



Forthcoming Events – 2012

Friday 8th June 2012 – Celebrations for the 60th Anniversary of the Queen

Wednesday 24th October 2012 – Combined Chapter hosted by Danehurst Chapter

Sunday 11th November 2012 - The Annual Remembrance Day Wreath laying ceremony at Chingford War Memorial

Saturday 30th November 2012 – Annual Fundraiser in aid of the Widows Broken Column Luncheon.

Friday 21st December 2012 - Annual Christmas Broken Column Luncheon - Chingford Masonic Hall 12.00 - 3.00 p.m.

For more information on these and other forthcoming events please visit the website www.chingfordmasonichall.org.uk

Sunday Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement



On the Fourth Sunday of each month, there is a combined Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement at the Chingford Masonic Hall. It is known as the “Richard Shone Chapter of Improvement”. If you wish to attend, why not come along, you will be most welcome. Membership is just £10.00 per annum. The Chapter of Improvement commences at 10.30 a.m. Or contact Mike Claxton: email mikeclaxton@dsl.pipex.com for further information.

Freemasonry as Reported in “The Times”

The Times | January 16, 1925

MR. KIPLING AS A FREEMASON

The following letter was sent recently by Rudyard Kipling in reply to an inquiry as to his Masonic experiences:-

"In reply to your letter I was secretary for some years of Lodge Hope and Perseverance, No. 782, E.C. [Lahore, English Constitution], which included Brethren of at least four creeds. I was entered by a member of the Brahmno Somaj (a Hindu), passed by a Mahomedan, and raised by an Englishman. Our Tyler was an Indian Jew. We met, of course, on the level, and the only difference that anyone would notice was that at our banquets some of the Brethren who were debarred by caste rules from eating food not ceremonially prepared, sat over empty plates. I had the good fortune to be able to arrange a series of informal lectures by Brethren of various faiths, on the baptismal ceremonies of their religions."

Mr. Kipling was initiated in the Lodge mentioned in the same year that he published "Departmental Ditties," before he attained his majority. [Kipling was Initiated in 1885 by dispensation, being under aged]

**Masonic Study Circles
Meeting Dates 2011 - 2012**



Chingford Masonic Study Circle – meeting at the Chingford Masonic Hall – 7.30 p.m.

Monday, 19th December 2011 (Cheese and Wine)
28th March 2012 (AGM)
Secretary; W Bro Allan de Luca
email: cmsc2010@aol.com

Southchurch Masonic Circle – meeting at the Saxon Hall Southend on Sea – 7.30 p.m.

Thursday, 8th December 2011 (Cheese and Wine)
Wednesday, 15th March 2012 (AGM)
Secretary: W Bro Pierre Waddoups
Email: pwaddoups7798@yahoo.co.uk

The Ilford Masonic Association – meeting at the Trinity Hall, Holy Trinity Parish Church, Mossford Green, Barkingside, Essex IG6 2BX -8.00 p.m.

3rd November 2011: Lecture - Masonic Charity –
W Bro Laurie Justice
Thursday, 1st December 2011: Lecture - Prince Hall
Freemasonry - W.Bro. Lloyd Collins:
IMA Secretary: W Bro John Kennard

Email: Secretary@Ilford-Masonic.org.uk

**Giovanni Belzoni, the Patagonian Samson,
Tomb Robber, who became a noted
Egyptologist and Freemason**



Giovanni Belzoni (1778 - 1823) became a noted Egyptologist and performed excavations in Edfu, Abu Simbel and Karnack. He discovered the sepulchre of Seti I and he was the first to enter the second pyramid of Giza. Among his other achievements, he identified the ruins of Bernice on the Red Sea, and in 1819 published a book entitled “*The narrative of*

the Operations and Recent Discoveries within the Pyramids, Temples, Tombs and Excavations in Egypt and Nubia”, [a copy of which is held at the Grand Lodge Library and Museum of Freemasonry at Grand Lodge]. Belzoni exhibited models of the tomb of Seti I at the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, London 1820 – 1821.

EARLY LIFE

Giovanni Battista Belzoni was born in Padua, 15th November 1778. His father was a barber who sired fourteen children. His family was from Rome and at the age of 16 he left the family home to join the Capuchin order to become a monk, where he continued to study hydraulics and mechanics and built an Artesian well for

the Capuchins. He had intended taking the monastic vows, but while in the monastic order there were also ongoing turmoil associated with a revolution in France that had begun to spread more widely in Europe led to Belzoni becoming entangled in political matters as the French authorities dissolved the monastic order and in 1800 he eventually fled to the Netherlands. After a brief stay he fled to England in 1803 to avoid being sent to jail [*the reason why is not clear*].

He married an Englishwoman, Sarah Bane, or Banne, and they both joined a travelling circus. They were for some time compelled to find subsistence by performing exhibitions of feats of strength and agility as a strongman at fairs and on the streets of London. Belzoni carried up to twelve men on stage, while his wife dressed as cupid, waved a flag at the top. In 1803 Signor Belzoni, appeared at the Sadlers Wells theatre as the "Patagonian Samson," in which character, he performed prodigious feats of strength, one of which was to adjust an iron frame to his body, weighing 127lbs., on which he carried eleven persons. The frame had steps or branches projecting from its sides, on which he placed eleven men in a pyramidal form, the uppermost of whom reached to the border of the proscenium. With this immense weight he walked round the stage, to the astonishment and delight of his audience.

On one occasion a serio-comic accident occurred, which might have proved fatal not only to the mighty Hercules, but also to his pyramidal group. As he was walking round the stage with the vast load attached to his body, the floor gave way, and plunged him and his companions into the water beneath. A group of assistants soon came to the rescue, and the whole party marched to the front of the stage, made their bows, and retired. On Belzoni's benefit night he attempted to carry thirteen men, but as that number could not hold on, it was abandoned. His stature, as registered in the books of the Alien Office, was six feet six inches. He was of good figure, gentlemanly manners, and great mind. In 1812 he left England and after a tour of performances in Spain, Portugal and Sicily, he went to Malta in 1815 where he met Ismael Gibraltar, an emissary of Muhammad Ali, who at the time was undertaking a programme of agrarian land reclamation and important irrigation works. Belzoni wanted to show Muhammad Ali a hydraulic machine of his own invention for raising waters of the Nile.

Although the experiment with this invention was successful, the project was not approved by the Pasha. Despite this drawback Belzoni became obsessed with Egypt, its people and immense history, and he dressed himself in local clothing and grew his beard even longer. Although he was now without a job, he was resolved to continue his travels, with his wife Sarah, and servant, James Curtin.

They found themselves destitute in the streets of Cairo after the irrigation project fell through, when they are, by a stroke of luck, rescued by the eccentric John Lewis Burckhardt who introduces them to Belzoni's old benefactor, Henry Salt now British Consul to Egypt, who became instrumental in Belzoni's new career.

Johann Ludwig Burckhardt was a Swiss orientalist, (also known as John Lewis, Jean Louis). He was fluent in Arabic and dressed as a Muslim on his travels, calling himself Sheikh Ibrahim Ibn Abdallah. During his brief



life Burckhardt visited Palmyra, Damascus, Lebanon and made a series of other exploratory trips in the region.

