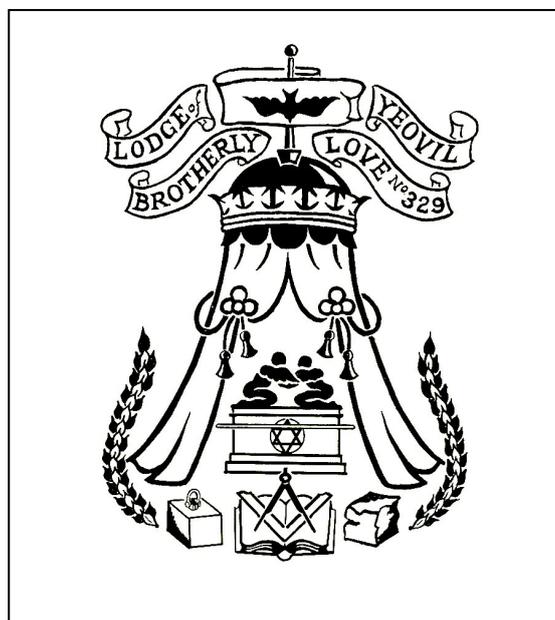


THE HISTORY OF THE
LODGE OF BROTHERLY LOVE
No 329
1810-2010



With thanks

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kindly supported by a bequest of the late
W Bro Richard Stallard PPJGW.*

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FOREWARD

PHOTO

RW Bro David L Jenkins Provincial Grand Master for Somerset

Many congratulations to the Lodge of Brotherly Love on reaching its Bi-Centenary in 2010.

This is some achievement considering the difficulties experienced in the early years when there were often only a handful of brethren attending its meetings. Since then the Lodge has prospered and its members have been instrumental in encouraging three other Craft Lodges to be formed in the area.

When the first Provincial Grand Master, John Smith MP for Bath, was appointed in 1768 there were only four lodges in Somerset; two in Bath, one in Bridgwater and one in Taunton. No doubt the relatively few brethren of those early lodges would be very surprised to find that Freemasonry in the Province had now grown to over four thousand members in eighty-eight lodges. Indeed from its humble origins in the eighteenth century the principles of English Freemasonry have spread across the world through other recognised Grand Lodges enabling it to become a truly global fraternity.

I extend my best wishes to the Lodge during its Bi-Centenary year and for its continued good fortune and prosperity over the ensuing years.

INTRODUCTION

There have been three previously published accounts of the history of the Lodge. This book brings them up-to-date and includes many new features. As well highlighting the main events and activities that have taken place over the past two hundred years I have tried to give an insight into the some of the personalities of the Lodge since its formation in 1810. It is, after all, the members who have given vibrancy to the Lodge and enabled it to survive some difficult times. In order to do this I have been fortunate to be able to use Internet and Family History sources that have not been readily available in the past or indeed not accessible at all.

A review of Lodge membership over the past two hundred years is a useful starting point to provide the context for its initial survival and later growth.

During the period 1810 to 1860 the number of active members in the Lodge was low, often with fewer than twelve masons attending a meeting and indeed on two occasions there were not enough members present to open the Lodge. However from the 1860s there was an increase in the number of masons across the country and this was mirrored in Brotherly Love. The opening of the Masonic Hall in 1894 gave considerable impetus in encouraging new members for our Lodge. During the first half of the twentieth century there were approximately one hundred members, reaching a peak of one hundred and twenty in the 1950s and 1960s.

However, associated with unfavourable publicity about Freemasonry and the reticence of Grand Lodge to promote the Order, the number of members began to decline in the 1970s. Towards the end of the century there was a change of policy that encouraged openness and transparency that has helped stabilised the membership situation both nationally and locally. The Lodge now has seventy subscribing members.

I must record my thanks to the authors of the Centenary History who were able to provide details on the early years of the Lodge and to Tony Old for his copious notes and photographs on more recent times. I thank John Morley for taking the photographs of the Officers, furniture and artefacts and Jack Sweet for the use of several old photographs of Yeovil. Thanks also to John Hawkins and Donald Gray for their photographs and to Colin Vine for proof-reading the manuscript.

As the Lodge reaches its Bi-Centenary it is worth reflecting on some words that were written in the Centenary History of the Lodge, which are still relevant today.

'May the noble example of our founders stimulate us to carry forward the work they began so well, and profit by the lesson they have set us, in overcoming the difficulties which beset them in the task they undertook, and that we may imitate their fidelity by upholding the Masonic Banner which they raised.'

W Bro David Perkins PJGW

April 2010

Lodge Secretary

Chapter 1

CHRONOLOGY

LODGE OF BROTHERLY LOVE No 329

DATE	EVENTS
10 February 1809	A petition to establish the Lodge of Brotherly Love was accepted by the premier Grand Lodge.
8 March 1810	The Warrant of Constitution was granted to the Lodge of Brotherly Love by the premier Grand Lodge. Charles Marsh was appointed Master. It was given the number of 617.
19 April 1810	The first meeting was held at the George Inn, Martock on a Thursday.
12 August 1811	Consecration of the Lodge at the George Inn, Martock.
November 1814	The Lodge was re-numbered 624.
7 July 1819	The petition to move the Lodge to Yeovil was accepted.
2 September 1819	The first meeting in Yeovil was held at Thomas Cave's house in Princes Street.
17 December 1819	The Lodge moved to the Mermaid Inn.
27 April 1820	The Lodge moved to a private room in Vicarage Street.
January 1821	The Lodge decided to meet on Tuesdays.
26 February 1827	The Lodge moved to the Three Choughs Inn.
December 1832	The Lodge was re-numbered 412.
4 June 1844	The Lodge met at the top of Windmill Hill.
January 1850	The Lodge decided to meet Wednesdays.
10 July 1860	Consecration of Parrett and Axe Lodge in Crewkerne.
July 1863	The Lodge was re-numbered 329.
16 May 1894	The foundation stone of the new Masonic Hall was laid.
22 November 1894	Dedication of the new Masonic Hall
7 March 1910	The Centenary Warrant was granted.
20 April 1910	The Centenary meeting was held at the Town Hall following a service in St John's Church.
2 October 1928	Consecration of Progressive Science Lodge No 5007.
8 November 1958	Consecration of Corinthian Pillar Lodge No 7552.
19 April 1960	The 150 th Anniversary meeting was held at the Masonic Hall after a service at St Andrew's Church.
22 November 1994	The Centenary of the Masonic Hall.
8 March 2010	The Bi-Centenary Warrant was granted.
2 June 2010	The Bi-Centenary meeting was held at Sherborne School.

Chapter 2

THE EARLY NINETEENTH CENTURY

The first meeting of the Lodge took place at Martock on Thursday 19 April 1810. England then was still essentially a rural country, dominated by agriculture. Life was slow and most people's horizons were limited. The seasons and daylight hours dominated most activities.

England had then been at war with France since 1793, except for the brief interlude of the Peace of Amiens between 1802-03. Nelson had led a famous victory at sea at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805 and the British navy reigned supreme on the high seas. Napoleon Bonaparte was still a major force on continental Europe and it was another five years until his final defeat at Waterloo. However after Trafalgar the threat of an invasion, which was at its height in 1803, had lessened and the Yeovil Sub-Division Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, which had been raised in 1803 with eight companies of sixty privates each, was disbanded in 1808.

In 1810 the Monarch was King George III. He had been on the Throne since 1760. During his reign he suffered from bouts of mental incapacity, recently diagnosed as porphyria, a rare metabolic disorder of the nervous system causing a person to be 'ill, paralysed, delirious and in agonising pain'. The last illness began in October 1810 and led to his eldest son, George Augustus Frederick, the Prince of Wales, becoming Regent in February 1811.

The Prince of Wales had a reputation as a womaniser, for lavish spending and excessive drinking. He was though also known as an enthusiastic patron of the Arts. Since 1790 he had been the Grand Master of the 'premier Grand Lodge' or 'Moderns'. He relinquished the position of Grand Master in 1813 and became the Patron of the United Grand Lodge.

The early nineteenth century was the heyday of the horse and carriage. Carts, drays, vans and wagons were generally used for carrying goods while various types of carriage carried people. Stagecoaches increasingly linked the main towns and the quicker mail coach, with its distinctive black body and scarlet wheels, carried mail and passengers overnight. Roads had gradually been improving with the establishment of turnpike roads where tolls were levied on vehicles and livestock

Society was sharply divided into the wealthy landowners, business and professional men and the working classes or labouring poor, although there was a rising middle class of factory owners linked with the growth of powered machines in factories. The wealthy generally lived in large houses and employed several servants. The craftsmen and labourers lived in houses with two or three rooms with the poorest in a one-room cottage. Over a million people across the country, who were known as paupers, were receiving poor relief from a parish. Most Members of Parliament were wealthy landowners and with only 3% of men having a vote at election time, corruption and bribery were common. Representation was a reflection of the past so Ilchester with 750 people still returned two Members of Parliament, but Yeovil with almost 3,000 people none. No wonder Ilchester was referred to as a 'Rotten Borough'. This situation was common across the country and caused increasing resentment among the people, a situation that lasted until the Reform Act of 1832.

The law and order system had some two hundred offences punishable by death. Convicts were being sent to Australia, usually on a one-way ticket. At Ilchester gaol in 1817 there were fifteen prisoners awaiting transportation for offences of grand larceny and receiving stolen goods. In 1819 William Sage and John Watkins were hanged at Ilchester gaol

for stealing seven and six sheep respectively. However juries were becoming disinclined to find offenders guilty of offences such as robbery where the sum involved was not much above £2, as the offender was liable to be hanged or transported. But even as late as 1838 the Lord Chief Justice sentenced a thirteen year-old boy to life imprisonment for stealing a peck and a half of potatoes. While the transporting slaves had been made illegal in 1807 it was another twenty-six years before all slaves were given their freedom.

Landholding was changing from open-field farming, where villagers farmed thin strips of land in different fields, to enclosed fields where the strips were consolidated into single units. Large landowners often bought these small units of land in order to create larger fields. However the resulting rise in numbers of poorly paid farm labourers led to much distress in the countryside. New farming methods were introduced that led to improved farm yields. Diets became more varied so people were beginning to live longer, yet the expectation of life in 1800 was still only thirty-seven years.

A migration of people to the coalfields and towns was underway as the new factories of the Industrial Revolution needed labour. However such developments were not without its problems for in the Midlands, groups of men known as Luddites, began breaking up machinery in the factories as home-workers feared unemployment.

In 1815 Parliament passed the Corn Laws, which prevented foreign wheat being imported unless British wheat reached 80 shillings a quarter and as a result bread prices were high. This problem was exacerbated by poor harvests between 1816 and 1819. The ending of the Napoleonic War and the cancellation of Government contracts hit manufacturing industry whilst the demobilisation of 300,000 soldiers and sailors, allied to an influx of Irish labourers, added to the problems of unemployment. Around one-third of the working population were unemployed and relied on 'parish relief'.

Martock and Yeovil

At the beginning of the nineteenth century Martock and the Borough of Yeovil had populations of between 2,000 and 3,000 people. However the area outside the Borough of Yeovil itself and the surrounding villages meant Yeovil's sphere of influence was larger and its population grew over the years whilst that of Martock hardly changed.

