



# Mitre News

Volume 1, Issue 3

August 2006

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## THE BITS THAT DON'T GO IN THE MINUTES!

February's Lodge was an unusual and particularly pleasant occasion during which we Passed Christopher Hanson, Bob Ward's stepson. Christopher, aged 18, a student at St. Andrew's and a Lewis, was initiated by Dispensation at the Old Pocklingtonian Lodge No 7867 in November and had travelled south for this ceremony.

His Mother Lodge meet only quarterly and he was Raised there in March, Christopher is keen to become an active Mason and as 18 is the qualifying age for joining a Scottish Lodge, it was thought fit that the English Constitution should have him first! He proved an excellent candidate and responded well when his health was drunk during the after proceedings.

These were again enlivened by the JW who had omitted to ask the nominated Visiting Master if he would reply on behalf of the visitors. W. Bro. Bob Snowden of Calcaria Lodge No 2677 having overcome his surprise, acquitted himself in exemplary fashion. Our WM, Dennis, braved the rigours of an illness to preside in great form, though he had to retire home after the ceremony.

March saw the Raising of John Buckland, who was well supported by friends from other Lodges. After the ceremony, during the Risings,

Tony Hodgson, as commanded, read a letter from the PGM commending the WM on his devotion to his Lodge by having defied his illness in February to preside over the meeting. Dennis was, as ever, somewhat embarrassed by this praise but the Brethren were delighted for him and reckoned the plaudits were well deserved.

The JW was on his best behaviour and did invite a visitor to respond to their toast and W Bro Bob Venn of Old Cedarians Lodge No 8078, a guest of Mike Helliard, who had travelled up from Bedfordshire, was more than fitted for the task.

In April, we were very glad to welcome back Scott Alcock, if only temporarily, so that he could complete his passage to a Master Mason. The exigencies of his service with the R.A.F. have made his wait a long one, but the ceremony was well done and Scott was much relieved and delighted to be, at long last, Raised.

The JW was on good form again, so much so that he almost invited W Bro Peter Owers of Alcuin Lodge No 6300 to respond to the Visitors' Toast before he had proposed it! A timely, but humorous, intervention by an experienced PM restored the equilibrium and Peter Owers responded very warmly.

There was a good representation from other Old Boys' Lodges especially invited to take part in the May meeting at which Karl Hardman was Passed.

We were also delighted to see Martin Hamilton, recently appointed to the Chair of his Lodge in Spain but had to bid 'Farewell' to Peter Holden, who is moving to North Wales, not so far away as Martin. Peter hopes to attend from time to time if he can 'arrange company business (and expenses) in York on the first Wednesday of the month'!

As a sort of counter-balance, we were able to welcome Richard Perrin as a Joining Member and greeted him well. Richard's short CV appears later. Everyone behaved commendably during the after-proceedings. Rather boring, in fact!

June was somewhat unusual for us in that we had a ceremony in addition to the business meeting in preparation for next year. Christian Edwards, Colin Owen-Stanford's son-in-law, proved a very able Initiate and responded sincerely and succinctly to his toast, given by Colin and including the poem 'The Entered Apprentice'.

The JW generously provided the port with which we were able to join him in celebrating a (significant?) birthday and the working year ended in very good style.

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### Who's the Wizard?

Our Secretary, Tony Hodgson, and his wife Barbara enjoyed a trip to Australia in late December and January visiting, amongst other places, Sydney, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth. Tony called at a number of Masonic buildings on his travels but regrettably none of them were open (perhaps they saw him coming!). Masonry is strong in Oz and is very 'open' with plenty of publicity in local newspapers etc.

They also enjoyed a day at the Sydney cricket ground watching the First Test between Australia and South Africa, when Barbara was

heard to remark halfway through the afternoon session when South Africa were 116 for 3, 'Who's batting?' much to the amusement of the Australians sat near!

To show what a small world it really is, Tony asked a couple of tourists in Singapore on the way out if they would take a picture of Barbara and him together and guess what? The couple were from Acomb in York. What's more, they also, quite by chance, 'bumped into' the same couple outside the Sydney Opera House and arranged to see them in Perth later in the holiday.

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## New Faces

**Christian Edwards** 'Hi, my name is Christian Edwards; I was recently initiated into the Lodge and have been asked to draft a brief introduction to myself. Here goes.

I am 28 years old, having been born and raised in Manchester. I have been living in York for the past eight years with my wife, Victoria, and our two cats.

My wife and I both work in Leeds. My wife is a solicitor in a large city practice. I am a barrister, having been called to the Bar in 2005 and at present I work for a small niche market firm of solicitors as 'In house' counsel; specialising in Insolvency, General Commercial and Civil Litigation.

When I am not keeping my finger on the up-to-date legal pulse, I enjoy spending time with my wife. We are both fond of long exhilarating walks in the country, skiing, eating out and general socialising.' *(As, I think, our youngest member, Christian was too modest to send a photo. Ed.)*

We hope that both Richard and Christian will enjoy many years of Freemasonry with us.

**Richard Perrin** writes, 'Thanks for the warm welcome received when in May I attended my first meeting as a joining member of Mitre Lodge. I was initiated into Freemasonry when I joined Meridian Lodge No. 8307 in the Province of Sussex in January 1994 and had the privilege of being WM during 2000-2001. I met our IPM, John Skeldon, whilst



visiting York Lodge. He invited me to visit Mitre and the rest is history.

