Information Service they obtained several offers from German speaking Masons, one of whom was Bro. James Henderson a member of Ryde Lodge, to act as interpreters.



W. Bro. Claus and his daughter were hosted during their visit by W. Bro. Alan Barry and in the evening Claus attended an Initiation ceremony. W. Bro. Ken Young the Lodge VGO welcomed Claus on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master, with Bro. James communicating this to him in German. W. Bro. Claus then addressed the Brethren in German, this being translated into English. Everyone enjoyed a thoroughly good evening and Masonry was shown to be truly Universal.

thanks to Steve Deane

### The Popadom Plan

**A PHONE CALL FROM A GENTLEMAN** in Essex Brian Elsbury of Twynham Lodge started an interesting sequence of events. The caller said he had found a badly crumpled piece of parchment in his loft with the name of the Lodge and a beautifully painted picture of meadows and a church on it. Brian immediately recognised it as the Lodge badge.

who works there.

On arrival and investigation the popadom turned out to be a Table Plan for the Ladies Night in 1952 a part of which is featured here.

Amongst many recognisable names are a number of the Lodge Founders, nearly all the Brethren responsible for raising funds and building the Masonic Centre at Christchurch and last but not



After a long conversation on how to collect this very delicate item and transport it to Christchurch, (it resembled a large popadom and snapped just as easily), the common ground proved to be Heathrow Airport. Our contact was to be Lodge member Bro. Neville Voysey,

least W. Bro. Peter Pull who has just been presented with a certificate on completing 60 years in Freemasonry.

The parchment is now renovated, framed and hangs at Warren Avenue in sight of the legacy these Brethren left.

thanks to Brian Elsbury

### Fine Fayre

**IT'S ALWAYS SPECIAL** when a really enjoyable social occasion raises money for a worthwhile cause. The Christmas Fayre at the Kings Court Centre was a splendidly festive affair arranged by Laura Offord and supported by nine local Lodges and the Amity Circle. Barry and Brenda Thompson who run the Centre also deserve a mention for significant support on the day. Over £3,000 was raised for the Kings Court Development Fund, which has plans to improve the facilities at the Centre. We hope to feature some details in a future issue.

Visitors crowded round the stalls to buy Christmas gifts and stocking fillers or delicious home-made cakes from the ladies of Amity Circle. After the exertion of all that shopping there was the chance to relax in the restaurant run by the members of the Lodge of Humility or, like Mason Simon Surprise, to take the youngsters to see Father Christmas.

Everyone worked very hard to make this event a success and visitors are already enquiring about next year's event.



### Party fun buys Scanner

**BACK IN 2005** when Michael Morris was installed in the chair of New Milton Lodge, his wife Christine had been diagnosed with cancer. It was decided, in view of the wonderful care and attention she received, to hold a Garden Party at their home, with the proceeds to be donated to the Kingston Lacey Ward at Poole General Hospital to help purchase a much needed Bladder Scanner.

The food for the Garden Party was provided by the Morris family and all cooked by Christine. The event raised £1,250 and a similar event in 2006 raised £1,600.

In 2007 the presiding Master Gerry Groves invited Mike and Christine to hold a third Garden Party, which raised another £1,600 bringing the total over three years to £4,450. With donations received from other supporters the target of £7,000 was reached and the scanner has been purchased and installed at the hospital. Grateful thanks to all who supported and contributed to this magnificent effort, and to Mike and Christine without whose dedication and generosity this would not have happened.

thanks to George Whiting



# There is a Report

## The Biblia Sacra

I WONDER JUST HOW MANY ANTIQUITIES abound in Freemasonry and whether the Brethren fully appreciate their importance to the Craft and its members?

This is a short history of a Bible which is the jewel in the archives of the Augustus Webster Lodge. It was presented to the Lodge by a Founder and first Worshipful Master, C.J. Sharp, at its third Regular Meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> of December 1918.

Inside the cover are the names of the 27 Founders. It is printed in Latin Vulgate, the language of the Church of Rome. It records the 73 Canon of the Scriptures, 46 Portfolios for the Old Testament and 27 Portfolios for the New. Today the New English Bible records only 66 Books. The date on the Title page shows it was published in the year MDXLIIX (1569) by Apud Gulielm in Lyon, France.

This Church of Rome Bible is known as the Biblia Sacra or "Sacred Bible". A copy of it also exists at Radboud University

Library in Nijmegen in Holland. It was also printed in folio size to be read from the Pulpit of a Church.

The dimensions are 35 cm. tall by 23 cm. wide. The cover is leather bound and it is printed on rag and cotton to give the appearance of parchment paper. Inside are



394 pages of text and 400 woodcut prints or vignette illustrations. The Old Testament possesses 249 Vignettes and the New Testament 175. There are four woodcut maps

depicting and illustrating the then known world. There are also 18 beautiful illustrations including King Solomon's Temple, the Ark of the Covenant and the Twelve Tribes of Israel. The beginnings of Chapters and finishing tailpieces are marked by hundreds of ornamental woodcut letters.

