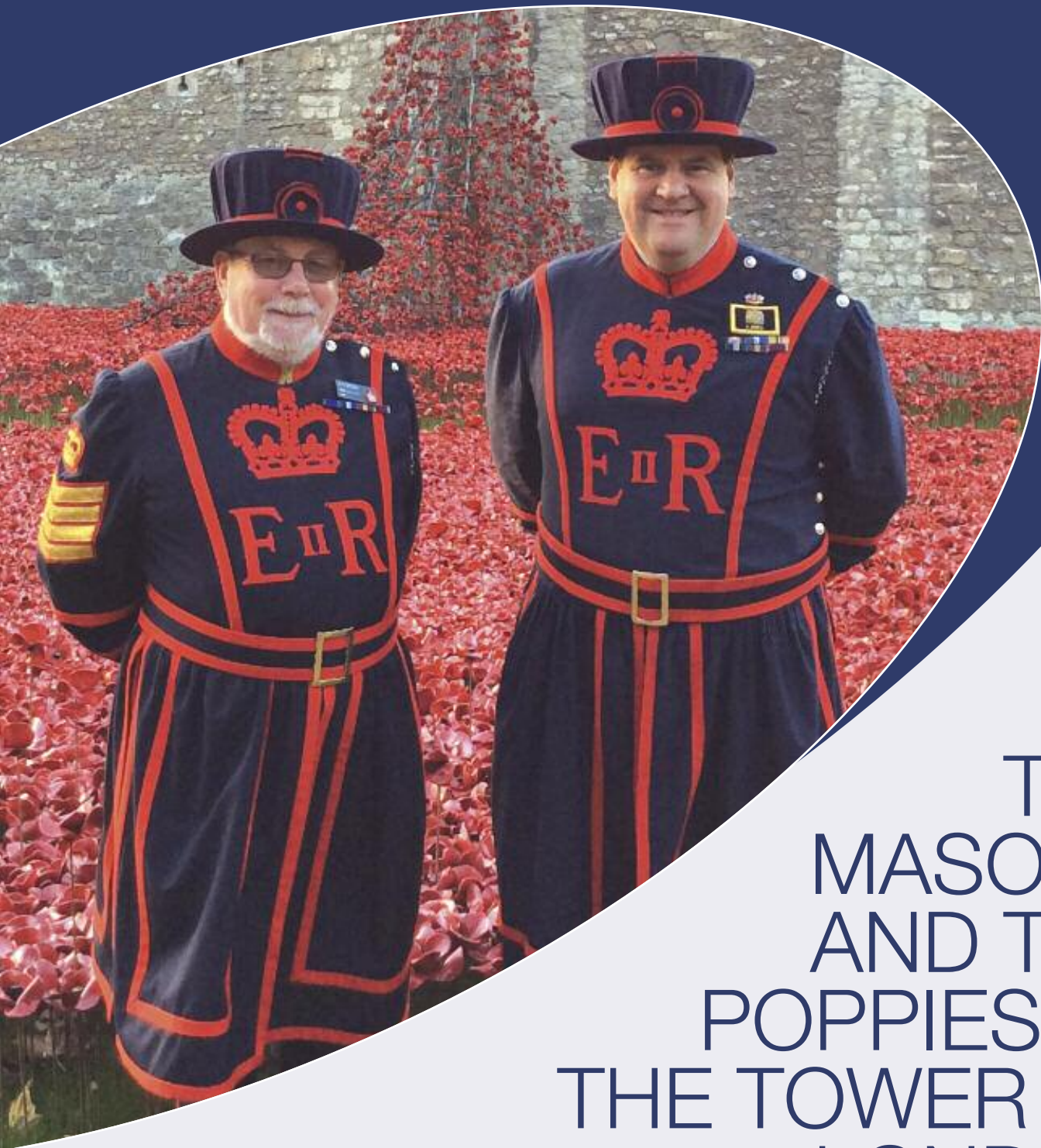


arena



ISSUE 19

WINTER 2014



THE
MASONS
AND THE
POPPIES AT
THE TOWER OF
LONDON

CONTENTS

4	<i>A Younger Mason Speaks</i>
5	<i>The Men at the Top: Eddy Holding</i>
8	<i>2015 Senior Appointment Changes</i>
9	<i>Remembering the 888,246</i>
11	<i>The Lord Mayor's Show 2014</i>
18	<i>Almoner's Anecdotes</i>
20	<i>So what's the Operatives all about then?</i>
23	<i>London Charity Matters</i>
26	<i>Stepping Stones: RMTGB support for London's Charities</i>
28	<i>The Men at the Top: Ray Ride</i>
33	<i>Sports News</i>
40	<i>Famous Londoners - Kynaston Studd</i>
42	<i>LGR/LR Investiture</i>
44	<i>From the MetGDC's Team...</i>

A selection of London Events:

Secretaries and Scribes E Seminar

20 January 2015

Mentoring Seminar

22 January 2015

New Masons Receptions

3 March 2015

17 March 2015

16 April 2015

Metropolitan Grand Lodge AGM & SLGR Investiture

5 March 2015

Metropolitan Grand Chapter Annual Convocation

16 April 2015

See Porchway for more
information and details

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FOREWORD

RW Bro Russell Race Metropolitan Grand Master

Brethren and Companions,

I bid you a very warm welcome to this edition of *arena*.

What an exciting start it has been to the 2014/15 masonic season! It seems that so much has happened in these past few months as we have moved from summer and into winter. Metropolitan Grand Lodge was of course represented by a significant number of brethren who paraded through the City in full regalia. What a fine sight you all made (see report on p. 11) and I hope that you enjoyed the occasion. Both the Connaught Club and the Kent Club have been very busy indeed. A number of younger brethren from the Connaught Club undertook a charity cycle ride to Ypres in Belgium. Dubbed "Operation Ypres", the ride raised money for The Royal British Legion and Wiltshire Barn, a masonic social enterprise for wounded ex-servicemen and those that took part and assisted are to be congratulated for their endeavours. Both Clubs hosted their annual dinners, the Kent Club in the surroundings of the Great Hall at St. Bart's Hospital and the Connaught

Club at the East India Club in St. James'.

Both events were extremely well attended as was the fabulous inaugural Metropolitan Grand Lodge Ladies Night at the Grange Hotel (see p. 38). Staying with successes, I was also delighted to see so many brethren receiving honours at the London Grand Rank and London Rank Investiture back in November and I offer sincere congratulations to you all. I also particularly enjoyed the Family Festive Concert and it was nice to see so many brethren and their families in attendance for that. As many of you will know, I enjoy music and it was a special pleasure to be able to host the first of the Metropolitan Masonic Concert Series which, like the Ladies' Night, I hope goes on from strength to strength.

As the festive season is upon us, I hope you will all enjoy the break and use the time to reflect on what has gone before and what is to come when we return in January. I look forward to seeing you all then.

S&F
Russell



EDITORIAL



Covering everything in London is nigh on an impossibility for the resources we have available, but we do try to give our readers a flavour of the diversity and breadth of the London season in these pages. Remember that the magazine is open to all, whether mason or not, to underline our commitment to making ourselves better known within the communities in which we all live. Two new developments which play their part in this agenda and which we hope to feature in the next edition, are firstly the creation of a Metropolitan Exhibitions Unit, which will take stand

space at appropriate London-based trade shows, interacting directly with delegates and visitors. The second new team is the Metropolitan Video Unit, which will again provide some viewable material on masonry and "Met" for the public. Its first video is of the Connaught Club-led charity cycle ride to the Menin Gate and it is well worth viewing. The video is available at the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter YouTube page at <http://tinyurl.com/MetYouTube>

With every good wish of the season to you and happy reading!
EDITOR

A YOUNGER MASON SPEAKS...

Bro. Peter Rees

“ I would just like to write to you both to thank you for starting me on my journey and for your support before, during and after my initiation yesterday. It was, without doubt, one of my most memorable life experiences! I have to say that today I feel 'different', in a good way. I don't know why... or what happened... but I do feel very, very strongly that something 'happened'. Sorry, I can't explain further. This is something upon which I am reflecting. Maybe you have experienced this and/or know what I mean? ”



These were the words I wrote in an email, last September, to my Proposer and Seconder on the day after my Initiation in Royal Crown Lodge 3133. As an older (60 years) 'young' mason, I came to the craft later in life. My Grandfather was a Master Mason, but he passed when I was still very young and we never had the time to discuss Freemasonry; a regret. It was earlier in 2013 that a good friend and fellow member of The Eccentric Club had enquired if I was interested in Freemasonry and explained the obligations and opportunities involved. The time was right and after some research and further discussions, I applied for membership.

The actual event was wonderful, but strangely disconcerting too! W. Bro Mark Butcher, LGR, presided and ran an exceptional ceremony (I later realised). His relaxed but confident (and accurate) conversational style caused me feel as if I was simultaneously in a 'play', watching a 'play' and having an important conversation with a friend who was, at the same time, speaking off the cuff and reciting a script. The mental jumps between all these aspects created a memorable if unusual experience. The evening passed in a blur and, as is often the case, I could not remember all of the detail and order in which everything happened.

Following the excellent advice to 'learn a little more every day', I spoke with friends in the craft and in the next few months I attended and saw several more initiations.

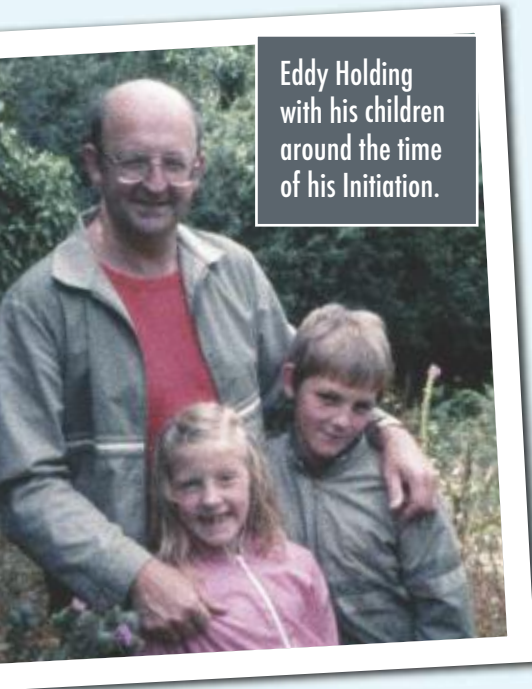
At two of these, I was privileged to hear the lecture, explaining the full symbolism of the initiation ceremony. I have since learnt that this is extremely rare. One W. Bro telling me that it was only the second time that he had heard it in his thirty-five year Masonic career! I strongly recommend that other new Masons adopt a similar approach and try and get to see a range of initiations in different Lodges, as soon as they can. Every one is very slightly different and you are sure to see and learn something new on each occasion; both in the Lodge itself and at the Festive Board which follows.

I have met many new and interesting fellow Masons. I have made a lot of new friends, some of whom have really gone the 'extra mile' to welcome me into the craft and to support my Masonic development. The Kent Club too (a group for London Freemasons, aged over 35) has provided a great source for friends and fellowship, which I value and highly commend. Some parts of the information transfer have been a little chaotic, but overall I am really happy that I joined.

THE MEN AT THE TOP:

EDDY HOLDING

W. Bro Stan Marut continues the series on our Men at the Top in London....



Eddy Holding with his children around the time of his Initiation.

Eddy Holding comes from the heart of London, having been born at the Lying-In Hospital in Lambeth, close to Waterloo Station, (the splendid hospital portico still fronts York Road), but the family home for his first twelve years was actually in Brixton. Eddy was very much a child of the 1950/60s and grew up within an environment of immigration as particularly witnessed in Brixton, which had a major influx of West Indians at that time. Eddy fondly recalls growing up in such an environment, especially as a teenager. He had a number of Jamaican friends and it would appear that, like local boy John Major, who later became Prime Minister, there was no thought of race holding any boundaries as to who was a friend or not - just like Freemasonry! In time, the family moved to the leafier suburb of Balham.

Eddy went to Primary School at Stockwell Juniors; his secondary education was at Aristotle Secondary in Clapham where he excelled at swimming and cross country, being very thin and lanky. He represented his school in London Schools cross-country events, always managing to come within the top twenty! He obtained the regulation 6 "O" Levels which were needed for any youngster to get a reasonable head-start in the job hunt and in 1963, began his first job as Trainee Manager for W H Cullens, the Grocers, which was close to home, until he realised that he did not want to make his way in life from behind a shop counter. He therefore left to become a Clerical Officer in the Civil Service working within the Crown Agents in Westminster, where he worked for the next three years, before deciding that he wanted to take a leave of absence to go and travel abroad and develop some language skills. The 'gap year' not having been invented as such, there was no real prospect of this, so he resigned and then, unlike most people who would take a train after the ferry got them to France, he actually "walked" all the way to Spain, ending up in Barcelona!

He left England in January 1968 and recalls camping out in the snow on the continent. He had no companion and it was an exciting adventure to head off to pastures unknown. With only his occupational experience of a grocer's shop and the Civil Service, Eddy ended up sharing a Barcelona flat with two students, a German and a Tunisian. Bearing in mind Eddy's quest for a language learning opportunity, with his two newly

found companions he managed to converse on a daily basis in French, German and Spanish. Indeed, whilst there, Eddy taught English to youngsters from many nationalities at a private school. However, things came unstuck when the headmistress died and all of a sudden, there was no job. Based on Eddy's apparently excellent teaching ability, an offer did come from an American school, but as he had been working without formal teaching qualifications, a return home became inevitable. Back in London, he joined the London Ambulance Service as an ambulanceman in 1969. In the meantime, he had met his wife-to-be, Joan, while out dancing at the Orchid Ballroom, Purley and they married in 1970. Up until this time there had been no family link with masonry and no inkling of any likely developments in this field.

