



Chingford Area Masonic Social Group Newsletter No.12

Editor: W Bro Allan de Luca PPGStwd
www.casmgnewsletter.org

Diary of Events - 2005

Tuesday 29th November

Combined Chapter - hosts "Shurma Chapter No. 2374" - Contact Scribe E : A B Lewis telephone 020 8366 7243

Friday 9th December Carol Concert at the Methodist Church - Chingford

Friday 16th December Broken Column Christmas Luncheon - Contact Bernie Willis 01582 621496 - Please now make a contact as it will soon be Christmas.....

WANTED !!

To help finance the Newsletter we are looking for businesses to advertise their services in our Newsletter, we are offering Advertising space for £5 for Masonic contributors and £10 for non-Masonic contributors please contact the Editor Allan de Luca or email:

allanideluca@aol.com

Eddie Beale, Secretary and Centre Manager of the Chingford Masonic Hall retires after 14 years

Eddie Beale who has given such energetic work as the Company Secretary and Centre Manager of the Chingford Masonic Hall Company Limited over the past 14 years, is retiring from his position as at 31st October 2005. The centre has improved dramatically under his guidance, and all the members of the Lodges and Chapters and other Orders who meet at Chingford Masonic are eternally grateful for all his efforts. The position will be taken over by Allan de Luca from the 1st November, and is a qualified accountant and who sincerely hopes that he will be able to continue the important legacy of Eddie Beale's contribution to the centre.

(Picture W Bro Allan de Luca - Fiducial Lodge No. 8753)

The Chairman of the Chingford Area Masonic Social Group W Bro Ted Page and the Committee wish to extend their grateful thanks for all Eddie's help and

assistance since the group was formed, and wish him well for the future.



Supreme Council, 33^o of the Ancient and Accepted Rite for England and Wales and its Districts and Chapters Overseas

District of South Essex

The Rose Croix Chapters meeting at this Masonic Centre are shown below. Brethren who profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith, have been Master Masons for at least twelve months and are interested in joining the Rose Croix are cordially invited to contact the Recorder of the Chapter or the District Recorder for further details. Michael Howell on 01708 556514

Chapters in the District of South Essex

St.Paul - No.295

Meeting Dates: 2nd Mon. in Mar (Enthronement), 1st Tues July and 4th Mon Sept.

Recorder: Roger Search. Telephone: 01708 558988

Holy Mount - No.399

Meeting Dates: 2nd Tues May, 2nd Tues July, and 1st Mon Dec (Enthronement)

Recorder: Geoffrey Snelling, Telephone: 020 8599 8589

Royal Forest - No. 693

Meeting Dates: 2nd Mon Jan, 4th Tues July and 2nd Tues Sept (Enthronement)

Recorder: Norman Jewitt, Telephone: 01983 759334

St.Barnabas of Woodford - No.774

Meeting Dates: 1st Fri Mar, 2nd Fri June (Enthronement) and 2nd Fri Nov.

Recorder: Craig Clark, Telephone: 020 8551 2359

Chingford - No. 850

Meeting Dates: 4th Fri June, 4th Thurs Sept and 3rd Thurs Dec (Enthronement)

Recorder: Michael Robinson, Telephone: 01255 852668

Stanley Frohnsdorff - No.1055

Meeting Dates: 2nd Thurs Feb (Enthronement) 3rd Tues June and 3rd Tues Oct.

Recorder: Bernard Willis, Telephone: 01582 621496

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Jack the Ripper Walk - and Masonic Intrigue

One of the many things "to do" in London and especially in the East end, is to take the walk through the streets where the Whitechapel murders were committed by the infamous "Jack the Ripper".

On a pleasant sunny Saturday afternoon of September 17th along with other enthusiasts I trotted off around this notorious area to discover the sites of the gruesome murders of five prostitutes, always late at night and committed in the autumn months between 31st August 1888 and 9th November 1888. The last and fifth murder was that of twenty five year old Mary Kelly in her room in Millers Court, in Dorset Street. It was approximately 4 a.m. when the neighbours were awakened by a cry of "murder", but all chose to ignore it. It wasn't until 10.45 a.m. when Thomas Bowyer, the rent collector, called to collect her overdue rent and discovered her mutilated body beyond recognition, with various parts of her body removed and strategically placed on or around her body. Nobody at that time realised that the reign of terror would end suddenly and as mysteriously as it had begun.

Throughout the walk the "Ripper" curiosity builds up, and your own imagination suddenly brings you to a vivid realisation that he stalked those very streets and committed his crimes, and despite so many suspects being arrested and released, the true identity of Jack the Ripper remains a mystery to this day, although several names have been put forward as possible candidates to presume the name of "Jack the Ripper".

