



Chingford Area Masonic Social Group Newsletter No.14

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

Diary of Events - 2006

1st July - St Peters and St. Pauls Concert - with the Aveley and Newham Brass Band - not to be missed. Cost of tickets £8 including refreshments during interval....info from Tony Curtis 01708 510406 - book early to avoid disappointment

1st July at 7.30 p.m. - Summer Concert in the classic surroundings of St. Peter & St. Pauls Church in Chingford - and delight in the sounds of live brass band - The Aveley & Newham Brass Band....tickets £8.00 including refreshments - book early to avoid disappointment. - leaflets have been circulated to all Lodge/Chapter secretaries

16th July - Stisted Annual garden party to be held at PEDKC Stisted....watch out for further information on Provincial and CAMSG Websites.

23rd July a cricket match between Chingford and Loughton Centres, to be played at Roding Valley Cricket Club. A day out for all the family

29th September - Fundraising Night ...theme to be announced

15th December - Widows Broken Column Christmas Luncheon at Chingford Masonic Hall...Contact Bernie Willis 01582 621496

Christmas Carol Service - to be held at St Peter & St. Paul's Church - Chingford - dates to be announced.



Article from "The Chelmsford Chronicle: or, Essex Weekly Advertiser. Issue No.1 dated Friday, August 10, 1764. (This Number is intended as a Specimen, and given "gratis")

Extract of a Letter from Bridgewater, the 3rd of August 1764

Laft (last) Friday morning I arrived at Taunton, where I propofed (proposed) only to take a breakfast, but was informed there would be a proceffion (procession) of Free Mafons (Masons) that day, a warrant having been obtained from the Grand Mafter (Master) for confitituing (constituting) a lodge there. As you know my tour in that week was entirely for pleafure (pleasure), you will not wonder that that I immediately refolved (resolved) to ftay (stay) and dine there in order to fee (see) the proceffion (procession), as it is a Society, I have not the honour to be a member of, and

confequently (consequently) muft (must) be unacquainted with their ceremonies. I fhall (shall) now give you a defcription (description) of the affair, as I faw (saw) it.

About twelve o'clock, receiving notice from one of the vifitors (visitors), that the cavalcade was going to fet (set) forward. I threw up a falh (salh) and was agreeably furprifed (surprised). The manner in which they were marfhalled (marshalled), the genteel appearance of the members, who I afterwards found were chiefly the principal perfons (persons) in that town; the fingular (singular) circumftances (circumstances) of their wearing, white leather aprons, and many of them tools of filver (silver) ufed (used) in mafonry (masonry), hanging about their necks, fome (some) of them pendant to mifferrine blue ribbons, (thefe (these) I was informed were perfons (persons) repreftenting (representing) the officers of the Grand Lodge). And others to rich filver (silver) lace, afforded a moft (most) agreeable and engaging fight (sight).

"Firft (first) came a man with a heroic afpect (aspect), his hat under his arm, and carrying a large drawn fword (sword), who I was told was the door-keeper. Then came two young Gentlemen with white wands in their hands, thefe (these) were called ftewards (stewards), next a gentleman carrying a deed or writing, which was faid (said) to be the warrant, empowering them to meet; next one carrying a larbe bible on a rich crimfon (crimson) velvet cloth, finely trimmed with filver (silver) lace and taffels (tassels), which was followed by two other Gentlemen, with emblems hanging to blue ribbons about their necks: After thefe (these) a Gentleman carrying a very handfome (handsome) fword (sword) unfheathed (unsheathed), quite upright; and then one with a white wand in his hand, and an emblem hanging upon his breaft (breast) who repreftented (represented) the Grand Mafter (Master). Several members, Gentlemen, two and two, clofed (closed) the proceffion (procession), in which order they went to their Lodge-Room at the Fountain Inn. About two o'clock they all returned in the fame (same) order, but not exactly in the fame (same) manner for I obferved that fome (some) of them, who before had no emblem round their necks, now had them hanging to filver (silver) lace. Thefe (these) I heard were the officers of the new lodge, now invefted (invested) with their proper badges. I told you before they had all leather aprons, I fhould (should) have added, that they had all likewife (likewise) white gloves. The proceffion ended, they fat (sat) down to a 'very elegant' dinner, proved at the Fountain; and in the afternoon I fet (set) for this place, fo (so) much pleased with what I had feen (seen), that I am determined, when I return to town, to become a member of this Society (Society), if they do me the honour to admit me".

Printed by W. Strupar, in Chelmsford, where Letters, Articles of Intelligence, Advertisements Etc. are received.