Unknown to Eddy, his younger brother, John, had become a mason in a Surrey lodge in the early 1980's. However, it wasn't John who introduced Eddy to masonry but an old friend, Basil Preuveneers and Basil's father, Maurice. Despite knowing very little, Eddy was encouraged to take that first step and was finally initiated - in a double initiation - into Valentia Lodge No. 3097 in May 1983 by his friend Basil. The Lodge, founded in 1905, had been the "brainchild" of Viscount Valentia, a former PGM of Oxfordshire, with the objective of providing a masonic home for those men from Oxfordshire living or working in London. Eddy was 36 years old when initiated and recalls it as having given a very strange first impression. However, he relied on



The cottage Eddy rebuilt with his son in Cornwall

Masonic Career

- 1983 Initiated into Valentia Lodge No 3097
- 1987 Exalted into Great City Chapter No 1426
- 1990 WM Valentia Lodge No 3097
- 1993 First Principal Great City Chapter No 1426
Founding Third Principal of Cyclist Filia Chapter No 6409
- 1996 Founding Steward of Clerkenwell Lodge of Installed Masters No 9628
- 1997 LGR
- 2000 SLGR and LGCR
- 2001 Founding Steward of Clerkenwell Chapter of First Principals 9628, PPAGSoj (Surrey)
- 2005 PAGDC - SLGCR - VGO (Devonshire Group)
- 2006 PDepGReg (Surrey)
- 2007 SVO
- 2010 WM - Clerkenwell Lodge of Installed Masters No 9628
- 2011 PGStB
- 2012 Met Grand Inspector (Holy Royal Arch), PSGD& PGSoj
- 2014 First Principal - Clerkenwell Chapter of First Principals.

the trust placed in his proposer and seconder and knew that Basil would not put him in a situation which would be difficult or embarrassing. He does recall a large number of dark blue aprons around and hearing "tuts" from

older members whenever a word was missed in the ritual though! Such was Eddy's first encounter with freemasonry.

Taking a step back in time, Eddy and Joan had started a family with his son, Neil, being born in 1975 and daughter, Karen, in 1976. In 1982 Neil became a cub scout. Eddy had thoroughly enjoyed his own time as a cub and Scout in his early years and was keen for his son to have a similar experience. It turned out that due to the threatened closure of the pack, he had to step forward with another Dad and volunteer to keep the group going by becoming warranted Leaders. This subsequently led to him, over a number of years, becoming Group Scout Leader and then District Chairman for the Runnymede District. In between these community and masonic activities time had to be found to do his day job!

As noted above Eddy had been in the London

Ambulance Service, rising from a crew role to becoming a Training Officer. Tempted by the thought of working with a friend away from the stress of the Service, they bought and ran a Freehouse on the A377 near Crediton in Devon. Regrettably, changes to circumstances outside their control meant selling up and returning with the family to Surrey. His subsequent career was mainly in administration management for a major finance house working in facilities and building services and then latterly as a contracts and project manager for two large commercial construction companies. Taking early retirement aged 55, he spent much of the next 8 years assisting his son rebuild his 200 year old cottage in Cornwall - very successfully, as can be seen from the accompanying photos!

Following his initial foray into the masonic world, Eddy's growing enthusiasm was fed by regular attendance at LOI, where he was given expert guidance and direction. Inspired by this, he became determined to achieve the high standard set by the Past Masters and Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge. A few short years after initiation, he was encouraged by several Past Masters of the Lodge to become a Companion in the Holy Royal Arch. His Exaltation took place in Great City Chapter No. 1426 in April 1987. At first he had difficulty understanding the order, as unlike his Craft experience, there was no Chapter of Instruction. Nevertheless, having been made a Steward, perseverance paid off as after a short while, Eddy recalls, "the light went on" and he became a very keen participant. He proceeded up the ladder and became 1st Principal in November 1993.

Meanwhile, Eddy became Worshipful Master of Valentia in 1990, following this by becoming Secretary from 1992 until 1999 and then Almoner for a further five years. All of a sudden Eddy's masonic life became quite full, with promotion to LGR in 1997 and LGCR in 2000. SLGR and SLGCR followed in 2000 and 2005 respectively. Not content with this, Eddy had assisted in the founding of the Clerkenwell Lodge of Installed Masters in 1996 as a Founding Steward and then whilst



Eddy with his wife, Joan.

Secretary of this prestigious lodge became a Founding Steward of Clerkenwell Chapter of First Principals in 2001.

Eddy, as shown above, has been a great champion and enthusiast for Freemasonry. As a Royal Arch Metropolitan Grand Inspector, he uses every opportunity to share this enthusiasm with everyone he meets and believes we need to do much

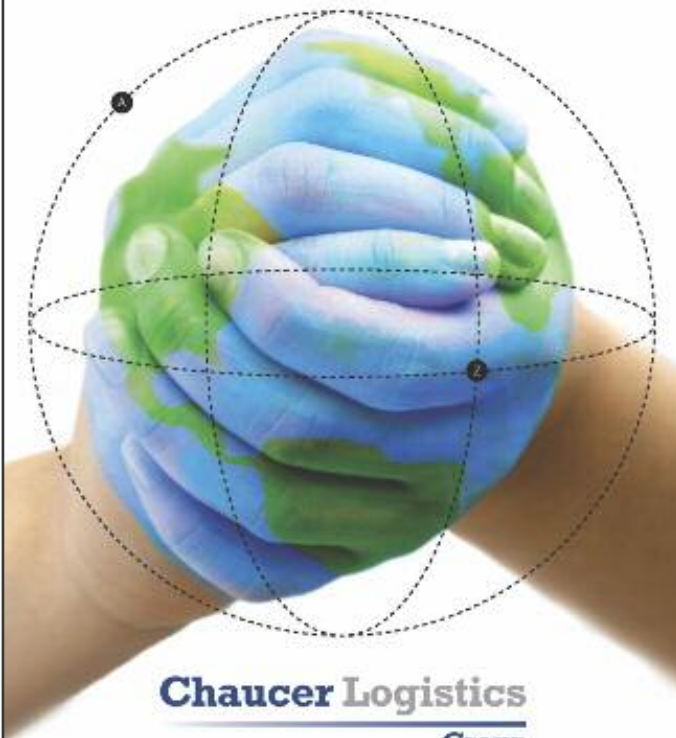
more in developing a fuller participation of regular craft masons in the Holy Royal Arch using the Initiation to Exaltation credo. He is now also a member of a team involved in Visiting Officer selection and development, and is helping to raise the standards within this, the most important role in the MetGL/GC structure!



Five things you didn't know about Eddy Holding:

1. Enjoys listening to opera from an armchair, Puccini, Verdi and Mozart preferred.
2. Never, from choice, watches any form of sport live or on TV!!
3. Practiced 'operative' masonry in stone cladding a 200 year old cottage in Cornwall.
4. Speaks conversational Spanish and French, (although now very rusty!!).
5. Has three wonderful grandchildren, aged 6 years to 18 months in Cornwall and Surrey.

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2015 SENIOR APPOINTMENT CHANGES

It was recently announced that the following changes in the appointments of London Rulers would take effect from the next annual meetings of MetGL and MetGC on 5 March and 16 April 2015 respectively. As Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, E. Comp Chris Clark, PGSwdB, replaces E. Comp Chris Frankland, PGSN. As AMetGM/AMetGS with special Royal Arch responsibilities, E. Comp Brian Saidman replaces E. Comp Clark.

As MetGInsp's on the Craft side, W. Bros David Cuckow, PAGDC; Jamie Ingham Clarke, PAGDC; David Nunn, PAGDC and Cdr. Ian Wellesley Harding, PAGSwdB, RN, and on the Royal Arch side, W. Bro Jeremy Beech, PAGDC. The MetGM, Russell Race went on to say "on behalf of all London masons, I give my thanks to the retiring Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, and the retiring Inspectors. They have all made a tremendous contribution over many years to the development of the London Metropolitan Area."

arena salutes them all - especially those who images grace its pages for the first time!



E. Comp Chris Clark



E. Comp Brian Saidman



W. Bro David Cuckow, PAGDC



W. Bro Jamie Ingham Clarke, PAGDC



W. Bro David Nunn, PAGDC



W. Bro Cdr. Ian Wellesley Harding, PAGSwdB, RN



W. Bro Jeremy Beech, PAGDC

REMEMBERING THE 888,246

One of the most iconic structures in London, the Tower Of London, a place we have probably all visited, with children, family and friends, recently played host to a project of massive scale and significance. The Blood Swept Lands and Seas of Red is the moving and astonishingly striking display of 888,246 ceramic poppies planted in the dry moat surrounding the Tower. arena was privileged to be granted access to the dry moat, by the Yeoman Clerk and London Mason, W. Bro Philip Wilson, LGR, MetGD and W. Bro Simon White, SLGR, MetDepGDC, reports back on that visit and the story behind a different kind of installation....

"The original idea for the Blood Swept Lands installation was that of artist Paul Cummins, who in conjunction with stage designer Tom Piper put the suggestion forward to the Tower. Once accepted, using the services of more than 21,000 volunteers the planting began on 17th July 2014 and continued until the last one was placed on 11th November 2014 in a moving ceremony witnessed by many thousands. Each poppy was created in four separate parts and then transported to the Tower for planting. The total number of 888,246 individual poppies represents the number of British and Colonial forces who made the ultimate sacrifice during the First World War. The Poppies are all sold with the proceeds being divided amongst six service charities, and quite a few masonic Lodges and Chapters have added their names to the list of poppy owners.

Each evening at dusk a Yeoman Warder took his place on a stand in the dry moat amongst the Ceramic poppies and read names of servicemen who fell during the Great War, in a roll of honour culminating in the playing of the Last Post. Now having been taken down, the huge number of flowers surrounding the Tower made a massive impact, by day and night. It is estimated that 5 million people will have visited the Tower to see the Poppies.

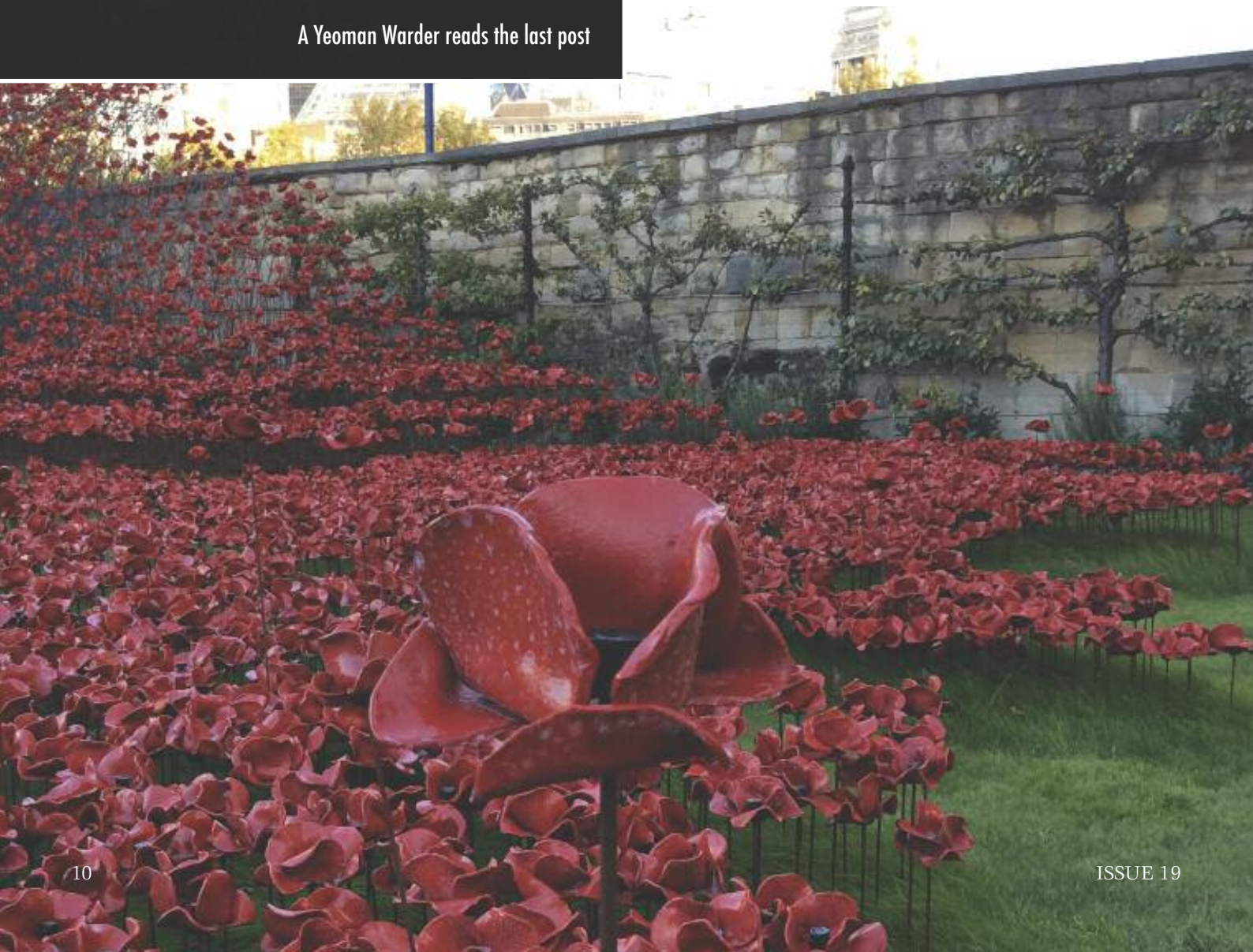


A Yeoman Warder reads the last post

The guardians of the Tower are the Yeoman Warders, often referred to as 'Beefeaters'. Their origins stretch back to the reign of Edward IV (1461 – 1483) and they have formed the Royal Bodyguard since 1509. The obvious question may be is there any connection to Freemasonry? The answer is as interesting as the Tower itself as arena found out.

Of the thirty-seven Yeomen, around half are Masons, all members of Lodges within The Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London, and so guarding the Tower is very much a Metropolitan Masonic affair. The two Yeoman Warders pictured on the front cover are (left) W. Bro Phil Wilson, LGR, MetGD of Manchester Lodge No. 179 and (right) Bro. Jimmy James of West Norwood Lodge No. 3598. Attending meetings can be challenging for the Yeoman Warders, but not as challenging at the nightly curfew when the palace, in which they reside, is locked for the evening following the Ceremony of the Keys. This certainly puts dashing for a train into perspective!"

arena is, and indeed all readers should be, proud to know that this dedicated band of Metropolitan Masons are intimately involved with protecting one of our greatest Landmarks and remain as iconic symbols of London and Britain.



THE LORD MAYOR'S SHOW 2014

Bro. Danjal Rein returned to the City of London to view Met brethren as they marched on our behalf in November and gives us some interesting background and snippets of information on this annual high-profile event in London's civic calendar...

