

# ***RICHARD HUISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER 19 (FEBRUARY 2016)***

## **OUR NEW INITIATE**



Our latest initiate is Bro Kris Mews. He is Polish by birth though now a naturalised British citizen and is 45. He is married to Aleksandra and they have a young daughter. He did a 5 year stint in the Polish police service as his National Service and then took a warder's position within the Polish prison service. Kris lived through the fall of Communism and came to the UK in 2004 with £400 and a phrase book. Working initially in the Polish community, he finished his retail career with Morrison's, leaving them to go more into administration. He now works in Wellington for an engineering company as a project planner. Kris is very civic minded and is keen to be an active member of the Lodge. We welcome Kris and look forward to his progression within Masonry in general and Richard Huish Lodge in particular.

## **2020 FESTIVAL – JEWELS**

You can now be the proud owner of the 2020 Festival Jewel immediately! All you have to do is complete a Gift Aid mandate for the minimum amount required to qualify for the Jewel and pay in instalments over the next 4 years. The contribution required for a Steward's Jewel is £300; however by filling out the Gift Aid form the Government pay £60 (25%) of this meaning you only need to pledge £240. A "regular Giving" promise to pay £5 a month - just a couple of pints? – for the next 4 years would qualify you NOW for a Steward's Jewel. Bars are available to such Jewels for donations that exceed that threshold. W Bro Sid will be very pleased to tap you on the shoulder and talk to you about "Regular Giving".

## **ADAIR CLUB**

The Adair club within Masonry is open to anyone under 40 OR who has been a Mason for less than 5 years. Membership is free. Their new website is up and running and can be viewed at [www.youngmasons.co.uk](http://www.youngmasons.co.uk). The new site covers a number of topics including news items on what the group has been up to, information on how to join the Adair club, photographs of recent events and a full 2015 event planner so that everyone can see what's coming up soon. Follow the Adair Club by : online at [www.youngmasons.co.uk](http://www.youngmasons.co.uk), via twitter @theadairclub or on their facebook page (facebook.com/Adairclub)

If you'd like to join them please contact the secretary Sam Mayer on [secretary@youngmasons.co.uk](mailto:secretary@youngmasons.co.uk)

## **FLOOD RELIEF APPEAL**

Following the devastating floods in Cumbria, Freemasons Grand Charity made a grant of £25,000 to the Cumbria Community Flood Relief Fund to assist those who have been affected. A further £5,000 has been given by Grand Charity to the Cumbria Provincial Grand Master's Appeal. Brethren of Somerset know only too well the devastation this flooding brings, and so the Provincial Grand Master of Somerset, RW Bro Stuart Hadler, has announced a donation of £10,000 from the Province of Somerset. We have also offered the benefit of our experience in managing the Somerset Flood Relief Fund and this has been gratefully accepted.

Should Lodges or individual brethren wish to contribute to the Provincial Grand Lodge of Cumberland & Westmorland Flood Appeal, donations should be made payable to the "Provincial Grand Master's Charity Fund". Please send these to the Provincial Grand Secretary, Richard Ellis, who will forward them promptly.

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## **MASONIC SECRETS**

This article is a combination of several on the web.

The Great Eastern Hotel in London, next to Liverpool Street station, underwent refurbishment in the 1990's, and the blueprints seemed to indicate there was an additional room... Once the wall was demolished, the heavy studded doors that lay behind parted to reveal an opulent combination of Italian marble and checked floors. The spiral staircase leads to a wonderful view of a stunning blue dome ceiling with gold zodiac detail, regal thrones and organ. Built in 1912, this Temple is quite possibly one of the grandest Masonic temples in London.



The windowless room is known as the "Grecian Temple." It holds an organ, hand-carved mahogany chairs and bronze candelabra. There are 12 different types of marble used in the floor, columns, and walls. The ceiling, a blue and gold dome, bears a five-pointed "blazed star" and zodiac signs.

## **GUESTS & VISITING**

Visiting is the lifeblood of Masonry – this is how we see other Lodges working and extends our own friendships and of course, the other side of visiting is bringing guests to our own Lodge, creating genuine fellowship. Visiting is also a key element of retaining members - too many leave in the early years often, it appears, because they have not felt at home or engaged. Visitors are the subject of "the most important toast of the evening" And of course, watching and learning from ceremonies is key to making "a daily advancement" At the same time, Richard Huish is known for its friendly and welcoming attitude, and our Festive Board is always a convivial occasion. But despite the social value and our reputation, we just don't seem to be getting as many visitors as we used to. What can we do about that? Yes, hosting a visitor does mean financing his dinner – and maybe share that visitor and that cost with another RHL member?

## **LODGE PROGRAMME**

The Lodge has come through a 5 year period without a candidate - November 2006 until November 2011, when we initiated Bro Colin Maddock. Since then, we have initiated another 6 candidates. 2 have progressed to MM and we now have 4 Entered Apprentices. Additionally, we have 2 firm candidates coming forward - we will see one proposed in February and one in September. On top of that, we have had 3 joining members who are experienced Masons.

This is a good position to be in, the "envy" of some local Lodges. But all of this good news brings its own problems. As we meet only 4 times a year, 1 candidate is all we need, in pure number of ceremonies. On the basis of 4 existing EA and 2 future Initiates, plus Installations, it could be as late as April 2020 before the

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second of the two candidates is Raised to a Master Mason, and that is far too long – the broad Provincial view is that it should take 18 months (24 max) to move from Initiate to MM.