Pictured left: J.L. Burckhardt

One of these trips, in what is now modern-day Jordan, resulted in his "discovery" of the extensive and unique ruins of Petra which had been undiscovered for nearly a millennium. Burckhardt temporarily abandoned this goal to travel up the Nile as far as Dar Mahass; and then, finding it impossible to penetrate westward, he made a journey through the Nubian desert in the character of a poor Syrian merchant, passing by Berber and Shendi to Suakin, on the Red Sea, whence he performed the pilgrimage to Mecca by way of Jidda. At Mecca he stayed three months and afterwards visited Medina.

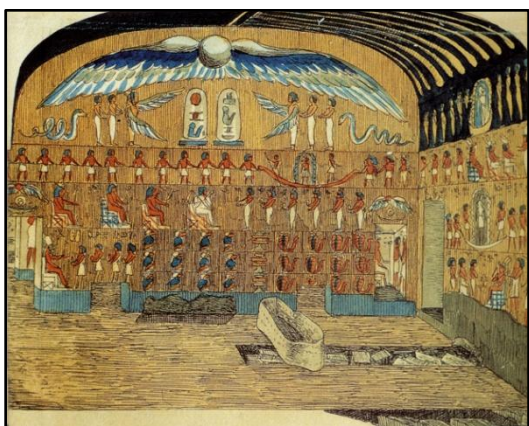
After enduring privations and sufferings of the severest kind, he returned to Cairo in June 1815 in a state of great exhaustion; but in the spring of 1816 he travelled to Mount Sinai, whence he returned to Cairo in June, and there again made preparations for his intended journey to Fezzan. Several hindrances prevented his prosecuting this intention, and finally, in April 1817, when the long-expected caravan prepared to depart, he was seized by dysentery and died on 15 October aged 32 years. He had from time to time carefully transmitted to England his journals and notes, and a copious series of letters, so very few details of his journeys have been lost. He bequeathed his collection of 800 volumes of oriental manuscripts to the library of Cambridge University.

However, Salt convinced Belzoni that there was money to be made by gathering artefacts to send to the British Museum, and suggested he travel to Thebes to remove the colossal stone head of Ramesses II (*Pictured Left*) to the British Museum in London. The head weighed over 7 tons and had up to that point proved impossible to move but Belzoni fulfilled his task with great skill, carrying out the task which many British Archaeologists had dismissed as impossible. From this point forward Belzoni became an



improbable asset for the museum, collecting items such as the seated statues of Ramesses the Great from Luxor, and making several prominent discoveries at the Valley of the Kings, finding the tombs of Amenhotep III and Menepthah among others. However all these achievements would pale into comparison to Belzoni's earth shattering find in 1817. In 1813, Burckhardt had found the top frieze of the Abu Simbel temples, and talked about his discovery with Belzoni, who immediately travelled to the site, but was unable to dig out an entry to the temple. Belzoni returned in 1817, this time succeeding in his attempt to enter the complex. The Tomb of the 19th Dynasty father of Ramesses the Great, Seti I, was the longest and most complete and artistically beautiful tomb in the Valley of the Kings. Belzoni had long argued about the flooding force of the Nile and he spotted some likely material below the tomb of Ramesses I.

Eighteen feet of digging later and Belzoni had made the most glittering discovery ever. Decorations covered every wall and reliefs displayed a more lifelike artistic style than had been seen before.



Pictured above: Belzoni's rendering of the Tomb of Seti

The crowning glory of Seti's funerary masterpiece, however, was his hugely ornate sarcophagus, carved in one piece and intricately decorated on every surface (including the goddess Nut on the interior base). This would later be brought by the British collector Sir John Soane, and it remains in his eponymous London Museum today under considerable controversy. Seti's mummy itself was not discovered until 1881. Seti's sepulchre provided Belzoni with international fame, the discovery being reported in papers around the world. A huge exhibition followed in the British Museum, and the world had discovered a passion for Egyptology which would lead to thousands of more spectacular discoveries, especially that of the most celebrated of Egyptian discoveries by Howard Carter in 1922, that of Tutankhamun's nearly intact tomb burial mask and many ancient artifacts, which then and continues to receive worldwide press coverage. Belzoni continued his incredible life journey until, in 1823, he caught a terminal case of dysentery in Gato, Benin whilst searching for treasures in Timbuktu.

From the "**Times**" 4 May 1824 the following article appeared.

"Belzoni. The following letter from a young Gentleman of Liverpool, to Mr. A Hodgson, communicates the particulars of the death of this enterprising traveller."

"I wrote you some time since, almost at a venture, mentioning the arrival in Benin River of Mr. G. Belzoni, the celebrated traveller, who was attempting to reach Houssa and Timbuktoo, by way of Benin. I am sorry to inform you that, like all others who have made this trial, he has perished. He died at Gato, the 3d of December, 1823.

"He had been a considerable time a very welcome guest on board this brig, waiting for the time a Mr. J. Houtson could accompany him to Benin, whose interest with the King of that place he considered would be serviceable to him. On the night of the 24th of November he left us, with Mr. Houtson, for Gato. On parting with us he seemed a little agitated, particularly when the crew, to each of whom he had made a present, gave him three loud cheers on leaving the vessel. "God bless you, my fine fellows, and send you a happy sight of your country and friends," was his answer. On the 3d of December I received a

letter from Dr. Houtson, requesting me to come to Benin, as Mr. Belzoni was lying dangerously ill, and, in case of death, wishing a second person to be present. I was prevented going, not only by business, but a severe fever, which had then hold of me. On the 5th, I had a second letter from Mr. Houtson, with the particulars of Mr. Belzoni's end, and one from himself, almost illegible dated December 2, requesting me to assist in the disposal of his effects, and to remit the proceeds home to his agents, Messrs. Briggs, Brothers, and Co. America-square, London, together with a beautiful amethyst ring he wore, which he seemed particularly anxious should be delivered to his wife, with the assurance he died in the fullest affection for her, as he found himself too weak to write his last wishes and adieus.

He was interred at Gato next day, with all the respect possible; and I furnished a large board, with the following inscription, and which was placed over his grave :-

"Here lie the remains of G. BELZONI, Who was attacked with dysentery at Benin

(On his way to Houssa and Timbuktoo),

On the 26th of November, and died at this place,

December 3, 1823."

The gentlemen who placed this inscription over the grave of this intrepid and enterprising traveller, hope that every European visiting this spot will cause the ground to be cleared, and the fence round the grave to be repaired, if necessary.

"At the time of Mr. Belzoni's death Mr. Houtson had everything arranged with the King of Benin for his departure, and had his health continued, there is no doubt he would have succeeded. Mr. Belzoni passed at Benin as an inhabitant, or rather native of the interior, who had come to England when a youth, and was now trying to return to his country. The King and emegrands (or nobles) gave credit to this, Mr. Belzoni being in a Moorish dress, with his beard nearly a foot in length.

There was, however, some little jealousy amongst them, which was removed by a present or two well applied; and the King of Benin's messenger was to accompany Mr. Belzoni with the King's cane, and as many men as were considered necessary for a guard, and baggage carriers. The King's name is respected as far as Houssa, and he has a messenger, or ambassador, stationary there.

On Mr. Belzoni's arrival at Houssa, he was to leave his guard there, and proceed to Timbuktoo, the King not guaranteeing his safely farther than Houssa, and Timbuktoo not being known at Benin. On his return to Houssa, he would make the necessary preparations for going down the Niger, and despatch his messenger and guard back with letters to his agents and to Mr. John Houtson. The messenger to be rewarded according to the account the letters gave of his behaviour, and the King to receive a valuable stated present. This was the plan, and I think it would have proved fortunate had Mr. Belzoni lived."