Martock was at the junction of three turnpike roads where the Market House and Market Cross were situated. The Church of All Saints, primarily a 15th century structure and the second largest in Somerset, was a dominating feature of the village. By 1830 Martock had two attorneys, five surgeons and a small fee-paying day school for boys. Markets were held on Wednesday and Saturday and a cattle fair in August. Employment was primarily associated with agriculture but there was a mill for grain, another for snuff, several stocking makers, clothiers and glovers. There was no major road going through the small market town but there was a regular coach link from Martock to Yeovil.

Yeovil was an active market centre with a regular Friday market, two annual fairs, three banks, five solicitors, the Charity or Free school and the Western Flying Post newspaper had served the town since 1737. The parish church of St John the Baptist dominated the town centre and was situated just off the market place called the Borough. Yeovil was a main centre for dressing and gloving particularly as the import of French gloves was banned throughout the French wars and until 1826. Gloving was based in small workshops and in people's homes with the whole family, including very young children, participating in the outwork. It was mainly located in the lower Middle Street area, where there were narrow streets, irregularly built cottages without running water, poor drainage, outside communal toilets. Because of the tanning there was an odour in the air that was difficult to escape. However the buildings on the higher ground of Princes Street and Hendford were far more imposing and were used for business and for the homes of prominent businessmen. Also in the environs of

Yeovil was a flourishing cheese industry and the manufacture of rope, coarse linen, sailcloth and webbing. Yeovil was also on the main coaching routes from London to Exeter and Bristol to Weymouth.

Freemasonry

Whilst there is debate about the precise origins of Freemasonry most agree that the emergent craft guilds in the fourteenth century began to take responsibility for their own trade regulation from which a social movement developed. In the late sixteenth century a more formal system of lodges began to emerge in Scotland whilst the organisation remained more informal in England until the mid-seventeenth century. Another development saw the emergence of speculative Masonry where individuals from outside the profession of stonemasonry began to be admitted to lodges.

On St John the Baptist's Day in 1717 four Masonic Lodges met at the Goose and Gridiron Ale-house in London and formally constituted a Grand Lodge. It was the first formal organisation of Freemasons, although it only represented lodges in London. The Grand Lodge developed a structure requiring other lodges to hold warrants from it and obey its rules as well as stressing an extended cultural and social agenda. The first 'Constitutions of Freemasonry' was prepared by Dr James Anderson and published in 1723. It formalised many of the existing regulations including the requirement for a belief in a Supreme Being and the exclusion of discussing topics of a religious and political nature. By 1730 the number of Private Lodges had grown from four to seventy and had expanded into the provinces of England and even to ones in Spain and India. It attracted a wide spectrum of society into its lodges and in 1837 Frederick Lewis, the Prince of Wales, became its first English Royal Freemason. There were though tensions with York Masons, which claimed to be the true seat of Freemasonry, and with lodges in Scotland and Ireland where Grand Lodges were formed in 1730 and 1736 respectively.

Meanwhile in the 1740's there were a growing number of Irishmen who had difficulty in gaining entrance into lodges in London and were also disillusioned with changes being made in the Ancient Charges, regulations and landmarks of the Order by the premier Grand Lodge in London. As a result a group of them founded a rival Grand Lodge in 1751, which became known as the 'Antient Grand Lodge'. It tended to appeal to the lower class members in the English provinces and to Irish masons. At the beginning of the nineteenth century discussions began about a Union between the two Grand Lodges, the premier Grand Lodge and the Antients. These discussions came to fruition in 1813 with the formation the United Grand Lodge of England with HRH Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, becoming Grand Master. This was two and a half years after the formation of Brotherly Love, which had been warranted by the premier Grand Lodge of England.

One factor that had exercised the minds of the Grand Lodges was the publication of articles suggesting Freemasons were involved in promoting the French Revolution and in organising the Irish rebellion of 1797. The Tory government under William Pitt was already concerned about the English working classes following the example of the French revolutionaries and as a result Parliament passed the 'Unlawful Societies Act' in 1799, which banned all meetings behind closed doors. With pressure from prominent Freemasons, including the Duke of Athol and the Earl of Moira, the Grand Masters of the two Grand Lodges, an exemption was agreed for their respective Masonic Lodges. Each lodge had though to prepare annual returns listing its members and the dates of lodge meetings, which could then be inspected by the authorities as and when required. Over the following years another response to the Act was that it became common for new lodges to take on the warrants of lapsed lodges, as was the case with Brotherly Love, although it was often given a different 'number' from that of the lapsed lodge. In some cases, particularly associated with

the 'Antients', a new lodge also took on the existing number and warrant of a defunct lodge which was their particular response following a meeting with William Pitt, the Prime Minister. Freemasons lodges were therefore able to continue to meet from 1799 and although many lodges did surrender their warrants there was a gradual growth of Freemasonry over the years.

From the early days of Freemasonry the ceremonies were not written but passed on by oral tradition. Everything was learned by rote and nothing committed to paper. It appears that masons from the Provinces often travelled to London to attend demonstrations of the working of ceremonies in the form approved by Grand Lodge. The Emulation Lodge of Improvement for Master Masons first met on 2 October 1823. The founders had come mainly from the Burlington and Perseverance Lodges of Instruction, the first was formed in 1810 and the latter in 1817. Both taught the new ritual approved by Grand Lodge in June 1816 with their focus on the First Degree and the instruction of candidates. By the 1830's the ceremonies themselves were also being rehearsed.

Chapter 3

EARLY DAYS IN MARTOCK

Following a petition to the premier Grand Lodge in 1809, a Warrant under the name of the Earl of Moira, the Acting Grand Master, and under the authority of HRH George Augustus Frederick, Prince of Wales, the Grand Master, was given to

'Charles Marsh, John Pottenger Westcote, Henry Carey, John Nicholetts, Robert Carey, James Pieronnet and Thomas Hamlyn residing in or near the town of Martock in the County of Somerset and were 'accordingly hereby authorised to open and hold the said Lodge at the George Inn in the town of Martock under the denomination of the Lodge of Brotherly Love and to be numbered 617 on the Register of the List of Lodges.'

signed by L Parker, Deputy Grand Master

witnessed by W White, Grand Secretary

given at London, under the hand of Masonry on 8 March 1810.

It was assigned from the Lodge of St John, No 534, which had met at the sign of the Grapes in Lancaster, but as it had not been in contact with or paid dues to Grand Lodge for some years its warrant had been forfeited, although it was never actually delivered to Grand Lodge. The petitioners, it is assumed, proposed the name 'Brotherly Love' as it is one of the three grand principles of Freemasonry, which emphasises that every true Freemason would show tolerance and respect for the opinions of others and behave with kindness and understanding to his fellow creatures.

The nearest lodges to Martock at that time were the Scientific Lodge at Crewkerne, Unanimity and Sincerity at Taunton, Perpetual Friendship at Bridgwater and the original Benevolence Lodge at Sherborne. As five of the petitioners lived in or near Martock, attendance at other lodges would have involved a considerable amount of travelling time, so it made sense to establish a lodge at Martock. It is worth noting that one petitioner lived south of Crewkerne and Charles Marsh, the Right Worshipful Master appointed by Grand Lodge, actually lived at Wiveliscombe on the other side of Taunton! There was one other 'local' lodge, the 'De La Paix Desiree Lodge' that met at Wincanton between 1806 and 1810. It was composed of French prisoners of war that met under the auspices of the 'Grand Orient de France'. There is evidence that some local masons were accepted as members of that Lodge, who were no doubt from the Lodge of Urbanity that had met in Wincanton from 1793 until it was erased in 1809.

The Founders

The petitioners for the Lodge were

- Charles Marsh, a saddler, aged 65, from Wiveliscombe
- John Pottenger Westcote, a surgeon/doctor living in Martock
- Henry Carey, a tobacconist and snuff manufacturer living in Martock
- John Nicholetts, an attorney/solicitor from South Petherton
- Thomas Hamlyn, a surgeon/doctor from Martock
- James Pieronnet, a dancemaster living in Wayford
- Robert Carey

Charles Marsh

Charles Marsh was appointed by the premier Grand Lodge to be the first 'Right' Worshipful Master of the Lodge of Brotherly Love. He had been made a mason on 9 August 1788 in Corinthian Lodge No 276, which had met in London, but then moved to Honiton in Devon in 1807. It was later erased in June 1829. Meanwhile the Lodge of Unity, now the Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity No 261 meeting in Taunton, was constituted on 7 May 1788 at Ilminster. This lodge moved to Taunton in 1797 the year Charles Marsh joined it. He became its Worshipful Master in 1798 and again in 1799 because it is said he was 'brought in' as he had knowledge of the Masonic ceremonies. He also became a founder of Loyal Vacation Lodge No 55 in Wiveliscombe in 1802 but resigned in 1813. He joined the Lodge of Liberty and Sincerity in Bridgwater on 21 February 1804 and two days later the Royal George Lodge in Newton Abbott. He was also a founder of the Lodge of Virtue and Honour No 625 at Totnes. Given that horse and trap was his principal means of transport and that he was a saddler, it is possible he mixed work with pleasure to attend lodges at these diverse locations.

The reason why he was asked to join the local petitioners at Martock was because he was widely known as an experienced mason and he would have known the ceremonies from his time in London. The ceremonies were shorter than today and the officers would have been expected to learn them through lectures in their own lodge or by attending a demonstration elsewhere. This was because then it was 'a heinous sin' to have written down and circulated a ritual. He remained as Master until the consecration ceremony when he 'resigned the Chair'. But he continued to attend the Lodge until the end of 1814. He died in Wiveliscombe in 1819 where he was clearly well-liked and well-known, for the brethren of the Wiveliscombe Lodge planned that 'a fund be raised to erect a memorial to his memory, but the project was ultimately abandoned.' It is interesting to note that Brotherly Love paid his expenses when he attended our meetings.

The other Petitioners

John Pottenger Westcote, John Nicholetts, Henry Carey, Thomas Hamlyn and James Pieronnet had become members of the Scientific Lodge No 203, which met at the George Inn in Crewkerne from 1807. It had been constituted in Shadwell, London in 1766 at the King's Arms Punch House. There is no evidence that the Scientific Lodge itself supported the petition of Brotherly Love to the premier Grand Lodge in 1810. The Scientific Lodge was clearly flourishing in 1810 with thirty members on its roll, with another eight initiated in 1811. All but three brethren were between twenty-one and forty years old. It is perhaps surprising therefore that it was erased in 1827.

John Pottenger Westcote became the Senior Warden at the first meeting in April 1810. At the Consecration meeting on 12 August 1811 he was 'unanimously elected the Master for the ensuing year'. He attended regularly in the early years but his last recorded attendance was in 1819. As well as being a doctor he captained the 2nd Company of Infantry Volunteers that was raised a few years earlier to combat the anticipated invasion by Napoleon.

Thomas Hamlyn, a Past Master, another surgeon/doctor, was elected Treasurer at the first meeting, a position he retained until the end of 1819.

Henry Carey held the positions of Junior and Senior Wardens but never became Master. He did not attend the Lodge after its move to Yeovil in 1819.

John Nicholetts attended the first meeting in April 1810, in September 1810 and the Consecration meeting in 1811. He was for a short time the Lord of the Manor of South Petherton and in his role as an attorney acted as the Steward for Edward Phelps of Montacute, who held the Lordship of Yeovil. He was therefore heavily involved in the discussions in the sale of that Lordship to the Special Commissioners of the Town of Yeovil in 1846.

