

## A Year in the Life of the Chingford Area Masonic Social Group – 2011 A Decade of Fundraising

The Chingford Area Masonic Social Group, or CAMSG as it is more affectionately known to the brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall, has again had a successful and busy year in 2011. The Committee members are again indebted for all the support they have received from all the brethren and their families and friends of the Chingford Masonic Hall during the year. The origins of the "CAMSG" was to focus on the subject of a group of Masonic individuals who had the idea to form a "Chingford Open Day Committee", who assembled together and held their first meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> April 2001 with a view to make preparations at the Chingford Masonic Centre on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2001. This has been the inspiration that has blossomed into a solid team of individuals who work tirelessly to raise funds for various Masonic and non Masonic charities.

Those who assembled were:

W Bro Bill Gunary - APMG  
W Bro Ken Elmes  
W Bro Len Porte  
W Bro Bob Urch  
W Bro Derek Hanson  
W Bro Ray Rayner  
(Chairman Chingford Masonic Hall)  
W Bro Ted Page  
W Bro Bernard Willis  
W Bro Brian Moore

At this particular meeting, a committee was inaugurated, with W Bro Bill Gunary as Chairman, W Bro Derek Hanson Secretary and W Bro Ted Page, Assistant Secretary. The meeting continued and discussed the idea of an "Open Day", with three aspects to consider, namely, why? purpose? finance? The three vital ingredients to launch any project, plus the possibilities of advertising in various local papers and magazines, even local radio mentioned.

There were suggestions of various "Trade Stands" to include St. John's Ambulance, Halls Catering, Freemasonry Today, Stisted Hall and all the Masonic Charities could be involved. The Main Temple being set out as a typical Lodge Meeting with Bible, Tracing Boards, with all the Officer's collars placed on the correct chairs, with Masonic volunteers to explain to the visitors. The Directors of the Chingford Masonic Hall would be able to supply tea or coffee and biscuits free of charge, plus an assurance that there would be no building maintenance from the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup> August 2001.

With the event fully charged and organised the Open Day was a success, with the Provincial Grand Master Col. Sir Neil Thorne also attending.

From documentation that has been made available, we can move on to the committee meeting held on Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> November 2001, with W Bro Bill Gunary (Chairman) introducing W Bro Mike Howell from Upminster Masonic Hall, who provided the committee with a paper on his "A Night at the Races" expertise., to be planned for 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2002 at the Chingford Masonic Hall. At this point W Bro Bob Urch was appointed Treasurer of the Group. A bank account had been opened with a deposit of £5.00 on 20<sup>th</sup> November 2001 and W Bro Bob added that an excellent donation of £120 had been received from

Goodwill Lodge No.7904. A golf day was being organised by W Bro Len Porte, and the committee agreed that a Methodist Carol Service will also be arranged.

At this meeting the change of title of the committee was discussed, and the first title of the Committee was agreed upon but not confirmed as "**The Chingford Masonic Centre Social Group**".

W Bro Ted Page informed the committee that the National Blood Transfusion service had been offered the use of the hall, with a date to be confirmed.

At the end of August 2002, the committee had begun to take its shape, as follows:-

W Bro Bill Gunary	Chairman
W Bro Ken Elmes	Vice Chairman
W Bro Derek Hanson	Secretary
W Bro Bob Urch	Treasurer
W Bro Ted Page	Asst Secretary
W Bro Ray Rayner	
(Chairman Chingford Masonic Hall)	
W Bro Bernard Willis	Committee Member
W Bro John Lamb	Committee Member
W Bro Len Porte	Committee Member
W Bro Dennis Jane	Committee Member

I am sure there is a reference within the minutes, a record of the decision of the committee to decide on the final name of the "Group", as in the minutes dated 20<sup>th</sup> January 2003, the name on the minutes is shown as "**The Chingford Area Masonic Social Group**", and this title has remained the same until this day, and affectionately known to all who meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall as "**CAMSG**".