The office of Lord Mayor dates from 1189 and it was a requirement of its establishing charter that each Mayor travelled to the royal enclave at Westminster to present himself to the monarch's representatives, the senior Judges, as Barons of the Exchequer, to take an oath of loyalty to the Sovereign upon beginning his/her term. The event is officially listed in the City's Civic Calendar as 'The Procession to the Royal Courts of Justice and Presentation of the Lord Mayor to the Chief Justices'. When the Royal Courts moved from Westminster to the Strand location in 1882 the route was

shortened. Originally the journey was mostly made by barge on the River Thames, the usual transport for the route in those days. Pageantry and display gradually grew around the trip, and by the sixteenth century the "Show" was firmly established as a major entertainment for Londoners. The Lord Mayor's Show has not been moved since 1852, when the show made way for Arthur Wellesley, 1st Duke of Wellington's funeral. Not even the Second World War could stop the Show. The Lord Mayor has been making that journey every year for 477 years, surviving plague and fire and countless wars



Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter banner bearers



and insurrections. The modern Lord Mayor's procession is a direct descendant of that first journey to Westminster.

And so it is that I find myself viewing the Parade from my vantage point in front of St. Paul's Cathedral. There is a good turn out and everyone is in a cheerful mood. Compared to last year when it rained throughout the parade, the weather is dry with a chance of rain mid-afternoon, although, as a precaution, all participating Freemasons were provided with plastic ponchos that fitted nicely into their apron pockets.

I caught up with our group at the halfway point, where light refreshments were served, where I met Bro. Scott Dunn, MM, of Cator Lodge No 2266, who explained that they had met at St. Bart's at 08:30 in the morning for tea, with a briefing held at 09:30. This was Scott's fourth year participating, and he was, as always, glad to be back, explaining that he always found the response from the crowd enormously encouraging. Also back for more, despite last year's deluge, was W. Bro Edoardo El-Attrache, LGR, of Royal Standard Lodge No. 1298. He found this year's dry experience highly enjoyable. Last year Edoardo mused about needing plastic gloves in

addition to the plastic poncho provided, so I asked if he came prepared this year, whereupon he duly presented a pair of white latex gloves. "You never know".... as he said.

As I walked amidst the Brethren I sensed a very uplifted and joyous atmosphere; everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. One bone of contention voiced was the BBC coverage, as a few brethren had gotten word through that the pictures from the Parade were cut just as the Masons appeared in view - again. Next I met John Parry, MetSGW, who is the Metropolitan Grand Lodge's person in charge of our entry. John told me that he was overwhelmed by the support London Masons had again shown for the event. He told me that it was first proposed that we participate in the Lord Mayor's Parade seven years ago and we've done so every year since.

John explained that Metropolitan Grand Lodge & Grand Chapter were the first entrants to sign up to this year's Parade and that there were 60 banner bearers, up from 54 last year, and again 80 brethren in total.

As the call came through for the parade to gather for the march back, I asked John about the Lunch for Participants, family & friends at the

Great Hall, St. Bart's Hospital, after the Parade: "It's wonderful, we were actually oversubscribed," he said: "I had originally set the limit at 120, but we are now seating 170 and still turning people away. I may have to ask the Metropolitan Grand Master if he will give up his seat," he joked! "It all goes to show how popular this whole event is with London Masons." He hoped I would be joining him for the magnificent Firework display after the lunch which I duly did and was again amazed, as I had been all day!

Brethren wishing for their Lodge or Chapter to take part in next year's parade should keep an eye out on Porchway in March by which time the booking form should be there!



VW Bro. Stephen Fenton
presenting the centenary
warrant.

KELVIN LODGE NO. 3736 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS

'The Centenary celebration meeting of Kelvin Lodge was held at Freemasons' Hall on Friday, 24th October. W. Bro Mark Hawes attended alongside a large number of members and guests, including "Dot" the guide dog to mark this special occasion.

The meeting was held in two parts with the morning session commencing at 11.30am and covering the Installation of the Worshipful Master VW Bro. Horatio Nelson Hall, PGSwdB, LGR, PDepProvGM (Buckinghamshire). There was a surprise guest entrance to the proceedings when the Inner Guard reported that two unnamed Brethren were seeking admission and in walked two good friends of the Worshipful Master, RW Bro. Gordon Robertson ProvGM (Buckinghamshire) and his deputy, RW Bro. Robert Wharton, DepProvGM (Buckinghamshire). The Centenary agenda in the afternoon continued the celebrations by welcoming VW Bro. Stephen Fenton, PGSwdB, AMetGM, as guest of honour into the Lodge, accompanied

by Metropolitan and Provincial Grand Officers under the direction of the MetGDC, W. Bro Patrick Penny, PAGDC. It is also worth recording that there was one special guest with outstanding deportment and obedience to his Master - "Dot" the guide dog to W. Bro Mark Graham, who sat in perfect harmony during all the day's events.

Following a splendid lunch at the Connaught Rooms, the Lodge resumed its work in Temple No. 17, the Buckinghamshire Temple, the Worshipful Master welcomed all in attendance and began the celebratory agenda. There were several highlights during the meeting which detailed the longevity of the Lodge through orations and speeches since its first meeting on 23rd October 1914. W. Bro Jack

Cohen, PGStB, PProvGSwdB (Buckinghamshire), the DC of the Lodge, drew on passages from ancient minutes detailing noteworthy events for the appreciative audience and presented a wonderful oration on the history of the Lodge, this was compounded with a commemorative booklet to mark the occasion.

The presentation of the Centenary Warrant and congratulatory letter from the Metropolitan Grand Master were presented by VW Bro. Stephen Fenton and orations given by the Metropolitan Grand Chaplain made the day's events a thoroughly heartfelt celebration. The past one hundred years gave recognition for those past and present members who assisted in making the event both engaging and entertaining.



The WM, visiting Grand and Metropolitan Officers, Officers of Kelvin and of course, Dot the guide dog.



GRENADIERS LODGE CELEBRATE 275 YEARS

Bro. Luke Elford attended this celebratory evening and reports back as follows...

Grenadiers Lodge No. 66, which was consecrated on 27th October 1739, celebrated its 275th anniversary on the 27th November, in an extremely well-attended meeting in Temple 17 at Freemasons' Hall. Over one hundred brethren assembled for what really was a fabulous meeting, not only to celebrate the anniversary of the formation of the Lodge, but to welcome Mr. Simon Purnell, now Bro. Purnell, into the Craft. Bro. Purnell was Initiated into Grenadiers Lodge in fine style by the Worshipful Master, and what an occasion at which to be Initiated! Bro. Purnell was also treated to an excellent delivery of the Charge after Initiation delivered by W. Bro Nick Dodd, LGR, the Lodge's Director of Ceremonies.

After the meeting got underway, there was a report and W. Bro Jonathan Cooper, MetDepGDC entered the Lodge. Bro. Cooper advised that the guest of honour, VW Bro. Philip Summers was without and demanded admission. Bro. Summers was admitted together with

a procession of Metropolitan Grand Officers, including W. Bro Robert Grant, MetGInsp and W. Bro Capt. David Swain, RN, the MetGSec. Following the Initiation of Bro. Purnell, the Lodge and gathered brethren were treated to a paper on the history of Grenadiers Lodge, delivered by W. Bro Antony Smithson, SLGR. Bro. Smithson considered the reasons behind the name 'Grenadiers' as well as touching on several notable occasions in the Lodge's history, highlighting the ballot box presented to the Lodge in 1913 by Bros. Dickin and Gardener, the wood for which was salvaged from HMS Lutine, as well as the Lodge's splendid banner, which was dedicated at the Lodge's 250th anniversary meeting. The Lodge also presented Bro. Summers with a cheque for £15,000 made out to the Metropolitan Masonic Charity. This was presented by the Worshipful Master, W. Bro Michael Birkett, PDepGSwdB and W. Bro Geoffrey Aldridge, SLGR. Bro. Aldridge, together with W. Bro Brian Ott, LGR, the Lodge's Secretary, were

given special thanks for their hard work in arranging the Anniversary meeting.

Following the conclusion of the meeting the Brethren retired to the Grand Connaught Rooms for an excellent five course banquet. Members and guests were also presented with a commemorative booklet containing a host of interesting information about the Lodge, as well as an engraved crystal firing glass. *arena* readers may be interested to know that Grenadiers Lodge still pass around port in exquisitely cut decanters presented to the Lodge by Bros. Clippeton, Bishop and Nettlefield in 1887! The Lodge also retains a strong family connection and, it being fourteen years since the Lodge installed a Past Master as WM, membership is in good order! There can be no doubt that Grenadiers Lodge will continue to flourish through to its 300th Anniversary in 2039 and beyond!

SHANGHAI TUSCAN LODGE NO. 1027 – 150TH ANNIVERSARY



Meeting at Freemasons' Hall, this Lodge, having originated in China in 1864 (transferring to the UK in 1955), has proved to be a true survivor over the past 150 years and has a good future, especially marked on Wednesday, 8th October 2014 with the double Passing ceremony of Bros. Cedric Previtali and Matthew Letty.

A very well planned event, most especially on the part of Lodge Secretary, W. Bro John Creamer – Past Master in 1995 and current Junior Deacon, W. Bro Alan Wass – Past Master in 1994 and 2012 who is the current representative to, and a past Chairman of, the Commonwealth Lodges Association (CLA), of which the Lodge is a member and staunch supporter. Lodge member and Grand Officer, W. Bro Derek Hugh, PJGD, who had earlier in the year, celebrated his own 50 years in Freemasonry, was also present.

The Commonwealth Lodges Association was well represented in support of the event. W. Bro Colin Woodcock, PSGD, the CLA President (Trincomalee Lodge No.6923), W. Bro Phillip Chamberlain, SLGR, the current CLA Chairman (New Zealand Lodge No. 5175), W. Bro Jagdish Dhadialla, PPGSwdB, (New Ripon Falls Lodge No. 8833), a past CLA Chairman; W. Bro Gwyn Howard, PPSGW(Herts) the current CLA Secretary (Royal Colonial Institute Lodge No. 3556) were present. Also present were W. Bro Rev. Vernon Thomas, LGR (current WM, Lodge of the West Indies No. 9424), W. Bro CB Patel (SW at East and Central Africa Lodge No. 7446) and others. The event was a very memorable occasion. Needless to say, the double Passing ceremony was very well executed, with some forty members and guests attending and dining at the Imperial Hotel, where all were treated to a fine Festive Board, fitting for such a special 150th Anniversary occasion.

Towards the close of the Festive Board, Bro. Alan Wass emphasised the importance of the Lodge attaining its 150th Anniversary and its membership of the CLA, who had given welcome support on the day. W. Bro Gwyn Howard was honoured to reply on behalf of the guests, indicating that in light of two young Brethren having been "Passed" today, the Lodge had a good future and that along with the CLA members present it had been the visitors' privilege to be a part of the 150th celebrations.



WM, W. Bro Rick
Wakeman with Bros.
Dorset and Jensen.

MUNGO JERRY INITIATION

Ray Dorset, lead singer of 70's pop group, 'Mungo Jerry' was recently initiated into the Chelsea Lodge, by its current WM, keyboard legend Rick Wakeman. At the same meeting, radio DJ, David 'Kid' Jensen was passed to the second degree. After the meeting Ray said "I am still stunned, I could feel the love in that room, what a fabulous gig that was! I can't wait to attend the next meeting. To become a Freemason and a member of this great Lodge with my old mate Rick Wakeman as the Master is very special to me" Added Rick "Ray is a great mate and a fabulous musician I am sure he will love Freemasonry, the members of Chelsea Lodge are certainly going to enjoy having Ray as a member"



Ray's greatest success was, "In the Summertime", a massive hit which remains the group's most successful song. Mungo Jerry came to prominence in 1970 after their performance at the Hollywood Festival at Newcastle-under-Lyme, when they grabbed all UK music press headlines. The song "In The Summertime", entered the UK charts at No. 13 and the following week went straight to No. 1. Ray had to ask his boss for time off to do the UK TV Show, Top of the Pops! The record topped the UK Singles Chart for seven weeks, made No. 1 in 26 countries and has sold around 30 million units. Apart from being the group's frontman/singer, Ray was also the composer, guitarist, blues harp, and kazoo player. In 1980, another Dorset song, "Feels Like I'm in Love", originally written for Elvis Presley, and recorded by the band as a B side of a single, became a British No. 1 hit for Kelly Marie. Ray is still touring, releasing albums and appearing at blues and jazz festival across Europe.

NEW DEDICATION ODE FOR LODGE INSTALLATION

There aren't many occasions when new masonic poetry or music is published, so it is with great pleasure that arena learned of the this new Installation Ode, composed by W. Bro Ogun Macauley, Organist of Brockley Lodge No. 4650. We wish Bro. Macauley and the brethren all the best as they sing the Ode (designed to be sung to the tune 'Melita')!

Great Architect of the Universe
Pour down your Grace on us we pray.
The brethren gathered here today
To bring our grateful thanks and joy
For this our master in the chair
On this our Installation day

Direct and guide our Master new.
Wisdom profound to him outpour
With justice may he rule this Lodge;
Assisted by his Wardens all.
Support from three great lights be found
Bringing new hope and love and peace.

The first great light the path to show
The Square and Compasses to aid
Blessing and honour, praise to thee;
The great Masonic light of all.
Unite us in your love we pray
And make us work like Masons free.

And now O father mindfully
We dedicate this lodge to thee
Descend and bless our members all
Protect your children everywhere
That we may live to sing thy praise
With hearts and minds and tuneful voice.

SMIB

ANY INTEREST IN MASONIC FOOTIE?

Aside from being keen on Freemasonry, are you keen on football too? If so, expressions of interest are being garnered by Bro. Luke Elford with a view to setting up a Metropolitan Grand Lodge Football Team. Quite what form that will take will depend on the level of interest shown by Metropolitan Brethren. If you're interested then please get in touch at luke.elford1@gmail.com as per the advert on page 34!



METGSTWDS "SLEEP OUT" FOR CENTREPOINT

W. Bro Tim Spriggs, LGR, was one of five MetGStwds who "slept out" for Centrepoint and he reports for arena as follows:

On the 6th of November, five members of the Metropolitan Grand Stewards Lodge No. 9812 participated in Centrepoint's 'Sleep Out London' Event 2014. W. Bros Steve Banks, LGR; Harlan Lunn, LGR; Steve Savvas, LGR; David Siebler, LGR; and Tim Spriggs, LGR, were appointed as Metropolitan Grand Stewards in 2012 and have remained in close contact even after their Active year in that office.

At a social event they organized back in February, they discussed the idea of trying to do something for charity, and after a few discussions, decided on participating in the Centrepoint 'Sleep Out' Event. Centrepoint is a charity which supports homeless young people with housing, health and learning and which has been well supported

the Freemasons' Grand Charity. The event saw the five sleeping out in London's East End on a cold and wet night (after some of them had assisted at the LGR/LR Investiture meeting earlier in the day!) in order to try and raise some money to support this worthy cause. Whilst they were not exposed to the full challenges that many homeless young people face on a daily basis, the intention of the event was to raise awareness of the situation in which many young people find themselves and which may lead to them making bad decisions, which in turn can have more dire

consequences.

