



Mitre News

Volume 1, Issue 2

December 2005

Welcome

The WM writes:

Our Newsletter is now well and truly launched and if the quality of the first edition is to be matched by subsequent issues, it is bound to be a continuing success. We have a great publishing team so, Brethren, be good 'reporters' and keep the bits and pieces rolling in.

I took over the Master's chair in October and am looking forward to the challenge, although I have had the privilege of being Master of the Old Pocklingtonian Lodge No 7867, and thoroughly enjoyed what turned out to be a wonderful experience but, of course, there is nothing to compare with being Master of your Mother Lodge.

I am also a member of Mitre Chapter No 7321, and the Beacon Centenary Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 1583.

We hope to continue with the very much enjoyed social activities which have now become traditional

within the Lodge and details appear later in this issue.

I too, like our IPM, worked for British Rail, starting in Derby and moving to several different railway centres before settling in York. I met my wife, Norma, whilst working in Eastleigh, Hampshire. She was working in the Bank into which my salary was paid. We have been married for forty-five years and have three daughters and a son who have presented us with eight grandchildren

(And Dennis is too modest to mention that he is a very active supporter of Connaught Court, being particularly involved in running the 'shop' for residents on Tuesdays. Ed.)

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THE BITS THAT DON'T GO IN THE MINUTES!

October saw Dennis Carman installed in good style but we were forced to adjust the programme for November when it was found that Scott Allcock had been posted to Northern Ireland and couldn't be Raised. Instead of the planned cere-

mony, we were very fortunate to be able to enjoy the presence of W Bro Terry Burt of Falcon Lodge 1416, the Festival Secretary, who gave a splendid presentation on the Masonic Charities, with special emphasis on the 2006 Festival. Terry's knowledge

and enthusiasm were impressive and were well received by the Brethren. Evidence of this came when over £600 was raised during the meal from Gift Aid envelopes, Stewards' Fees and the sale of Christmas cards. The proceedings after the meal were enlivened by the Junior Warden's presentation of a very small bottle of something glutinously green to the DC, Bob Ward, who had spotted his deliberate mistake at the Installation ceremony - but Charles didn't identify which of his mistakes had been deliberate! In December, we welcomed a contingent from Leeds and members of the Provincial Stewards' Lodge, all of whom sang lustily at the appropriate time, especially when we serenaded John Benson on his eightieth birthday. John's manner and appearance give the lie to his age. He was embarrassed and we were delighted - and a good many of us are envious! Our new-made Brother, Karl Hardman, was welcomed in the traditional manner and his response to the toast was warmly received.

CAROLS AND QUIZ NIGHT

We had another good attendance on Saturday 10 December for our annual 'jolly' with ninety folk joining in the singing and a very slightly smaller number eating. The usual programme of carols and readings selected by the Worshipful Master started the proceedings, with the singing led by Bill Seddon, Nicholas Page in sparkling form at the organ and Norma and Dennis Carman presenting the readings. The singing gets better every year and it was a particular delight to welcome a number of children and young teen-agers. Four of the youngsters did a great job in 'judging' the quality of the singing. The meal that followed was very well presented and received and then we were engaged once again by Tony Hodgson in his guise as Quiz Master - and he has the collar to prove it - with Barbara in the background keeping him, and the scoring, in good order. Members and guests had provided a wealth of raffle prizes and £192.00 was raised for a charity of the Worshipful Master's choice. All in all, a highly enjoyable and successful evening.

A NEW FACE

It's always a pleasure to see a new face and we were very pleased to initiate Karl Hardman in December. Karl was invited to write a bit about himself - and did.

'Born and raised on the Isle of Sheppey in Kent,



I'm pleased to say that I now live in Huntingdon and know how lucky I am to do so. I've lived in the area for the last eighteen years although my southern accent is still quite strong!

I'm married to Carolyn (Bill Seddon's daughter) and we have a nine-year old son, Ross, (named after his grandfather, Alf Ross, a founder member of the Lodge) while a three month old Miniature Schnauzer named Harry makes up the family.

I am a Detective Constable with the North Yorkshire Police now working from force HQ, having previously been stationed at York, Strensall and Easingwold. My hobbies include being an arm-chair sports fan and Leeds United supporter - through marriage - although I grew up watching Chelsea and Charlton. I also sat on the boundary at Canterbury watching the great Kent CCC of the 1970s.

We are very keen caravanners, taking our touring van all over the country and this year to France where we truly discovered French red wine. I also enjoy making my own curries.