From the "Times**" March 12, 1825**

"The Late Mr. BELZONI" - We have been favoured with a copy of the last letter which was received from this highly lamented individual. It was written the day before he died, and the sentiments which it contains are alike honourable to himself and to those who survive him.

It is dated at Gato, in the kingdom of Benin, December 2, 1823, and addressed to Mr. Briggs, formerly His Majesty's

Consul at Alexandria, and now the firm of Briggs and Co.,
Gould-square, London :-

Benin, Dec.2, 1823

My dear, dear Sir, and true friend, - God has pleased that I should not survive to see my friends again; a violent attack of dysentery brought me to the hour of death. All I can say is, that I am fully resigned to my fate, and beg pardon to any one I may have offended in my past life, begging their prayers for my next. All the travelling apparatus will be carried to Liverpool by the Brig Castor, now in the river Benin, I believe belonging to Mr. Bold of that place. The next is what I feel most deep to my heart - console my dear Sarah - tell her I cannot write to her - she has been to me a faithful and good wife upwards of 20 years. I die at last a beggar; and if my friends should agree to do anything for her and my family, I wish it to be divided between my wife and my mother.
Yours, most Truly(Signed) G. BELZONI
God Bless you, my good Sir, may he reward you for all your goodness to me

This interesting document of Belzoni's excellent heart and frame of mind, is now in the possession of Mrs. Belzoni, to whom it was kindly given by Mr. Briggs, as it must always afford her a source of consolation - *Cambridge Chronicle*. Belzoni left behind an enthusiasm for the empire which had not existed before, at a time when, it is important to mention, there was not the wealth of exhibited Egyptian artifacts, dedicated museums and exhibitions many of us take for granted today. Belzoni's techniques and documentation made future Egyptian digs possible.

SARAH BELZONI (1783 - 1870)

Sarah Belzoni was Giovanni's devoted wife for twenty years. Little information is available concerning her life before she married and even her family name is not certainly known.

There is some doubt or confusion as to whether she was of English or Irish origin although in one instance she refers to herself as having an "English stomach", a reference to local food disagreeing with her, which may suggest only a generic use of the term.

What is certainly known, is that Giovanni met Sarah and they were married soon after his arrival in England in 1803. She accompanied him on his voyage to Egypt in 1815, shared the difficulties of life and travel common during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. Sarah outlived him by almost 50 years. She was his only support and confident in his Egyptian exploits. To make her travels easier she often dressed in the costume of a Mamluk youth when accompanied by Giovanni.

When separated from her husband, Sarah took advantage of the time and opportunity to visit with the local women, usually the wives of local officials. On Giovanni's return to England he mounted a successful exhibition in the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, principally devoted to casts, drawings and models of the tomb of Seti I, and including mummies and other antiquities. At that time it met with considerable success, but after his death, Sarah took it upon herself to continue to show some of the results of the work. She opened an exhibition in London in 1825, which met with so little success that the exhibition material, casts and models were eventually seized and Sarah was described as being destitute. As recognition for the work of her husband an appeal to the government for aid was launched by her friends and for years she continued to petition Parliament for help, but it was not until 1851, that she was granted a civil list pension of one

hundred pounds a year. She lived the latter years of her life in Brussels and in the Channel Islands, dying in Jersey at the age of 87. She and Giovanni had no children and left no other heirs.

BERNARDINO DROVETTI

Bernardino Drovetti also a "tomb robber" was one of Belzoni's rivals, as was Henry Salt; however, Salt and Drovetti developed somewhat of a respectful relationship between them though Salt never quite trusted Drovetti. Perhaps the reason for the great competition between Drovetti and Belzoni stemmed from evident rivalry between French and British agents in negotiations over antiquities. Salt was a British agent, Drovetti a French agent and Belzoni was employed by Salt.

BELZONI THE FREEMASON

Belzoni became a Freemason, although no record of the Lodge in which he was initiated can be found.

It is recorded in the in the membership records of the Moderns' Royal Arch Chapter, Chapter of the School of Plato, No.549, Cambridge that he was Exalted on 14 August 1820.

He was installed as a Knight Templar in the Moderns' Union Lodge No.68, Norwich in August 1821. A Jewel once owned by Belzoni was presented by Companion William Stuart to the Royal Arch Chapter of St. James's No.2, London on 4th March 1869 and was worn by the First Principal of the Chapter.

An engraving on the reverse of the Jewel "Ex Companion W. Stuart, Senr, The Grand Superintendent of Herts presented to the St. James's Chapter THIS JEWEL - Worn by Compn. Belzoni the Egyptian traveller, 4th March 1869."

Having recently visited the Grand Lodge Library and Museum to view the two jewels, the display card reads as follows: "Jewels worn by Giovanni Battista Belzoni (1778-1823), an actor, engineer and traveller. The elaborate jewel covered with brilliants was presented to the Chapter of St. James No.2 in 1869 by William Stuart Senior and is loan from the Chapter of St. James.

According to the "Freemasons Book of the Royal Arch" Belzoni twice paid long visits to England, and in the Chapter of St. James No.2 (in which the First Principal wears this identical jewel), he wore this jewel (as displayed at Freemasons' Hall). It was made by the Harper family in 1820, and its fine quality stones, 'white' and red, are mounted in silver.



On each side of the keystone are six red stones. The interlaced triangles also are red. It is a beautiful jewel to see in full colour.

Pictured left: Belzoni's Jewel

The other Jewel is engraved with Belzoni's name but the Chapter of which he is a member is not known." In August 1821 the "Norfolk and Norwich Remembrancer" recorded that:

"Mr. Belzoni, the celebrated traveller and discoverer of Egyptian antiquities, visited Norwich; he stayed with Jeremiah Ives, Esq., of St. Catherine's Hill; previous to his departure he received the high Masonic degree of Knight Templar."

He was referred to as "Bro. Belzoni" when his widow was helped by the Lodge of Emulation (London) in 1825.

Bedford Lodge No. 183 (England) also contributed to his widow. [verification required] From another source, it is mentioned that Sarah Belzoni received a fifty pound grant, which was confirmed unanimously at a Special Grand Lodge meeting held on Wednesday 14 December 1845.

There is a wealth of literature and books available minutely detailing the life of this Egyptologist

- The Great Belzoni – Stanley Mayes – 1961
- Strong Man Egyptologist – Colin Clair – 1957
- Pharaoh's Fool – M. Willson Disher - 1957
- and many others.

Acknowledgements

- [1] United Grand Lodge Library and Museum
- [2] Picture Belzoni – National Portrait Gallery
- [3] Picture J J Burchhardt – National Portrait Gallery
- [4] The Times (1823 and 1825)
- [5] Sadler's Wells, Old and New, London Volume 2, (1878) British History online
- [6] Museum of Minnesota State University
- [7] Heritage/Egypt and Exploring Egypt
- [8] William H Peck – Bibliography
- [9] Picture of Belzoni's Jewel – Freemasons' Book of the Royal Arch – Bernard E Jones - published 1957

Article and Research – Allan de Luca

Jewels returned to the Gallery Lodge No.1928 by W Bro Ken Birnie APMG and W Bro Allan de Luca on Saturday 3rd September 2011



In Newsletter No.34, I included an article on the Gallery Lodge No.1928, which was consecrated 13th August 1881, and its significance of the membership being the first press Lodge.