The team's participation in this event is a great example of the positive impact London Masons can have in supporting the community in London. When all the money has been collected, the team hopes to have raised around £8,000 for Centrepoint.



The Metropolitan Grand Stewards who "slept out".



Picture 1 - the previous challenge for arena readers.



Picture 2 - the location of the mystery picture

MYSTERY PICTURE COMPETITION CLOSES

Since the number of competitors for the Quiz has remained unhealthily low, arena has decided to withdraw this series for the time being. We could not however close it down without identifying the final Quiz picture from arena 18!

The photo is of the stern of the Egyptian Boat on which the casket containing the roll-of-honour rests, amongst stylised reeds - right in the centre of our great Peace Memorial building. The mystery photo, as can be seen in the "expanded" version of the shot shown alongside shows it upside down!

It only remains to thank readers who did send in their identifications.



W. Bro Colin Rist, LGR, a MLO in the Metropolitan Grand Almonry has written a short piece "The Almoner's call of duty – a satisfying and rewarding one" to highlight his own experience of the work undertaken by Almoners...

ALMONER'S ANECDOTES

The job of the Almoner is both demanding and rewarding. It is demanding in the sense that the increasing age profile of the membership of lodges is leading to more calls on the time and energy of the Almoner. This in turn leads to demands on the resources available to help those in need. The Almoner's reward, if any be needed, is that it brings the Almoner into contact with many interesting characters and it is rewarding to see the relief useful help brings.

As lodge Almoner for three units, this year has been a particularly busy one for me, but I am sure my experience is not unique. What follows is one example of the Almoner's work from my own experience. The name of the brother is omitted to preserve his privacy and dignity. Brother Mason, as I shall refer to him, called to say that he was experiencing difficulty from a long-running illness and I arranged to visit him to see what help might be available. Before going I discussed with the Masonic Charities what form any assistance might take and what special additional requirements there might be, for example estimates for medical appliances. I needed to make certain that I had

as much information as possible as the visit involved a round trip of two hundred miles. I arranged to visit Bro. Mason at 11.00 and set out on the day at 8.45. I calculated that two hours should be more than enough time. Five accidents en route delayed me significantly, but I kept Bro. Mason informed of my progress. He was happy to see me whatever time I got there and I eventually arrived at 13.30!!!! We had a good natter, completed the forms and gathered all the other paperwork needed for a complete submission to the Samaritan Fund. The journey home took almost as long due to further accidents. In total I spent 7 hours in the car!

The application was duly submitted and in due time a stair-lift was approved and installed. Bro Mason was delighted. He told me that for the first time in nearly a year he was able to go upstairs to bed without the need to spend significant time on oxygen to recover from the exertion of getting up stairs. On his behalf I thank all those involved in bringing his application to a successful outcome including all those Brethren who through their charitable donations and fund raising efforts make it possible to bring relief to others.

SOCKS: THE RED ZONE

Visitors to London Chapters will from time-to-time have seen Companions wearing bright red socks. Puzzled, we asked ME Comp. George Francis, Second Grand Principal to explain the history and reasoning behind this custom and here is his (light-hearted) response:



Sharper-eyed Companions may have noticed in recent years an outbreak of bright red socks being worn in some Metropolitan and Provincial Chapters and indeed in Supreme Grand Chapter. There have been various theories about this phenomenon and whether Companions should or should not be adopting this practice. As one of those responsible for their introduction, I welcome this opportunity to put the record straight.

When I became Second Grand Principal in 2005, it struck me that the Royal Arch needed a boost in general and a little more colour and interest, in particular. There was no Royal Arch tie in those days, and no way instantly to recognise a Companion from a Brother without regalia. Among other things my eye was caught by one or two Companions wearing red socks, and indeed red handkerchiefs, and it struck me that this would be a harmless and appropriate way of introducing some extra colour and symbolism to the Chapter and its Companions.

Technically, the colours of the Royal Arch are blue and crimson (or scarlet) emphasizing its

interconnection with the Craft in pure ancient freemasonry; but red has somehow become the signature colour of the Royal Arch. I experimented with some other colours, including a forgettable evening in magenta socks, but always I returned to red.

I particularly feel that the Sojourners look good in red socks, provided all three participate, as this complements their white robes and regalia; try it! In my view, any Companion can liven up his appearance in this way. Equally, I accept and respect those who have no such wish to participate, ("I'd rather be seen dead than...etc."). I have heard of Chapters that award red socks to new Companions!

So there you have it. If you feel so inclined, wear red socks and help cheer up a dull evening, or even yourself! It is hardly throwing caution to the winds and I am confident you will enjoy the approval of most of your Companions. I have yet to experience an entire Chapter wearing red socks, but live in hope...

MIZPAH LODGE ENJOY A VISIT FROM ESTONIA



Bro. Noël Haynes visited Mizpah Lodge No. 1671 for arena as they welcomed a number of Brethren from Estonia. He reports as follows:

The bond between members of Mizpah Lodge and the Grand Lodge of Estonia runs deep. About five years ago, in a UGLE project to expand the Royal Arch into other countries, Hackney Brook Dependable Chapter No. 7397 was the sponsoring Chapter that exalted brethren from Estonia. They in turn formed the Grand Chapter of Estonia. Hackney Brook handed in its warrant and was relocated to create the first Chapter in Estonia, retaining its full name without a number. One of the members of Hackney Brook is W. Bro Marvyn Ellison who, last year on one of his frequent masonic visits to Estonia, mentioned his son and son-in-law would be raised to the degree of a Master Mason in Mizpah Lodge. Over the ensuing months brethren from across Estonia stated their commitment to support Bro. Marvyn and Mizpah Lodge at this monumental occasion.

On December 8th, over fifteen

brethren from Estonia visited Freemasons' Hall to witness the ceremony. After opening the lodge, the WM, W. Bro Christopher Lunn, PAGDC, received VW Bro. Stephen Fenton, PGSwdB, AMetGM; the Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Estonia, MW Bro. Anti Oidsalu and a delegation of distinguished brethren from Estonia and Metropolitan Grand Lodge. Bro. Marvyn, who normally acts as the lodge's DC wanted to have a more "hands on" role and stood in as Senior Deacon. The ceremony was immaculately performed by all brethren.

Afterwards the brethren retired to the Grand Connaught Rooms for dinner where Bro. Lunn showed his generosity by giving each of the 90 brethren in attendance well over a wee dram of his favourite elixir from Speyside to take home.



So what's the Operatives all about then?

As part of our ongoing series into the other orders within masonry, arena's Chris Starnes looks into The Operatives...

Origin and History

The full name of this Masonic organisation is "The Worshipful Society of Free Masons, Rough Masons, Wallers, Slaters, Paviers, Plaisterers and Bricklayers". The origins of the Order lie in Guild Masonry and have been traced back to Clement Edwin Stretton. He preserved elements of the Old Guild workings in the format in which they are currently worked. Stretton, born in 1850 to a wealthy Leicester family, went to a Derbyshire quarry to learn the mason's trade when he was sixteen as part of his training to become a Civil Engineer. On arrival, he found no-one willing to help him because he was not part of the Guild. He quickly became a Guild Mason and was at once accepted and trained by his brethren. He returned to the quarry at regular intervals, becoming a Fellow of the Craft (II°) in 1874, a Super Fellow Fitter and Marker (III°) in 1875, Erector (IV°) in 1876, Intendent and Super-Intendent of the Work (V°) in 1877, and passed an examination as Master (VI°) in 1878. His enthusiasm for the old-style Guild Masonry led to him joining a local lodge in Leicester, and eventually became the Senior Passed Master in 1901 and third Grand Master Mason of the York Division in 1908. He became a speculative mason in 1871, being initiated into St. John Lodge No. 279 in Leicester.

He went through the chair twice as Master and ultimately became

Provincial Senior Grand Warden, as well as being a member of Mark, Royal Arch and the Red Cross of Constantine. His overarching passion was in preserving the traditions, secrets and practices of Guild masonry. By 1908 Guild Masonry had suffered a massive decline and when he revisited the Lodge in which he was indentured, he was saddened to see only seven brothers present. He then set about preserving the traditions of Guild Masonry and, in his capacity as Secretary, authorised the re-opening of the London Section of York Division of Guild Operatives which took place at the Bijou Theatre with Dr Thomas Carr. The second assemblage was formed in 1932 and the Order has since grown to in excess of 100 assemblages worldwide with over 60 in Europe (mostly in the UK).

Eligibility and ranks

To be eligible for admission to the Order a candidate must be a subscribing member of the following Masonic bodies: a Craft Lodge, a Royal Arch Chapter and a Mark Lodge.

Candidates do not join the society but are indentured for a period of seven years.

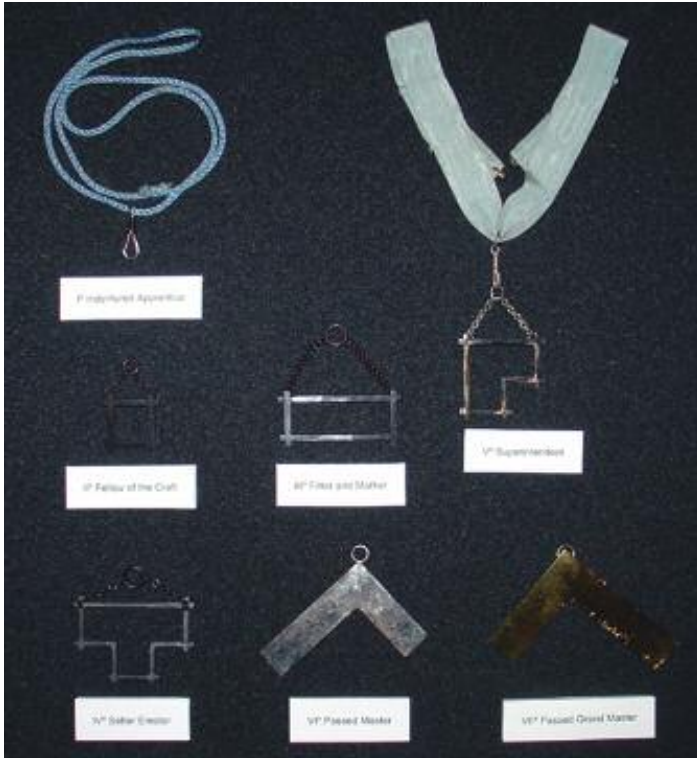
The candidate progresses through the separate ceremonies of

Grade I..... Indentured Apprentice
Grade II..... Fellow of the Craft
Grade III Fitter and Marker
Grade IV..... Setter Erector
Grade V..... Intendent, Overseer, Super Intendent and Warden
Grade VIPassed Master
Grade VII.... Master Mason,

The three Grand Master Masons are the ONLY members of the VII Lodge, and all other persons who have been exalted to the VII, including Brethren who have served the office of Grand Master Mason, are said to be members of the VII honoris causa. The current three Grand Masters are: Rt W Bro Nigel Willows, VII° First Grand Master Mason, Rt W Bro James Field, VII° Second Grand Master Mason and Rt W Bro Derek Burt, VII° Third Grand Master Mason.

There are specific time limits between each level and candidates for progression are (symbolically) required to produce a specimen of their work, have the approval of their Super Intendent of Work, and pass the test of the appropriate Gauge, before progressing further.





(not sceptres) which are 5, 4 and 3 units of measurement in length and are coloured blue, red and black.

The Antient Drama is a ceremony

jewel with the honorific jewel appended. In 2009, the society was able to set up and refurbish a Headquarters building in St. Neots, Cambridgeshire. On 1 October 2014 the Order signed a mutual recognition concordat with the: The Grand Sanhedrin of Scotland of Masons, Paviours, Tylers, Plaisterers, Joyners, Glaziers, Plombiers and Wrights.

The minimum qualification for the sixth degree is to be an Installed Master in good standing in both the Craft and Mark degrees of Speculative Freemasonry. The candidate also has to have attended at least 70% of his Assemblage meetings. The Senior Passed Master of a Region confers this degree in a Lodge of Passed Masters, usually held once per year. In his capacity as head of a region the "SPM" is known as a Deputy Grand Master Mason. The first four degrees are conferred in an Assemblage of Lodges IV° to I°, each degree beyond the first being conferred when the Assemblage is appropriately opened as a Lodge of that degree. The fifth, sixth and seventh degrees are conferred in separate Lodges of those degrees.

The Society is governed by three Grand Master Masons who traditionally hold their offices for life, but in practice, waive that right. The First Grand Master Mason retires after five years and the Second Grand Master Mason after three years (although both are eligible for reappointment), whilst the office of Third Grand Master Mason terminates annually with the enactment of the Antient Drama one year after his appointment. The three Grand Masters each carry a rod

performed at Grand Assemblage each year, designed to commemorate the heroic death of Hiram Abiff, who was slain after the completion of King Solomon's Temple because of his refusal to disclose the secrets of a Master Mason. It is a ceremony of great importance to Operative Masons. It requires a cast of twenty-two, a substantial amount of equipment, and a large room. The 3rd Grand Master Mason plays the part of Hiram Abiff, and thus the Antient Drama is the device used by Operatives to replace their 3rd Grand Master Mason at the end of his one-year term of office.

Structure

The working unit is called an Assemblage as opposed to a Lodge and many of them incorporate the word quarry into their name to preserve the connection to operative masonry. Assemblages are organised into Regions which are similar in structure to the Provincial/ District structure in other Orders. In order to raise funds to acquire a headquarters building, the Footing Corner Fund was set up by Derek Stuckey and Bill Box, both of whom were Grand Clerks of the Order. Honorifics were awarded to contributors as illustrated on the inset picture of the VII degree

Regalia

Apart from the Grand Master Masons and the Grand Clerk, regalia is minimal and consists simply of a blue collarette or cord from which is suspended the badge of one's grade. Badges are exchanged as progression is made. The inset photographs show the Jewel for the grades and also a larger picture of the VII degree Jewel. Whilst individual regalia is fairly simple, each Assemblage has considerable furniture and equipment which has its basis in antiquity and is related to the craft of stonemasonry.

London

In London there are two regions Westminster and London, these include the following Assemblages: Channel Row, Abbey, Guildhall, Mansion House and St Paul's. Channel Row Assemblage was constituted on 21 May 1913 and the Operatives successfully celebrated its Centenary in 2013 with a celebratory meeting held in the Grand Temple of Freemasons' Hall.