James Pieronnet never attended a meeting of Brotherly Love. He was though one of the six masons who founded the Scientific Lodge when it first met in Crewkerne. He had an interesting occupation as a Dancemaster. A Dancemaster was a dance teacher or choreographer who gave instruction based on John Playford's manual that contained the music and instruction for country-dances to 'educated society'. These dances were light relief from the 'real dances' of the time, which were complicated and difficult to learn. The best Dancemasters were French so as James was born in France or of French extraction he had the right credentials to earn a living from dance instruction. He married Susannah Bishop in 1797 and they had six children, five of whom were born at Wayford near Crewkerne. Around 1820 when forty-three years old, he left the country from the port of Liverpool and settled in Friendsville, Pennsylvania in America, a small village founded in 1819 for members of the Society of Friends. Their friends from Axminster, Henry Miller Pierce and his wife, joined them shortly afterwards and one of their sons, James Pieronnet Pierce married Susan Pieronnet soon after arriving in America.

Robert Carey is something of a mysterious character as nothing is known about him. He was possibly a relation of Henry Carey, but he was not a member of the Scientific Lodge and despite being a petitioner he never attended a meeting of Brotherly Love.

Early Meetings

This first meeting of the Lodge of Brotherly Love was held on Thursday 19 April 1810 at the George Inn at Martock when seven masons were present. Five of the seven were petitioners, but these did not include James Pieronnet or Robert Carey, but did include two other masons, Thomas Westlake and John Timson - who later joined the Lodge on 4 April 1811. At that meeting four men from Martock were 'proposed in due form' and made masons. They were

- John Spratt, a cordwainer
- Nathaniel Pyne Thomas, a linen draper
- Daniel Read, the innkeeper of the George Inn
- John Marquand, a brandy merchant. He was also listed in 1812 as a member of a prisoner of war Lodge of Instruction in France, although the Lodge itself was not warranted.

At the second meeting in May another member of the Scientific Lodge, Bro Thomas Gaylard, became a member. Meanwhile John Spratt made rapid progression to become a Fellowcraft mason and soon became Tyler, a position he then held until 1838. At the third meeting in June 1810 Bro Robert Chaffey became a joining member from the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship No 181 at Bridgwater. He played an important role in keeping the Lodge going in the early years and who along with John Pottenger Westcote, Henry Carey, Thomas Hamlyn, and joining member William Bridle paid their subscriptions in advance.

The original by-laws of the Lodge were 'read, approved of, confirmed to be printed for the use of the members, entered in the minute book and signed by every member' at the meeting on 13 September 1810. The introduction to them states 'nothing will more conduce to this or give a higher relish for our mystic art than a due observance of conduct in the Lodge, courteous and kind behaviour to each other, and a full determination to avoid all animosity; this will lead to "Brotherly Love" and greatly contribute to the prosperity of the institution.' It continued by reflecting on the principles that masons should adhere to in respect of their actions to the society and community in which they live.

The twenty-nine by-laws were clearly aimed to cover all aspects of managing the new Lodge. The subscription was 7 shillings per quarter paid in advance, irrespective of where a member lived - the concept of Country membership was not introduced until 1860. A member could be excluded or expelled for non-payment of subscription after nine months, as is the case today, which is in contrast to the three years that was operative at the time of the

Centenary in 1910. However the penalty was rarely applied in the first fifty years of the Lodge.

Another by-law stated that refusing to accept an office would incur a penalty of 5 shillings, which clearly reflected the small number of members in the Lodge and the need to fill offices. A fine of 2s 6p was levied for non-attendance of an officer at the making of a mason 'unless a great emergency prevented attendance.' There is however no record that the penalty was enforced.

A visitor was charged 5 guineas unless he was the guest of a lodge member when the cost was only 5 shillings. This was a means to prevent masons from 'Antient' Lodges attending.

'No member shall leave the Lodge without the consent of the WM' reflected that the Lodge Room was used for refreshment as well as for the meeting itself. It was common for the bill for supper and refreshment to be divided amongst those present, so the Master was keen everyone paid their share!

There were then separate fees to be paid for each Degree and additionally there was a 5 shillings fee for the Lodge Certificate, which was prepared on parchment by the Secretary, signed by the Master and Wardens and sealed with the seal of the Lodge. He was therefore considered a visitor until he had completed the final Degree.

At the time it was not acceptable for details of the Lodge meetings to be made public, so it was not surprising that a by-law stated that 'any brother who shall disclose or cause to be known what passes in the Lodge, a ballot will take place at the next Lodge for his expulsion.' Three black balls would confirm the expulsion. Should a visitor disclose any of the proceedings he 'shall never more visit the Lodge and be reported to Grand Lodge.' There were strict rules regarding behaviour as 'no Brother shall behave himself indecently in the Lodge, he is not to curse, swear or lay or offer to lay wagers or introduce any political or religious disputes, nor interrupt the Master or Wardens whilst they are engaged in the business of the Lodge.'

At present should the Master be absent from the Lodge then a Past Master takes the Chair but in 1810 with the smaller number of masons attending a lodge meeting it was noted in the by-laws that a Warden or Past Master would be invited to take the Chair but should none of them be present then a Master would be chosen by those present and he would appoint two brothers to act as Wardens.

The Centenary History commented 'The 1810 By-Laws were the foundation on which the Lodge was built up, they contain the true principles of Freemasonry and if a Mason of today keep within their Masonic circle, he cannot err.'

Consecration

At the Lodge meeting on 6 June 1811 it was proposed that the Lodge

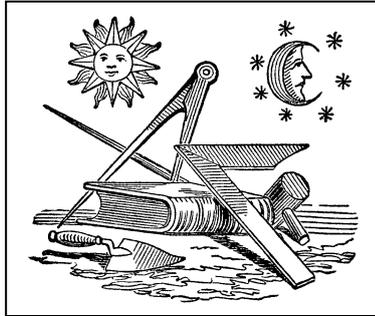
'be constituted in due form on 12th day of August next, being His Royal Highness, the Prince Regent's birthday, our Grand Master.'

Establishing a lodge is now organised somewhat differently as its Consecration soon follows the granting of the Warrant whereas for Brotherly Love it was some eighteen months after its warrant was granted and after seventeen meetings of the Lodge. A month before the proposed date the Lodge applied for a Dispensation from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, George Percival, but received no reply. On 2 August 1811 the Secretary, Bro Nathaniel P Thomas, then sent a letter to the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, Colonel John Smith Leigh.

It being the intention of the Brethren of the Lodge of Brotherly Love No 617, held at the George Inn, Martock to Consecrate their Lodge on Monday 12th inst. and attend Divine Service in Masonic Order on the occasion, the Right Worshipful Master of the said Lodge has applied to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Mr Percival, for a Dispensation for that purpose and not receiving any answer we respectfully request your sanction for the same to be directed to the Master of the Lodge at the said Inn as soon as convenient before the day.'

There is no record of a reply to this request from the Provincial Grand Master but the Consecration went ahead anyway without representatives from the premier Grand Lodge or Provincial Grand Lodge.

The date of 12 August 1811 having been set, letters were sent to all lodges in the Province inviting them to attend. An advertisement, which cost £1, was placed in the 'Western Flying Post and Sherborne Mercury'.



Freemasonry, under the Constitution of England
LODGE OF BROTHERLY LOVE No. 617

THIS Lodge will be CONSECRATED on Monday 11th August next.

The Members constituting the Lodge will feel themselves honoured by the attendance of such other Lodges, or Separate Brethren, as can conveniently attend the ceremony, which will take place at MARTOCK on the above day.

The Lodge will be opened in the first degree at the George Inn, at nine o'clock in the morning, from whence the Brethren will proceed in Masonic Order to the church, to hear a sermon from Brother Middleton.

N.B. Dinner at three o'clock

Fifty-three Brethren attended the Consecration of which thirty-eight were visiting Brethren. The Lodge was opened in the Third Degree and the RW Master, Bro Charles Marsh, 'resigned the Chair'. Bro John Pottenger Westcote was elected Master for the ensuing year and appointed his Officers and Bro Hamlyn was unanimously elected Treasurer. Then 'the Lodge was on this day consecrated in due form.'

Then followed a wonderful procession with the masons wearing their badges, sashes and white gloves. They lined up outside the George Inn on the wide, open road with thatched houses on one side and tiled houses on the other side. The order of procession was

Two Tylers with drawn swords

Music (probably from the Parish band)

Two stewards, Bros Daniel Read and Thomas Gaylard, with white rods

Bros Thomas Elliott and Thomas Trask, the youngest masons, with the rough and perfect ashlar

Bros Thomas Hamlyn (Treasurer) and Nathaniel Thomas (Secretary)

*Bros Robert Chaffey (Senior Warden) and Henry Carey (Junior Warden) carrying white rods with
gold tips*

One Brother carrying a silver pitcher containing corn

Two Brothers carrying silver pitchers containing oil and corn

Bros William Willie and John Timson carried the terrestrial and celestial globes

A visiting Brother, an architect, carried the 'Trasel Board'

A Brother carrying The Bible, Square and Compasses on a crimson velvet cushion

The Minister, the Rev Bro John White Middleton

Two Brothers carrying the large lights (candlesticks) of the Doric and Ionic Orders

One Brother carrying the light (candlestick) of the Corinthian Order

A Past Master with a blue rod and gold top

*Bro John Nicholetts carried the Book of Constitutions with the Warrant laid upon it with two Brothers
each side carrying Masonic Banners*

*The Master, Bro John Pottenger Westcote with a blue rod with a gold top attended each side by two
Stewards carrying white rods*

Two Tylers with drawn swords

Parading in the middle of the road to avoid the large stones at the side, used for mounting horses, they set off with the band playing. The side of the road would have been crowded with onlookers to see this imposing procession that went past the Martock Cross or Pinnacle, around the Market House, back past the George Inn and on to the Parish Church of All Saints. They then entered the churchyard through the lychgate and stopped at the porch where each mason turned inwards to face each other. The Brother carrying the Bible was first to enter the Church, then the Minister, the Masters of Lodges, two brethren carrying the Book of Constitution and Warrant and finally the Master of Brotherly Love, who was flanked on each side by two brethren carrying Banners. They then all proceeded up the isle. The Rev Bro John White Middleton conducted the service and gave 'an excellent sermon' from of the 1st Book of Chronicles, chapter twenty-nine verses 3, 4, 5.

The Brethren, returned in procession to the George Inn where they dined together

*'in honour of His Royal Highness, The Prince Regent, our Grand Master's Birthday,
and the afternoon was spent in order, regularity and Brotherly Love.'*

The Lodge was then 'closed with harmony'.

The Lodge at Martock

The Lodge met at Martock from 19 April 1810 until September 1819 when it transferred to Yeovil. During its time at Martock twenty-nine men were made masons and twelve became joining members. In January 1814 meetings moved from the George Inn to the White Hart

Inn, soon after John Parker, the innkeeper of the White Hart, joined the Lodge. A few years later a petition was received from the former innkeeper of the George, Bro Daniel Read, stating he was in distress and it was unanimously agreed that £1 be sent for his relief.

Meetings were somewhat different in those early years. For example on 17 April 1814 at a Lodge of Emergency on a Sunday evening the Master's Chair was filled by a visiting Brother, RWM David Gouk of Golden Marine Lodge that met at Stonehouse, near Plymouth. Not only did he run the meeting but also he proposed a Candidate, Mr William Raymond an Innkeeper from Ilchester. At other times RW Bro Elisha Parsons, another visiting Brother, assumed the Chair on three occasions and Edward Percy of Lodge 710, in Sherborne, did so at the first meeting in Yeovil in September 1819. On another occasion, the Provincial Grand Master, Bro Arthur Chichester, required the Lodge to meet at the George Inn at Crewkerne on 28 August 1817 when Mr Robert Lyddon of South Petherton was made a mason, with the Provincial Grand Master in the Chair.