In Newsletter No.35, I further reported that W Bro Ken Birnie APMG was prompted by this article to recall that he had some jewels that were passed to him belonging to the Gallery Lodge No.1928. *“When my old partner and Epping Oak PM W Bro Martin Browne died a couple of years ago all sorts of books and bits of regalia were passed to me in a box which I looked through and stored in my garage intending to sort through it and dispose of it as appropriate. On checking this evening I have found six jewels mounted on a velvet waistcoat attachment [pictured above] used in those days inscribed with the name W Bro Ernest Rann who was Master in 1927/8 and Secretary in 1931[Gallery Lodge No.1928].”*

W Bro Ken Birnie contacted Grand Lodge to see if the “Gallery Lodge” was still in existence, which they confirmed, and W Bro Ken obtained the details of the Secretary managed to contact him. The Secretary of the Gallery Lodge No.1928 W.Bro Terry Meakin, was delighted to receive such a call that these old Jewels of the Lodge had been located, along with a booklet of their 50th Anniversary booklet, and it was then arranged to return the Jewels at their next regular meeting . W Bro Ken Birnie APMG and W Bro Allan de Luca were invited to the Gallery Lodge No.1928 meeting, held in “The Burma Room” at Freemasons’ Hall on Saturday 3rd September 2011, and both enjoyed an excellent meeting which included an Initiation ceremony, superbly executed by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Kenneth Johnson and his

supporting officers of the Lodge. At the close of Lodge business, W Bro Ken Birnie APMG was called upon, and he gave a brief synopsis on how the Jewels came into his possession, and he was then pleased to present them to the Worshipful Master. [pictured below]



Ironically, the Lodge did not have in their possession a copy of the 50th Anniversary booklet of the Gallery Lodge No.1928 which was written for their “Jubilee Celebration” in 1931, a copy of which was also presented to the Lodge by W Bro Ken, [the Grand Lodge Library holds a copy] and the members realised that this was a historic piece of history of the Lodge, and that they would make copies and circulate to the members of the Gallery Lodge No.1928. It transpires that the Lodge had lost a lot of their historic papers during the last war, due to enemy action. So we were pleased to have made some contribution to restore part of their historic heritage.



Pictured above left to right: W Bro Ken Birnie APMG, W Bro. Kenneth Johnson (W.M.), W Bro. Dr. Norman J. Moore (V.O.) and W Bro Allan de Luca

On conclusion of the Lodge business, the members and the visitors adjourned for a wet beverage [or two] before dining at Parkers Restaurant. The members of the Gallery Lodge were most welcoming to both W Bro Ken Birnie and myself, and the members were pleased to extend invitations for us to return to their future Lodge meetings which subject to our Diary commitments we would certainly endeavour to do.

However another unique item which caught my eye was on their “Lodge Summons”, was that as we would these

days refer to the work in the Lodge as an “Agenda”, the Gallery Lodge use the word “Labour”.



The Lodge Banner is also unique with the central device in gold and relief of the Royal coat of arms being a shield quartered, with three lions in the top left and bottom right quarters, a single lion in the top right quarter and a harp in the bottom left quarter, framed by a garter with text in relief reading “Honi soit qui mal y pense”. Over the shield are the words “IMPERIAL PARLIAMENT” and beneath the

Coat of Arms, a secretary's device in gold, being crossed quills, and either side are the Latin words “COR UNUM VIA UNA” translated “One Heart, One Way”.

A presentation Jewel of similar style to the Banner was presented to W.Bro. Alfred Robbins as Treasurer of the Benevolent Fund, 1898. The Jewel was made with a central device of the Royal Coat of Arms, but over the shield is a forked ended banner in gold, with text relief reading “HOUSES OF PARLIAMENT. The Jewel is an oval shaped panel of silver framed by a gold beading designed and pinned to an oval shaped frame of matt gold in relief reading “GALLERY LODGE/1928”.

Article and photographs Allan de Luca

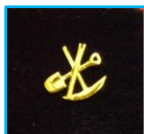
ADVERTISEMENT

A superb quality 9 carat gold Tie or Lapel pin of the working tools of a Royal Arch Mason, [the pickaxe, crow, and the shovel], beautifully crafted and supplied with a rear pin with a security chain, and gold hallmarked.



Available from W.Bro. Brian James (High Beach Lodge No.7669), who designed and manufactured the item. The cost is £70.00 each. To own one of these unique pins order your pin now and avoid disappointment.

Email: brianhara.heart@gmail.com, or telephone 07769 942211, also Dennis Jane on 07724 005548



Masonic Item of Curiosity

Here are a couple of photographs of a Masonic Curiosity, would anyone like to guess as to what it may be?



The item belongs to W Bro John Bergstrom Potter (Chigwell Lodge No.453) who took and sent the pictures to me with information that the item was found in his Grandfathers house, and he was not a mason and nor was John Bergstrom Potter at the time.

The item is made of a Papier-mâché of a very thick vellum type material, the top of “the coffin” is stamped John Barber with the Square & Compasses and a forget-me-not below. The bottom of the coffin has just one forget me not, it measures 7" x 1.5" in the middle and is 1" in depth. There are two compartments inside. W Bro John has suggested that I publish the photographs and ask if anyone knows what it is. All will be revealed in the next edition of the CAMSG Newsletter (No.37). Good Luck but no prizes I am afraid !!

*Photographs courtesy W Bro John Bergstrom Potter
Allan de Luca*

Finds of unusual Alms Collection Boxes under the Lodge Locker room stairs at the Chingford Masonic Hall during August 2011

With the kind assistance of W Bro David Hook of High Beach Lodge No.7669, and during the August 2011 summer break, he volunteered to clear all the rubbish from under the wooden stairs in the Lodge Locker storage room at the rear of the Main Temple, which was a cause for concern as a “fire hazard”. Amongst the rubbish of discarded summonses, paper, locker parts, wood off-cuts, various finds of lodge items were made by David, to include small hand gavels, ornate wrought iron wand stands, and a couple of Alms Collection Boxes.

One Alms box belongs to the Icení Lodge No.6066 and the other to Warner Chapter No.2750. How long these items



have been under the stairs is not known, but we believe for quite a number of years. The iron wand stands, were covered in dust were cleaned up and painted with black paint and put back into use in both the Main and Essex Temples. [pictured left the Alms Collection Box of Icení Lodge No.6066 after being recovered and cleaned].

The Alms collection box for Icen Lodge No.6066 is a beautifully crafted piece of woodwork, and was covered in dust and grime. It still had its very small key in the door locking access at the rear of the box, and was still in working order.



On the front of the box are the square and compasses with Icen Lodge No.6066 engraved on the square.

[pictured left: The back of the Icen Lodge Alms box complete with locking access and key.]

The base is a regular heptagon (seven sided), the middle is a polygon (five sided) and the top is an equilateral triangle, with a slot to insert money. The other Alms box, of Warner Chapter, was also not in a very good state of condition and the brass work had critically become tarnished.

[pictured left: Warner Chapter No.2750 Alms Collection Box]

This box is another beautiful piece of work with brass fittings representing the Holy Altar as represented in the



Holy Royal Arch Chapter, with the initials in brass of the Three Grand Masters. At the base of the box there is an access lock, which still works. It is precisely seven inches high and three and half inches square, therefore representing a double cube on a plinth.

On the back of the box is printed in red the name of Warner Chapter No.2750. Both these items were cleaned and restored to their former glory, and have been placed in one of the glass cabinets in the Main Temple, under lock and key, so that all the members and visitors can view these recovered items, and that both Icen Lodge and Warner Chapter can rest assured that these items are now safely recovered and now in a place of safety.