Through all the various books and literature that is available, we are led in different directions as to who he could be, with about fifteen candidates for the true identity of the Ripper, from Royalty, notably the grandson of Queen Victoria, Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, shoemaker John Pizer, Montague Druitt who as the number one suspect for at least 20 years, and there was a lot of evidence linking him as the Ripper, but all the evidence was destroyed. After being dismissed as a schoolteacher in Blackheath, Druitt committed suicide in the Thames around November 30th 1888, three weeks after the last Ripper murder. Also in the line up of suspects were British poet Francis Thompson, American doctor Thomas Cream, two different Russian doctors, Michael Ostrogg and Alexander Pedachenko, and even the Royal Physician Sir William Gull, who at the time was reported to be an eminent Freemason. With Queen Victoria's keen interest in Jack the Ripper, this would lead to the to be expected accusations, and for Royalty to have been involved would make sensational storylines for the newspapers. The basis of the link to Royalty was the last victim of the Ripper, Mary Kelly, who was at one time a nursemaid to Prince Albert and his wife around this time. According to one theorist, it is claimed that Prince Albert secretly and illegally married Annie Crook, a Catholic girl, and to avoid a Royal Scandal, the authorities had Annie locked away in a lunatic asylum. Mary Kelly was proposing blackmailing the government by making her story public knowledge. It is theorised that the then Royal Physician, Sir William Gull became involved, and in an attempt to silence the scandal picked up all the possible prostitutes whom Mary Kelly may have informed. It is thought he used the Royal carriage to pick up the women, and slaughtered them inside the carriage, and then disposed of the

bodies. This would explain the lack of noise and blood at the scenes of the murders, but this is largely based on recent speculation.

The name "Jack the Ripper" is derived from a postcard sent to "Dear Boss" the head of the Central News Agency on 25th September 1888, and signed "Yours truly Jack the Ripper". Many believe this postcard was written by a journalist, though no evidence exists to the contrary. The only clue left by the Ripper was the "Goulson Street Graffito (graffiti)", with the words "The Juwes are the men that Will not be Blamed for nothing", and were chalked on a doorway immediately above a portion of the bloodstained apron of the fourth victim Catherine Eddowes, who had been released just 45 minutes before her death by the police for being drunk after sleeping it off at Bishopsgate Police station. It has not been established that these words were written by the Ripper, but some believe that the word "Juwes" was a code-word for the Freemasons, who allegedly employ similar terminology in their ceremonies. It is unclear if the graffiti was supposed to blame the Jews or point to their innocence.

Out of interest, "Juwes" has nothing to do with Jews, but refers to Jubela, Jubelo and Jubelum who murdered Hiram Abif and were eventually found and ritually killed.

It is also well documented that the metropolitan police commissioner, Sir Charles Warren, had ordered the removal of the writing from the wall before photographers could record it, which again led many theorists believing that there was a "cover up" by the authorities to protect someone of great importance, possibly a member of the Royal Family? The Royal/Ripper connection is probably the most popular of all theories. According to a book written by Dr Thomas Stowell, who was the son-in-law of Sir William Gull, the Royal Physician, he cites Prince Albert Victor, Duke of Clarence, the eldest son of the Prince of Wales, later Edward VII allegedly killed the five prostitutes with the assistance of Sir William Gull. Clarence was only 28 when he died in 1892 from pneumonia and influenza.

The plan deepens further still, arguing that Sir William Gull and a conspiracy of Freemasons, acting on the orders of Prime Minister Lord Salisbury, killed Mary Kelly and other prostitutes who were collectively trying to blackmail the government through their knowledge of the secret Royal marriage, and according to this view, much in the five murders scented of the language and customs of the Freemasons, and was, in fact, a Masonic "ritual murder". But the Royal/Masonic Ripper theory appears to be obvious nonsense from beginning to end without a shred of evidence to support it. The whereabouts of the Royals is know with considerable precision.

Clarence was in Scotland or Yorkshire at the time of all murders. There is no evidence that Clarence entered into an illegal marriage with anyone. Sir William Gull was seventy-one in 1888, and had suffered two serious strokes the year before. If Gull and his collaborators murdered Mary Kelly, they would have done it more sensibly by luring her into a carriage, chloroformed her and hit her on the head and thrown her into the River Thames. The apparent drowning of a drunken East End Prostitute would not have received more than five lines in any newspaper.

