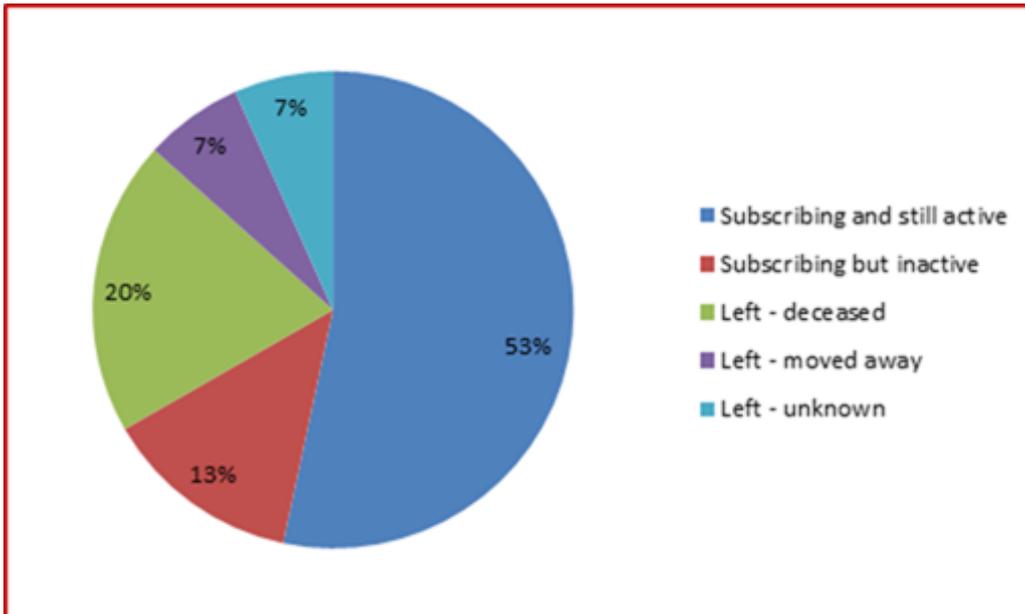


RICHARD HUISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER 16 (February 2015)

SOAP BOX TIME – this item is entirely my own opinion.

Thanks to all of you who responded to the “FUTURE OF MY LODGE” survey – if you’re involved in surveys yourself, you’ll agree with me that the 44% response (i.e. 14 of 32 members) rate was very good compared to other Taunton Lodges. A summary of the Lodge responses is included in the Summons. Without blowing our trumpet too loudly, the broad tone of responses is that things are going well.... That is broadly borne out by the retention rate in the Lodge. An analysis of the 15 members initiated in the past 20 years shows:



As well as these 15, we have 3 candidates and 2 joining Members this season. We also have a fourth candidate keenly anticipating our November meeting, so we must be doing something right!

Nevertheless, Brethren, I challenge you:

- Q4 – 57% of responses do not regularly bring a guest to the Lodge. So - why does pretty much every Festive Board hear that “Visitors are the life blood of Masonry”? Could those of us who visit regularly do something to support those who don’t but would like to?
- Q10 – 100% of responses do not want to be more involved in the running of the Lodge. Frankly that is very disappointing, though no surprise. We’ve faced numbers problems recently, and I feel we have turned a corner. Nevertheless, rotation of Officers and posts is what invigorates a Lodge and entuses an individual. So – could you offer to manage the 200 Club, for example?
- Q13 - 50% of the responses said they did not want to see a change in the formal 3-course Festive Board. So - why, at so many meetings, does somebody say that they struggle with a sit-down dinner this late.
- Q3, 6 and 11 - some Brethren cannot attend regularly, and a common reason across the Province is the anxiety of driving home in the dark. So - are we prepared to consider an early start for perhaps our April meeting? Non-Installation meetings usually run for 3 hours – could we start at 4:30 in April to be finished and on the road for about 7:30, so that some of our Brethren could feel more comfortable driving home afterwards?

Feel free to respond to my sermon.

RICHARD HUIISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER 16 (February 2015)

OUR NEW INITIATE - Paul David Handbury

I was born in North Devon in 1981, where Dad was a Nurse Tutor at the North Devon District Hospital in Barnstaple. We came to Somerset in 1986 eventually moving to Taunton in 1998.



My brother Neil and I are dyslexic and we went to a private school in Shapwick and in 1998 I started at Somerset College of Art and Technology where I studied Performing Arts. After that, for the next several years I worked in telecommunications as a Rigger, working at the top of mobile phone masts. Unfortunately I suffered a major heart condition in 2004 which meant I could no longer work near telecommunications equipment. Following this I joined the No Fit State Circus, an animal free circus touring the UK and Europe. I have recently retrained as a Heavy Plant Operator and now drive large excavators - I'm currently working on a long term building project at RNAS Yeovilton.

In 2010 I met my life partner Michele and we indulge our passion of seeing as much of the world as possible, so far to date we have visited France, Turkey, Thailand, Cambodia, Croatia, Tenerife and Australia. My hobbies include driving, climbing (I have a climb named after me in Cyprus!) and teaching Circus Skills to young people.

I have been interested in becoming a Mason for some time following in my Dad's footsteps and now feel it is the right time for me to make that step and I am looking forward to my journey through Masonry.

Great to have you join us Paul, we look forward to supporting you on that journey.