Allan de Luca

A Lodge of Instruction for Mark Master Masons is to be held at the Chingford Masonic Hall on the 1st Tuesday of each Month at 11 a.m.

A Lodge of Instruction of the Mark Degree at the Chingford Masonic Hall is being held on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. The Preceptor will be W.Bro. Allan de Luca, PAGDC, PProvGJW (London)

Mark Master Masons of any Lodge meeting in the Province of Essex are welcome to attend, we would also welcome members who are in the Mark Degree from other Provinces if they so wished to attend to rehearse the ceremony of Advancement. There may be exceptions to the proposed dates, i.e. Christmas and Bank Holidays, where it is anticipated that we will have to hold the LOI on the second Tuesday of the Month. Appended below are the proposed dates to hold LOI's for the forthcoming year. The LOI will be held in the Essex Suite.

There are car parking facilities at the centre for approximately 20 cars.

The cost of the Lodge of Instruction will be £2.00 per member in attendance.

It is proposed to accommodate members wishing to act in their respective offices of their own Mark Lodge so that members gain confidence in that office. However, there may be occasions where you will be asked to fill another office, and we would not expect you to be "up to speed", but it helps with the rehearsal. It is also proposed to decide at each LOI, for any member who wants to rehearse their respective offices or other offices, or even opening and closing of the Lodge as W.M. at the next arranged Lodge of Instruction.

The first L.O.I., was held on Tuesday, 4th October 2011, with the rehearsal of the Advancement Ceremony with W Bro Allan de Luca on this occasion acting as the Worshipful Master, which was well supported.

For each Lodge of Instruction the officers of the Lodge will be decided on the morning of the Lodge of Instruction. It is also expected from time to time, to rehearse the Installation ceremony of the Worshipful Master, and we would expect those members who have not been through the chair to retire for a short time, while the Installed and Past Masters rehearse the Inner Workings.

If you are interested in attending, please contact the Secretary:-

Bro. John Bold, email. john.bold@btinternet.com

Day	Date	Ceremony
Tuesday	4th October 2011	Advancement Ceremony
Tuesday	1st November 2011	t.b.a.
Tuesday	6th December 2011	t.b.a.
Tuesday **[1]	10th January 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	7th February 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	6th March 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	3rd April 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	1st May 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday **[2]	12th June 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	3rd July 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	7th August 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	4th September 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	2nd October 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	6th November 2012	t.b.a.
Tuesday	4th December 2012	t.b.a.
** Second Tuesday due to:- [1] New Year Break [2] Queens Jubilee Celebrations		

GRAND LODGE COMMUNICATION – UPDATE

The situation in respect of the GLNF as reported in Newsletter No.35 has been subsequently updated. The situation is now as follows:-

The Board considers that the GLNF may be in breach of Paragraph 8 of the Principles for Grand Lodge Recognition – "That the principles of the Antient Landmarks, customs, and usages of the Craft shall be strictly observed" – which are also included with the Book of Constitutions. While the evidence of substantial disharmony within the GLNF is overwhelming, the Board is reluctant at present to recommend withdrawal of Recognition, but will recommend in its Report to the September Quarterly Communication of the Grand Lodge

that relations with the GLNF be suspended. The consequences of such suspension will be that:

1. Our Brethren will no longer be permitted to join or to visit Lodges under the GLNF; and
2. Our Lodges will no longer be permitted to elect as a joining member or admit as a visitor any Brother who is a subscribing member of a Lodge under the GLNF, unless he is also a subscribing member of a Lodge under UGLE or under a Grand Lodge, other than the GLNF, recognised by UGLE.

This suspension will not force any of our Brethren who are currently also members of Lodges under the GLNF to resign from any such Lodges; nor will it prevent such Brethren from continuing to exercise, as members of Lodges under the GLNF, such rights, including those of visiting, as they enjoy under the GLNF.

The Royal Arch to mark its bicentenary with an appeal to fund research by the Royal College of Surgeons of England

In 2013 the Royal Arch will celebrate the full emergence of the Royal Arch as we know it 200 years ago. On the 16th October 2013 there will be a luncheon in the Grand Connaught Rooms followed by a Celebratory Convocation in Grand Temple in the presence of the First Grand Principal, followed by a guest dinner to be hosted by him at the Savoy Hotel in the evening.

The Royal Masons 2013 Bicentenary Appeal has been established to help fund the Royal College of Surgeons of England – Surgical Fellowship Scheme. This scheme enables the brightest and best surgeons of each generation to explore treatments for conditions and injuries that effect millions of people worldwide. The Fellowships receive no direct funding from the NHS and relies completely on voluntary donations from individuals, trusts and legacies and requires more funding to continue the number of worthy projects.

Surgical research provides significant research in:-

- Hip and Knee replacements
- The prevention of strokes
- Reconstructive surgery for trauma and war wounded victims
- Less invasive surgery and quicker recovery
- Skilled operations to improve hearing and sight
- Cancer survival rates

Future innovations in surgery will be driven will be driven by research. The aim over the next three years is to raise a minimum of £10, plus Gift, from every companion. This is a little over £3 per year, but this would raise more than one million pounds. Gift Aid is worth nearly 30% added value to an individual donation, it hoped that chapter donations will incorporate this additional amount. The ME Grand Superintendent hopes that all Companions in the Province will consider donating and also that Chapters will also donate.

The donation form/appeal leaflet is available from the Provincial Office or can be downloaded from www.grandchapter.org.uk/news/2013BicentenaryAppeal.htm

MASONIC MUSINGS

From the Plymouth and Cornish Advertiser
Dated 21st November 1866

“MASONS MARKS”

They're traced in lines on the Parthenon,
Inscribed by the subtle Greek,
And Roman legions have carved them on
Walls, roads, and arches antique;
Long ere the Goth, with a Vandal hand,
Gave scope to his envy dark;
The saviour craft in many a land
Had graven its Mason Mark.
The obelisks old and the Pyramids,
Around which mystery clings,
The hieroglyphs on the coffin lids
Of weird Egyptian Kings;
Carthage, Syria, Pompeii,
Burned, and strewn, and stark,
Have marble records that will not die, -
Their primitive Mason Mark.
Upon column, frieze, and capital,
In the eye of the chaste volute,
On Scotia's curve, or on astragal,
Or in triglyph's channel acute,
Cut somewhere on the entablature,
And oft like a sudden spark.
Flashing a light on a date obscure,
Shine many a Mason Mark.
These craftsmen old had a genial whim,
That nothing could e'er destroy,
With a love of their art that nought could dim,
They toiled with chronic joy.
Nothing was too complex to essay,
In aught they dared to embark;
They triumphed on many an Appian Way,
Where they've left their Mason Mark.
Crossing the Alps like Hannibal,
Or skirting the Pyrenees,
On peak and plain, in crypt and cell,
On foot, or on bandaged knees;
From Tiber to Danube, from Rhine to Seine,
They need no "letters of marque;"
Their art was their passport in France and Spain
And in Britain their Mason Mark.
The monolith grey and Druid's chair,
The pillar towers of the Gael,
In Ogham occult their age they bear,
That time can only reveal.
Live on, old memories of the past,
Our beacons through ages dark,
In primal majesty still you'll last,
Endear'd by each Mason Mark.

An Old Masonic poem closes with this telling stanza:
“Let love abound in all your ways,
That all Mankind may see
That trust in God is the Keystone
Of ancient Masonry.”