I am looking forward to becoming part of the Mitre Lodge and making friends, acquaintances and learning about the Craft!

Let's try to assist Karl to achieve his aim. I'd be very surprised if we don't.

FROM YOUR CHARITY STEWARD

£12,700 TO CHARITY, SO FAR

Brethren, be proud of yourselves! Between the fifty-five members of Mitre Lodge, a total of £12,700 has been raised or promised towards Festival 2006 for the benefit of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. This works out at a magnificent contribution of £231 per member.

Reference has already been made to the sum raised at the November meeting but, especially for those members who were not present that night, remember that there are still another six months of fundraising to go, so if you feel that you can help to increase the Lodge's contribution, contact the Charity Steward, David Marsh, either in person or on 01904 448191.

GARDEN PARTY FOR RMTGB

We always aim to do things well, and Saturday 11 June proved to be no exception when Colin and Anita Owen-Stanford welcomed some fifty Brethren, families and friends to their home. The weather was fine and pleasantly warm and all the necessary preparations had been made for a most

delightful evening. Anita, daughter Victoria and her husband Chris made or provided all the food, with Chris being the cook for the curry. Inside Outside Catering provided the big gazebo along with a selection of free roast turkey and beef and Steve and Sue Luck, Colin's next-door neighbours helped with garden furniture and the small gazebo. The food, both hot and cold, was delicious and delightfully presented and many of those present 'went round' twice (at least). Alf Robinson did a sterling job in selling raffle tickets and Victoria made up a photo quiz. Colin and Anita donated the balance of the food and the champagne. The wine and drinks brought by members of the Lodge and not consumed on the night were added to the wonderful donation of raffle prizes which had been donated and made a magnificent array to make the raffle a star event. The amount raised during the evening was £520.00 and full marks and sincere thanks go to Anita and Colin for the idea and to them and their family for putting on such a splendid event. And, please, when's the next one?

WALK FOR RMTGB

Tony Hodgson and the 'Real Secretary' (his wife Barbara), accompanied by a friend and Tony Pearson, completed the 8th Peace Lodge No 3936 Charitable Walk on Sunday, June 26th from Sutton Bank to Osmotherley, a total of twelve miles, and have certificates to prove it!

The PGM and a number of Provincial Officers were also on the walk, together with other Brethren, families and friends totalling over seventy. Although it was probably a little too warm for walking, the event was very well organised and every one of the participants completed the course, including two dogs!!

THE GRAND CHARITY RELEASE £½ MILLION FOR HOSPICES

£½ million of support for hospices across England and Wales has been announced by The Grand Charity, bringing total support for the sector to nearly £6 million since 1984.

In recognition of the strong relationships with local hospices enjoyed by many Provincial Lodges, grant cheques have been sent to Provincial Offices for presentation over the forthcoming weeks.

Dates for your Diary

Saturday 18 February Theatre visit to York Theatre Royal to see the York Light Opera Company's production of 'The Witches of Eastwick'.

Sunday 5 March at the Lodge building, St Saviourgate, another 'Musical Lunch' with organ music for all tastes provided again by Nicholas Page.

Saturday 1 April Ladies' Night at the Ramada Jarvis Hotel, Shipton Road, York

We have also received an invitation to visit the Three Pillars Lodge in Rotterdam but this is not likely to take place until possibly September or November, depending on the situation in Holland.

TEMPORARY ABSENCES

We shall be missing Scott Allcock again for a while. Immediately on his return from Qatar, which had caused him to miss out on being Raised, Scott was posted to Northern Ireland. He, Anneliese and the family have our best wishes and we hope to see them back in York before too long.

Tony Hodgson will be missing for a shorter time. The delights of the 'Lodge villa' obviously having palled, he and Barbara are going 'Down Under' from 24 December to 25 January. Tony says that he will arrive shouting 'Who won the Ashes, then?' We hope that he returns safely!

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE

Two Very Important Dates for your diaries:

Saturday 20th May 2006 Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting At York University.

The PGM will be handing over the (£2m) cheque to the Assistant Grand Master

You will need to pre-book for the meeting at Central Hall even if you are NOT staying for the lunch

Please get your forms in ASAP

Saturday 1st July 2006 York Racecourse

The Festival Celebration Dinner/Dance will be held at the Racecourse

It will be tables of ten (five brethren & their partner). I propose to immediately reserve one table.

If you could let me know if you are likely to attend that will determine if I should reserve a further table.

Numbers are limited (560 places for 100 lodges)

Please let me know ASAP if you are interested

All the best
David Marsh

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