Brethren wishing to learn more about the Order may refer to its website www.operatives.org.uk.



FIFTY YEARS OF FRIENDSHIP

Bro. Nick Rakowski, in his first assignment for arena, attended the presentation of a fifty years membership certificate to well-known and beloved London mason...

“It's not the number of your house, the number of your car... It's the number of your friends”, were the words of W. Bro Bob Corp-Reader OBE, at the splendid festive board of Red Scarf Lodge No. 8448. Bob was reflecting on receiving his fifty year certificate from the Metropolitan Grand Master, Russell Race. Both Bob and the MetGM underlined the friendship that masonry offers and the happiness that results, a must if you are to spend fifty years talking to the same people! It is highly interesting to note that since January 1st, 151 50 year certificates

have been applied for in the Craft with 12 being the corresponding figure for the Royal Arch. The Met Grand Master also highlighted W. Bro Corp-Reader's illustrious career, both inside and outside of freemasonry, in particular, his copious charitable work. The evening was extra special as it was also Bob's birthday, which was duly celebrated with a rousing round of Happy Birthday from the many attendees at the meeting.

All present were also treated to an excellent second degree by W. Bro Tyrrell, PProvADC (Cornwall), OBE, who conducted the ceremony, after

receiving permission from the WM, W. Bro Glenn Carter. Other highlights included the extended second degree tracing board from W. Bro Tyrrell and the second degree working tools delivered in excellent fashion by Bro. Micklefield. We finish, as we began with a quote from Bob: "Please pencil in 19th November 2039 to your calendars so we can celebrate seventy-five years in Masonry!"

arena intends to try and get an invitation!



LONDON CHARITY MATTERS

MAGIC BREAKFAST

magic breakfast
fuel for learning

"Thank you - Magic Breakfast is incredibly grateful for the support of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London."

"A year 6 child stopped attending breakfast club because his parents could not give him the money every day. We spoke to him and told him to come every day, we would supply breakfast and let his parents know that he was entitled to a free space."

- Breakfast club coordinator

Magic Breakfast has been awarded £16,310 from the Metropolitan Masonic Charity and the Relief Chests of various lodges and chapters. W. Bro. Stuart Sherrieff went to find out more...

The three year project which started in September 2012 has supported Burbage Primary's Magic Breakfast Club in Hackney which has 43% of pupils eligible for free school meals. Since the project started over two years ago, London Freemasons have provided 13,5000 breakfasts to children arriving at school too hungry to learn, every day 30 children attend the club.

In September 2014, when the teachers were surveyed, one third said they had seen evidence of malnourishment, with nearly 40% reporting noticing significant weight gain among pupils. The school project manager Harriet Green is working with the school to help them to reach more children coming to school hungry, including offering them events such as World Porridge Day and healthy bagel recipes.

Since July 2014, they have almost doubled the number of children they provide breakfasts to, delivering over 1.5 million breakfasts in 2014. They now work in secondary schools, Special Educational Need Schools and pupil referral units. Magic Breakfast has

undergone a period of vast expansion over the last three months. In July Magic Breakfast won a tender from the Department for Education to set up 184 new breakfast clubs in schools where 35% or more of the children are eligible for Free School Meals. Many of the schools have said that a lot of their children are suffering in the school holidays as they aren't getting their free breakfast or free lunch and as a result coming back to school malnourished and not ready to learn.

Magic Breakfast is working on a pilot project in Lambeth and Croydon to set up a holiday hunger scheme 'MagicBreakfast365'. The scheme will provide children from partner schools with cookery skills, exercise and meals to ensure they aren't hungry in the school holidays. With the right funding, they hope to roll this out across the country in 2015-16. Magic Breakfast is campaigning for Universal Free School Breakfasts for all primary school children as they believe this would ensure no child would arrive at school too hungry to learn.



THE DOUGLAS BADER FOUNDATION

The Metropolitan Masonic Charity provided £2,000 to the Douglas Bader Foundation; we sent Bro. Toby Good to see what they do.



The Douglas Bader Foundation ("DBF") exists to advance and promote the physical, mental and spiritual welfare of persons who are without one or more limbs, or otherwise physically disabled. Launched on the 10th February 2010, at RAF Museum, Hendon, Bader Braves was created as a joint acknowledgement of Sir Douglas Bader's honorary Chieftainship of a Canadian Indian Tribe and the bravery of children with limb deficiencies and other disabilities in their efforts to lead normal lives.

Bader Braves supports children with limb loss and other physical disabilities by offering unique experiences and improving life-

skills to increase confidence.

DBF has always acknowledged the importance of the children's families and carers and, in supporting the children, also aims to benefit those people involved in their lives. The Young Aviators Days and the Events offered by DBF are intended to be inspirational and encouraging in nature, and offer youngsters with limb deficiency and other disabilities with the opportunity of experiencing flight in a light aircraft.

In July a record attendance of 50 Braves and their families were treated to a fantastic day of flying. By the end of the day some 20

pilots utilising 15 aeroplanes had collectively flown some 60 sorties and an estimated 95 Bader Braves and some of their family members, as well as putting enormous smiles on the faces of the 217 visitors that the DBF had on the day. It is no wonder that the DBF reported that "Bader Braves Flying Days are a fantastic Success".

For DBF it's always a pleasure to see the smiles on the faces of the youngsters when they come down to earth after their flight and DBF feel enormously privileged to be able to share in their excitement and happiness. The DBF website is at www.douglasbaderfoundation.com.

RMTGB DONATION AIDS TEENS & TODDLERS IN LAMBETH

The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys has awarded £10,750 to youth development charity Teens and Toddlers: W. Bro John Little, LGR, reports ...



Teens and Toddlers runs an innovative programme that gives disadvantaged young people the vital interpersonal skills required to avoid becoming NEET (Not in Education, Employment or Training). The programme in Lambeth – a borough that has high child poverty, has a high proportion of young people who are NEET and low attainment.

The 18 week flagship programme is unique because it targets two sets of vulnerable children simultaneously, raising the aspirations of young people (age 13-16) from disadvantaged areas by pairing them as a mentor and role model to a child (age 3-5) in a nursery who is in need of extra

support. This transformative work experience, combined with classroom training, teaches young people interpersonal skills and builds their sense of responsibility so they make positive decisions about their education, their health and their future. The mentoring provided by the teens also helps the toddlers (who may be autistic, elective mutes, refugees etc.) to improve their personal, social and communication skills.

The programme gives young people the skills to address underlying issues that can lead to becoming disengaged, such as low self-esteem, low educational attainment and lack of positive role

models. This is critical to prevent young people from becoming NEET and only 4% of the young people who take part in the programme do so, compared to their teachers' prediction that 56% will drop out. Graduates of the programme also earn an accredited NCFE Level 1 Award in Interpersonal Skills, which helps them to re-engage with school and go on to further education.

Diana Whitmore, CEO and Founder of the Charity said: "We are deeply grateful to the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys for this money, which will help us to achieve our aim of improving the lives of disadvantaged young people in London and across the UK."

POSITIVE PETE

"Our biggest challenge is raising funds in order to enable us to continue with our work. So, A Very Big Thank You goes to your organisation and members for your support."

**- Denise Riley,
Executive Trustee,
Positive Pete
(Positive
Enlightenment
through Education)**

Positive Pete has been awarded £3,000 from the Metropolitan Masonic Charity. Bro. Symeon Ververidis went to discover more.

Positive Pete specialises in providing a Mentoring Programme specifically designed for young people and offers personalised programmes of one-to-one mentoring and coaching. They currently work with and focus on the age group that falls within 8 - 24 year olds, who are from various academic, social and economic backgrounds.

The generous donation has enabled Positive Pete to enrol four additional mentors on the Accredited Institute of Leadership & Management Level 5 Course in Mentoring. This is a 2 year course at Post Graduate level that has been specially adapted for Positive Pete to ensure that the content related to working with young people within a school environment. This has led to Positive Pete's mentoring programme being engaged at two additional schools since

September'13, resulting in the mentoring of 10 additional students. They are currently holding discussions with another school in the Richmond area, as well as a Pupil Referral Unit in Lambeth.

In Positive Pete, we do believe that it is an important part of our growth and moving forward in our endeavour to help the young people we currently work with and those yet to come so that we can help them "To become the best they can be". The serious commitment being shown by Positive Pete with regards to the level and professional type of training offered has enabled us to engage our own Head of Training and Development, on a voluntary basis, designing Mentor Training as well as a number of Workshops.



Members of the Metropolitan Charity Liaison Unit bring these stories to arena, so that you can see what donations are being made in the Metropolitan area, whether by the main Masonic Charities or by our own Metropolitan Masonic Charity. If your lodge wishes to make its own donations to any of the charities listed, please do get in touch directly via your Lodge Charity Steward. We feel sure that the Charities will be very pleased to hear from you! Do then arrange for news of that donation to be sent to the Communications Team - especially if there is a photo to go with it!

STEPPING STONES: SUPPORT FOR LONDON'S CHARITIES

Each year Freemasons help to support some of the most severely disadvantaged children through Stepping Stones – the non-masonic grants scheme run by the RMTGB. The scheme aims to reduce child poverty by breaking the link between the lack of access to education and the cycle of poverty. Through the scheme, the RMTGB gives grants of up to £20,000 across one year, or £30,000 across two. Stepping Stones' grants are approved by the trustees in two rounds, one in Spring, and one in the Autumn. arena readers may be interested to hear about the following grants approved recently:



Place2Be - £30,000 over 2 years

Place2Be is a leading provider of school-based mental health support, working in over 200 schools across the UK. They deliver early intervention therapeutic services to young people aged 4 to 14, enhancing their mental wellbeing, building up resilience and helping them cope with a wide range of issues including bullying, bereavement and domestic violence.



Street League - £20,000 over 1 year

Street League is a nationwide charity that supports disadvantaged 16 to 25 year olds, currently not in education, training or employment through their academies that combine football and education to provide key employability skills and qualifications. Their aim is to end structural youth unemployment in the UK.



Music First - £10,980 over 1 year

Music First is a music education programme that supports young people from low income families, operating in thirteen schools across North London. Inspired by Venezuela's El Sistema orchestral based programme and using the expertise of volunteer tutors, conductors and professional musicians, the charity aims to give disadvantaged young people access to the same cultural opportunities and benefits of music as those from more affluent backgrounds. Each young person is loaned an instrument, receives tuition throughout the academic year and participates in orchestral and singing activities at their weekly after school clubs, working towards a Music First Award and a public performance.



Teens and Toddlers - £10,750 over 1 year (see page 24)

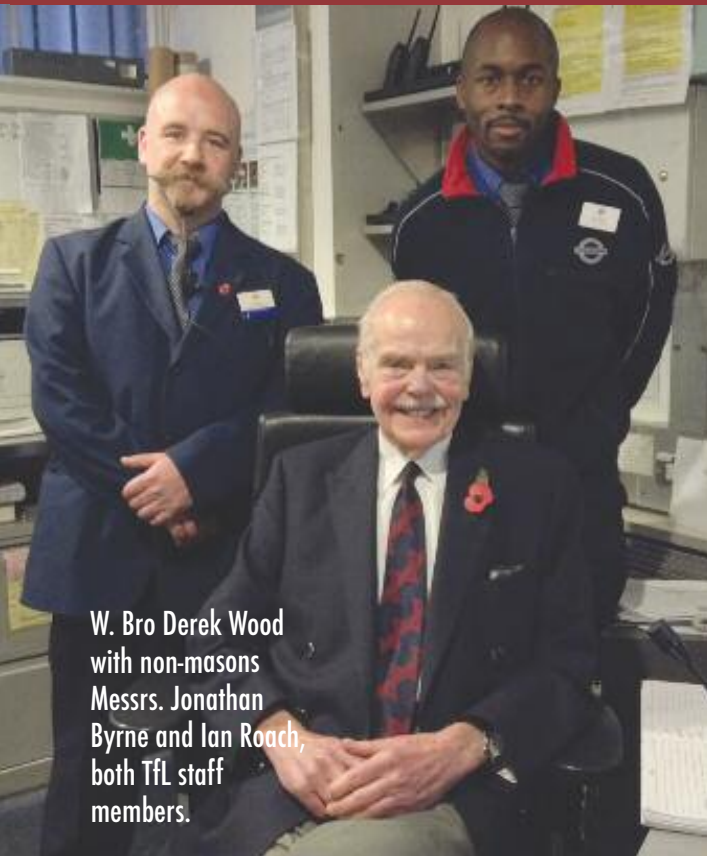
Teens and Toddlers' mission is to inspire disengaged young people to succeed at school, in work and in the community. They work in London and North-West England, running their flagship life-skills programme 'Teens and Toddlers' and also delivering the Community and Enterprise Skills Award, a qualification developed for graduates of their schemes.



National Literacy Trust - £9,900 over 2 years

The National Literacy Trust (NLT) works to transform lives through literacy to improve health, employability and confidence. They campaign for an improved understanding of the importance of literacy, conducting research into the causes of poor literacy and promoting the value of reading for pleasure. In November 2011 the charity was awarded £15,000 over two years from the Stepping Stones scheme to part-fund the charity's nationwide programme Words for Work.

REMEMBRANCE 2014 - POETRY ON THE UNDERGROUND



W. Bro Derek Wood
with non-masons
Messrs. Jonathan
Byrne and Ian Roach,
both TfL staff
members.

The MetGL Office was approached on October 23rd by Covent Garden Tube Station staff, to enquire if any servicemen and women would like to join in their commemorative Remembrance project in this Centenary year of the start of the Great War. The project was to record many pieces of First World War poetry and to broadcast them over the Tube's tannoy system at Angel, Clapham North, Covent Garden, Oval and Westminster Underground stations on Remembrance Sunday as well as Armistice Day itself.

In view of the very tight turnaround time, a broadcast email was sent to the Circuit of Service Lodges by the MetGSec, W. Bro Capt. David Swain, RN, PAGSwdB and volunteers sought. Volunteers were directed to

present themselves at various Underground tube stations and were recorded reciting poems of the Great War period by Kipling, Sassoon and many others. The volunteers included W. Bros Richard Curtin, SLGR (Fitzroy Lodge No. 569); Edward Goodchild, AGDC (WM of Household Brigade Lodge No 2614); Steven Ridley, LGR (Comrades Lodge No. 2740); David Swain, PAGSwdB (Navy Lodge No.2612); John Wood, PAGSwdB (Antioch Lodge No. 3271) and Derek Wood, SLGR, (Fitzroy Lodge No. 569). Feedback from the public was very positive with one typical tweet being sent "WW1 poetry being read out at Westminster Tube Station - I love this City! #rememberthem". Congratulations from arena to all the volunteer readers!