**Essex Masons win the 60 mile London to Brighton
Bike Ride on 25th June 2011**



Which way to Brighton Chaps ?

On 25th June, while many Essex masons were dusting down their dinner suits and helping their ladies prepare for a spectacular dinner at the Guildhall, eight members from across the Province (and one lady partner) answered the Province of Middlesex's appeal to support their 60 mile London to Brighton cycle ride in aid of **Wheelpower**, a charity that supports Paralympians taking part in the 2012 Olympics.



Pictured above the L2B Cyclists and Helpers

It wasn't a race but with an announcement shortly before the 90 riders set off that a "yellow jersey" was up for grabs for the first one home W.Bro John Hoeffler, not previously known for his cycling prowess, flew into the lead and maintained the pace all the way; arriving in record time, so early in fact that half the welcome party hadn't even arrived in Brighton yet!



Pictured above left to right: W Bro Ted Page, W Bro Robert Dent, Bro Danny Pond and W Bro. Mark Massingham – members of the Chingford Lodge No.2859

He was followed closely by Bro's Mark Horridge, Paul Bold, Lee Bold, and Bro's Danny Pond Terry Woodley, Martin Smout, Neil Watch (and partner Louisa Arnold), with Essex taking 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 6th places in the first ten home.



Pictured left: W Bro John Hoeffler – first to arrive at Brighton and wear the coveted yellow jersey.

W.Bro. Ted Page and other Chingford masons were there to support the riders and cheer them home.

Making a less athletic (but just as important) contribution, W.Bros. Tony Curtis, John

Bold and Mark Massingham provided the support team and saw the team not only enjoy the day out but they also raised just over £2,500; which was shared between **Wheelpower** and the Festival 2011 in aid of the **Freemasons Grand Charity**.

Article and photographs kindly supplied by W Bro Tony Curtis.

**Hainault Chapter No.4367 hosts the Combined
Chapter Convocation at the Chingford Masonic
Hall on Saturday 29th October 2011**

The annual meeting of the Combined Chapters was held at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Saturday 29th October 2011, with representatives attending from all but two of the Chapters that meet at the Centre.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. Ian Gorman, PGSwdB, along with members of the Provincial Executive were also in attendance, as were many other distinguished Companions.

All the Officers of the Combined Chapter were occupied by various Companions from the Chapters that meet at the Centre, and the Principal Offices being occupied by E.Comp. Peter Corbin, Hainault Chapter No.4367 as M.E.Z., and H. being occupied by E.Comp. David Pomfret, Danehurst Chapter No.4541 and J. by E.Comp. Keith Starling of Old Parkonians Chapter No.4709.

E.Comp. Eric Filmer, presented a brief résumé of the Hainault Chapter No.4367, which was consecrated on the 1st October 1965, and made mention that in four years time the Chapter will celebrate their 40th Anniversary. Companion Eric informed the Companions that the Chapter has had many distinguished members, and that it has its own "Anthem". Eric let it be known that the Chapter was known as "Happy Hainault", and the welcome to the all the Companions at the Combined Chapter was without doubt welcoming and genuine, and E.Comp. Eric received a spontaneous warm applause following his presentation. E.Comp. Peter Corbin, MEZ, explained to the Companions that most of the work in arranging all the work for today's meeting was attributable to the good work of the Scribe, E.Comp. Ray Sargent and the Treasurer E.Comp. Peter Lindell, to which all the Companions acknowledged with warm applause.

The talk arranged was entitled "A day by the Lake, it's not all about Fishing" and presented by E.Comp. Ken Haslar PPGSwdB, the CEO of "The Masonic Fishing Charity". The talk was accompanied by an excellent slide and video presentation.

E.Comp. Ken explained how the “MTSFC” came into being and developed and how it was organised by freemasons for the benefit of the local community, providing an interactive fishing day to Special Needs people, mainly children, and includes people who are mentally and physically handicapped, emotionally or behaviourally disturbed or who have suffered trauma.

It was in 1998 that the idea of the organisation first came into being, and in 2000 they held their first event, and before long they had their first Patron in the name of the Lord Northampton. The M.W. Pro Grand Master, Peter G Lowndes is now their Patron, and R.W.Bro. Gordon Bourne, Past Provincial Grand Master for Middlesex is their President.

All the events are funded by mainly donations from Freemasons and there is no charge for the participants, their organisations or volunteers. E.Comp. Ken also informed the Companions that there are currently 23 Branches in different Masonic Provinces, and is still growing, and during the past year have held 53 fishing events and entertained about 950 children and others.

It costs approximately £50 per participant to run the events, and the charity has no independent financial income. The Essex representative is Hugh Nolan and wants to hold an event next year and would like some volunteers. The season starts about late April and finishes in mid October. Both Course fishing and Fly fishing are used.

Also a new Masonic Lodge was formed in the name of “Opportunity Lodge No.9777” which became an ideal vehicle to spread the word of the Charity’s positive contribution to the community, and was formed in 2004 with 30 founders, and many new members have joined from the non-masonic fishermen and helpers who come along to the events. The talk was very well constructed and certainly held everyone’s attention and no-one had noticed that the talk and presentation had lasted for almost one hour, which was followed by several questions being put to Ken by the Companions. E.Comp. Peter Corbin, MEZ, commented that he thought that it was a truly inspirational talk, and that the Alms and Raffle collection will be donated to this worthy charitable cause.

For more information and if you wish to make a donation, their website address is www.mtsfc.org.uk

Following the closing of the Combined Chapter, a total of sixty two Companions adjourned to the Main Banqueting Hall and dined convivially with an excellent meal of Asparagus Soup, Roast Sirloin of Beef and seasonal vegetables, followed by Baked Apple and custard.

E.Comp. Ian Gorman in his response to his toast informed the Companions that “Chingford was his masonic home”, as he was Initiated at Chingford, and he was pleased to see so many Companions attending this Combined Convocation and to see so many supporting Chapters occupying the offices of the Combined meeting.

E.Comp. Ian went on to congratulate those Companions who had received honours at the Provincial meeting, but he was at the same time a little disappointed of those Brethren who were to be invested were not in attendance to receive their honour. E.Comp. Ian concluded his response by saying that it has been a most happy evening and thanked the Companions of the Hainault Chapter for a “job well done”, and then proposed the toast to the Principals.

The Principals rose and E.Comp. Peter Corbin thanked everyone for their kind hospitality, and then had pleasure in presenting a cheque to the “Masonic Fishing Charity” for £760.00.



Pictured above: E.Comp. Peter Corbin, MEZ, presenting a cheque to E.Comp. Ken Hasler for £760 as a donation to the Masonic Fishing Charity.

Article and photograph by E.Comp. Allan de Luca

**“Masonic Communications in an Electronic Age”
A speech by the VW The Grand Secretary
Nigel Brown,
QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION
14 September 2011**

Like it or not, we are in an age of electronic communication! The task I have been set today is to bring you up to date with how we are attempting to align ourselves to the new age of electronic communications in general and, specifically, to let you know about the exciting new members’ website.

First, I ask you all to cast your minds back twenty five years and just think for a moment, how many members of your mother lodge were using computers or, indeed, if the lodge secretary even possessed a computer!

How dramatically different it is today, and certainly since the mid 1990s? The internet has had a radical impact on culture and commerce, including the rise of near instant communications by electronic mail, instant messaging and the world wide web, with its discussion forums, blogs and social networking. The internet continues to grow, driven by even greater amounts of online information and knowledge.