Having lived and worked in South East England, a family relocation beckoned and here we are living in Haxby, predominantly to be nearer my mother-in-law and to enjoy the quality of life that the area offers, but I do miss the sea air from where we used to live.

I am married to Alison and we celebrated our tenth wedding anniversary in June.

We have two daughters, Hannah who is eight and Sophie who is three. We are all very keen campers and enjoy being outdoors, that is with the exception of the females in the family. My hobbies include tennis, being an Assistant Scout Master and Masonry (obviously!)

I work for Northern Rail as a Duty Control Officer based at York. My career has been spent with railway operations.

I am proud to have joined this Lodge and thankful for the warm welcome that I have received from the members. I look forward to being a participating member and to enjoying your company both inside and outside the Lodge.'

## Invitation to visit the Three Pillars Lodge, Rotterdam.

The invitation has now been received. The plan is to sail from Hull on Friday October 27th, to go via Delft to Rotterdam on the 28th with a choice of activities before a banquet and dance in the evening with a Lodge meeting on Sunday at 11.45, during which the ladies will have their own programme. Refreshments will be provided before we make our return journey. Full details have been sent to Brethren who had indicated an interest.

### Musical Lunch, Sunday 5th March

There's little to be said about this as it entirely lived up to expectation! Sixty-two Brethren and guests attended, Nicholas Page introduced his choice of organ music in his own inimitable manner before playing for us, the audience thoroughly enjoyed what it heard and then retired to the dining room for a first class meal in excellent company.

The programme was:

Prelude in Classic Style

Overture 'The Sorcerer'

Prelude and Fugue in F BVW 901

Au Fond du Temple Saint (from The Pearl Fishers)

Rondo from Horn Concerto No. 4

Variations on a theme by Handel

Forgotten Dreams *and* Waltzing Cat

Spring Song

March from 'Raiders of the Lost Ark'

Gordon Young

Sir Arthur Sullivan

JS Bach

Georges Bizet

WA Mozart

J Lindemann

Leroy Anderson

Alfred Hollins

John Williams

## Lodge of Instruction

We celebrated the 400th meeting in a very pleasant manner on Wednesday, 15 March at the Windmill Hotel, Dunnington, when nineteen Brethren gathered in a private room. After Opening, Bill Reader, Preceptor, spoke briefly about the influence of our LoI and paid tribute to one or two of its more memorable members. What Bill couldn't say, but the Editor can, is that Bill himself has been tireless in his support of the LoI for many years, having previously been Preceptor and LoI Secretary. His worth was, and is, acknowledged and appreciated. Bill's remarks were followed by extracts from the minutes of the 1st, 100th, 200th and 300th meetings, read by Tony Hodgson, the LoI Secretary. It was surprising to hear that it was six years after Consecration before the first LoI was held and some of the terminology in the first minute sounded somewhat dated even by the standards of the late 50s. In a short 'open for comment' phase, Brethren reflected on the much more relaxed atmosphere of the LoI between 'then' and 'now' and of the far easier relationship between 'senior' and 'junior' members than that which sometimes existed. LoI was then closed and members enjoyed an excellent meal.

### February Theatre Visit

Before walking to the Theatre Royal for the York Light Opera Company's production of 'The Witches of Eastwick', a party of twenty-seven, including three Lodge Widows, and guests from other Lodges, enjoyed a splendid meal at St Saviourgate. For some strange reason, the seating arrangement in the theatre was rather scattered, with our Secretary, Tony, at one side of the auditorium and the 'real Secretary', his wife Barbara at the other, while Ian and Christine Wright of Falcon Lodge were on their own. (They did accept the assurance that this was the fault of the ticket office and not discrimination!) The theatre was full, the casting excellent, the show colourful and witty and the performance fantastic - with scenery to match. All in all, a very enjoyable and entertaining night that went far too quickly. Thanks to Tony and Barbara for organising such a great night out.

*Colin Owen-Stanford*

### Ladies' Night, or Festival, as it's been re-titled.

This was held at the Ramada Jarvis on 1st April, but we didn't make fools of ourselves. Sixty-six members and guests had a thoroughly enjoyable evening, though the music was a bit loud at times and not always conducive to dancing for those of us of 'a certain age'. Dennis, who was well attended by members of his family, proposed the toast of the evening in a most sincere,

humorous and delightful manner and his Lady, Norma, proved that she was, at the least, his equal when she responded. (Not that we were ever in any doubt!) The usual presentations were made and our ladies serenaded in true Mitre fashion. Those who were unable to be present missed a good night out.

### Garden Party, June 10th

Once again, we're very much indebted to Colin and Anita Owen-Stanford for hosting the event at their home. As last year, we were blessed with super weather and there was another good attendance of members, families and friends. Alf Robinson again proved to be a master of selling raffle tickets - he can be very persuasive - and there were quizzes to entertain us during any gaps in conversation. Hot and cold food had been prepared and was presented by Anita and daughter Victoria in the manner to which we have become accustomed (five star) and Vikki's husband Chris (one of 'us' since June 7th) was on hand when needed, for glasses of cooling substances. The sum of £513.00 was raised for charitable purposes.

Everyone obviously enjoyed the evening immensely and hope that there will be another one next year. Very happily, the organisers and their family, to whom our most sincere thanks, are of the same mind!

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