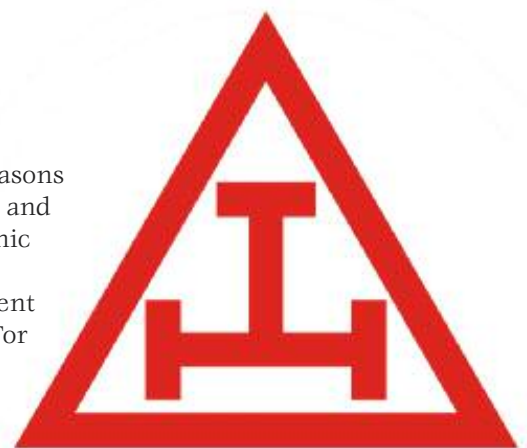
BRISTOL EXALTATION CEREMONY DEMO

arena is sure that RA Companions will be interested to hear that Globe Chapter No. 23 will be hosting the Bristol Royal Arch Demonstration Team who will be demonstrating the Exaltation Ceremony as worked under the Bristol Tradition – unique to that province.

The demonstration on Monday 9th February 2015 at Freemasons' Hall, London will include the renowned and

colourful Ceremony of the Veils, a ceremony which all Royal Arch masons should take the opportunity to see and enjoy at some point in their masonic career.

This is bound to be a popular event and an early booking is advised. For further details and to make your booking, contact John Peters at jnpeters1@aol.com





Ray Ride with his wife Iris, around the time of his Initiation.

THE MEN AT THE TOP: RAY RIDE

London, 1941-45. Imagine the terror of the V1 and 2 campaigns; the noisy sirens, the rush to the bomb shelter. Waiting in the low light watching a trickle of condensation running down the bricks of a cold cellar wall, whilst the noise outside goes on... This in fact is one of Ray Ride's earliest memories and a uniquely 'London' perspective, as Ray was born (in 1941) and bred in Fulham, his parents having decided that unlike most other children, he was too young to be evacuated to the countryside. Despite this, he gained affection for country living by regular visits as a child to his grandparents' house in Essex, where they farmed their smallholding in Hullbridge and where he was shown how things worked on the farm to create as much self-sufficiency as possible.

His father worked as an engineer for a major chemical company based in Fulham and Ray's schooling was also kept local, going to St John's School in the Dawes Road and later becoming a 'Henryite' at Henry Compton School. Whilst he was sufficiently academic to gain the requisite number of 'O'

Levels, it was sport, he recounts, that he lived for, being in his own words "football and cricket mad!" In fact, sporting allusions and metaphors abounded during a very pleasant interview session with W. Bro Ray Ride, PSGD, a MetGInsp since 2012. For example, when talking about the 34,000+ masonic memberships that we have in London, he likened that total to "probably more than Tottenham Hotspur get on a good day as spectators!"

He really was however very good at junior level football and continued to play and train intensively right throughout his teenage years both in and away from school. He remembers Ted Drake, the team manager of Chelsea FC who took the club to its first league title, giving his team the advice that to break in football boots, you needed to put them on, stand in a bowl of cold water until the leather was thoroughly steeped and then run until you couldn't run any further! Sadly however, he was not quite good enough to be taken on to the later stages that might have led to a professional career. He also remembers many evening visits to Soho where he was able to satisfy his passion for skiffle music- the craze for which was just starting to emerge and which had the salutary effect of making him work hard at his jazz trumpet playing!

In 1959, his Father decided that football needed to be placed to one side and 'assisted' Ray in coming to a decision to start work. He thus joined the outer reaches of the Civil Service, working as a clerk in the then large Post Office Savings Bank complex located nearby in Kensington High Street, where he manually calculated the interest in the passbooks of the thousands of those saving with the Post Office. It wasn't football, but it was still a good move. Not just because it gave him a solid grounding in administration matters, but also because he met his wife Iris who was also working there. Regrettably in 1960, his father was involved in an industrial accident at work, where he was responsible for the engineering of a chemical process. In trying to shut down a furnace that was overheating, he inhaled some noxious fumes and was badly incapacitated, passing away 18

Masonic Career

- 1982 Initiated Brixton Ramblers Lodge ["BR"]
No 3347 Aged 41 years
- 1989 WM of BR
- 1990 Invested as Secretary
- 1997 Exalted into Bevan Chapter ["BC"]
No 2458 [Buckinghamshire Province]
- 1999 LGR
- 2000 1st Principal BC
- 2001 Joined Royal Standard Chapter ["RSC"]
- 2003 SLGR
- 2004 PPrGStB[Bucks] RA
- 2005 First Principal RSC
- 2006 PAGDC [Craft]
VGO Harewood Group [2 Lodges]
- 2007 SVO with 4 VOs and 12 lodges under
MetGInsp W Bro Peter Lewin, PSGD
- 2010 Metropolitan Principal Sojourner
MetGChap 2010/11
- 2011 VO RA under MetGInsp W Bro Richard
Greenhill, PGSoj
- 2012 MetGInsp in Craft and RA and promoted
PSGD [PAGSoj]
- 2014 Promoted PGSoj



ABOVE: Ray and Iris in 1990.

RIGHT: A recent pic of Ray, Iris and granddaughter, Caitlin.



months later when Ray was only 20.

In 1964 Ray and Iris got married and moved out of Fulham, going to live in the farmhouse in Hullbridge, which had been empty for a few years since the death of his grandparents. Suddenly those skills and practices which he had been taught over the years became very useful! At work he was promoted and moved offices to the Ministry of Aviation in Whitehall. He still remembers driving daily from Hullbridge to Westminster, where he had the luxury of an allocated parking space! Having moved to Essex, the family has remained there ever since, having bought their first house in Rayleigh for £4,000 and ending up in Rettendon, where he currently lives. Iris and he have two sons, Andrew [Initiated by Ray, PM twice and currently DC of the Brixton Ramblers Lodge, of which more later] and Matthew, who both have their own local servicing and repairs garages in Wickford. He has four grandchildren, Caitlin, Felix, Louie and Hugo and loves to spoil them all, including Caitlin, (pictured), a talented student of drama and dancing. He added that although his grandsons are all under 6 years of age, he believes one of them will go on to be Prime Minister given the way they pose questions to

their grandfather!

By his mid thirties, he was, in his spare time, the Group Scout Chairman of the 1st Rayleigh Cub and Scout Group friends with W. Bro Ron McMillan, PAGDC, who was his immediate boss as Group Scout Leader [their sons were cubs and scouts in this group]. Having got to know Ron over a number of years through socialising as well as at work, he was inclined to believe him, when Ron suggested in 1981 that he should become a Freemason as he thought Ray would enjoy it. He was right to, for that prediction was entirely correct. He was thus initiated at the Brixton Ramblers Lodge No. 3347 in 1982 at the Café Royal. The Lodge had in fact been founded in 1909 by the Brixton Ramblers, a well-known cycling club, based in South London. Not quite football, but appropriate enough perhaps, for a sportsman! LoI became a weekly focus and a great help in understanding and performing the ritual.

His career in the Ministry of Defence involved important work on major weapons systems such as Phantom, Buccaneer and early

versions of surveillance drones. He speaks proudly of being part of the 'selection' team from which the Red Arrows BAE Hawk T1 aircraft emerged in the late 70's where he used his slide rule to calculate various aspects of the competing submissions – no computers in those days! Ray climbed the corporate ladder in the Civil service, working with the Cabinet Office in the 80's when Baroness Thatcher, then Mrs T, was Prime Minister. His job meant lots of travel and as a senior civil servant working with the MoD, the need to be circumspect. Not really an issue for a Freemason, one might imagine! He remembers this as a period when Masonry was never discussed in the office and is glad that this is changing. In fact he would be pleased for even further openness and for the public to see who we are and the good we do. He ended his career in Whitehall as Grade 7 Principal in 1996, under early retirement arrangements.

He served in Whitehall for 35 years and at the youngish age of 56 years then became the global sales director of a military software company

exploiting sales under licence from the MoD to the Pentagon and other NATO members. In 2003, he was elected a local councillor in Chelmsford and is now a member of the Cabinet there, responsible for Leisure, Culture and Parks. Those that follow such things may wish to know that the "V" Music Festival and all sports facilities are within his 'portfolio'!

On leaving Whitehall and with more time on his hands, Ray started to do more masonry, joining Chapter and continuing his role as Secretary of Brixton Ramblers, a post he was to hold for the next 18 years! His work for London as a VGO began in 2006 following promotion as a Grand Officer.

In 2009, Brixton Ramblers celebrated their centenary, with Ray writing its handsome Centenary history and organising the Centenary lodge meeting and warrant presentation by RW Bro. Michael Ward, DepMetGM. He chuckles at the memory of part of the Lodge meeting in the Grand Temple at Mark Masons' Hall in which he arranged for a rather spectacular coup de théâtre, re-enacting a world championship 25-mile road race as carried out by founding members of Brixton Ramblers in 1909, with a formal entrance of Bro. Thomas Rynsaard the youngest lodge member on a Penny Farthing bicycle, attended by two 'cycle wardens', partly there to add dignity to the event but mostly to make sure he did not fall off! Despite

a hearty invitation to try out the Penny Farthing, Ray recalls that the guest-of-honour wisely declined!

Ray says that he is privileged and much enjoying serving London as one of its Inspectors and when asked by arena what he feels will best sum up his approach he responds: 'to inspire all masons in my Inspectorate to enjoy their masonry to the full and for myself to continue an energetic and persuasive ambassadorial role for London with a common touch that all London masons relate to and hopefully appreciate'. Asked to give an example of something which he feels proud of, he mentions a simple case that he came across in 2013 - a lodge in his Inspectorate was at a low point and in decline. In his response to the London Toast at the Festive Board during a Chain visit, his words inspired the lodge to restart their LoI, which gave enough impetus such that the Lodge regained its energy and vitality and is now meeting with larger numbers and well-disciplined ritual and great humour. Ray points out that, in a way, it was his own early introduction to LoI training and the enjoyment and grounding that he got from it, to which he owes one of his most precious masonic achievements.

Ray at the gym.



Five things you didn't know about Ray Ride:

1. Big supporter of Fulham FC since a boy and always at Craven Cottage during the season and a little happier that under a new manager they are winning again albeit in Championship!
2. Enjoys opera, ballet, theatre and is also a big fan of Chicago Blues. Regularly sees Eric Clapton at his London gigs and has seen Buddy Guy, also in Legends Club, Chicago.
3. Played trumpet in traditional jazz band in late 50s.
4. Collects WWII books and has a very great number.
5. Busy as he is - still gets to the gym 6 days out of 7.

CONNAUGHT CLUB UPDATE

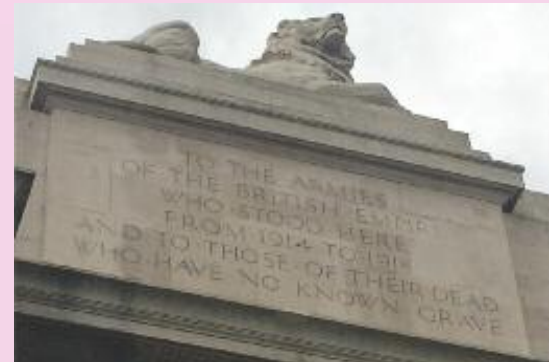
On the 19th September, a team of Connaught Club members and friends came together for a sponsored bike ride to raise funds for The Royal British Legion and The Wiltshire Barn Project. Team member, W. Bro Gregory Brennan, takes up the story....

In the early hours of 19th of September, we all assembled outside UGLE. We had set ourselves an arduous task, hoping to commemorate the centenary of the Great War and raise money for two Forces charities. Our aim was to cycle 190km from UGLE to the Menin Gate in Belgium in less than 36 hours. We began early, hoping to miss the London traffic and shorten the distance between ourselves and Dover. We got as far as Sidcup before a coffee was needed, knowing that the next few hours would be spent navigating the undulating South Downs. There having been an impressive storm the night before, the roads and lanes were strewn with detritus, causing us an unhelpful 11 punctures! However, fuelled by good spirits, nuts, raisins and horrible tasting energy bars, we arrived in Dover after a very long day. Unfortunately during day one, having to swerve a throttle-happy driver, one cyclist crashed with a nasty cut which we had to bandage.

Upon reaching Dover it became clear that the cut was going to need stitches, so whilst the rest of the

party refuelled and slept, two of our number sat patiently in the local A&E until the early hours of the morning. Although they hadn't enjoyed the rest like others, their stoicism shone through and we all boarded the ferry for Dunkirk the next morning. From there we had a race on our hands. Although it glad that we didn't have to contend with hills like the day before, we still had to cover the 60km journey in just a few hours so that we would reach the Menin Gate in time for the ceremony. Thankfully we did it with a little time to spare, completing our task in a little less than 35 hours.

After arriving in Ypres, we made our way to the magnificent Menin Gate. The ceremony we witnessed there was a humbling one. Although none of us were ignorant of the losses that occurred during the great war, to see even a small fraction of them represented in stone was quite hard hitting. We spent some time exploring the Gate, reading the names represented and then wrote a short message in the Book of Remembrance. The next day we



visited the Flanders Fields Museum, a sharp reminder of the futility of war, serving to underline the sacrifices made and that we will always remember them.

As of the beginning of December, the Ypres Cycle ride has raised £3,000 for the Royal British Legion and The Wiltshire Barn Project. Should anyone wish to donate to The Connaught Club's Ypres cycle effort they can do so via www.justgiving.com/Lewis-Clement or sending a cheque to Lewis Clement at The Connaught Club c/o MetGL, PO Box 29055, London, WC2B 5UN



The Operation Ypres Team.

KENT CLUB HOST ANNUAL DINNER

For this year's Annual Dinner the Kent Club returned to the Great Hall at Bart's. With its stunning décor and ornate staircase painted by Hogarth, the Great Hall, much admired by the Brethren last year played host to us once again. The Annual Dinner is a key fixture in the Kent Club's social calendar and provides a forum for London based Freemasons to socialise in an informal atmosphere. The evening was hosted by the Club's President, the Metropolitan Grand Master, who got to know many of the brethren over pre-dinner drinks. Over the

course of a superb meal the Brethren were treated to three excellent speeches by Masons representing the three ages of man and of course, entertainment from our own Master of Ceremonies, Alan Giddings. The Deputy Chairman of the Club, W. Bro David Cresswell, DepGOrg, outlined his vision for a number of future events including a further tour of Temple Church, a wine tasting and a trip to Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland. Furthermore the Club will continue to host quarterly social evenings at Mark Masons' Hall and



will continue to arrange attendance at special Lodge and Chapter meetings of interest to the membership.

arena readers are encouraged to keep an eye on the website www.kentclub.org, join their Facebook group or indeed, download their app (available for Android and Apple devices) for more information.