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As for the Freemasons link, over the past 250 years or more, tens of thousands of Englishmen have been Freemasons in hundreds of Lodges, without any Masonic "ritual murders" being reported, so the theory is resolutely destined for the dustbin. Although there is no concrete evidence of the Duke of Clarence having committed the "Ripper" murders, he was in fact a Freemason, and the involvement of the Queens Physician Sir William Gull who at the time of the murders was stated as being a Freemason, but there have been many enquires to the Library at Freemasons Hall, and their response is that the Masonic membership of a number of the supposed protagonists including Sir William Gull in the "Jack the Ripper" case has been thoroughly researched in the past. Although they do not have complete indexes in the Library at Freemasons Hall for the London area during the 19th Century, no trace of Sir William Gull's involvement in Freemasonry has ever been established. It is probably safe to say that Gull was not a Freemason. Most of the Masonic myths connecting Freemasons to Jack the Ripper case, stem from Stephen Knights book, "Jack the Ripper": The Final Solution. Knight claims that many of those involved in the case were Freemasons, despite the research carried out on his behalf by the then Librarian and Curator John



Hamill, proving the opposite. David Peabody wrote a very good article on the links between Freemasonry and the Ripper case for the Journal MQ.

The background to the Masonic Link of Prince Albert Victor the Duke of Clarence, is that Prince Albert the The Duke of Sussex formed a private Lodge under his control in 1813, the members of which were to be personally hand picked. The "Well Disposed Lodge" which met in Waltham Abbey was chosen for the role. It was renamed the "Alpha" and moved to Kensington Palace. In 1824 it left the Palace and met at various other places. Notable members in the 1880's included, Duke of St. Albans, Earl of Carnarvon, Earl of Derby, Earl of Limerick, Marquess of Lincolnshire, and the Earl of Euston. HRH Prince Albert Victor (afterwards Duke of Clarence and Avondale) was initiated into the "Royal Alpha Lodge No.16" on 17th March 1885, became the Worshipful Master from 1887 to 1891 and Provincial Grand Master of Berkshire from 1890 to 1892. Other subsequent members of the Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 in 1932 were, HRH Prince of Wales, HRH Duke of York, who both withdrew on accession to the throne.

(Excerpts from History of the Royal Alpha Lodge No.16 dated 1891 and 1963).

While on the walk there are many interesting sites linking to the era of Jack the Ripper, and as you come out of Aldgate East Station (Whitechapel gallery exit), turn right and you arrive at the White Hart Pub, on the corner of Gunthorpe Street, and on the wall is a sign giving details of George Chapman who lived in the cellar of the pub, and was hanged for poisoning his three wives, and maybe a candidate to be considered as Jack the Ripper.

At the end of Brushfield Street, just down from the Gun Public House, which is still in use as a Masonic Venue, there is Christ Church Spitalfields, and should you ever venture down Brushfield Street, you should take time to visit the Church with its magnificent Tuscan porch. The Church had been in a state of neglect since the 1960's and it was restored to its pre 1850-condition, using original building documents in 2004. Opposite Brushfield Street is the Ten Bells Pub which is said to have been established in 1753 and was a frequent haunt of most of the Ripper Victims. As you continue on the route of the Ripper Murders you get to pass the Repton Boxing Club in Bethnal Green, and of course pass over Vallance Road, the



home of the notorious East End gang, the Kray Twins. There are so many historical places in the East End, and the walk proved to be very interesting and revealing venture for a sunny Saturday afternoon, ending with the usual East End pursuit of a pint and a ploughman's lunch (I skipped the jellied eels), and resting my tired and aching legs and back.

W Bro Allan de Luca

Combined Area Craft Meeting held at Chingford Masonic Hall on Wednesday 27th July 2005

The fourth combined Craft meeting hosted by Earlham Lodge No. 7266 was held at Chingford Masonic Hall on Wednesday 27th July in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master Col Sir Neil Thorne accompanied by members of the Provincial Executive to include the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Brian Proctor and Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Clifford Toms

There was some heart rendering moments when it appeared that W Bro Elkan Levy had not arrived when the Lodge was opened, but to great relief and anxious looks from the Worshipful Master of the Lodge W Bro Stephen Ashby and the Secretary W Bro Gerald Chevin there was a late "report" and it was announced that W Bro Levy had arrived to give his apologies for lateness due to a horrendous traffic jam, and was thankfully greeted to much relief by the Worshipful Master. No longer had W Bro Levy had taken his seat in the Lodge, when he was called upon to deliver his lecture "Brotherhood in Conflict - Freemasonry in the American Civil War", and had the Brethren enthralled for the whole of the Fifty minute Lecture. Sir Neil rose to thank W Bro Levy for a very interesting lecture, and Sir Neil in his usual style gave some indication of his own knowledge in this Country's History and Freemasonry in conflict.

The Almoner W Bro Stephen Forman rose to make a sincere speech to Sir Neil thanking him on his past support for all the Lodges and Chapters of Chingford.

The festive board was thoroughly enjoyed by all those who attended to include grapefruit segments, tomato and rice soup, followed by Cold Poached Scottish Salmon and seasonal vegetables and salads, with Strawberries and Ice Cream to finish.