Meanwhile in 1814, following the union of the two Grand Lodges, lodges were re-numbered and Brotherly Love was changed from No 617 to No 624. Another re-numbering occurred in 1832 because between 1813 and 1832 some 227 new lodges had been warranted but many others had been removed from the roll. Brotherly Love then became Lodge No 412. Another change occurred in 1863 in order to rationalise the current status of lodges at that time because while there were 1,235 lodges on the Register there were only 940 actually active. So Brotherly Love No 412 became Brotherly Love No 329 in 1863.

During its time at Martock between eight and ten masons attended the meetings. Common in those early years was the practice of one or two men being made masons and additionally one or two others progressing to their next Degree at the same meeting.

In 1811 a petition to the Grand and Royal Chapter was made by Companions Westcote, Slade, Carey and others for the establishment of a Royal Arch Chapter to be held alternately at Martock and Crewkerne. For reasons not known, the 'Moderns' Grand and Royal Chapter did not agree the petition. However another petition for a Charter was granted on 10 March 1812 to Robert Chaffey, Thomas Hamlyn and the Rev John White Middleton, who had joined the Lodge in February 1812. A Royal Arch Chapter, the 'Mystic Stone No 171', was formed in Martock and met at the George Inn. The nearest other Chapter at that time was 'Fidelity No163' that met at Chard. The Grand and Royal Arch Chapter was an organisation separate from the premier 'Moderns' Grand Lodge and it was not until 1817 that there was the union of the Grand and Royal Chapter with the Grand Chapter of the Antients that formed the Supreme Grand Chapter. After this union a Chapter had be attached to a lodge and bear its number. However by then Mystic Stone Chapter had folded and it had made no returns or indeed had a single name registered with the Grand Chapter. In 1822 Thomas Cave was one of eight petitioners who were successful in establishing the Chapter of Brotherly Love No. 624. It still meets today with the same number 329 as the Craft Lodge.

The move to Yeovil

A key figure the first nine years was Robert Chaffey, a surgeon from Martock. **He was Master from 1814 until February 1819 when Bro Bridle was elected.** He clearly kept the Lodge going through his energy and enthusiasm. Although he was a signatory to the petition requesting its removal to Yeovil in 1819 he only attended one meeting when he was elected Master for the ensuing year. He did not though attend his Installation on 30 December 1819 and was 'installed' in his absence, when visitor Bro Edward Thomas Percy acted as his proxy! Neither did he attend any subsequent Lodge meetings. He was summoned by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, along with Bro Nathaniel Thomas who had been appointed Senior Warden, to a meeting on 17 August 1820 to explain their continued absence from the Lodge. Neither attended that meeting. A year later in June 1821 the Master,

Thomas Cave, met with Robert Chaffey but nothing was ever reported back to the Lodge. Another long-serving Martock mason, Thomas Hamlyn, also never attended the Lodge in Yeovil. Clearly the transfer to Yeovil from Martock did not please everyone but events proved it was a wise move.

The petition to move the Lodge from Martock to the Mermaid Inn in Yeovil had been unanimously agreed on 1 July 1819.

To the Right Worshipful ARTHUR CHICHESTER Esquire. Provincial Grand Master for the County of Somerset

We the undersigned members of the Lodge of Brotherly Love No. 624, held at the White Hart Inn, Martock, having the prosperity of the Craft at heart - For the conveniency of our respective dwellings and other good reasons are desirous of removing said Lodge to the Mermaid Inn Yeovil, there to be held on the Thursday on or before every Full Moon. The prayer of this Petition being granted we promise strict obedience to the Commands of the Provincial Grand Master and the Laws and Regulations of the provincial Grand Lodge.

*W Bridle WM
N P Thomas SW
Thos. Cave JW
John Frampton Secy.
Thos Hamlyn Treas.
James Trent S.D.
Thomas Chant J.D.
Robert Chaffey
Henry Carey
Robert Lyddon*

Martock 1st July 1819

In reply to the Petition the following Dispensation was received –

To the W. Master of the Lodge of Brotherly Love No. 624

You are hereby authorized and empowered to remove the above Lodge from the White Hart Inn Martock to the Mermaid Inn Yeovil there to be held according to the Laws and Regulations of the Craft. Dated the 7th day of July 1819.

*By command of the Prov. Grand Master
HENRY SULLY D.P.G.Master*

WILLIAM EAST, Prov. Grand Secretary.

July 31st 1819

The move to Yeovil reflected the increasing influence of Thomas Cave in the Lodge and the growth of Yeovil that by 1820 had reached almost 6,000. Martock meanwhile had stabilised around 2,500. The relocation of the Lodge to Yeovil was clearly successful for in just over one year, between 1819 and 1820, twenty-four new members joined the Lodge, almost all of them living in Yeovil.

Chapter 4

MEETING PLACES

Martock

Meetings for the new Lodge first took place in a back room of the George Inn at Martock, the principal hostelry in the town situated close to the Parish Church. It met there from 19 April 1810 until 13 December 1813. At the last meeting at the George Inn, the landlord of the White Hart Inn in Martock, John Parker, was made a mason. The next meeting of the Lodge was at the White Hart Inn on 6 January 1814, where it continued to meet until 1 July 1819.

When the Lodge met at Martock the Worshipful Master was 'chosen or elected', probably by a show of hands. He then took the Chair and appointed and invested his Officers all on the same evening. The first ballot for a Master was in January 1819 when William Bridle was elected. His Installation was on 11 February 1819 and was also the first Installation ceremony that was held on a different evening to his election.

In the first nine and a half years of the Lodge at Martock thirty-one meetings were called and thirty were actually held. Included in this figure is the special meeting of the Lodge held at the George Inn at Crewkerne on 28 August 1817, by command of the new Provincial Grand Master, Arthur Chichester, who conducted the ceremony when Robert Lyddon was made a mason.

Yeovil

On 1 July 1819 a petition was sent to the Provincial Grand Master requesting permission to move the Lodge to the Mermaid Inn in Yeovil for the purpose of 'having the prosperity of the Lodge at heart' and this request was granted on 7 July. However the first four meetings were held at Thomas Cave's house in Princes Street in a 'large room that could be easily and safely tiled.'

It then transferred to the large Market Room of the Mermaid Inn, the principal coaching Inn of Yeovil on the main Exeter to Salisbury road, and close by the Borough. The first meeting at the Mermaid was on 17 December 1819. It was there that an unusual situation occurred in the Lodge. Robert Chaffey, who had been Worshipful Master from 1813 to 1818, was 'elected' in his absence to continue for another year. However as he had not agreed to carry on he did not attend the Installation meeting. However the Minutes of the meeting show that he was 'installed' into the Chair in his absence, with Edward Thomas Percy from Sherborne acting his proxy. Percy, acting for Robert Chaffey, then appointed the Officers of the Lodge. Robert Chaffey did not attend the Lodge again, most probably unhappy about the move from Martock to Yeovil.

It was from the Mermaid Inn that the Lodge members walked in procession to hear the Proclamation of George IV on 21 February 1820. However after eight meetings at the Mermaid the Lodge moved to 'a private room in Vicarage Street'. Vicarage Street was flanked by many elegant buildings and was a main thoroughfare for coaches through the town. The 'private room' was in a two-storey rectangular building adjoining the Vicarage and had previously been used as a Church Sunday School. The building was owned by the Portreeve and Burgesses and the annual rent was £2 12s 6p. The first time met there on 27 April 1820 when two meetings were held, the first closed at five o'clock and after a break of an hour a second meeting was held which closed at nine o'clock. The Lodge stayed there for seven years.

In the early days the paying of the annual subscription and other fees was rather a lackadaisical affair. However on 30 December 1819 it was agreed all arrears should be paid and the Tyler delivered this request by hand to all the errant members. There was some

success but one Brother from South Petherton was reported to Grand Lodge for non-payment of his initiation fees, the outcome is not clear except the Brother concerned did not attend the Lodge again. Non-payment of subscriptions was an ongoing concern for the Lodge and often the Tyler was required call on the defaulters and was not always well received. One member was summoned to appear at the next Lodge to explain his behaviour but returned a letter to the Master with an insulting message!

The members of the Lodge were keen to have their own Lodge Room. So land was acquired from Mr Goodford in August 1824 for £105 and is believed to have been in the Kingston area of Yeovil. Edward Thomas Percy, a surveyor and Past Master of Benevolence Lodge in Sherborne, prepared plans for the building at an estimated cost of £700. A Committee endeavoured to raise funds but failed to do so and in April 1826 it was agreed to sell the land to Bro Thomas Cave. No doubt this enabled the Lodge to recompense Mr William Thomas for the well-seasoned timber he had already bought for the new building and for which he sought reimbursement. Another attempt for the Lodge to have its own premises was made in 1836 by trying to purchase a part of the proposed building for the Savings Bank in Yeovil, but this proposal also came to nothing.

Meanwhile on 26 February 1827 the Lodge had decided to move to the Three Choughs Inn on Hendford where they had been holding their Installation banquets. It agreed to pay £1 per year for waiters and the use of the room. The Lodge eventually stayed there for almost seventy years and was well served by the proprietor, Mrs Maria Bullen. Both her successors, Thomas Shortland and Frederick Box later joined the Lodge.

During that long stay at The Three Choughs several unusual situations occurred regarding the election and Installation of Masters. In 1839 Bro Auguste Bide was elected by ballot to be the incoming Master. However at the next meeting it was considered the election was 'irregular.' A re-election took place and Bro Bide was unanimously elected. But he refused to accept the nomination and Bro Latham was elected in his place. Brother Bide did not attend the Lodge again and resigned in 1842 for reasons unknown. There are other examples of a Master being elected and then declining to take office. Bro Thomas Cave declined in 1838. Bro Richard Thomas declined in 1861, when he 'retired' in favour of Bro Samuel Cross, but he was re-elected and took the Chair in 1864. In 1848 the Senior Warden, W Bro George Hancock, having been duly elected Master, presented himself for Installation, but as only one Past Master was present a Board of Installed Masters could not be formed. Nevertheless 'he was invested with the Master's jewel' and appointed and invested his Officers which appears to be 'irregular'. However he was later Installed as Master of Brotherly Love No 412 at a meeting of All Souls Lodge No 170 in Weymouth in January 1849. The Minutes of All Souls remark;

'The modern custom of the WM (outgoing) installing his successor is very preferable to this wandering about to get the benefits of Installation'.

In January 1859 Bro Edwards was simply invested with Badge and jewel, placed in the Chair and went on to appoint and invest his Officers. But as this was later considered irregular, he had to give assent to the Ancient Charges and Regulations, Obligated and Regularly Installed at the February meeting in 1860 and he re-appointed and invested his Officers.