LONDON MASONIC REGALIA



SHOP

The Metropolitan Grand Almoner announced the launch of London Masonic Regalia, an eBay outlet for the recycling of Masonic regalia earlier this year. *arena* spoke to W. Bro Darrel Palmer, LGR, of The Lodge of Brotherly Union No. 8649, who works with W. Bro Colin Ring, SLGR, of Wendlesworth Lodge No. 6640, as joint-managers. As the eBay Shop's Porchway page says: "As we pass through our Masonic career and eventually, on to the Grand Lodge above, many items of regalia become unneeded, gather dust or are simply thrown away. What an undignified end for regalia that has been cherished, seen so much

service and has been worn on so many occasions! London Masonic Regalia are providing a free service, taking unwanted regalia and selling it via eBay, to a good and loving home.

The eBay shop is run by Masons for Masons and all the proceeds from those sales go to the Metropolitan Grand Almoner's Fund which provides financial assistance in genuine emergencies or to fill the gap where the Grand Charity either cannot assist or would be unable to assist in time. We would encourage all our Brethren to donate their unneeded regalia to London Masonic Regalia. Lodge/Chapter Almoners



can play a very important role, by discussing how members and widows, might wish to dispose of unused regalia and championing this charitable initiative. Please contact W. Bro Darrel Palmer at darrel.palmer4@ntlworld.com or W. Bro Colin Ring at colin@madsonblack.com for more information or assistance regarding making donations etc.

The Link is stores.ebay.co.uk/prelovedregalia

LMBA VOTED INTO LIMBO AGAIN!

The latest report from our very successful Bowls team...



To mark the close of the outdoor Summer Season, the LMBA invited neighboring Provinces to enjoy a full day of bowling in friendly rivalry on President's Gala Day, 18th September. At short notice, four Provinces - Berkshire, Buckinghamshire (2 triples), Hertfordshire and Middlesex - took up the challenge against five LMBA triples. After a great day of competition, LMBA took the first three places with Berkshire, managing fourth place to prevent an LMBA whitewash. The winners - W. Bros Jim Ashton, Tony Hammell and Lewis Epstein (a mere 92 yrs young!) were presented with the LIMBO "Blue Diamond" trophy plus Olympic-style medals.

As a direct result of our first "LIMBO" (London Inter Masonic Bowls Occasion), £200 will be donated equally to the Downs Syndrome, Crones Disease and Cherry Lodge charities. The LMBA's Almoner, W. Bro Bernie Jacobs, has a grandchild with Downs Syndrome

and Jackie, the partner of LMBA President, W. Bro Ian Keech, SLGR, supports Cherry Lodge, which provides aftercare for cancer sufferers. LIMBO proved so successful that the visitors have asked LMBA to stage another LIMBO as a climax to the Indoor Season. This will take place on March 22nd 2015, when it is hoped even more Provinces will seek to wrest the "Blue Diamond" trophy from LMBA's grasp.

At a Special General Meeting of LMBA, held on 12th November, Bro. Keech was formally invested with his 'President's Collar' by outgoing President, W. Bro John Laurence, SLGR. It was pleasing to report that the LMBA had enjoyed its most successful outdoor playing season for some time. Plans for the future were discussed and it is anticipated that at least two luncheon /dinner functions will be held in 2015, to which all Metropolitan Masons will be welcomed, including those who wish to be coached into this healthy and

enjoyable pastime. Details will be announced as soon as possible. Who knows, we might even persuade the MetGM to resume his playing career!

After lunch LMBA had an inglorious start to their winter (indoor) programme, playing against Bucks MBA and Herts BC. Not only did Bucks win comfortably by 19 shots, but the highest scoring triple was from the Herts BC, who received their prize with much glee. Even worse, the six bottles of relatively expensive red wine intended as raffle prizes had been uncorked in error by the caterers and placed on the dinner tables and were gratefully drunk avidly by the bowlers, who seemed unconcerned at the absence of the traditional raffle!

Happy Bowling!



METGLCSA TRIUMPH AGAIN

The Metropolitan Grand Lodge Clay Shooting Association shone once more at the Fifth Metropolitan Grand Lodge Christmas Clay Charity Shoot which was held on Saturday, 8th November 2014. The MetGL team held firm against no less than seven visiting Provincial teams from as far afield as Bristol to retain the Winners' Championship

Shield for the fifth year in a row!

The event was a massive success, raising over £1,000 for the Metropolitan Masonic Charity and was extremely well attended by London Masons and their guests as well as those competing.

Such has been the success of the MetGLCSA that plans are afoot for a meeting in London with representatives of all twenty-two

"Shooting" Provinces to discuss the future of shooting over the next five years.

arena sends its congratulations to all of the members of the MetGLCSA on their retention of the Winners' Championship Shield. Winning is certainly an excellent habit!

**WOULD YOU BE INTERESTED IN A
METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE
FOOTBALL TEAM?**

**IF SO, PLEASE CONTACT
BRO. LUKE ELFORD BY EMAIL TO:
luke.elford1@gmail.com**

A SPLENDID EVENING AT THE FIRST OF THE METROPOLITAN MASONIC CONCERT SERIES

On the evening of Tuesday 7th October 2014, Freemasons' Hall played host to 'Music for Two Pianos', performed by Pavel Kolesnikov and Samson Tsoy, the first event of the new Metropolitan Masonic Concert Series. The extremely well-attended event provided London Masons with an opportunity to enjoy an evening of classical music in the newly refurbished Gallery Suite (otherwise known as Temple 1). The evening began with Rachmaninov's Moments Musicaux Nos. 5 & 4, Op. 16 and Suite No. 1, and Tchaikovsky's Danse de la Feé Dragée (arr. Pletnev). Arena readers may recognise the latter piece as part of the Nutcracker ballet first performed in 1892.

Kolesnikov, praised by The Daily Telegraph for his 'intelligent programming and outstanding pianism' was born in Siberia. He studied both piano and violin for ten years before focussing solely on the piano. Currently continuing his studies at The Moscow State Conservatory, the Royal College of

Music and at Brussels' Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel, he recently became one of the BBC 'New Generation Artists'. Kazakh born pianist Samson Tsoy has been described by BBC Music Magazine as 'most promising' and his playing praised for its 'ferocious temperament, brilliant virtuosity and poetic soul'. Tsoy currently studies at The Moscow State Tchaikovsky Conservatory, at The Royal College of Music and at Brussels' Queen Elisabeth Music Chapel. Tsoy was names Laureate of the prestigious Santander International Piano Competition Paloma O'Shea in 2012.

After a brief intermission, (with free canapés and drinks!) the evening resumed with what can only be described as the highlight of the event - Saint-Saëns' Carnival of the Animals. The various movements were interposed between readings from the eponymous poem by Ogden Nash



METROPOLITAN MASONIC CONCERT SERIES

delivered by fourteen brethren from Master Masons to those somewhat more senior, including the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro. Sir David Wootton and the Metropolitan Grand Master Russell Race. All of the readings were extremely well received by the audience and provided the perfect foil to the accomplished pianism of Kolesnikov and Tsoy. This was the first event in the Metropolitan Masonic Concert Series and a splendid one at that. There is no doubt that similar events planned for the coming years are likely to sell out in record time so brethren, make sure you buy your tickets early!



A BRILLIANT AMULL FESTIVAL

AMULL (The Association of Medical, Legal and University Lodges) came back to London to celebrate their 14th Festival in September with the Master (W. Bro Kavir Shah) of Aesculapius Lodge No. 2410, this year's hosting lodge. Over 165 brethren, wives, partners and guests congregated at The Charterhouse, in the City of London, to celebrate another year with guest-of-honour, the MetGM, RW Bro. Russell Race. The Charterhouse, or to give it its correct title "Sutton's Hospital in Charterhouse", is a former Carthusian monastery dating back to 1371. Since the dissolution of the monasteries, the site has served as private mansion, a boy's school and an almshouse for aged gentlemen. It retains this latter usage, as today it is a residential

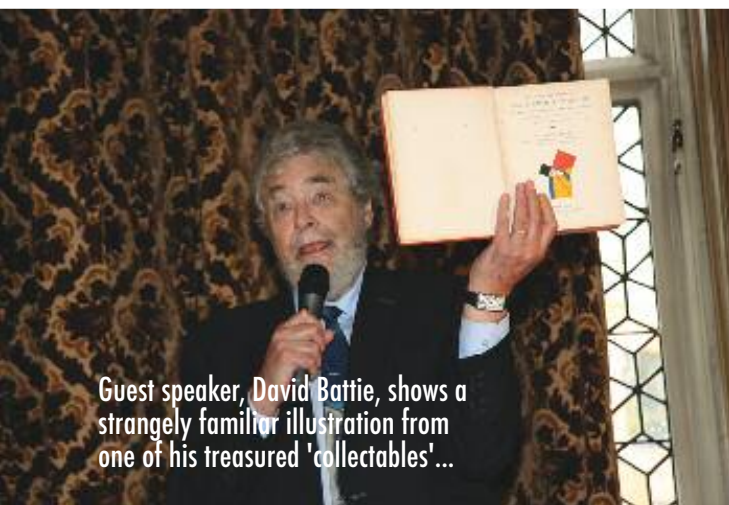
home for forty male pensioners.

Members and their guests were welcomed in the Upper Hall with a lecture on the history of The Charterhouse given by its Master, Brig. Charlie Hobson, OBE, RM Retd., which revealed amongst other surprises that the room in which they were present hosted Queen Elizabeth I in 1558 during the preparations for her coronation and that her successor, James I, held court downstairs before his first formal entrance into London in 1603. As usual, the participants then attended an Ecumenical Service in the very beautiful chapel (formerly the Chapter House of the monastery), consecrated in 1414, led by the Rev'd Robin Isherwood, who gave an inspiring and amusing address. After some excellent

singing from Bro. and Mrs. Ashley and Cleo Perraton-Williams, this was followed by a highly erudite but hugely amusing talk from David Battie of the BBC's

"Antiques Roadshow", entitled 'My unlikely career as a Collectaholic' with many live examples of the collectables he owns. The Festival then moved to the lawns of the Charterhouse for a champagne reception, followed by a luncheon in the Great Hall. The Festival culminated with some excellent speeches by Bro. Shah and from AMULL President, W. Bro John Harvey, PJGD.

Thanks for a well-planned and very enjoyable day are due to the Secretary of Aesculapius Lodge, W. Bro David Nunn, PAGDC for co-ordinating the bookings, to VW Bro. Graham Redman, DepGSec, for his services as DC at the Lunch and to the Festival's co-ordinating Director and AMULL Secretary, W. Bro Prof. Mike Jones, PAGDC. Last but certainly not least, many thanks are due to W. Bro Henry Hobson for taking the photos at another excellent AMULL festival! As an early note for readers' diaries, the next AMULL Festival will be held in the City of Chester, hosted by the University Lodge of Chester on Saturday 12th September 2015.



Guest speaker, David Battie, shows a strangely familiar illustration from one of his treasured 'collectables'...



THE METROPOLITAN OFFICERS MESS

The Metropolitan Officers Mess set the tone for the rest of the Autumn season with its excellent Met Mess dinner and entertainment on 18th September at the City Grange Hotel near Tower Bridge. Around 250 members attended and enjoyed a Champagne Reception followed by an excellent meal. After the dinner, a cheque for £5,000 for the MMC, which had been raised through the efforts of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge Golf Society, was presented to RW Bro. Russell Race, MetGM, by W. Bros Bob Hancock, PGSD, and W. Bro Indu Chatrath, PGStB. Brethren may wish to note that this was the first Met Mess where the MGLGS tie was worn - as can be seen modelled by Bro. Bob in the accompanying photo!

It was then time to be entertained by John Sergeant, the ex-BBC political commentator, television personality and journalist, now latterly turned dancer-extraordinaire on 'Strictly come Dancing'. He gave a sparkingly witty speech, interspersed with serious anecdotes about his time at the BBC, including some revealing 'insider' opinions. He described his part, both planned and inadvertent, in the gripping and then still developing story of the deselection of Margaret Thatcher as the Leader of the Conservative Party in 1990. He went on to describe in a very laconic and engaging way, how his experiences on "Strictly" had given him a whole new group that admired him for his physical rather than intellectual nature! He then took questions from the floor, in a quick-fire and amusingly responsive way. It was an excellent event and the organiser, W. Bro Tony Hawley, PGStB and his team are to be congratulated. Members, like arena, may wish to place a note in their diaries that the next Mess is a lunch on 24th March 2015!





FIRST METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE LADIES NIGHT A REAL SUCCESS!

W. Bro James Stroud, LGR, MetGStwd, attended the first MetGL Ladies Night and reports as follows:



The concept of a Metropolitan Grand Lodge Ladies Night was to enable lodges who don't have the numbers, or the finances, to enjoy a Ladies Night of their own; the idea proved to be very sound as the event was completely sold out within two months of being advertised!

On the 29th November, 410 guests arrived for the inaugural event at the modern glass and chrome edifice that is the five-star St Paul's Grange hotel, to be greeted by a period London bus (see photo) complete with uniformed driver and 'clippy'.

The warmth of the occasion drew guests in from the cool November night and whilst they enjoyed copious champagne, professional photographer Bob Tuthill shot amusing pictures of them with their heads poking through the many London-themed novelty boards. Everyone enjoyed the comic effect of seeing their friends transformed into Pearly Kings & Queens, Guardsmen,

Yeoman and more.

The photoboards proved to be only the start of the evening's entertainment, however. After a wonderful three-course meal the event's President, Metropolitan Grand Master RW Bro. Russell Race, toasted the table Presidents' and thanked the organisers Tony Hawley, Gary Beckwith, Keith Alexander and John Parry.

The magnificently liveried Toastmaster, Brian Sylvester, then got the raffle underway. Plunging his hand into a golden box of goodies the Metropolitan Grand Master extracted the 10 winning tickets. The prizes ranged from a tandem Skydive, dance lessons with the award-winning Teresa & Richard Tandy, to an exhilarating high-speed trip in a 'ThamesRush' jet boat. The gifts never stopped coming, one generous donor gave every table a prize of a romantic river cruise and a lucky lady on each table took home the

most wonderful flower display.