Communication has changed radically in those twenty five years, as you know only too well from your own experience. One of the knock on effects for us is that the majority of our members now do communicate electronically and, what’s more, are expecting that to become the regular way to communicate with their lodges and, here with us, at the centre. With that in mind, I am reminded of the challenges we face: in aligning ourselves as closely as possible to that expectation. From a quote made by John Maynard Keynes, the eminent economist, who spearheaded a revolution in economic thinking, “the difficulty lies not in the new ideas, but in escaping from the old ones”. Two constant drivers to our thinking are: first, how best to communicate with our members so that they are both informed and feel included; second, how best to communicate with the non Masonic community so that we combat the myths and put correct inaccurate information about us out there, to be picked up by the

increasing number of search engines. Here is a flavour of what we are trying to achieve. In 2009 the main UGLE website was re-launched. The driving force behind this was to provide information about the Craft for the non mason and, in particular, to attract potential candidates. It is also meant to be a public relations tool for people to understand more clearly what we are all about. That site has proved to be a great success, with an average of 30,000 visitors a month over the last six months; 58% of those coming via search engines; 25% through referral sites and the rest through direct traffic. However, as I stated earlier, this site, though very useful to existing members, was not designed for them specifically. On that understanding, the Board of General Purposes was minded to have a second site developed, dedicated to the membership. Let me be crystal clear! This site, as with the UGLE site, is an open site: no members; only sections; no logins and no passwords. It is this website, the members' site, that we have great pleasure in officially launching today. The platform is the old Freemasonry Today magazine site and we have maintained that website address, www.freemasonrytoday.com. The benefits of this site are, that it is article based, and it will include many more articles than we have space for in the printed magazine. In particular, it allows us to be timely with getting news to you and our response to real time events for, example, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes and tsunamis which, I know from experience you are, quite rightly, always keen to know what positive action we have taken say, through the British Red Cross, at a time when it really matters to the people on the ground. For example, if there is one of these natural disasters, we will publish our immediate response on the website, which will then be updated as required. In other words, you will no longer have to wait for the next edition of the magazine to be published. The website now allows all members to submit articles for potential inclusion. These, in the first instance, go to the relevant Provincial or District Information Officer. He will have been briefed about the key part he has to play, and will make the judgement as to whether it merits inclusion, as well as making sure that the Provinces and Districts use articles for their own websites and magazines as appropriate. Having mentioned Information Officers, we have just called a halt to their intranet, largely because of a judgement in the High Court which resolved that permission must be obtained, from the publication itself, if media articles are to be reproduced online. Also because the members' site will, in many constructive ways, naturally supersede it. The state of the art software that we are using has the great advantage of allowing instant changes and updates. I believe that you will agree that one particularly useful aspect of the site is that it is going to allow us to conduct surveys and polls from amongst the membership and to gauge the pulse of members' opinions on certain selected topics. Additionally, the current issue of each magazine will be available to view as a digital copy on the site, as well as back copies of the new version from issue fourteen and onwards. We have also selected articles of specific interest from copies before issue fourteen, the majority of which have now also been moved across on to the new site for your interest. We realise that many members, especially younger members, prefer to read the magazine digitally, rather than receive the printed copy. With this in mind, we have now added a digital

subscription facility so that members, who wish to, will receive an email alert when each new edition is available on the site. This digital subscription is also available to non - members. We are also extremely pleased with the number of lodges now launching their own websites and seeking a UGLE Charter Mark; a mark of Grand Lodge approval. The sheer number of lodges, to give you an idea, is around one hundred at any given time. Applying for a charter mark has meant that we have a backlog, as we carefully check each one for technical and Masonic compliance, as well as suggesting possible improvements. To overcome this backlog we have updated the UGLE guidelines for lodge websites to greater reflect the ever changing online landscape. Indeed, let us not forget members' increased abilities. In particular, we are now happy for sites to be launched, publicised and used as soon as the Province or District is happy that they comply with the guidelines. The charter mark will subsequently follow, meaning that lodges are not inconvenienced any more. At the same time we can still, importantly, maintain the rigour of our checks and, most importantly, the critical check for Masonic accuracy. The last thing any of us want is to allow a site to perpetuate the myths. We do also check through sites to make sure it really does work as it was planned. I am glad to report that we are starting to get good feedback from applying lodges about this new improved service. Brethren, we have several other sites, but I am not going to talk about them today as time does not allow. So I will not be talking about the excellent new university scheme website, backing a hugely successful initiative. Nor will I, therefore, be talking about the four Masonic charity websites, so ably underpinning our freemasonry cares ethic. Nor the Library and Museum and Letchworth's shop sites or, tempting though it is, the pilot mentors' website that we are currently working on and that will, in time, prove to be a fantastic tool kit for our budding mentors. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that, on the business side, the members of the Board of General Purposes and the Grand Secretary are constantly looking at the efficiency of our business: dealing with a huge membership organisation to see that it is 'fit for purpose'. Amongst other business practices, and relevant to what I am saying today, we are about to look at, in particular, the electronic submission of forms and a timely look at electronic payments. We believe, and I know first hand from travelling extensively in the Provinces and overseas, that this will not only help the Provinces but will be most welcomed by our Districts. Brethren, we live in exciting times. I trust that this brief taster gives you more of an idea of what we are trying to achieve with our electronic communication initiatives, all of them supporting our policy of openness, and the importance we attach to this area. Specifically, on behalf of the Strategic Communications Committee and the Board of General Purposes, we all trust that you find the new members' website both useful and interesting, from this memorable official launch day forth, as it successfully evolves over the many years to come.

Source: www.ugle.org



**The Annual Festival of Remembrance
held at the Chingford War Memorial
on Sunday 13th November 2011**



On a brilliant sunny and bright Sunday, the 13th November 2011 an assembly of brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall, again gathered at the Chingford War Memorial to lay a wreath in memory of those who gave their lives in all conflicts, it had an added significance and poignance by another year of more UK military losses in Afghanistan, now known as the “Afghan generation” of the Armed Forces.



This year, W. Bro Jim Moody, now an sprightly 88 year old, a former pilot, having flown Typhoon aircraft in the Royal Air Force, is a member of the Chingford Meridian Lodge No.7465, laid the wreath on behalf of all the members of the Chingford Masonic Hall.

Pictured left: W Bro Jim Moody with the CAMSG Poppy Wreath
Also present at the Chingford War Memorial was the Rt.Hon. Iain Duncan Smith M.P. for Chingford and Woodford Green, Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, a former captain of the Scots Guards, who laid a wreath at the war memorial.



Pictured left: Rt.Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, M.P.
Iain Duncan Smith M.P. regularly attends the annual wreath laying ceremony at the Chingford War Memorial.



Pictured above: W. Bro Jim Moody standing to order following the laying of the CAMSG Poppy Wreath on behalf of the brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall



Pictured above, the brethren who attended the annual Festival of Remembrance at the Chingford War Memorial
As in previous years the CAMSG has made a £100.00 donation to the Chingford Branch of the Royal British Legion.

90 years of The Royal British Legion



The Royal British Legion celebrates its 90th anniversary in 2011. As the Royal British Legion remember their fine history they are also laying the groundwork for our next 90 years and beyond, ensuring that they are just as relevant to the Armed Forces community as they were in 1921. Over this year, The Royal British Legion are not only celebrating this 90th year landmark but are aiming to raise £90 million, £1 million for every year of their existence.