The meeting at Windmill Hill

In June 1844 it became necessary for the front of the Three Choughs Inn to be rebuilt so the Lodge decided meet on the top of the Windmill Hill, which was on the Sherborne side of Yeovil, where there was a group of twenty trees that overlooked the town centre. The brethren first walked to the Hill through a field then a lane, and then climbed the steep side of

the Hill. The Lodge opened at 8.00pm and fourteen brethren were present at this amazing event where the only other sounds were 'the bleating of the sheep and the songs of the birds in the tree which broke the stillness of a summer evening.' The Lodge was closed at 8.30pm and the brethren descended the hill on their return journey. Regrettably the 'noble' Scotch fir tree under which our Master stood was cut down seventy-eight years later in February 1912.

The alterations to the 'Choughs' not being completed, the next meeting on 25 June was held at the 'King's Head Inn' not far from the 'Choughs' in South Street. In June 1856 the rented room used by the Lodge for storage at the Choughs had the lock picked and been broken into and the furniture and candles removed. Clearly information was received because the articles were found in a room across the street. An apology was received and an offer to pay for the damage! It was then resolved to look for another storage room.

Meetings continued at the Three Choughs until 1894, a connection of sixty-six years with the Lodge.

The Masonic Hall

In 1887 Bro S Russell Baskett brought up the question of the Lodge owning its own premises but nothing transpired until in 1893 when The Worshipful Master, Benjamin Whitby, 'with untiring energy' led the efforts which finally enabled the Lodge to meet in its own building. Land was acquired in Hendford and Bro J Nicholson Johnston drew up plans for the Hall. A contract for the building, at a cost £950, was signed with Messrs (Bro) Lye of Crewkerne. The total cost for the project was just over £1500. The Masonic Hall Company was formed with a capital of £2,000 comprising of 400 shares at £5 each. Eventually one hundred and seventy-seven shares were actually issued. These were held by brethren from and outside the Lodge, with the Lodge itself subscribing for ten shares. With the capital account standing at £900 there was a shortfall to cover the full costs involved. A loan for £400 was taken out with John Farley (which was repaid in 1897) and a mortgage taken out for the remaining £700 at 4% interest. The request for Provincial Grand Lodge to donate £100 was unsurprisingly 'not entertained'. The rent to be paid by the Lodge was 30 guineas per annum including gas and rates.

The Worshipful Master, Benjamin Whitby, managed the project and he laid the foundation stone on 16 May 1894 at a short informal civic ceremony. The Hall was dedicated on 22 November 1894 by Viscount Dungarvan, Provincial Grand Master at a Special Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge that began at 12.30pm. The banquet was held at the Three Choughs Hotel at 2.30pm with tickets at 5 shillings each. The Great Western and Somerset and Dorset Railways arranged for a special return fare of a fare and a quarter for a return journey if six First Class or ten Third Class tickets were purchased from any station on the line to Yeovil on production of the summons. The prospect and reality of the Lodge having its own building led to no fewer than twenty-eight new members joining between 1893 and 1895.

By 31 December 1901 however the Company was showing a deficit of £53 6s 1d and the Lodge made an offer of £100 for the building, subject to taking on the mortgage, which was accepted. The Company was wound up in 1903 and ownership passed to the 'Lodge Brotherly Love No 329' with Leonard Goodman, a banker's clerk, instrumental in 'enabling the dream and ambitions of the Brethren of the Brotherly Love Lodge to own and possess a Masonic Hall of their own.'

There were some early problems with the building. At the end of 1894 the roof was not watertight and in January 1895 snow came through the roof. In 1913 there were concerns about the damp on the west wall and southeast corner, which was supposed to be 'cured' at a cost of £49 19s 2d.

In 1928 W Bro Alfred Gates, who held the mortgage of £775 for the Lodge, died and although he had handed the deeds of the Hall over W Bro Frederick Nutt and had made a verbal agreement to pass the mortgage to the Lodge, there was nothing in writing. His will though stated that Mr Alfred Cabel should receive the bulk of his property. The Lodge felt that the intention of Alfred Gates was for the mortgage to be paid off from his estate with the deeds transferred to the Lodge. The Lodge appealed to the High Court who ruled in favour of Mr Cabel. Alfred Gates' relatives had supported the Lodge in the appeal, as he had been a keen member for many years. The end result was that the Lodge paid Mr Cabel £775 and planned to take out a mortgage with the Yeovil Building Society. However W Bro Arthur Pope offered a loan of £700 with a low rate of interest, which was accepted. It later transpired that the interest was given back to the Lodge by W Bro Pope and used for charitable purposes.

From the outset it was envisaged that the new Masonic Hall would be used by other organisations when there was no formal lodge meeting. There was a £1 charge for 'Cinderella Dances' that had to be finished by 1.00 am, all-night dances cost £1 50s. The Foresters were charged £4 a year for the use of gas, children's parties cost 15s, and it was agreed that Bro Alf Milborne's offer of a piano, on the basis he could use it for his orchestral class, be accepted provided he paid 1s a night plus 2s 6p for gas!

In September 1914 at the start of the War the use of dining hall and kitchen was granted free of charge to the newly formed School canteen for feeding of necessitous children. However the Rural District Council had to stop using it because of draughts! In January 1915 the banquet had to be held at the Three Choughs because the Supper room was being used by troops in their training.

In 1922 the Rotary Club of Yeovil was formed, with several members of the Lodge as founders, and met at the Masonic Hall for almost three years before moving to the 'Boro Restaurant' in the Borough.

By 1927 conditions at the Hall, with damp, poor sanitation a 'very bad kitchen' no doubt prompted the Lodge to use the White bequest of £1,275 18s 4p to purchase Glenthorne Lodge and adjoining land in Church Path, close to St John's Church, in anticipation of building a new Masonic Hall. Glenthorne Lodge was initially let to Bro Frank S Boxall for £50 per year and in 1928 the Trustees of the Masonic Hall were asked if they wished to sell the Masonic Hall in Hendford for £3,000. After much discussion it was agreed by the Lodge not to sell the existing Masonic Hall or extend it or build a new one at Church Path! Two years later an offer was made to the Lodge to purchase the dwelling house to the south of the Masonic Hall in Hendford and that was turned down as well.

In 1934 the Trustees of the White Benevolent Fund offered Glenthorne Lodge with its adjoining garage and garden to the Lodge for £1,055. Meanwhile Bro Boxall said he was willing to pay £1,000 for that part of Glenthorne House and garden where he lived and eventually in 1936, after reference to the Charity Commissioners, the sale was completed. It was then the intention for the Trustees to re-purchase the garden on which a new Masonic Hall could be built, but this was never achieved.

In March 1939 there was some controversy over the letting of the Supper Room, which had been let to the Yeovil Company of Jehovah Witnesses on a Sunday for several years, because certain advertisements inviting the public to meetings of a 'political' nature had been made. The Lodge asked that these be discontinued but this assurance was not given so the Lodge terminated the agreement.

At the outbreak of hostilities in 1939 the ground floor of the Masonic Hall was requisitioned by the War Office and was occupied by various Units until November 1945 when the premises were returned to the Lodge. Certain valuable furniture, the Worshipful Master's and Wardens' Chairs and the old banners were stored at Mr S Vaux's Antiques Gallery at Ilchester and the Warrants of the Lodges placed in the Westminster Bank after

photocopies had been made. Apart from two meetings that were cancelled at the beginning of the War the Lodge continued to meet in the Lodge Room upstairs. Attendances were generally satisfactory considering the number of members engaged on active service and were often held in the afternoon because of the 'blackout' at night. Usually the Progressive Science meeting followed on from the Brotherly Love meeting and several members attended both lodges. Members of USA lodges often attended our meetings and expressed their appreciation of our ceremonies. No refreshment was served after 'labour' with the exception of the Installation meetings. During the War some damage was done by the troops to the fabric, plus a considerable loss of chattels due to an unauthorised acquisition by unknown units and the Lodge accepted an offer of £50 by the Claims Office in compensation. De-requisition was confirmed in September 1945. There was though ongoing correspondence with the War Department over dilapidation to the ground floor and eventually the War Office offered £99 3s 4p which was agreed and the floor was replaced in September 1946. It was also agreed to spend £115 1s 0p on redecoration. Except for the breaking of lights no damage was done by enemy action during the war.

In 1951 the Trustees invested the proceeds of the sale in 'fields known as Rockwell and Rick Close, situate Yeovil-Ilchester Road'. A mortgage was granted to Mr G S Marks, Hillside Farm, Lower Vagg near Yeovil in respect of this property and the interest was paid to the 'White Bequest Account' at the Somerset and Wilts Bank. In 1959 the interest rate increased from 4.5% to 5.5%, which Mr Marks said 'came as a bit of a blow' but he agreed to pay it. When the mortgage was redeemed in 1967 the proceeds of approximately £1,200 were invested in Courtaulds Ltd 7% Debenture Stock 1982/83 with the interest used for charitable purposes.

The Masonic Hall Company

In 1953 W Bro Arthur Pope, a Trustee of the White Bequest, suggested that a Limited Company be formed to manage the Hall with equal shares to be held by the Lodges of Brotherly Love and Progressive Science and to hold all the contents except for the Master's and Warden's chairs which would stay in the ownership of Brotherly Love. This was agreed and the Masonic Hall Company was established in 1954 with £2,500 nominal capital with each Lodge subscribing £1,250. In 1961 the new Corinthian Pillar Lodge subscribed for a similar number of shares and legal steps were taken to increase the nominal capital of the Hall Company to £15,000. After the Royal Naval Lodge No 2761 re-located to Yeovil from Malta it also became a shareholder.

The Centenary of the Masonic Hall 1994

Improving and extending the facilities at the Masonic Hall had long been on the agenda. The Hall, as early as 1913, started suffering from problems of damp and even though at that time Bro Warrew assured the Lodge that he would cure the problem for under £50, it has proved a continuing concern even up to the major works on the south wall in 2007. Gas radiators and cross-ventilation were installed in the Lodge Room in 1919, and an extension to the rear was agreed in 1923. In 1929 gas lighting was replaced by electricity.

The building has needed constant repair and upgrading over the years and the Fabric Committee in 1951 reported that the Hall 'was going back rapidly in condition' and needed urgent repairs to keep out the rain and one member 'felt miserable and cold when there' and probably accounted for the drop in members attending the meetings as only thirty-one out of a membership of one hundred and twenty-three were at the October meeting. The overall cost to put matters right was £3,000 and it was agreed to deal with the urgent matters. Many improvements were made in 1967-68, whilst urgent repairs to the roof were needed in 1984 for which a building levy of £1,000 per year, payable for three years, was required from the

lodges that met at the Hall. A major upgrade in the kitchen was required in 2009, which with associated works cost over £25,000.

The Dining Room had often been seriously overcrowded since it had been opened in 1894 with ninety or more attending a festive board. In the early 1990's discussions by the Directors of the Masonic Hall led to plans being prepared to extend the dining area of the Hall along with other improvements. There was quite considerable resistance to change across the lodges, believing the costs involved would mean much higher subscriptions. But Richard Stallard, Chairman of the Board, was a strong supporter of the scheme as was the other Director from this Lodge, Paul Newham. Tony Old made a presentation to the Board outlining various ways of financing the scheme and after much campaigning it was agreed to go ahead. A target of £100,000 was set, with £30,000 to come from members and the lodges that met at the Hall, with the rest from the Nat West Bank. A contract was signed with (W Bro Derek) Rogers & Sons to build the extension, which included a new bar, reception area, a larger kitchen, ladies toilet and two storage rooms plus refurbishment of the rest of the dining room. It has proved to be an excellent addition to the Masonic Hall giving it improved facilities, more space and comfort and creating a welcoming atmosphere for 'lodge' nights and for social functions.