St. Georges Cockney Night - Saturday 22nd April 2006 - held at the Chingford Masonic Hall

The Chingford Area Masonic Social Group under the guidance of W Bro Bob Urch and W Bro Tony Curtis really went to great lengths to make sure that a good time as had for everyone who bought tickets for the St

Georges Cockney Night held at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Saturday 22nd April. With the usual appurtenances of balloons, streamers and a very large balloon hanging from the ceiling, filled with streamers and red and white paper strips, which was to play a major part in the downfall of W Bro Tony Curtis by the end of the evening. However, there was a delightful menu, to include an English Garden Vegetable soup, followed by Granny's Mixed Grill, Sherry Trifle concluding with coffee and mints, everyone were certainly filled with food to mark the occasion. All of which was consumed with much wine, followed by the Loyal Toast, to the Queen, all the Ladies, Absent Friends, and the guests. All those who bought tickets and attended really made a good effort for the fancy dress, a Pearly King and Queen, right down to the knotted hanky on the head, a traditional "east end" sun hat, and still popular today to keep the sun off the follically challenged head if you ever venture to Southend beach on a hot sunny day, but resplendent in a pair of Union Jack shorts supported by braces, and the obligatory knotted handkerchief was our master of ceremonies for the evening, W Bro Bob Urch,



(photograph: W Bro Bob Urch - in Union Jack Shorts, and W Bro Tony Curtis)

There were lots of activities to keep the audience in the participation mood, to include each table having to create a dance to a record designated for each table, some were easy, as would be with "Zorba the Greek, Hornpipe", but the winners of the grand prize of a basket of 10 bottles of wine, embellished with bunches of white and red grapes, were those on the Table with W Bro Ted Page, who used their imagination dancing to the "Frog Song", to much laughter and applause, and even the centre manager, W Bro Allan de Luca joining in the fun, were to become the outright winners by the independent judges. The evening was rounded off with dancing to various hit songs which everyone enjoyed, and the traditional east end sing-a-longs not forgetting the dancing to the "Lambeth Walk". There were almost fifty raffle prizes donated by various members of the CAMSG group, to include a Television, DVD player, copious bottles of wines, cordless jug/kettle, clock and of course the "cuddly toy". The raffle raised £340.

A lot of effort had been put in for this function to be successful by the organisers, everyone who attended did enjoy themselves and went home at the end of the evening certainly having a good old east end style knees up and celebrated St. George's Day in true style.....however, back to the downfall of W Bro Tony Curtis, this was at the end of the evening, when it was time to burst the very large balloon, and although he was

equipped with a long rod with the obligatory pin, he still could not reach the balloon, and in order not to disappoint everyone with the anticipated "bang" he had to leap up and attempt to burst the balloon at which he missed and fell, although in much discomfort, he managed to burst the balloon on the second attempt, much to the applause of everyone. Unfortunately, W Bro Tony has fractured his foot, and found out a few days after that he had also fractured his wrist, and has both his ankle and wrist in plaster, but despite all that he is in good spirits.....and on behalf of everyone at the Centre and the members of the CAMSG we certainly wish and hope that he makes a speedy recovery.....*article and photographs by W Bro Allan de Luca - Fiducial Lodge No. 8753*

W Bro Bob Urch stated that "a Good Night was had by all, and he has since received many calls saying how much fun people had, the meal was of good standard, and the staff were a credit to the Hall. Thanks to everyone for their support and help on the night".

For more pictures and in colour, go to the website at www.casmgnewsletter.org

The Wider Aspects of Freemasonry

We all have at some time been asked to join another "Order" within Freemasonry, sometimes without much information on its ideals or qualifications. I have been very fortunate to obtain a "paper" about the other "Orders" in Freemasonry with many thanks to VW Bro Brian Vickers. This newsletter will include one of each of the Orders, in each of the next editions of this Newsletter. Here, we give information on the Royal Arch, or Chapter Order.

1. The Royal Arch

History

This degree is reckoned to have started in the mid to late 1740s. It started life as a Christian Degree but was de-Christianised about the time of the union of the two Grand Lodges.

It was originally practiced within unattached private lodges or private lodges within the Premier Grand Lodge; in the latter case the degree was worked unofficially and in contravention of the laws of the Premier Grand Lodge, who restricted Pure Ancient Masonry to the Craft only.

From 1751 and following the formation of the second Grand Lodge, subsequently known as the 'Ancients', the Royal Arch ceremony was worked as the fourth degree of Craft Masonry. At the union of the two Grand Lodges, the Royal Arch was included as part of Ancient Masonry and has been administered ever since by the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, the principal officers of which are the Grand Master, the Grand Secretary and other senior officers of Grand Lodge.