The CAMSG committee at that meeting then consisted of:-

W Bro Bill Gunary	Chairman
W Bro Keith Huddleston	Vice Chairman
W Bro John Lamb	Secretary
W Bro Ted Page	Assistant Secretary
W Bro Bob Urch	Treasurer
W Bro Dennis Jane	Minute Secretary
W Bro Dave Clarke	Committee Member
W Bro Len Porte	Committee Member
W Bro Derek Hanson	Committee Member
W Bro Bernard Willis	Committee Member

It was at this meeting that various events were discussed for a Night at the Races, Quiz Night, a Widows Christmas Luncheon and a Golf day. There is also mention of a "Directory" for Chingford and a "Master Masons Seminar" for those Master Masons that have been "Raised" in the last three years.

At this particular meeting, a "Newsletter" for the Centre was discussed, and included in the minutes is a note to the effect that W Bro Bill Gunary to approach W Bro Allan de Luca of Fiducial Lodge No.8753 to assist. There was a full list events being organised by the CAMSG for 2003, including the first Christmas Luncheon for the Widows associated with those Lodges that meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall, being arranged for Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003.

At the meeting of the CAMSG on Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2003, with the reports being made on the progress of the various events that are being organised, W Bro Allan de Luca was presented to the meeting to discuss the production of a Newsletter for the Centre, with an agreement for a draft plan at the next committee meeting. W Bro Bill Gunary proposed that W Bro Allan de Luca be voted onto the CAMSG committee which was agreed unanimously.

On Monday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2003, the first draft of the Chingford Newsletter had been presented to the

committee with acclaim, and suggested that it be produced bi-annually. All the other events were progressing, and invitations had been sent to Secretaries and Scribes for the proposed Widows Christmas Luncheon, to take place on Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2003.

W Bro Bernie Willis made mention of looking into a "Day-Light" Lodge, which may suit some of the more senior age brethren, but it was not to be considered as a "dining club". The Night at the Races was progressing well, with all the races being sponsored more than once. The proceeds of this fundraiser going to the T.L.C., and the Chairman of T.L.C., Ian Simpson will be attending the night.

The first edition of the CAMSG Newsletter was produced in the Spring of 2003, it was in a booklet form, the newsletter idea in this form and was promptly adopted by Loughton Masonic Hall. In October 2003, there was a suggestion to organise a combined event to hand over cheques raised by various Lodges to Haven House "White House Children's Hospice" and an open day was held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2004, at the Chingford Masonic Hall. Iain Duncan Smith MP for Chingford & Woodford, being one of its Patrons and visiting the Centre. It was also suggested that the CAMSG should be a platform to inform those Lodges that meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall as to what this committee is about and to enlist help from all users at the Chingford Masonic Hall and to promote future events.

Lodges that are small in number should invite Masters or their representatives to attend each others meetings, based on "pay your own way", not only will this introduce this committee but would also promote inter-centre awareness and boost numbers.

The newsletter changed its format from Edition No.4 from a booklet to A4 pages in two columns totalling 4 pages, with more news and information, and edition No.5 had increased to 6 pages. The success of the Newsletter has been due to the interest of all the members that meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall, and from other Masonic Halls within the Province of Essex, and encompasses all the Orders, so much so that the Newsletter is now produced quarterly with an average of 12 or more pages. The CAMSG committee is as strong, in fact stronger now, than when it was first formed as a committee to arrange an Open Day for the Chingford Masonic Hall, and rather than include items from the minutes of each committee meeting, the newsletters will provide all the information relating to all the events that have been arranged by CAMSG, along with reports and photographs.

(pictured left W Bro Ted Kilmartin – Fiducial Lodge No.8753)



On the 9th November 2008, a small group of members of the CAMSG Committee and brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall attended for the

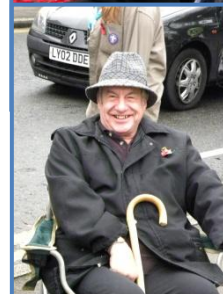
first time at the Chingford War Memorial to lay a poppy wreath on behalf of the Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall to all the servicemen and women who gave their lives for their country. The Masonic Poppy wreath was laid by W Bro Ted Kilmartin, Fiducial Lodge No.8753.



(pictured above) "Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall" who attended the Remembrance Sunday service held at the Chingford War Memorial on Sunday 9th November 2008.