The January committee meeting discussed this situation at great length and looked at a number of approaches to a solution. In the end, the decision was taken to adopt a combination of additional meetings, farming out and double ceremonies. We know that Lodges in Taunton are keen to support us, and that inviting other Lodges to perform ceremonies on our behalf is an ideal opportunity for our members to visit other lodges, and to form friendships that increase visitors generally, to the good of all.

Consequently, the programme for the rest of 2016 is this:

27<sup>th</sup> February 2016 = double 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Bros Paul Handbury & Martin Turner (5:30 START)

12<sup>th</sup> March 2016 = Old Aluredian to host a 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Bro Jamie Corbett (5:00 START)

23<sup>rd</sup> April 2016 = 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Bro Paul Handbury

7<sup>th</sup> May 2016 = additional meeting, 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Mr Andrew Turner

24<sup>th</sup> September 2016 = Installation AND double 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree, Bros Kris Mews & Andrew Turner (4:30 start)

26<sup>th</sup> November 2016 = 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree, Bro Martin Turner

Brother Jamie's 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree at Old Aluredian is a great opportunity for Brethren of Richard Huish of all levels to visit another Lodge. W Bro Simon Cassling will lead the Obligation, with W Bros Maldwyn Davies and John Rudge delivering key elements of the ceremony as well. OA meet here on Saturday, just as we do, though they tyle at 5:00 pm. Since OA are hosting us, it is important that as many as possible of our members join them, to thank them and especially to support Bro Jamie.

## **PROVINCIAL DIARY DATES**

The 2016 AGM is fast approaching - Thursday 31st March 2016. Due to site redevelopments at the Winter Gardens in Weston Super Mare, the meeting has been arranged for Thursday 31st March 2016 at the Webbington Hotel and Spa, Loxton, Nr Axbridge. The venue offers some additional benefits, not the least of which is FREE parking. The Lodge room is able to seat over 800, so more dining space. The Webbington has been used more extensively in recent years for a number of other Masonic events and the staff are well used to our requirements. PLEASE BOOK EARLY TO DINE – SEE THE FLYER. Dining will be on round tables of maximum ten places and will take place after the meeting. All Brethren attending the meeting must be seated latest by 10.45 am, with Provincial Grand Lodge opened promptly at 11.00 am. It is anticipated that the lunch will commence at 2.00 pm and that Brethren will be able to leave at about 4.30 pm.

The annual Provincial Church Service will be held on Sunday 10th April at Wells Cathedral.

## **TMC DIARY DATE**

Saturday 30th April - St George's Supper in TMC for all Masons and their ladies. 3 course supper, cabaret – and who knows what else! By the time we meet, I'll know who is taking your bookings!

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## **THE FOUNDING OF ENGLISH MASONRY**

Masonry today takes its formation date as 24th June 1717, when an Assembly of Masons at London took place out of which sprang the formation of the "Grand Lodge of London". This was a meeting of four local area Lodges, now referred-to in Masonry as the 'Four Old Lodges'. No records have been found of that assembly, just references in later years. The Minutes of The London Grand Lodge of Masons only commence in 1723 and in 1725 this became The Grand Lodge of England.

The original No 1 Lodge met at the Goose and Gridiron Ale house in 1717 but is thought to have been established in 1691. It was located in St. Paul's Churchyard, London. The name was a parody on the arms of "The Swan and Lyre," a musical society which met there. It continued to meet at that location until 1729. It then moved to the King's (or Queen's) Arms Tavern in the same area of London. By 1760, it had assumed the name, "West Indian and American Lodge." In 1770, this name was changed to the "Lodge of Antiquity." The Lodge is still active and meets at the Freemason's Tavern and the Freemason's Hall in London.

The second Lodge which originally met at the Crown Ale-house, Parker's Lane, is believed to have originated in 1712. It moved regularly - to The Queen's Head Tavern; then to The Green Lettice (sic), then to The Rose and Rummer, and then to the Rose and Buffaloe. In 1730, the Lodge was meeting at The Bull and Gate, Holborn. For reasons unknown, the Lodge was struck off in 1740. An application for its restoration was later submitted but denied (on the grounds that none of the petitioners had ever been original members of the Lodge during the term of its original existence)

"Lodge" No 3 met at Apple Tree Tavern, Charles Street in 1717 but it is not formally recorded as a Lodge until it moved to The Queen's Head in 1723. By 1755, it had moved to the Fish and Bell in Soho and in 1768, to The Roebuck, on Oxford Street, under the name of "Lodge of Fortitude," remaining there until 1793. In 1818, it merged with the Old Cumberland Lodge and has since been known as "Fortitude and Old Cumberland Lodge No. 12."

"Lodge" no 4 met at the Rummer and Grapes in 1717 and moved to The Horn Tavern in 1723, taking the name, "Horn Lodge." Formal recording for this Lodge actually begins in 1764. In 1774, it consolidated with Somerset House Lodge. In 1818, it once again consolidated with a younger lodge, "Royal Inverness Lodge". The old Lodge now works as "Royal Somerset House and Inverness Lodge No. 4."

**TO CELEBRATE THIS TERCENTENARY, THERE WILL BE 4 "GOOSE & GRIDIRON" COMMEMORATIVE DINNERS HELD ACROSS THE PROVINCE ON 24th JUNE 2017, ONE IN TAUNTON (VENUE TBC).**

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**www.somersetfreemasons.org**