Many of these drawings and woodcuts were made by the renowned Swiss engraver Pierre Eschich.

Attached with the Bible is a portfolio written by Johannes Hertentii (John Heaton) in 1547. Not only was he praised by many writers of his century for his translations and writings of the Bible, he was also Regent of Studies, Defender of Faith, and Inquisitor at Louvain Monastery.

This Bible was printed in 1569, 11 years after Queen Elizabeth the First came to the throne and 19 years before Sir Francis Drake defeated the Armada. Also some 42 years before the King James the First Bible in 1611. From the above you can see why this is an important heirloom of the Augustus Webster Lodge.

thanks to Mike Freeman

## Your Letters

Dear Bro. Editor

Further to Robin Maddy's article (N&V Autumn 2007 - Now you see it), there is another Lodge that accommodates members of the Magic Circle. Drury Lane Lodge No. 2127 meets in an improvised Temple above the Drury Lane Theatre. It meets at 2 p.m. to avoid the time of theatre performances but unlike normal Temples it has several entrance doors, which can cause problems to both Tyler and Inner Guard when late arrivals appear from unexpected directions. The membership consists mainly of entertainers with the ritual being excellent, though any minor error is greeted with derision. Afterwards the Brethren repair to a small theatre club near Covent Garden, where the Festive Board is a constant running cabaret with piano playing, card and conjuring tricks, recitals, songs and impersonations. It is a delightful change from our rather staid After Proceedings. If you want to get home early, forget it, but if you can arrange an invite, go for it, it's unique.

W. Bro. Robin McGarel Graves

Dear Bro. Editor

How many readers know of one of our greatest success stories, the Amity Circle? Amity Who you ask?

The Amity Circle was the idea of R.W. Bro. Ernest Moss. He had noted the carling activities of the Knowle Club for Lodge widows in the Bournemouth area and decided that was exactly what was required in Southampton. The late W. Bro. Trevor Offord, was tasked with organising it and W. Bros. Malcolm Calder and Peter Ward appointed as Chairman and Secretary respectively.

On the 1st of April 2003 at a meeting with Absenters from the Chandlers Ford/

Eastleigh Group of Lodges, The Amity Circle came into being. The objective was to provide companionship and fellowship for Lodge widows, widowers and elderly Brethren in the Group in the form of social activities throughout the year.

The first Coffee Morning held at the Barleigh Grange Hotel was an instant success with fifty plus widows and widowers attending.

It was soon realised that we needed a Treasurer, W. Bro. Clive Lewis, and latterly an Assistant Secretary, W. Bro. Mike Kelly.

Nowadays, we regularly have eighty or more at the Coffee Mornings and we also list among our activities, Day Trips Out, an Annual Christmas Lunch, and Five Day Holiday Breaks to places like the Isle of Wight, Torquay and this year it was the Cotswolds. That's Amity Circle. For more information you can call me on 01489 782287.

W. Bro. Peter Ward

Dear Bro. Editor

When installed into the chair of St. Christopher Lodge in October I was faced with a problem. Like so many Lodges we have undergone a significant shrinkage in membership and are beginning to feel the effects of smaller numbers. There are a number of responses to this. We can pay up and put up; but more often this results in further losses in membership. We could reduce the number of meetings; but whilst this might provide temporary relief, almost inevitably the situation will be repeated sooner rather than later.

The answer was to recognise the dangers of standing still and tackle them head on. I decided to adopt the theme Excel, Expand, Enjoy.

By Excel I mean "to be excellent", not to "exceed". I want the Lodge to continue to aim for the highest standards in the conduct of its ceremonies and to involve as many members as

is possible in delivering them, knowing that by so doing the Brethren will feel they have done their best on every occasion.

St. Christopher has to recruit more members and thus Expand. The best solution is for members to be active and positive in finding potential candidates. Equally, all members are encouraged to invite guests as often as they can, so that both the Temple and the Festive Board will ring with a full attendance.

Putting the two together, Enjoyment must be the result as, when all was said and done, this is what Masonry is about; enjoying our ceremonies, enjoying our refreshment, and enjoying each others company.

May I recommend all Lodges to Excel, Expand, Enjoy!

W. Bro. Chris Harper

Dear Bro. Editor

It was a real pleasure, as always, to have the latest edition of News and Views arrive with a Lodge summons. Despite being tired I was unable to put it down until I had read the whole contents.

I was particularly engaged by the item on page 3, making reference to W. Bro. Shaun Jullife of St. Swithuns Lodge. He is to be congratulated on reaching the chair at the age of 33 and being the youngest Master in his Lodge.

I am however a younger Master in the Province. I went into the chair last February aged 28 years (I am now 29). It would be interesting to know whether anyone younger has reached the chair in the Province. With fraternal best wishes.

W. Bro. NR Penigrew

My grateful thanks to all who wrote in regarding the 'Youngest Master' article.

Ed.