On 22 November 1994, to mark the Centenary of the Masonic Hall, it was re-dedication at a crowded Special Meeting by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Stanley Hopkins. Many officers of Provincial Grand Lodge were present and also the choir from St Cecilia Lodge. The Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro David Parker, gave a fluent Oration that included details of the Centenary Meeting of the Lodge in 1910. At this meeting a new Lodge Banner, presented by W Bro Richard Stallard, was dedicated by the Deputy Provincial Master, VW Bro Tom Hughes.

Chapter 5

FURNITURE AND ARTEFACTS

The Lodge Room

The Lodge Room today looks different to that of 1910. The walls then were covered not only with Honours Boards but also with many photographs and pictures, With the expansion of Freemasonry there are now three other Craft Lodges and three additional 'Orders' meeting in the Lodge Room so space has had to be made on the walls for their respective Honours Boards. The pictures and photographs are now displayed in other parts of the building.

The room reflects aspects of King Solomon's Temple for many of the ceremonies include the history and symbolism of the Temple, which help teach the moral and spiritual ideas that are an important part of Freemasonry.

The Warrants

The Lodge is fortunate to have on display the original Warrant that is dated 8 March 1810. It also has the Centenary Warrant, dated 7 March 1910. A senior Grand Lodge officer will present the Bi-Centenary Warrant at a special meeting of the Lodge on 2nd June 2010. The new Warrant, that is dated 8 March 2010, will be framed and inscribed by courtesy of a bequest by the late W Bro Richard Stallard.

Banners

The oldest banner is now behind the Master's Chair in the Lodge Room and was probably one of the two carried in procession at the Consecration of the Lodge in 1811. It depicts the Travelling Ark of Covenant beneath the canopy, which as Moses had been instructed in the Book of Exodus

' You will make an Ark of acacia wood, two and a half cubits long, one and a half wide a done and a half high. You will cast four gold rings, two on one side and two on the other. You will make shafts and pass through the rings and you will place two cherubims, one on the one end and the other cherubim on the other end.'

In 1896 with the original banner needing repair, architect Bro J Nicholson Johnston presented the Lodge with another banner. It was based on the same design although the canopy was rather more elaborate. This banner is now placed behind the Senior Warden's chair. In 1928 the original banner was sent away for restoration and later in 1961 W Bro Bill Vaux, an antique dealer who was also the Worshipful Master, had both restored and framed as their condition had deteriorated.

W Bro Richard Stallard presented a new banner to the Lodge on 22 November 1994, during the Centenary Meeting of the Masonic Hall. It was based on the design of the original banner, which had been researched and made by Grand Lodge. It maintains the tradition of the old banners showing the Travelling Ark of the Covenant together with the shafts and cherubims. The canopy is quite exquisite in its background of Masonic blue. It shows three loops supporting the centre tassels which have five threads and the lower tassels have seven threads in an illusion to the 'Three who rule the Lodge, Five who hold a Lodge and Seven who make it perfect.' A duplicate of this banner was exhibited at Grand Lodge to show the type and quality of work done by them.

Tracing Boards

Tracing boards are painted or printed illustrations depicting the various emblems and symbols of Freemasonry. They are used during the lectures that follow each of the three Masonic Degrees, when an experienced member explains the various concepts of Freemasonry to new members.

In the past when lodges met in inns or rooms a drawing was made on the floor and erased at the end of the meeting. Painted lodge cloths or 'floorings' became increasingly used in the late eighteenth century both in England and Scotland and as they were relatively expensive they would be draped over a table or hung on the wall on rollers. Later the cloth was mounted on a frame to further protect it.

The earliest tracing board used in the Lodge was purchased in 1809 for £9 17s, equivalent to about £240.00 today, and it is likely that it was transferred to the newly consecrated Parrett and Axe Lodge in 1860. It is recorded in their Minutes on 25 September 1860 that Bro B Chaffey, the Secretary of Brotherly Love, sent an account for £7 7s 0p for 'candlesticks and tracing boards' following which the Secretary of Parrett and Axe replied offering £6 6s 0p! However in November 1860 they did finally accept 'Bro Cross's valuation of £7 7s 0p.' These boards, which have the date 1809, include the emblem of the Beehive, so it is likely they were a copy of the Weymouth Boards in use at that time.

In 1859 one of the Lodge members, Robert H Shout, an architect, designed another tracing board with two sections that related to the First and Second Degrees. The Lodge Minutes state it was 'executed by Bro Samuel Cross', who was an auctioneer and undertaker. But whether this means Samuel Cross painted it or he arranged for it to be painted is not known. It is interesting to note that Henry Marsh Custard, an Artist, was initiated in Brotherly Love in 1858 and maybe he was involved in the painting of it. This was a double folding board only for the First and Second Degrees. For the Third Degree a mort-cloth and emblems were used. This board is very similar to tracing boards designed by Josiah Bowring who was one of the most notable designers in the early decades of the nineteenth century. Bowring was by profession a portrait painter and was initiated into Freemasonry in 1795, became Master of the Strong Man Lodge No 61, which met in London, in 1821 and 1827. However he fell into distressed circumstances in 1831 and needed relief from Grand Lodge just before his death in 1832. The First Degree board though differs from many of his in that the arrangement and attributes of the pillars is different and is at variance with the lecture associated with it. The Worshipful Master is assigned the Corinthian pillar linked to Beauty, the Senior Warden the Doric pillar to Wisdom and the Junior Warden the Ionic pillar to Strength whereas in the Lodge itself the Worshipful Master has the Ionic pillar representing Wisdom, the Senior Warden the Doric Pillar for Strength and the Junior Warden the Corinthian Pillar for Beauty.

The Lodge has two other sets of tracing boards, which were commercially produced and are in the style of John Harris. His designs became popular in the nineteenth century particularly due to them becoming associated with and approved by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement at a time when Emulation working was being promoted around the middle of the century. He was also a painter of miniatures, an architectural draughtsman and an expert facsimilist as well as a designer of Masonic tracing boards. He had become a Freemason in 1818 but sadly he lost the sight of one eye in 1847 and then became totally blind and paralysed as the result of a stroke in 1857. In 1860 he and his wife became residents in a Masonic home in Croydon.

One of these is a vertical tracing board, which has three sections, but is rarely used now. They are enclosed in a glazed cabinet that was manufactured by George Kenning of London, and dated 21 September 1912. Dr A E Remmet-Weaver presented it to the Lodge in

1915. In 1995 W Bro Norman Harvey refurbished them. In 1928 W Bro Sidney Thring presented the three tracing boards that are now used in the Lodge.

The Organ

In 1919 members contributions enabled an organ to be purchased but by 1936 it was 'worn out' and it was agreed that it should be rebuilt, renovated and an electric blower added. The members of Brotherly Love and Progressive Science Lodges made contributions and it was to have been dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master in December 1936. Arrangements having been made he found he was unable to attend and it was a year later when he formally dedicated the organ to 'glory and service to God and the enrichment of ceremonies to be performed in the Temple'. Significant refurbishment of the organ was undertaken in 1980.

Other furniture and artefacts

A sword and trowel, possibly used by the Tyler in 1810, is in the anteroom of the Masonic Hall building. In the Lodge Room itself are the three mahogany Candlesticks that were carried in the procession at the Consecration in 1811. They are now placed at the side of the Master's and Wardens pedestals.

In March 1820 Mr G Cayme purchased 'sundry Masonic furniture' for £35, which is equivalent to £1,400 today. In November 1820 it is recorded that Bro John Wall received £2 in respect of a 'deposit by him in London on purchase of Chairs etc etc'. It is assumed this includes the three mahogany or oak Chairs still used by the Master and Wardens, The chairs are either Chippendale or Sheraton and are decorated with masonic symbols and date from the late 1700's. Another source however suggests that the Chairs may have come from a lapsed lodge that met in Bath. They are now rare and valuable.

At each end of the Lodge Room are talc shades on brackets, which were purchased in the early days of the Lodge and which were used to shade the candles. They are adorned with hand-painted Masonic symbols, some are pre-Union and some refer to Degrees other than the Craft Degrees. These were later changed to provide light from gas and now electricity. The two Cary library globes, one terrestrial and the other celestial, were purchased in 1860 for £3 guineas from a Mr Whippell, and are intended to symbolise Masonry Universal. One of our members, the Rev R J F Thomas, presented the old smaller globes from Brotherly Love to our 'daughter lodge' Parrett and Axe when he became their first Worshipful Master in 1860.

The three mahogany pedestals now in front of the Master's and Warden's Chairs date from 1884. Noteworthy artefacts are two pitchers with masonic symbols located in the anteroom. One was presented to the Lodge in 1821 by James Lucas and is inscribed with the old Lodge number, 624. The other is a Sunderland lustre pitcher with unusual designs that are associated with slavery. This one was displayed above the bar of the Three Choughs Inn during the time the Lodge met there and was presented to the Lodge by Leonard Goodman in 1910. He had purchased it from Mrs Box, the proprietor of the Inn.

In the twelve months leading up to the Centenary in 1910 many valuable gifts were presented to the Lodge which included a handsome pair of pillars presented by Joseph Brutton and Dr Danford Thomas, an elaborately carved oak table for the Secretary and Treasurer by Edmund Damon using wood salvaged from the bell tower of St John's Church, a mahogany bookcase by Norman Buchanon and two beautifully carved oak Glastonbury chairs for the use of the Deacons by Alan Lovell and Fred Cridland.

Many other items have since been given to the Lodge including the Deacons wands which were given by Dick Sibley and Bill Vaux in 1959 and re-gilded in silver using a bequest of Roy Vincent in 1987, a chest of drawers for use of the Tyler by Bill Vaux in 1961, a new chair for the Director of Ceremonies by Robert Norton in 1930, whilst the existing masonic carpet was presented by Bill Vaux, Maurice Sexton and Harold Haynes in 1977.

Chapter 6

EVENTS

The 50th Anniversary

It is perhaps surprising that there is no mention in the Minutes of the meeting in April 1860 of the 50th anniversary of the formation of the Lodge or any special event or meeting to mark it. At that meeting Bro Sampson simply became a Fellowcraft mason.

The Centenary 1910

It was decided to commemorate the Centenary year with the Principal Offices filled by Past Masters. So on 10 January 1910 W Bro Walter J Nosworthy, who was celebrating 46 years in masonry, was installed as Worshipful Master and W Bros H Francis Raymond as Senior Warden and Frank W Gaylard as Junior Warden. A dispensation was agreed to hold the Centenary meeting on Wednesday 20 April 1910. As the Lodge Room at the Masonic Hall would not accommodate the large number of visitors expected it was decided to use the Town Hall, which was draped and fitted with Masonic furniture and made a most imposing and picturesque Lodge Room.

The Lodge opened at 10.30am and including those present were the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Col William Long, three representatives of the Grand Lodge of England namely F W McLeod Past Grand Senior Warden, W Wynn Westcott Past Grand Deacon and Thos W Chant Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. In total around two hundred masons were present at the meeting and church service.

The brethren 'clothed in the badges of the Order' then went in procession from the Town Hall to St John's Church. The streets were crowded with members of the public who turned out to see this unique event. After the service the procession reformed and returned to the Town Hall. The Lodge meeting was resumed and a 'beautiful anthem' was sung by a choir of brethren, after which the Master gave a brief account of the history of the Lodge. The Secretary then read the Centenary Warrant. The Provincial Grand Master then presented it to the Worshipful Master and invested him with a Centenary jewel. The Worshipful Master then presented members of the Lodge with a similar jewel. The Lodge was then closed.