Remembrance Sunday – 8th November 2009  
W Bro Sid Jefford- High Beach Lodge No.7669 (pictured left) laying the wreath on behalf of the Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall



Remembrance Sunday – 14th November 2010  
W Bro Stan Singleton (top row pictured left) laying the wreath on behalf of the Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall – and pictured left bottom row, W Bro Keith Massingham who has attended the Remembrance Sunday Ceremony every year with the Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall



On Sunday, 13th November 2011, the Service of Remembrance was very well supported not only from the members of the CAMSG but with many more Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall

attending to pay genuine tributes to our servicemen and women who have given their lives in all conflicts around the world. As in previous years the CAMSG have made a donation of £100 to the Royal British Legion Appeal Fund.

W Bro Jim Moody of the Chingford Meridian Lodge No.7465 laid the Masonic wreath of poppies incorporating the Square and Compasses as its centrepiece, on behalf of all the brethren.



*(pictured above: Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall who attended the Remembrance Sunday service held at the Chingford War Memorial on Sunday 14th November 2011).*

W Bro Jim was presented with a framed montage of photographs of the Masonic Wreath Laying ceremony, as a keepsake of the poignant occasion, a tribute which has been paid to those special Brethren who have been selected to lay the Masonic Poppy wreath on behalf of the brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall since 2008.



*Pictured above – W Bro Jim Moody at the Wreath Laying ceremony at the Chingford War Memorial 14th November 2011*

In 2011 various functions were organised to raise money for worthy causes, and none was more worthy than the appeal for “Toby”. To celebrate St. Georges Day, the CAMSG committee organised a “Right Royal Knees Up” on Saturday 30th April 2011 to celebrate the wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton, and CAMSG donated the proceeds of the evening to the “Tony Hawkridge Trust”. W Bro Bob Urch has supplied an update on Toby’s progress, and the CAMSG committee cannot feel more proud for the support that has been given to this appeal by the Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall.

Many fundraisers were also held by various other Masonic centres throughout the Province of Essex in support this worthy cause. W Bro Bob, says Dear all, “Thank you for the interest and support you have given to Toby’s Dream. Many of you have been asking for an update, so here we go. Toby was born on Christmas Day in 2004, it was some time before we realised he was not crawling, trying to stand or walk but once a few tests had been done it was discovered that Toby was born with Cerebral Palsy. Specifically Spastic Diplegia. This affects the signals that his brain sends to his legs and means that he could

not walk without significant aids. Cerebral Palsy is a condition best and most simply described as brain damage at, or before birth. The damage to the brain cannot be reversed. However, we found out that a break-through operation is being performed at The Saint Louis Children’s Hospital Center for Cerebral Palsy Spasticity in the USA. Their goal in treating children with cerebral palsy spasticity is to help them lead full and active lives. The operation, Selective Dorsal Rhizotomy, has proven very effective for permanently reducing spasticity in certain children with cerebral palsy, especially those with spastic diplegia.



*Pictured above “Toby Hawkridge” – Grandson of W Bro Bob Urch*

The Saint Louis Children’s Hospital Center for Cerebral Palsy Spasticity is the most experienced team in the world, having performed this highly specialized procedure on over 2,000 patients. The NHS are unable to fund the operation which cost between £50,000 and £60,000 depending upon any requirement for orthotics and ongoing consultation. We needed to raise this amount ourselves. In addition we will need to provide Toby with private Physiotherapy and hopefully a gym so that he can make the most of his operation. Through your assistance and generosity and that of your friends & colleagues we raised £65,000 in 7 months for the Toby’s Dream Appeal (much quicker than we had anticipated). As the funds were coming in so quick and we were made aware of an available date for Toby’s life changing operation and we decided to press ahead and book it.

Toby flew to America on the 20<sup>th</sup> September 2011 and had his first major operation at the St Louis Children’s Hospital in Missouri on the 30<sup>th</sup> September, this was followed by 4 days of being kept sedated in the Intensive Care Unit and then a second operation on the 20<sup>th</sup> October. Toby has had to endure intense physiotherapy which will continue for some months to come and will need a second visit back to America in Mid 2012. Toby returned home to the UK on 7<sup>th</sup> November and can now manage to walk with the aid of specialist walking sticks and has even managed to walk across the living room completely unaided. As time goes on with the continued physiotherapy the surgeons anticipate that he will walk unaided in a few months time and within 6 months should be able to run and play and almost certainly within in a year will be like any other child. After 6 six years of not being able to use his legs and being confined to a wheelchair or other walking aids, this is a remarkable sight to see, and only

possible because of the support received from people like you. Just last night I saw him walking on a treadmill for almost 5 minutes, not much for us I know but for Toby it was amazing. His back room has been turned into a mini gym for his physio needs.”