The dance demonstration began with a cleverly devised film backdrop, showing footage from 1914 to the present day, setting the dance craze of each decade into its historical context. Donning a different costume for each era the Tandys whirled around the dance floor and brought to life the romance and rhythm of the cha-cha, waltz, and tango to name but a few.

The Ross Mitchell band was stunning, judging the crowd's mood perfectly. The dance floor was never empty, even for a moment. The entertainment never stopped. When the band took a break people were treated to Tania Alboni's tribute to Amy Winehouse. She gave a perfect delivery of the unique vocal style and sound that Amy is infamous for. Not just a flawless vocal performance, every head tilt, skirt flick and even her hair twirling was spot on! A full Amy Winehouse experience!

Ross's band brought the evening to a close with traditional British songs, the crowd enthusiastically flag

waving and singing at the top of their voices. Judging by the smiling faces and laughter people thoroughly enjoyed themselves. Even as people were leaving there were requests to reserve tables at next year's event, a good indication of a great evening out!



...and the theme was shown again with this Black Cab Photo Board, amongst many others.

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FAMOUS LONDONERS - KYNASTON STUDD

W. Bro Gordon Davie, PSGD, gives arena readers another of his excellent and informative articles on a London-based brother of whom not many will have heard...

John Kynaston Studd was born on 26 July 1858 and was the oldest of three brothers all of whom went to Eton and Cambridge. He was a noted cricketer and played at Cambridge being Captain of the Cambridge side which inflicted the only defeat the Australian tourists suffered on their tour in 1882. He also played cricket for Middlesex. John wasn't however as good a cricketer as his brothers, George and Charles, who were chosen for the 1882/1883 MCC tour of Australia. His family was extremely wealthy, but at the same time, deeply religious and when he left Cambridge he embarked on a "career" in public service becoming Honorary Secretary of the Regent Street Polytechnic in 1884 at the behest of its founder, Quintin Hogg, and served in that post for almost twenty years becoming Chairman and President in 1903.

It was whilst he was at the Polytechnic that he became introduced to Freemasonry and he was Initiated into the Polytechnic Lodge No. 2847 in January of 1902, his profession on his initiation form being given as "Gentleman". Whilst he was deeply religious and very keen on missionary work, he did not find Freemasonry inimical to his faith. Freemasonry was to him "religious but not a religion, being rather a rule of conduct founded on principles accepted by all". Once Initiated, he seems to have caught the Masonic bug and was Exalted the following year into the Fulham Chapter, No. 2512 and then he really took off! He became a founder member of the Robert Mitchell Lodge, No. 2956 in London in 1903, which met at The Polytechnic, becoming Master in 1907. He then became a serial founder of lodges, his second being the Old Quintinians Lodge, No. 3307, in 1908 also meeting there. He was also a founder of Old Etonian Lodge

No. 4500 and Athlon Lodge No. 4674. He was also a founder of Quintinian Chapter, No. 2956, in 1907, where he served as each of the Principals.

He seemed to have boundless energy, because he then became involved in the 1908 Olympic Games and helped organise the track and field events. The Regent Street Polytechnic had, from its inception, always encouraged athletics in keeping with the 'muscular' Christianity movement popular at the start of the twentieth Century. As a reward he was selected to carry the flag for Great Britain. He was the only non-Olympian athlete to carry the Union Flag at an Olympic ceremony, his sole athletic prowess being a Cambridge Blue in cricket, which was not an Olympic sport! Needless to say, his high profile came to the attention of Grand Lodge and he was appointed Senior Grand Deacon in 1910. He was also appointed to the Board of General Purposes - not too bad for a chap who had only been in the Craft for eight years and a PM for just over a year! He remained on the Board for almost twenty years and only came off when he was appointed President of the Board of Benevolence in 1929.

He became a joining member of the Lodge of Antiquity No.2 in 1912 and was elected Worshipful Master in 1917, but he never actually became WM as he persuaded the then Grand Master the Duke of Connaught to become the permanent Master of No. 2, so that Kynaston Studd and his successors bore the title of Worshipful Deputy Master until the Duke's death in 1942. After he left the Chair he became the Secretary of the Lodge a post he held for over twenty-six years, which was not uncommon in those days. So not only did the Lodge have a permanent Master, it also had a 'permanent' Secretary!

It was in this period that he took an interest in the City of London when one of his Board of Governors at the Polytechnic introduced him to the Worshipful Company of Fruiterers, thus launching him on a career in the City. He soon afterwards became Master of the Company, and he then joined the Merchant Taylors Company. He was appointed one of the Aldermanic Sheriffs in September 1922, and knighted the following year for his services to the City of London. A real high flyer, he was elected Lord Mayor of the City of London in 1928 and as result of his success in this office, he was awarded a Baronetcy. Needless to say he entered into City Freemasonry with the same enthusiasm that he gave to everything he did. He joined the Farringdon Without Lodge, No. 1745 and Guildhall Lodge, No. 3116, in 1924, (WM, 1929) and City of London National Guard Lodge, No. 3757, in 1928, (WM, 1929). His profession had, by this time, changed and when he joined the latter Lodge he gave his profession as "Lord Mayor." I am not so sure that it would be accepted today as a profession!

By 1927 he was a 'full-time Mason' being a member of no less than ten Lodges, Secretary of one and a long time member of the Board of General Purposes. Apart from all that he accompanied the Deputy Grand Master, Lord Cornwallis, on his tour of India which encompassed 26,000 miles of travel and visiting some forty-eight lodges. He must have had a very good staff and organisation to be able to travel abroad for such an extended tour as he was now almost seventy years old and at the very zenith of his Masonic career. In the year after his election as Lord Mayor of London he was appointed Junior Grand Warden. In 1929 he retired from the Board of General Purposes

to enable his appointment as President of the Board of Benevolence and also a member of the Peace Memorial Fund Committee which was formed with the task of funding the forthcoming new Grand Lodge Building, as he was known to be a formidable fund raiser having raised £100,000 when the Regent Street Polytechnic entered on its rebuilding programme.. A long time member of the MCC he was elected its President in 1930.

One would have thought that having reached the age of 75 further promotion would be out of his reach, but in 1934 a peculiar set of circumstances arose when the PGM of Cambridgeshire died very suddenly.. This caused a problem as there was no obvious successor. The Grand Master selected RW Bro. John Edward Kynaston Studd Bt, OBE, as the new PGM of Cambridgeshire, he was aged 76 years and he held that office, together with that of President of the Board of Benevolence, until his death in 1944. I imagine him to be a

very organised man with deep Christian beliefs, extremely charitable with a great sense of duty and always wanting to do what was correct and also perhaps a bit of a stickler. He must have had charm because in 1924 he married for the second time in three years after the death of his first wife. The lady in question was a Russian, Princess Alexandra Lieven, whose family had fled Russia after the Revolution.

This well documented incident may give an idea of the type of man he was. Shortly after being made PGM he wanted to attend a meeting of the oldest Lodge in the Province, Scientific No. 88, but the dates of their meetings were such that he couldn't attend. He therefore asked if the Lodge would be kind enough to alter one of its dates to enable him to attend. The Lodge readily agreed and he visited the Lodge during the year. He went on in due time to visit all of the eleven Lodges which the Province had at that time.

He was very generous and donated

the two Provincial Standards which had been ordered shortly before his becoming PGM and would often give Lodges pieces of silver or some Masonic memento when he visited them. He could also be very practical and after visiting the Isaac Newton University Lodge No. 859 he wrote and offered to pay for the "cost of a full refurbishment of the sanitary and washing arrangements at the rear of the premises." He was indeed a London Mason of great distinction whose activities during the first half of the 20th Century should not be forgotten.

Acknowledgements: I have used a number of sources during my research and I am very grateful to the staff and authors I have used including, Grand Lodge Library and Museum, The Provincial Grand Lodge of Cambridgeshire Web site, The City of London Library and the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography.

Lord Ampthill, the pro-GM with a delegation of senior Grand Officers including Bro. Studd, on his left.





LGR/LR INVESTITURE

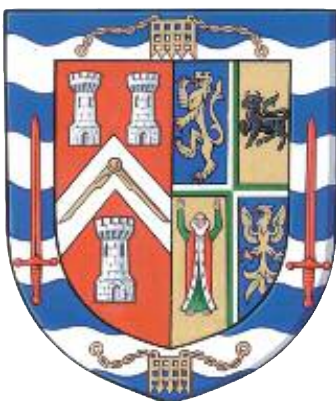


Bro. Luke Elford of Fenchurch Lodge No 5663 attended his first London Grand Rank/London Rank Investiture in November and was impressed by the splendid ceremonial and detail of this very large London flagship event. He shares his thoughts on the day...

On Thursday, 6th November 2014, some three hundred and fifty-five brethren were awarded and invested with London Grand Rank and a further nine awarded London Rank at the annual London Grand Rank/London Rank Investiture at Freemasons' Hall. The meeting was split into two sessions with a luncheon held at the Grand Connaught Rooms in between. Although Metropolitan Grand Lodge was inaugurated in 2003, the concept of London Grand Rank and London Rank date back much further. In fact, it is London Rank which is the older with the first appointments made in 1908, before being renamed London Grand Rank in 1939 and the creation of Senior London Grand Rank in 1979. In

1998, London Rank was re-adopted as a way of recognising meritorious service of masons who had not yet been Masters of a lodge. Over one thousand one hundred brethren attended the morning meeting and a thousand attended the afternoon session, both of which were presided over by the Metropolitan Grand Master. He congratulated all of the brethren on their achievements and reminded them that as we approach the Tercentenary of the foundation of the Premier Grand Lodge in 1717, London masons will have a big part to play in the forthcoming celebrations.'

arena would like to offer congratulations to all those invested with London Grand Rank or London Rank!



FESTIVE FUN AT FREEMASONS' HALL



The performers lined up in the processional corridor to go onstage led by W. Bros Keith Mitchell and Rick Wakeman.



There was fun for all the family at the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Metropolitan Grand Chapter Family Festive Concert, which was held on Thursday, 11th December 2014 at Freemasons' Hall.

Organised by W. Bro Keith R Mitchell, JGD, MetGInsp and his team, the event was a roaring success with tickets for the event in the Grand Temple selling out very quickly indeed. Host for the evening was W. Bro Rick Wakeman of Chelsea Lodge No. 3098, a well-known entertainer and former keyboard player in rock band 'Yes'. Providing the entertainment were the St. Anne's Camerata conducted by John Traill, with Simon Debruslais playing solo trumpet, the Oxfordshire Youth Chamber Choir, the Oxfordshire

Youth Brass Ensemble and of course, the Celtic London Pipes and Drums band.

The event, which was attended by a number of officers from Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter, including the Metropolitan Grand Master, Russell Race, the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Superintendent, Chris Frankland, the Metropolitan Grand Secretary, David Swain and numerous Metropolitan Grand Inspectors from both Craft and Chapter, was attended by a large number of Brethren, their families and friends. Following a short introduction from Bro. Wakeman, proceedings got underway with a rousing rendition of Jerusalem sung by all in attendance and played on the temporary Grand Temple Organ.

The programme, which was designed to reflect the diverse nature of Freemasonry, took the audience through music relevant to a plethora of cultures, the sounds of which were expertly provided by St. Anne's Camerata and the Oxfordshire Youth Brass Ensemble. These were of course interspersed with traditional

carols such as "Ding Dong Merrily on High", "O Come All Ye Faithful", and "Good King Wenceslas Looked Out" all of which were introduced with interesting trivia and some humour by the compere.

The highlights of the evening though were the moving renditions of 'A Christmas Carol' and Elgar's 'The Snow', sung beautifully by the choristers of the Oxfordshire Youth Chamber Choir and of course, the magnificent entrance of the Celtic London Pipes and Drums to much applause.

A splendid evening was concluded with a rendition of 'Hark the Herald' and the National Anthem followed by a recession of the musicians led by the Celtic London Pipes and Drums. As the Brethren, their families and friends made their way out into the cold winter night there was a discernible feel good factor and many patrons were overheard saying that they will be back next year when hopefully, the newly refurbished organ in the Grand Temple should only add to the spectacle.

FROM THE METGDC'S TEAM...



W. Bro Simon White, SLGR, MetDepGDC, highlights the use of Project Streamline in London Lodges...

The MetGDC and MetDepGDCs are often asked exactly what Lodges and Chapters should be doing if they want to implement Project Streamline and this is an appropriate place to give some more detail and thinking on the subject. The project was born from the quandary that younger working Masons can find it difficult to arrive in time for meeting starting at 4pm or 4.30, but that has to be balanced with those who are retired and can have an early start, but do not wish to be travelling home after 9pm or so, especially in the winter months. We need to make our meeting accessible to all Masons regardless of age or working situation, and be mindful of pressures outside of Masonry in our private and public avocations. The idea then is to organise our meetings to “streamline” their running and using the useful Metropolitan adage that less is more.

So in practical terms what can be done? Well, a start time of 5pm or later would be a good place to begin. Cutting down processions into a meeting saves time, and can then be used perhaps only for Installation, or special visits. Salutations can be avoided; again unless it is a special occasion, for instance the first meeting after the annual appointments or promotions. Minutes, reports from the Charity Steward and Almoner can be pre-circulated, and only updates need be given at the meeting. Alms can be collected at the festive board, especially if a gift aid envelope is used as this saves the time waiting for them to be completed, likewise the rising information can also be pre-circulated. A short procession out is also acceptable.

DCs can streamline meetings by making sure ceremonies are known and well practiced – after all every time a worker needs to be prompted it doubles the time taken for that part of the ritual. Other business items can be managed to save time too; proposers and seconders, auditors and committee members can be agreed in advance so a discussion or nomination in open forum is rarely needed. One of the big ways of including everyone is to leave the actual ceremony until last on the agenda, allowing everything else to have been dealt with first. This has the added bonus of allowing any brother who arrives late to be able to see the meat of the meeting, rather than miss it. For an initiation, the candidate, I am sure, would welcome the meeting finishing after his ceremony is complete so that he can immediately relax a little and socialise with his fellow brethren straight away. Festive Boards can also be streamlined with a little care, by managing the number of wine takings, and making sure speeches are sincere, to the point, but not too long.

There are a number of other suggestions made by the Streamline team and the summary is available on Porchway for anyone to view. Of course these are all suggestions only, and no in any way prescriptive, but nevertheless have the full support of the Executive, and are there to help in making Masonry more accessible and enjoyable for everyone, regardless of their individual circumstances.