Following a short interval the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting was held. At the meeting W Bro Norman Buchanon was promoted to the rank of Provincial Senior Grand Warden and W Bro Leonard Goodman as Provincial Assistant Grand Pursuivant. Alms of £6 were collected and donated to the Yeovil Hospital. Luncheon was then taken at the Corn Exchange.

In the evening members, wives, friends and guests enjoyed music and dancing at the Town Hall. A report of the whole event remarked 'So ended a very memorable day in the history of local Freemasonry.'

The 150th Anniversary

The anniversary meeting was held by dispensation on Tuesday 19 April 1960 and began with a church service held at St Andrew's Church at 2.30pm. The W Bro The Rev Lionel Walsh, the Vicar of Yeovil, conducted the service during which the Chaplain of the Lodge, Bro Rev George Mullard, gave the Address. A collection was taken and given to the St Andrew's Church Fabric Fund.

Afterwards a buffet tea was taken at the Manor Hotel. The brethren then returned to the Masonic Hall for the Lodge meeting when the three brethren who were present at the

Centenary celebration in 1910 were invited by the Worshipful Master to take the Principal Offices for the ceremony that evening. W Bro Arthur L Pope, W Bro William Stevens and Bro Henry Waters then took the Chairs of Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Warden respectively at the ceremony at which Mr Victor Spencer Balchin was made a mason. The Worshipful Master then read a brief history of the Lodge, which had been prepared by W Bro Frederick J Howard. There were present at the meeting sixty-two members and fifty-one guests, which included the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro H E Dyke, four Grand Officers, Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge, the Masters and Wardens of our Daughter Lodges and the Directors of the Masonic Hall Company. This was followed by a five-course dinner at the Manor Hotel.

The Bi-Centenary 2010

It was agreed by dispensation from the Somerset and Dorset Provincial Grand Masters to hold this meeting on Wednesday 2 June 2010 at Sherborne School in Sherborne, Dorset. The move of the Bi-Centenary meeting from the Masonic Hall in Yeovil to nearby Sherborne was because of the limit of accommodation at the Masonic Hall for the large number of masons who were expected to attend. The School itself had been for many years the venue of the annual Dorset Provincial Grand Lodge meeting and it had all the facilities needed for a large meeting.

The Lodge decided to invite the senior active Past Master to preside over the Lodge during the Bi-Centenary year and for other Past Masters to take the Chair for the other ceremonies during the year. W Bro Jonathan Sibley, Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works (Somerset) and Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer (Devon) who had been Master in 1988 was accorded that honour in recognition of his long service to the Lodge which for many years had necessitated him travelling to Lodge meetings from South Devon.

Plans for the Bi-Centenary meeting envisaged that the Lodge furniture would be taken to Sherborne to give an authentic '329' feel to the meeting. A Ruler of the United Grand Lodge of England would present the Bi-Centenary Warrant to the Worshipful Master. The Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, RW Bro David L Jenkins would be in attendance with the full Somerset Provincial team. The Provincial Grand Masters for Dorset, Devonshire, Bristol and Wiltshire, Grand Lodge Officers, Provincial Officers and masons from a wide area were expected to be present. Apart from the presentation of the Bi-Centenary Warrant, W Bro David Perkins would give a presentation on 'The early days of the Lodge' and The Provincial Grand Chaplain would give an Oration. Following the ceremony a Celebration dinner would be held at the School.

Processions

Brethren, wearing their badges and jewels, in public processions were quite a common event in past years. The first one recorded for this Lodge was at its Consecration in Martock in August 1811. For the Proclamation of King George IV on 21 February 1820 ten members and thirteen visitors were present when an Emergency Lodge meeting was opened at 12 o'clock at the Mermaid Hotel, adjourned for refreshment at 3.00pm and finally closed at 9.00pm. The next involvement in a procession was for the Proclamation of King William IV on July 1830 and whilst there is no mention of a procession in the Minutes, it was most likely to have occurred as that the Lodge met at 11.00am, lunched at 2.30pm and closed at 9.00pm. The next occasion was to mark the Accession of Queen Victoria on July 25 1837 when twenty-three members and twenty-three visitors were present. Lodge members also joined the procession marking Queen Victoria's death on 2 February 1901. On the occasion of the Prince of Wales' marriage in March 1863 the Lodge however decided not to join the public procession. On 20 May 1910 at the invitation of the Mayor of Yeovil, Bro Edmund Damon,

Lodge members were invited to a memorial service and to take part in a civic procession to mark the death of King Edward VII. A Lodge of Emergency was held and the Lodge Room was draped in black.

In July 1857 the Provincial Grand Master agreed to a Procession from the Lodge to the Parish Church of St John the Baptist, with Brethren wearing their jewels and regalia, when the Provincial Grand Lodge met in Yeovil. To mark the Centenary of the Lodge in 1910 the Provincial Grand Lodge was again held in Yeovil and the Provincial Grand Master agreed for the members to parade in their regalia from the Town Hall to St John's Church. The minutes record

'The procession to and from the Church was the most notable incident of this historic day; the long line of brethren passed by way of High Street, Princes Street and Church Street through large crowds of people, who it was obvious, were not only interested but greatly impressed by the unusual spectacle.'

The last time brethren, in their regalia, took part in a procession was for the laying of the foundation stone at St Andrews Church in 1935.

The Laying of Foundation Stones

Freemasons have often been invited to participate in laying the foundation or cornerstone of a building. This was no doubt primarily because of links to operative masonry and architecture.

In 1834 a letter was received from All Souls' Lodge in Weymouth inviting the assistance and cooperation of this Lodge in laying the foundation stone of a great embankment wall in Weymouth on the 4 June. In May 1837 a similar invitation was received from Lodge 190 in Sidmouth regarding the laying of the foundation stone of the eastern pier. In 1858 the Lodge was represented at the laying of the foundation stone of the tower of St Mary's Church in Taunton with Bro the Rev R J F Thomas acting as Provincial Grand Chaplain. In August 1861 the Lodge was invited to attend a similar ceremony at the church of St Mary, Redcliffe in Bristol, in 1871 at the West of England Sanatorium in Weston-Super-Mare and in 1884 at the Lantern Tower of Peterborough Cathedral. In 1894 the cornerstone of the new Masonic Hall was 'well and truly laid' by Benjamin Whitby Esq. when he acted in a civil capacity and not as Master, which was in accordance with the ruling of the Provincial Grand Master.

A special meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held on 8 March 1934, under the banners of Brotherly Love and Progressive Science, for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of the new St Andrews Church. The building of the church had been made possible by the generosity of the late Mr James Bernard Paynter who gave the land and left £3,000 in his will for the purpose. It replaced the old iron mission building on the same site and the new building held 250 people.

'Masonic ritual that has come down the ages added picturesqueness to the impressive ceremony which was witnessed by hundreds of people' reported the Parish Magazine. The strong Masonic connections at the ceremony included the vicar of the 'parent' St John's Church the Rev John Harrison, Chaplain of Progressive Science Lodge and formerly Chaplain of this Lodge. The architects were Bros Petter and Warren. The Archdeacon of Wells, the Venerable Walter Farrar, who was also the Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, performed the ceremony. The Archdeacon remarked that it would have been his wish for Mrs Paynter to lay the foundation stone but she had felt unable to undertake the task and it was a source of great pleasure for him to act in her stead.

There was a procession of Civic dignitaries and Provincial Grand Officers and other brethren to the church where the bearers of the maul, square, level, and plumb rule took up

their positions and the Archdeacon used the trowel was that used at the laying of the foundation stone of the Masonic Hall in 1894 to formally lay the foundation stone of the new Church saying 'Temperance, Fortitude and Justice let our work be founded.' The stone was then 'proved' by the Archdeacon who struck it three times with the maul and said 'By the power in me vested and in the name of the Great Architect of the Universe I declare this stone well and truly laid.'

Then followed a procession around the stone by the bearers of vessels, the Cornucopia containing corn was carried by the Master of Brotherly Love, W Bro Frederick Whalley, the ewer containing the wine by W Bro Robert Norton, acting for the Master of Progressive Science who was unable to be present, the ewer containing the oil by W Bro Wakely the Master of Parrett and Axe of Crewkerne and the vessel containing the salt by W Bro Wheadon, the Master of Nyanza Lodge of Ilminster. The Provincial Grand Chaplain, the Rev Trevor Griffiths, the Rector of Sparkford, led prayers. Visiting brethren along with the Church Council were then entertained to tea at the Manor Hotel and a special peel of bells was rung at St John's Church in the evening.

Whilst the laying of a foundation stone for a church linked with Masonic ceremonial may seem unique there have been several other examples in the Province. Between 1810 and 1934 there were sixteen such occasions. The first was at the Taunton and Somerset Hospital in Taunton when on 10 April 1810 the Provincial Grand Master, Colonel John Smith Leigh, performed the ceremony. The 'Bath Journal' and 'Taunton Courier' reported.

'a procession in grand Masonic form - the whole a gratifying sight for its novelty and splendour; as exceeding anything ever witnessed in the county.'

Another public ceremony was the laying of the foundation stone of St Mary Magdalene in Taunton in 1858, by Colonel Charles K K Tynte, the Provincial Grand Master. 300 brethren, including members from Brotherly Love, along with a large number of civic dignitaries and representatives of other organisations processed from Shire Hall to the Church. An 'excellent' sermon was preached by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, the Rev Bro R J F Thomas, Vicar of Yeovil and at the time Chaplain of Brotherly Love.

Lodges of Sorrow

The calling of a special Lodge meeting to mark the death of a Brother was quite common. The first recorded one was for Bro Clyde or Glyde in 1866 and the second for the Bro Rev Richard J Thomas in 1873. What a Lodge of Sorrow entailed can best be shown from the minutes following the death of Leonard Vincent in December 1930.

'The Lodge opened in all three degrees. The Brethren left the Lodge headed by the Tyler/Juniors preceding and arrived at the deceased Brothers house where they preceded the funeral procession as far as the cemetery, where the Brethren lined up each side of the road and after the procession had passed through, the Senior Brethren followed and at the graveside the last token of respect to departed merit was paid, the brethren filing past the open grave and dropping sprigs of acacia on the coffin. A wreath was then placed on the grave.'

The brethren then returned to the Lodge, a tribute to departed merit was given and the Lodge was closed. It was usual for Masonic regalia to be left in the Lodge for the funeral itself, although at times white gloves were worn at the church and graveside. On one occasion the coffin was left in the Lodge overnight and on others the Lodge was draped in black.

In November 1962 the Secretary reported that a letter had been received from Grand Lodge, which suggested that Lodges of Sorrow be discontinued. Dispensation to wear regalia including white gloves would only be granted in exceptional cases and there should be no active participation by Masons in a burial service or cremation of a Brother or prayers, readings or exhortations then or at the graveside. This was clearly aimed at ensuring that masonry was not a religion or a substitute for religion. The Lodge was not in favour of this suggestion and wrote to that effect to the Provincial Grand Master. He attended a Lodge meeting and said providing the ruling of Grand Lodge was followed and a Dispensation obtained from him he was prepared for them to continue.