*Pictured above: "A Right Royal Knees Up" – 30th April 2011*

Following the summer break, and at the beginning of September 2011, it was back to business and the CAMSG committee members were busy preparing for the annual fundraiser event, to raise funds to support for the annual Broken Column Luncheon to be held on Friday 16th December 2011 for the Widows of the Lodges and Chapters who meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall.

This is the “jewel in the crown” function which the members of CAMSG are proud to be associated with, and meticulous preparations are made to ensure that the widows have an excellent time, and receive from Santa a personal Christmas Gift.

W.Bro. Ted Page, Chairman of CAMSG has been Santa’s representative over the past few years, and stepped down last year and W Bro Dickie Coyle (Chingford Lodge No.2859), took up the responsibility to act as Santas representative, and is in currently in training for this years Broken Column Luncheon.

The annual fundraiser to raise funds for the Broken Column Luncheon was held on Saturday 19th November 2011 and was, as always, well supported by all the Lodges, Chapters and other Orders, donating and participating in the evenings fun, the result of which was an excess of £1,500 being raised. There was an excellent display of raffle prizes being donated by the members of the CAMSG.



*Pictured above: Everyone tucking into their "Bangers and Mash" at the Fundraiser on Saturday 19th November 2011*

As mentioned earlier, the Christmas Broken Column Luncheon is now an annual event at the Chingford Masonic Hall, and is well supported with many widows from the Lodges and Chapters that meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall. The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro John Webb regularly attends to support this event.



This year will be the 9th annual B.C.L. and will take place on Friday 16th December 2011. (Pictured left: The PGM RW Bro John Webb at the 2010 BCL). The Christmas Lucehon has a relaxed atmosphere,

with a sumptuous Christmas Meal with all the trimmings, and the CAMSG members making sure that the widow are looked after, and each widow is given a Christmas Gift by Santa’s Representative. Such is the success of this event that over the past years many letters of thanks, appreciation and support have been received from the widows by the Secretary of CAMSG.



*Pictured above: members of the CAMSG and volunteers at the annual BCL 2010 - Left to right: W Bros. Bob Urch, Bill Bangs, Brian James, Dennis Jane, Derek Hanson, David Hook, John Bold, Dave Clarke, Robert Dent, and Dickie Coyle as Santas Representative*



*Pictured above: The Widows and their chaperons at the Annual Broken Column Christmas Luncheon 2010*

**Members of the CAMSG Committee 2011**

Life President	-	W Bro Bill Gunary PAPGM	
Vice President	-	W Bro Bernard Willis	
Chairman	-	W Bro Ted Page	
Secretary	-	W Bro Dennis Jane	
Treasurer	-	W Bro Allan de Luca	****
Minute Secretary	-	W Bro David Hook	**
CommitteeMember	-	W Bro David Clarke	*/***
CommitteeMember	-	W Bro Derek Hanson	
Committee Member	-	W Bro Bob Urch	***
Committee Member	-	W Bro Tony Curtis	***
Committee Member	-	W Bro Keith Davis	
Committee Member	-	W Bro Brian James	
Committee Member	-	W Bro Bill Bangs	**
Committee Member	-	W Bro Lee Ellaway	

**Key**

- \* TLC Representative
- \*\* Broken Column Luncheon Organiser
- \*\*\* Fundraiser Organiser
- \*\*\*\* CAMSG Newsletter Editor

The CAMSG Committee wish to express their sincere thanks to all those who have participated, supported and assisted in making 2011 another year of success. Special gratitude to all the Bar Staff and Caretakers of the Chingford Masonic Hall, Halls Catering and also to the Directors without whose support the CAMSG would not have been able to conduct their fundraising events for worthy causes. The CAMSG committee also look forward to your continued support for the next decade and onwards.