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During the Festive Board the PGM Col Sir Neil Thorne was presented with a Cheque for £1,000 for the Essex Festival 2011.

Article by Bro Dennis Jane - Chingford Lodge 2859

With Apologies to Pam Ayres

Oh! I wish I'd looked after me Ritual
 I wish I had studied my book
 I might have got through a few meetings
 Without having a sly look
 At the words printed all neat and tidy
 With capital letters and dots
 And inverted commas and rows of small hammers
 To remind you about them there knocks

If I'd attended a Lodge of Instruction
 And followed the Preceptors Plan
 My signs might be more like a Mason
 And less like a Tic Tac man
 For a Past Master once said with sarcasm
 As he doffed his apron of dark blue
 You lay five to one when the Lodge has begun
 And evens the field, when its through

Time was, when I was a Deacon
 I was proud of me Wand and Dove
 Initiation was due, and I was in a right stew
 So I wrote all me words on me glove
 Now some candidates are cool and collected
 But mine was nervous and hot
 I don't mean to boast, but his hand was like toast
 Left me palm an illegible blot

As I thumped the Wardens shoulder
 The ink stained his coat a bright blue
 He said "Who have you there?"
 I just stood in despair
 He could see I hadn't a clue
 I gazed at me glove for the answer
 At those five fickle fingers of fate
 The blots rolled away, left the words as plain as day
 St. MICHAEL - ALL COTTON - SIZE EIGHT

Author unknown

A few words found on the back of a Place name card recently

*Grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot
 change,
 Courage to change the things I can
 And the wisdom to know the difference*

Chapter Provincial Honours for Chingford Brethren on 1st September 2005

	<u>Name</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>No:</u>
<u>Acting Ranks</u>			
ProvGSN	T.A. Moss	Epping	2077
ProvDepGDC	B.C. Wright	Hainault	4367
ProvDGSwdB	A.T. Robb	St. Chad	3115
ProvGOrg	I.B. Gorman	Old Parkonians	4709
ProvADC	E.S. Husband	Hainault	4367
ProvGStwd	E.M. Mould	Warner	2256
ProvGStwd	A.J. de Luca	Fiducial	8753
<u>Promotions</u>			
PPGSN	J. Stannett	Danehurst	4541
PPGSwdB	C.R. McGrath	Waltham Abbey	2750
PPGSwdB	S.S. Goldshaker	Old Parkonians	4709
PPGSwdB	W. Shelbourn	Venturer	7897
PPDepGSwdB	C.J. Mully	Warner	2256
PPDepGSwdB	L.B. Jackson	St. Chad	3115
PPDepGSwdB	R.W. Shaw	Iceni	6066
<u>Past Ranks</u>			
PPGSdB	T.W.H. Webster	Mark Lockwood	3114
PPGSdB	B.D. Donkin	Forest View	6588
PPGSdB	M. Kenner	Earlham	7266
PPAGDC	S.M. Clark	Epping	2077
PPAGDC	K. Wilson	Old Friendship	3907
PPAGDC	T.W. Roberts	Hainault	4367
<i>Congratulations to all</i>			

Visit our Website

The Chingford Area Masonic Social Group has its own website, and contains most of the long articles and colour pictures, both current and past, also this current Newsletter No.12 for you to view online. You will also find information and links to other websites including our Province of Essex website.

The address is www.casmgnewsletter.org - we hope you will enjoy the information contained on this site, and if you have any contributions or suggestions please do not hesitate to get in contact with the newsletter editor at his email address allanjdeluca@aol.com

Choral Evensong held at the Chelmsford Cathedral on Sunday 6th November 2005 at 6p.m.

There was a Choral Evensong held at the Chelmsford Cathedral, and despite the weather conditions, of heavy rain and high winds, the evening was once again well supported. There were processions into the Cathedral, with the Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Banners making their entrance. The next procession was the Provincial Grand Sword Bearer followed by RW Bro John Webb and the Provincial Grand Banner, W Bro Peter Holland DPGM and the Provincial Standard Bearers, with the Cathedral Procession following. The PGM and his executive team, along with their wives, and families were treated to an excellent service, with the lessons read by the PGM RW Bro John Webb and DPGM W Bro Peter Holland, and all were supported by the Chelmsford choir. The evening was attended by members of the CAMSG, W Bro Ted Page, Bro Dennis Jane and his wife Pauline, W Bro Bernie Willis and W Bro Dave Clark, carrying the Banner for the Philbrick Lodge No. 2255, and the W.M. of Warner Lodge W.Bro. G.M. Turner with their Banner.

Article by Bro Dennis Jane - Chingford Lodge 2859