



Mitre News

Volume I, Issue I

May 2005

Welcome

Foreword from the WM: W.Bro John Skeldon PPGReg

It gives me much pleasure in introducing the first issue of the Newsletter of Mitre Lodge and I wish it every success. I am sure it will be a success with Bill Seddon as the Editor and Martin Hemenway looking after the production.

The success of the Newsletter will depend very much on the steady flow of articles to the Editor from you, the Brethren. So please keep him busy with your news and views.

I have been WM for six months and, without doubt it has been the most enjoyable and challenging period of my Masonry which started in Sunderland (Province of Durham) when I was initiated in 1962 into Mowbray Lodge No.5373.

I became WM there in 1972 and awarded Provincial Honours about 9 years later.

I worked for British Rail as a

Planning Officer and, as a career move I moved to York in 1968 and I recall I was Junior Deacon that year. It seems a long time ago but fate has been kind.

Eventually, I joined Mitre Lodge in 1987 and resigned from my lodge in Sunderland and I have not looked back. I have always enjoyed my Masonic life in Mitre Lodge not least due to the warmth of fellowship in the lodge and that there is always something to do e.g. I was Treasurer for 10 years and even produced the Mitre News, our first Newsletter. Being WM has enabled me to put something back into the Lodge that has given me so much pleasure.

I am married to Hilda who has been very supportive throughout and have two children: Philip who is married and lives near Oxford and Beverley, also married and living near Chester, having two sons. Hilda and I will celebrate our Golden Wedding in 2006.

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THE BITS THAT DON'T GO IN THE MINUTES!

February was the occasion for Raising Joe McDonald. The response to the toast to Our Visitors was given by W Bro Tony Carr, WM of our Mother Lodge Albert Victor No. 2328.

Tony reminded us that his lodge

was a 'non-speaking' lodge, so we did well to hear him as he treated us to Rudyard Kipling's poem 'My Mother Lodge'. If you don't know this poem, it's worth looking up for as Tony put it, 'It says all about what we are here for tonight.'

March's Passing of John Buckland was an interesting ceremony, attended by the DPGM, W Bro Jeffrey Gillyon. Jeffrey came to present Albert Furby with a certificate for 60 years membership of the Craft which he did in an informal manner. Jeffrey did a very good job despite a rather inaccurate set of briefing notes which enabled Albert to say 'No' to the first two questions about his early life. Albert was in excellent form and the dialogue between the two was stimulating, amusing and described by a visitor as 'being better than Parkinson.' After the meal, Albert was toasted and responded briefly. Province will have a 70 year certificate ready in 2015 and Albert is working towards that and the Royal telegram. We have something to look forward to, we hope.

In April, David Marsh (DC) gave Neville Barker Cryer's commentary on aspects of the First Degree as parts of this ceremony were enacted. Joe Wood voluntarily relinquished his rank and status to be the candidate - and showed promise! He was duly toasted and serenaded (short version) after the meal and reinstated to his Provincial rank with applause and good humour.

MUSICAL LUNCH

Nicholas Page gave us another treat on Sunday, 13 March when he entertained us at the organ. Not only does he play extremely well but he pops out of 'the box' between items to tell us something about the next piece in a manner both informative and amusing. The programme was:

Derby Day	Robert Farnon
Bagatelle	Ena Baga,
Moon River,	Henry Mancini
Concerto in C major after	
Prince Johann Ernst of Saxe-Weimer	JS Bach
The Londonderry Air	
Spring Song	Mendelssohn
Fantasia sur une melodie anglaise	Alexander Guilmant.

There had been some plotting behind the scenes in anticipation of this event as between the Mancini and the Bach Tony Pearson came forward to lead us in 'The Lambton Worm', a traditional and favourite North Eastern song, especially for the WM and Hilda. Tony also hails from that part of the world so the accent was right and the audience participation in the choruses was enthusiastic.

The fifty-five members and guests who attended thoroughly enjoyed the music and the traditional Sunday lunch which followed

LADIES' NIGHT

The eighty-one members and guests who gathered at the Ramada Jarvis on April 9th enjoyed an excellent evening. The suite for our use was attractively presented, the food and service were good and Trevor Wood provided keyboard music during the meal - just the right volume so that conversation did not involve shouting to one's neighbour - and for dancing afterwards. The customary speeches and responses were made, both John and Hilda Skelton striking the right note for the occasion, and the health of our ladies was drunk and they were serenaded in traditional Mitre fashion. Formality was kept to a minimum and the relaxed and friendly atmosphere contributed greatly to a successful 'do'.

A NEW FACE

We have welcomed as a Joining Member W Bro Peter Holden of Alcuin Lodge No. 6300, of which Peter is currently Secretary. Peter lives in Haxby with his wife, Luisa, has two daughters and a 6-month old grandson, who will probably spoil Grandpa rotten in a year or two! Peter was one of the last staff members at the 'Old Archies', teaching Maths there from 1975 - 1985 before moving to help the Norwich Union with its IT until his recent retirement. Peter says that he is too old for sport, can't afford golf but has recently taken up fishing again after many years. He's proved quite a catch for us already taking an active part in ceremonies and we hope he will enjoy many years of good fellowship with us.