Regalia

The regalia comprises an apron, sash and breast jewel. The apron is of white lambskin, having a triangular flap bordered with a two-inch ribbon of indented crimson and dark blue. In the centre of the flap is a



triangle of white silk having a gilt border and three *taus* in the centre.

There are two tassels of gold from beneath the flap.

The sash is worn over the left shoulder and

features a double indented crimson and dark blue patten, a white fringe at the end and a triangle with triple *taus*.

The breast jewel is of gilt or gold and depicts a double triangle within a circle in the centre of which is an emblem of the all-seeing eye. The jewel is suspended from a white ribbon.

The Ceremony

The ceremony, referred to as an "Exaltation", is centred on the period towards the end of the Babylonish captivity of the Children of Israel, when Cyrus, King of Persia, gave his consent to the Jews to return to their native land in order to rebuild the Temple originally constructed by King Solomon and destroyed by Nebuchadnezzar. A small party of labourers are sent to make a start clearing the debris of the old temple and make a remarkable discovery, for which they are richly rewarded, by being entrusted with the genuine secrets of a Master Mason.

The qualification for this degree is that of being a Master Mason of at least four weeks standing.

In the next edition of the Newsletter, there will be information on the honourable Order of "Mark Master Masons".

Lodge's of Instruction

Lodge of Instruction is more than just a school of ritual and protocols; it is a chance to meet brethren of the Lodge who you might otherwise only see five times a year. It is a place to build friendships that will help you through the mysteries of Freemasonry and open up opportunities to meet brethren of other Lodges (before and after LOI), which will quickly increase the circle of brethren that you know.

The ritual you see in the Lodge is not handed to you like a bag of brains, everyone you see working in the Lodge has learnt their craft at LOI, either through the ritual book or from the experience of other brethren (not only Past Masters).

All brethren are strongly encouraged to come along to participate and contribute to the workings of the lodge; who knows you might even find yourself having a laugh or two, especially at the expense of the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction.

Article by W Bro Michael Cowan and With thanks and by permission of the "Nore Beacon" magazine

Combined Chapter Meeting at Chingford Masonic Hall on Tuesday 31st October 2006.

The combined Chapter meeting will be hosted by Waltham

Abbey Chapter No. 2750 and will be held at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Tuesday 31st October 2006.

Invitations will be sent to the Grand Superintendent, the Deputy Grand Superintendent and members of the Executive. If you would like to represent your Chapter, please contact E. Comp. Brian Dalton, Scribe E, telephone: 020 8524 1234

Putting your Principles to the Test

The media, often critical of Mason's and Masonry in general, would have difficulty in faulting the principles and tenets of Masonry as written. The writings cannot be construed as being offensive to race, colour or creed, but on the contrary, make every endeavour to include everybody in those immortal words "brotherly love, relief and truth".

However, it is difficult for any newly made brother to digest all our Masonic principles, which we have all agreed to by taking and accepting them on oath, during the initiation, passing and raising ceremonies. Having passed the three degrees it is accepted that attendance at the Lodge of Instruction becomes a priority.

This enables the continuity of the Lodge to be maintained. The Lodge of Instruction is where we are taught what to say, when to say it and where to stand, but fails to explain and instruct the newly made brother as to what Freemasonry is all about. So how can a fully-fledged mason put his principles to the test? Space prevents repeating every principle and tenet in our ritual, however, it is important to read and read again, those obligations that he has sworn to observe. The one important fact to instil in your mind is that Masonry goes beyond the boundaries of your Lodge, masonry being universal. One example of this is found in the first degree when the W.M. states "if you meet a brother in distressed circumstances.....", Nowhere does it say "but only from your lodge"

Masonry teaches us an excellent moral code, which should be applied not only to our fellow brethren, but also to those in the wider world. Grand Lodge adequately demonstrates this by being the first to offer and to give financial relief, to any country, which has suffered an unavoidable disaster. My advice to all new brethren, is to read, analyse and digest, not only the ritual in the three degrees, but also working tools and the address to brethren, which gives further insight into how we should our principles to the test. Learning the ritual is important, understanding the ritual is important; putting the principles to the test is probably more difficult but even more important.

To excel at all three will not only make you a good mason, but a much better person to serve mankind. Reflect on your every day life to see if you have put your Masonic Principles to the Test. Brotherly Love, relief and truth, put into practice in a lodge and in the community, equates to a harmonious lodge and to the benefit of society in general. ANON.

"Julian Rees - Deputy Editor of Freemasonry Today"

I was recently at a meeting of the "Provincial Grand Mess of the Province of London of Mark Master Masons" at the

Imperial Hotel in Russell Square, their guest speaker was Julian Rees, the Deputy Editor of "Freemasonry Today".