DIARY DATES

- Monday 30th March - seminar on 'Progression to the Master's Chair' to be held at 7:00 pm at Burnham Masonic Hall. Open to all Master Masons, and your partners are very welcome. Refreshments provided. Book your place via the Secretary.
- Thursday 2nd April - the 2015 Provincial AGM is to be held at the Winter Gardens, Weston super Mare. All are welcome, whether receiving Honours or not. Further details re. timings etc from the Secretary.

PRIDE IN OUR MASONRY - PART 1

On Friday 8th November 2013, Typhoon Haiyan, the worst storm to have ever hit land, caused widespread destruction across the Philippines. More than 6,000 people were killed and an estimated 14.1 million have been affected. In response, The Freemasons' Grand Charity donated £50,000 to the International Red Cross Red Crescent to support the immediate relief efforts. Additionally, many Freemasons called upon The Freemasons' Grand Charity to raise money to support the long-term recovery operations in the area. The creation of a dedicated Relief Chest led to a further £185,385 being raised over the next six months. The funds were donated to Plan UK and in July 2014, they began to use the money to rebuild fourteen classrooms and two health centres destroyed or badly damaged in East and West Samar, two of the worst hit areas in the disaster zone.

RICHARD HUISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER 16 (February 2015)

PRIDE IN OUR MASONRY – PART 2

You will know from Compass magazine and past reports to the Lodge that Freemasonry donated over £220,000 to support the recovery operation after the floods of the winter of 2013-14, a year ago now. We have recently committed £9,000 for a flood resilience project to purchase a supply of flood storage bags and instant hessian sandbags. This will be for the benefit of all potential flood residents across the levels.

Further support will cover an emotional wellbeing project, a disability support boat and a resilience project for Long Sutton and surrounding parishes.

Progress is also being made on the project at Muchelney to develop the church for full community use. If all goes to plan we will be putting forward a proposal to fund the initial architect and QS costs to enable the project to move forward quickly. These initial costs are expected to be around £10,000 and the whole project is expected to cost in the order of £150,000. However, we will need to determine from the diocese and others involved that there is enough money to complete the project, before approving initial spending.

In all involvement with the flood recovery has been very interesting, very worthwhile and has demonstrated to people far and wide that Freemasons do support projects in the wider community and are prepared to be proactive. We have made a lot of new friends and supporters because of our involvement.

OUR NEW JOINING MEMBER – W Bro John Mellanby



W Bro John was born in Burton on Trent in the maternity Hospital - next door to the brewery... there's a life story there... John's father worked in Local Government and the family moved around - Swadlincote (nr Burton), Canvey Island, Hatfield (nr Doncaster), Dronfield (nr Sheffield) and finally came to rest in Somerset in time for the '66 World Cup.

After school, John did his teacher training but never taught. Instead, he joined Clarks Shoes and for his final few years there was a computer Database administrator, retiring in 2007. He is married to Angela and they have two sons and 3 grandchildren (which is what brings John to Taunton)

John was initiated into Pilgrims 772 in 2001, proposed by his father W Bro Harry Mellanby and seconded by W Bro Roger Reina, WM at the time, and then raised in 2002. John attained the Chair in 2009, installed by the same W Bros Harry and Roger. John is Pilgrims' Chaplain and Mentor, as well as Preceptor for their Lodge of Instruction.

I am delighted to have been able to propose W Bro John. I first met W Bro John when he was WM of Pilgrims and they made the first of several charitable donations to SURE, where my late Father in Law, Bro Eric Saffin, was heavily involved. By then, his own illness prevented him from driving and so I was his chauffeur. Pilgrims were very hospitable and John especially made Eric and I very welcome, and John soon became a friend and a regular guest to this Lodge.

LODGE SUBSCRIPTIONS

Our Brother Treasurer is looking at how we may move to a system so that Brethren can pay their annual subscriptions by instalments. Further information to follow.

RICHARD HUISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER 16 (February 2015)

TAUNTON MASONIC HALL CO.

- Members attending the AGM of the Taunton Masonic Hall Company were reminded that running the Hall is a business; it costs money to run, to ensure it meets required standards and remains a venue we can be proud of. The running costs are in the region of £47,000 pa – met approximately 50% by Lodge fees and 50% by income from the car park plus profits from bar sales and functions.
- The decoration of the Dining Room has been completed. The digitally enhanced and framed photos of the Past Masters are now in place and the final result met with wide-spread approval. PHEW ! Work is still underway to put up the photos of current Masters on the Dining Room entrance half-landing.
- This Summer’s work is mainly refurbishing the kitchen.
- Recognising the financial pressures on members and Lodges, and the reasonably healthy state of the company’s finances, the Board expects there to be no further increases in dues to the Company for three years.
- No 20 The Crescent remains as a liability rather than an asset - a buyer was in the wings but that fell through. Any other idea ideas for its future are welcomed.
- Our caterer, Peter Catlow, was congratulated on the first class service he and “the girls” provide. He did remind members that his service depended on lodges complying with a request for reasonable notice of numbers and adhering to them. Please make sure that you read the revised edition of the dining return.
- The AGM saw the establishment of regular meetings of the Taunton and W Somerset area LIOs, with a view to promoting Masonry collectively as well as individual lodges. Whilst plans are by no means set yet, we can expect: another Hall Open Day; combined Gentlemen’s Evenings; and support for the Provincial tercentenary celebration of the formation of UGLE in 1717. W Bro Jack Leeming of 261 heads the group.
- Your correspondent has accepted the task of sourcing the supply, and training in the use, of a defibrillator for the Hall.

W Bro Charlie Barker, Lodge Information Officer
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