Caroline's Rainbow Foundation : Presentation of Laptop Computer to Mrs Marks-Stuttle by WM.

Last month the WM presented Mrs Marjorie Marks-Stuttle with a Toshiba Laptop Computer for the use of the Caroline's Rainbow Foundation. The gift was made possible as a result of the donation from Mitre Lodge of £100 which attracted a further £1000 from Province of Yorkshire (N & E Ridings).



Brethren will be aware that the Foundation was set up following the murder of Caroline Stuttle in Australia during her 'Gap Year' from College. The objectives of the Foundation is to raise the

awareness of young people regarding their well-being and safety, especially whilst travelling abroad.

Mrs Marks-Stuttle was able to update the WM and David Marsh who took the photograph on the excellent progress and developments surrounding the Foundation.

Activities include ongoing fund raising and presentations to organisations and groups at which the laptop will be invaluable. Of special interest is the laptop's opening screen. It very prominently displays the Province's coat of arms and their support of the Foundation.

Brethren will recall that Mitre Lodge sponsored this project at the request of Charity Steward Alan Keedy and is an example of how Province assists 'Non-Masonic Charities'.

A press release and a selection of photographs were sent to the press.

FROM YOUR CHARITY STEWARD

Before joining Masonry, I was aware of its charity involvement, but even after twenty-nine years in the Craft I was unaware - until I took this position - of just what a multi-million pound and multi-dimensional operation it is. I suspect many Masons are in the same position. That is why the committee issued the A4 information sheet with last month's summons, and that is just scratching the surface.

Actually, I don't know why they gave me this job - I think they made an error. I pointed out that I had no experience of fund raising, made donations to Masonic and non-Masonic charities of my choice, objected to being badgered for contributions and, therefore, would not badger anyone else. (What have badgers done to get this reputation?) I suspect a lot of other people feel the same way. 'Just what we want,' they said. On their heads be it.

Accordingly, you may have noticed that during my eighteen months tenure (probably soon to end after

this missive!) that I have never approached an individual for contributions. I have attempted to sell programmes for Connaught Court fund raising days, and questionnaires for the current Festival, and confined myself to reporting Festival progress. In that vein then the latest figures towards the total of £2m. by May 2006 is £1,492,000

- Mitre contribution is £11,205 i.e. an average of £193 per head
- 44 of the 59 members contribute to the Festival by Direct Debit
- 20 are doing the same to Provincial Charity as well as supporting the Festival.

If anyone wishes to donate anything to any Masonic Charity, I am readily approachable and think that my Geordie accent has been modified enough to be intelligible to you Southerners. (Joke! Joke! Peace, Brethren!). Over to you.

Dates for your Diary

- **Saturday 11 June** Garden Party at the home of Colin and Anita Owen-Stanford. The Garden Party will start at 6.30pm
- **Friday 24 June** Past Masters' Dinner, Castlegate House (PMs and ME only) (Time to be advised)
- **Saturday 10 September** Social Evening at St Saviourgate

Families and friends will be most welcome to the Garden Party and the Social Evening.

Mitre Lodge Church Service

About 30 members and ladies attended the Lodge Church Service at St. Wilfrid's Garrison Church, Strensall on Sunday 22nd May.

The Army Chaplain; Revd Derek Bailey welcomed the congregation into this fine church which houses the colours of so many army regiments having historic connections with Strensall over the years. His service had been carefully and successfully structured to be relative to Masonic beliefs, especially the significance of our faith and caring for our brethren and the community in general. This was particularly relevant because it echoed many of the sentiments expressed by the Provincial Grand Master in his Address at Provincial Grand Lodge only the day before.

The Chaplain was particularly anxious that the proceeds of the collection should be made available to the RMTGB and this was graciously accepted on behalf of Mitre Lodge by the WM.

Although our numbers could have been better it was wholeheartedly agreed by those attending that the Service had been worthwhile. Light refreshments followed the service giving all concerned a nice opportunity to socialise.

John Skeldon. WM.

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

We were well represented on May 21st to see Tony Hodgson given the active rank of Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works for the coming Masonic year and the promotion to Past Provincial Grand Registrar of Tony Pearson, both awards being truly merited. Another Mitre mason to be honoured was Bob Ward, who became an active Provincial Junior Grand Deacon, though in his capacity as a PM of the Old Pocklingtonian Lodge. Congratulations to Bob too, but remember, Bob, we had you first!

Of unexpected interest, and delight, was the naming and identification of Martin Hemenway by the RW Provincial Grand Master for the splendid work that Martin has done very recently and very successfully in bringing the Provincial website up to 21st century standards. The PGM paid a sincere tribute to Martin and this was echoed by applause by the Brethren. I'm glad we have him!

**If you have any articles for the newsletter please send them to the editor:
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