My Boy Jack

By Rudyard Kipling

“Have you news of my boy Jack?”
Not this tide.
“When d’you think that he’ll come back?”
Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.
“Has any one else had word of him?”
Not this tide.
For what is sunk will hardly swim,
Not with this wind blowing, and this tide.
“Oh, dear, what comfort can I find?”
None this tide,
Nor any tide,
Except he did not shame his kind —
Not even with that wind blowing, and that tide.
Then hold your head up all the more,
This tide,
And every tide;
Because he was the son you bore,
And gave to that wind blowing and that tide!



At the time, the only public clue to Kipling's agony was his famous eulogy to a missing son, My Boy Jack, written in 1915. After John's death, Rudyard Kipling became a founding member of the War Graves Commission, setting in motion a vast unprecedented act of national remembrance in which every fallen soldier was to be reburied in a marked

grave, each with his own headstone. But it was an act he was never able to perform for his own son and John's name is engraved on the Loos Memorial Wall in the Dud Corner Cemetery, in Loos-en-Gohelle. In a moving tribute, Kipling paid the head gardener, Mr Pryn, to have the Last Post sounded every night in honour of his son. John Kipling, was born the youngest child and only son of prominent author Rudyard Kipling and his American born wife Caroline Starr Balestier. Known to his family as Jack, he was plagued with severe near sightedness, and was deemed medically unfit for military service during the First World War. He managed to secure a commission in the Irish Guards, however, with the weight of his father's influence behind him. On his eighteenth birthday, Kipling was posted to France. Within six weeks, the Battle of Loos, part of a joint Allied offensive on the Western Front, was entered, engaging 54 French and 13 British divisions. The death toll at Loos was greater than in any previous battle of the war. Eye-witnesses reported seeing Kipling fall with a neck wound, but intense machine gun and shellfire made retrieval impossible. At the battle's end he was reported wounded and missing. His grief-stricken parents used every possible channel and every high-level contact at their disposal to obtain news about their son in the hope that he might still be alive, even if as a prisoner of war. It was not until 1919 that his death was finally accepted by his parents.



Pictured above: The CAMSG Poppy Wreath, complete with a sprig of forget-me-nots, laid by W Bro Jim Moody on behalf of the Brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall.

Acknowledgements

- [1] British Legion 90th Anniversary logo <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/about-us/90th-anniversary>
- [2] Photographs at Chingford War Memorial – Allan de Luca ©
- [3] Picture Jack Kipling Find a grave-<http://www.findagrave.com>

The Annual CAMSG Fundraiser raise in excess of £1500.00 in aid of the Christmas Broken Column Widows Luncheon

There was full house at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Saturday 19th November 2011 for the annual fund raiser in aid of the Broken Column Christmas Luncheon. All those who attended were sure of a great night of fun and with many prizes available, it added to the atmosphere of a first-class night out once again. There were the usual

suspects who were on a winning streak, and received a bottle of spirit for their good fortune.



Top Row: W Bro Ted Page, W Bro Dennis Jane, Bottom row: W Bro Tony Curtis, W Bro Dave Hook
There was also an excellent raffle display, with all the prizes being donated by the CAMSG members, and the raffle raised a generous sum of £450.00.



Pictured above:- The display of the Raffle Prizes

During the interval, everyone tucked into a delicious plate of “bangers and mash and baked beans”, it was a delectable feast that can only be appreciated on a cold November evening, even Greg Wallis of the TV series “Master Chef” could not have disapproved of such a meal, or to quote him “now I’m not going to criticise until I actually stick it in my mouth”, well done to Halls Catering!! for such a great meal

It is without a doubt that the evening was a great success, and stands alone in the CAMSG calendar of events of fundraising due to the hard work of Jane and Dave Clarke, Maureen and Tony Curtis, Bernie Willis, Ted Page, Dave Hook and Dennis Jane, and congratulations must be extended to all the CAMSG members who participated in the preparation and smooth running of the night.

If you did not manage to attend, there will be another fundraiser of this form next year on Saturday 30th November 2012, so put a note in your diary now, so that you will not be disappointed if you were unable to attend this year. W.Bro. Bill Gunary, PAPGM, Life President of

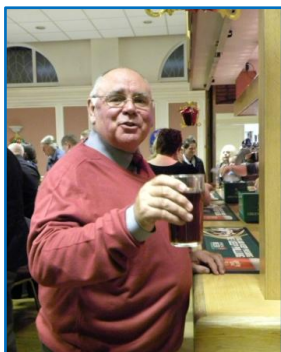
CAMSG, accompanied by his wife Shirley was in attendance and thanked everyone for attending this special evening.



Pictured above: The plate of bangers and mash and baked beans being served by staff of Halls Catering



Pictured above: All the participants tucking into A plate of "Bangers & Mash and Baked Beans"



Pictured left - W Bro Ted Page, Chairman of CAMSG, participating in the convivial spirit of the evening, and pictured right - W Bro Bob Urch conducting the fundraising evening in his unique style as M.C.

The CAMSG committee members are now preparing for the final event of the year, which will be the Widows

Broken Column Luncheon to be held on Friday 16th December 2011 at the Chingford Masonic Hall.

Article and photographs by W Bro Allan de Luca

ESSEX PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF MARK MASTER MASONS

Provincial Officers Mess.

The Mark Provincial Grand Officers Mess was held at Orsett Hall on Friday 18th November 2011 at 7 pm. The Mess president for the evening was W.Bro Roger F Wacey. There were 77 Provincial Officers from all over Essex who had made the journey to attend and it was very nice to see so many brethren meet in a very informal atmosphere and to enjoy a splendid dinner and good company. R.W. Bro Michael G Spencer, Provincial Grand Master addressed the brethren and said how delighted he was to see so many attend, he then announced that the next Provincial Grand Senior Warden will be W Bro Richard Woodford of Chingford Lodge N0 1252, the Junior Grand Warden, W Bro Dennis Wiles of Ilford St Mary Lodge N0 1470 and that W Bro Ian Eaton of Chelmer Lodge N0 342 will be invested as next year's Grand Steward.

Any Provincial Officer who is not already a member of the mess and wishes to join can contact W. Bro Richard Bowyer, Provincial Grand Secretary on 01708 745371

Quiz night held in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund

The Mark Benevolent quiz night was held this year on Friday 18th November 2011 at Saxon Hall, Southend on Sea. The evening was in aid of the Mark Benevolent Fund. The quiz master for the evening was W Bro Richard Goodwin, assisted by his team of helpers from Viking Lodge No.1564, who hosted the ten round quiz which proved a great success.

Leaflets and flyers were circulated around the Province asking for teams of 10 to include partners and friends to compete in the quiz. The cost was £10 per head to include a chicken in the basket supper. 24 teams took part in the quiz with a total of 230 people attending. The winners were Boleyn Castle Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners who narrowly beat Mayflower Mark Lodge on a tie breaker question to claim victory. The evening also included a bumper raffle with prizes donated by the Lodges and brethren of the Province.

As the evening came to a close, W Bro Goodwin asked the Provincial Grand Master to join him and presented him



with a cheque for £2,700.00 (pictured left) for the Mark Benevolent Fund which was the amount raised from the event.

The Provincial Grand Master thanked everyone present for their support to the quiz and in raising such a magnificent sum. He also went on to congratulate all concerned with the success of the evening.

Articles and photograph very kindly received from John C Jacobson DepPGM