Part of his talk gave us an insight on how the magazine came into being and how he became involved, and mentioned that at the time of its inception, "Freemasonry Today" was probably Freemasonry's best kept secrets. In 1997, a rumour was circulating that a new Masonic publication was being planned, with an idea to bring in aspects of Freemasonry not dealt with elsewhere, and wanted to avoid being the mouthpiece of the Directorate.

In 2002, United Grand Lodge launched their own publication, M.Q. It soon had 20,000 plus subscribers without a single issue being distributed. Julian gave the members a short background on how he became the "Deputy Editor" of the magazine, much to the credit of Michael Baigent, the Editor of "Freemasonry Today" of whom we were reminded of his best selling books entitled "The Elixir and the Stone", "The Inquisition" and "Ancient Traces" and in 1982 collaborated with Richard Leigh on the book "The Holy Blood and the



Holy Grail", and recently faced Dan Brown across the court over the much publicised book, "The Da Vinci Code".
(photograph Julian Rees)

Julian Rees went on to describe his visit to the United States and with his lecture New York "Through Ritual to Enlightenment", and made his personal comments on the vast multiple "Initiation's" being performed, much to the displeasure of many other Freemasons, and Julian commented "that it was hardly a personal experience to be part of that multiple Initiation ceremony" which was warmly received by some members of his audience. In England we have a problem with young members dropping out, and that question should be also be asked of some of the American Lodges. An interesting fact, according to the New York Times on Sunday 13 January 2006, "membership had plummeted State wide, membership now stands at about 65,000, down from a peak of over 300,000 in 1958", and gives rise to the question of how many of the 2,100 candidates who were conferred with the first degree on 29 March 2006 are still members of the Fraternity? The crass publicity that it received, was in its own sense to publicise and encourage more members, but was it a success? Not all the Provinces in the United States have gone down this road especially in North Carolina and Kansas, although, Julian remarked "it's the journey and not the destination that matters", and New York have not repeated the same exercise, and perhaps have given it up. Julian also referred to 275 years of Freemasonry celebrated in France and in 2003 wrote an in depth article on the Masonic exhibition held in Lyon in the Autumn edition of "Freemasonry Today". It is known that Freemasons were active in France before 1728, and it was the year that Philip, Duke of Wharton, was recognised as the Grand Master of Freemasons in France. Today, French Freemasonry is active in at least ten separate jurisdictions.

With the "Freemasonry Today" magazine covering all Masonic news and other activities, Julian stated that the Mark Degree should have a higher profile and ought to receive the prominence it deserves, so some help with some articles from the Province of London of Mark Master Masons, and also from other Provinces would be appreciated. He would also like to include articles and ideas on the forthcoming *Sesqui-Centenary of Mark Grand Lodge*.

In conclusion Julian commented that the "Freemasonry Today" magazine could possibly soon be found on the stalls of W.H. Smith, and thanked everyone at the mess for their kind attention with was warmly applauded by the members of the Grand Mess.

Article by W Bro Allan de Luca for the "Province of London of Mark Master Masons" website

www.markprovinceoflondon.org and "Mark News".

Photograph of Julian Rees by Dennis Ramsey, and by kind permission of "Freemasonry Today"

(For your information the 150th celebrations of Mark Grand Lodge, will be celebrated in the Presence of the Grand Master MW HRH Prince Michael of Kent, at the Albert Hall on Thursday 26th October 2006. Doors will open at 12.30 p.m. The proceedings will commence with an organ recital, followed by entertainment throughout the afternoon, including a "Banner Dedication" for the five Founding Lodges. It is expected to finish around 4.30pm. The invitations for this event will be sent out direct to each member from Mark Grand Lodge).

Finally !!

A Friend is a Treasure

Don't worry about knowing people, just make yourself worth knowing
Friends are those rare people who ask how we are and then wait to hear an answer
If you can buy a person's friendship, it is not worth it.
True friends have hearts that beat as one.
If you cannot think of any nice things to say about your friends, then you have the wrong friends.
Make friends before you need them.
If you were another person, would you like to be a friend of yours?
A good friend is one who neither looks down on you nor keeps up with you.
Be friendly with the folks you know.... If it weren't for them you would be a total stranger.
A friend is never known till he is needed.
Friendship is a responsibility, not an opportunity.
Friendship is the cement that holds the world together.
Friends are those who speak to you after others don't.
The reason a dog has so many friends is that he wags his tail and not his tongue.

How True !!

Author unknown

With many thanks to W Bro Bill Gunary APMG