In January 1972 the Lodge committee had started to review the situation and felt that the changing circumstances in everyday life was making it difficult to hold these lodges as they had a meagre attendance and usually took over two hours. The committee perhaps surprisingly decided it still wanted to continue with Lodges of Sorrow and requested permission from the Provincial Grand Master to do so. The Provincial Grand Master gave a personal response on 25 November 1973. 'These must stop or if held they should be for all deceased masons, in the interests of equality, and as this was very often not physically possible the eulogy would be much better at the next Regular Lodge meeting'.

The final Lodge of Sorrow had been for W Bro Percy Winsor in 1972 when only thirteen brethren were present.

Chapter 7

THE LODGE IN THE COMMUNITY

The period from the Union in 1813 through to the start of the First World War was one of both consolidation and expansion for Masonry of the English Constitution. It was regularly in the public eye as masons were to be seen in public processions and in the laying of foundation stones of buildings, bridges and hospitals. Masonic events were often featured in newspaper reports, indeed the Consecration of Brotherly Love was advertised in the local press in 1811 and the Centenary in 1910 was extensively reported in the 'Western Gazette'. The laying of the Foundation Stone of St Andrew's Church in 1934, with its strong Masonic connection, was freely reported in the press. However there was a great deal of anti-Masonic propaganda coming out from Nazi Germany and Franco's Spain in the 1930s where Freemasonry was banned. Freemasonry in Britain subsequently became excessively private after the war and from the 1950s there was a deliberate policy of not dealing the media, which led to it becoming known as a secret society with the undertones that followed. It also had the effect of Freemasonry being taken out of the community in which it had been an integral part. Various books, television programmes and the scandal associated with the Italian P2 Lodge also undermined the Order and in 1984 Grand Lodge decided on a policy of openness to counteract the negative image that had developed towards Freemasonry.

As part of this process of openness in June 1992 over 12,500 Freemasons attended the 275th Anniversary of the formation of Grand Lodge and the 25th Anniversary of HRH The Duke of Kent's installation as Grand Master at Earl's Court in London, that received wide publicity in the press and on television.

The Provincial Grand Master in the 1990s, RW Bro Stanley Hopkins, was an advocate of encouraging openness and integration with the local community. He supported moves to allow Masonic Halls to be used by the public and for Open Days to be held. Instead of the black tie worn at meetings he introduced a Provincial tie and a new magazine 'Compass' was distributed across the Province, with readership not restricted to masons. Many older masons were unhappy with the proposed changes, no more so than in Yeovil, when the ideas of an Open Day and the building of an extension to the Masonic Hall received considerable resistance particularly from two of the lodges that met at Yeovil. However, following a special meeting of the principal Officers of all the lodges in Yeovil with the Provincial Grand Master, a change in attitude became apparent. So much so that the Yeovil lodges provided one of the most active weeks throughout the Province during the 'Freemasonry in the Community' event.

The Committee of Brotherly Love had been in favour of the moves towards a more open society. It held a successful evening meeting in the Lodge Room for ladies and guests, which included short presentations about Freemasonry. Following this event the 'Western Gazette' was invited to the Masonic Hall for a question and answer session with the Provincial Grand Master and Tony Old. It then published an article about Freemasonry. The Order was indeed becoming more open about itself and also the contributions it made to the local community and to national charities.

During the last week of June and the first week of July 2002 the Craft was more visible across the country than for more than sixty years when it staged the 'Freemasonry in the Community' event. The aim was to raise public perception of the role played by Freemasons in their own community. A special supplement was printed in the 'Western

Gazette' giving details of Freemasonry in general, its support for those in need and the various events to be held across South Somerset. Amongst these events was a very successful sponsored 'Ski for the Disabled' at the Yeovil Ski Centre, which was attended by the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro David Williamson. There was an exhibition in Yeovil Library and an Open Day and exhibition at the Masonic Hall in Yeovil. Conducted tours of the Lodge Room and Dining Room and a display by Yeovil Sea Cadets were held for members of the community. A service for local Community Groups and civic leaders was held at St John's Church in Yeovil, led by the Rev Ivor Hughes. Not only did the various events raise funds for local charities and community groups but certainly achieved its aim of raising the profile of Freemasonry in the Yeovil area.

As 2010 approached it was agreed that the Bi-Centenary celebrations of the Lodge should encompass all the lodges in Yeovil and celebrate 200 years of Freemasonry in the area. This would also provide an opportunity to advance the public perception of Freemasonry. A pattern similar to that for the 2002 'Freemasonry in the Community' event was agreed. There would be an exhibition in the Yeovil Town Library, an Open Day at the Masonic Hall, a press release for the local media and an event where all the Yeovil lodges would present cheques to local charities.

Raising funds

There have been many different ways of collecting and managing the Lodge's charity funds over 200 years. Donations from members have been a common form of raising funds. Back in the 1800's a donation took the form of a 'tontine', which carried a vote for a charity proposal at a Provincial or Grand Lodge meeting. More recently regular donations have been made through covenants or Gift Aid. Social events, draws at the festive board and sponsored activities have also been a source of charitable funds. Some members have made generous donations and bequests to the Lodge. Managing these funds has been through a Charitable Trust or an Association or by placing funds directly to the Lodge Benevolent account or sent to the Grand Charity Relief Chest. At all times charitable giving has been a feature of the work of the Lodge.

The Lodge has also been closely involved in the 'Festivals' organised by the Province. This has been a way in which the Masonic community in Somerset and elsewhere has supported and raised funds for its own major Charities. The Festival is in essence a long-term savings project, usually run for ten years, whereby the Province sets a target for each Lodge to raise funds for a specific Masonic charity. Most recently this Lodge contributed £31,000 to the 2007 Somerset Festival in support of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. In total the Province raised £3.5 million.

Currently there are four masonic charities, The Grand Charity, The Royal Benevolent Institution, The Masonic Samaritan Fund and The Royal Masonic Trust for Boys and Girls. It is worth noting that in the past twenty-five years alone, over £40 million has been donated to masons and their families and over £30 million to non-masonic charities.

Helping masons and dependents

The first mention of giving financial help to someone in need was when £1 was sent to a member of the Scientific Lodge at Crewkerne in February 1820. Another £1 was then sent to the Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity in June 1820 who had requested relief for a Brother in need. On 15 May 1821 a request came from Mount Sinai Lodge in Cornwall who asked for help for a Brother in distress and as a result 12 shillings was collected from the brethren who were present and later another 8 shillings added from those who had been absent, making a total of £1. In July 1821 the Master advised the brethren that the wife and children of Lodge member Bro Matthew Hobbs, a Yeoman from Limington who was made a mason in 1812,

were in great distress as he was in gaol. 13s 6p was collected and sent to them 'by the hand of Brother Trent'. Further relief of £2 was given to him in 1823 as he was still in 'great distress.'

Past Master of this Lodge, William Bridle, who was on trial in Wells for ill-treating prisoners at Ilchester gaol, had written to the Lodge in January 1823 and being 'reduced to the greatest penury and distress' was sent 'a sum of £16 as a mark of the regard and esteem of the brethren'. Later in April 1835 the Lodge supported a petition for him for the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons.

In April 1826 Ann Rowland Daniel, daughter of Sir Francis Columbine Daniel who was not a member of the Lodge, had written a letter to the Lodge asking for assistance as she was in distressed circumstances. This was considered and a grant of £5 was agreed. However in September of the same year this was reduced to £1 because although the relief had been given because her father was a mason 'further information' that had subsequently come to light about the late Sir Francis Columbine Daniel who was of 'doubtful character'. Although the minutes offer no further comment it appears that Sir Francis Columbine Daniel had a chequered career in masonry. As a leading member of both an Antients and premier Grand Lodge before the Union, he initiated many men and issued certificates under his own authority, which met the displeasure of both Grand Lodges. He did though start a Masonic charity for 'Clothing and Educating the sons of Indigent and Deceased Masons', which later became the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. He had also had some unwelcome publicity five years earlier when on 5 May 1821 the London Gazette reported

The honour of knighthood having in two recent instances been surreptitiously obtained at the Levee, His Majesty for the purpose of effectively guarding against all such disgraceful practices in the future, has been pleased to direct that henceforth no person shall be presented to His Majesty at the Levee.....unless His Majesty's pleasure shall have previously signified in writing.'

There is some mystery about this as the two men were not named at the time but it is very likely that it was Francis Columbine Daniel and the eminent surgeon Charles Aldis. Attending a garden party at Buckingham Palace they joined a queue of people that were to be 'presented' to the King. It is said they were surprised to be asked to kneel, each shoulder was tapped with a sword and they were knighted. However their 'accidental' knighthood did not have His Majesty's prior knowledge or agreement but even so could not be undone.

In December 1833 John Spratt, who was one of the first initiates and the first Tyler of the Lodge, in consideration of his great age and the faithful manner in which he had attended to his duties was given an allowance of 2s 6p a week and later in October 1839 he was given a further 30 shillings out of Lodge funds.

Common in the nineteenth century was for charitable donations, a tontine, to carry a vote and the vote to be cast for a petitioner of the relevant Masonic charity. Obviously the larger the donation the more votes one received, It appears that a lot of 'horse trading' went on between lodges and provinces in collecting support for their particular candidate or candidates. The Lodge had over the years nominated several boys and girls to be educated at the Royal Masonic Institutions for Boys (RMIB) and for Girls (RMIG). The first one to be accepted was George Cox, son of the late Fred Cox, who had been Master and Treasurer for the Lodge for twelve years, who was adopted by the Lodge as a candidate for Boys School in 1887. He was duly elected, educated there and went on to be apprenticed to a drapery establishment in the City of London.

In 1912 one of our members, Bro Brook, asked for assistance to go to South Africa as he had 'not a penny in the world.' Advised that he was not eligible for help from Grand

Lodge or Masonic charities because he was fit and able-bodied, members of the Lodge made a collection that enabled the Treasurer to purchase his rail fare to Southampton, plus a passage to South Africa and a letter of credit on his landing there for £20. Unfortunately we do not know how he fared in South Africa.

During the Great War amongst the requests for assistance two were from Grand Lodge, who requested help for 200 Masons, who had been detained in Germany at the start of the War and were interred at a camp on a former racecourse that held 5,500 civilians, at Ruthleben, Spandau near Berlin. The Lodge responded favourably to the requests. In the Second World War gifts of sportswear and money were sent to HM Forces, donations were sent to the National Lifeboat Institution and to the St Dunstan's Home for blinded soldiers, sailors and airmen. In December 1943 100 guineas was sent to the Royal Masonic Hospital which was treating those wounded in the War.

Lodge members, their families and dependents, have been and are eligible for support and several have received help from the four masonic Charities. Many have received grants for medical treatment, children have received grants to support their education, some members have been able to move to a Masonic Care Home, whilst others in need have received grants for building refurbishment, equipment or to maintain a reasonable lifestyle.

Supporting non-Masonic causes

Lodge members have also contributed directly to non-masonic charities and appeals. £5 5s was sent to the Lord Mayor's London Fund in 1862 for the distress in Lancashire resulting from the cotton famine in connection with the American Civil War. In 1870 donations in aid of the sick and wounded in Franco-Prussian War enabled £10 to be handed to the Mayor of Yeovil. In 1871 £10 10s was sent to Yeovil Hospital and Dispensary Building Fund and another £5 0s for the fund set up during the severe outbreak of smallpox in the town. In 1899 £5 5s was sent to the War fund for the relief of widows and orphans in the Transvaal and Orange Free State and £7 7s was sent to the Lord Mayor of London's Fund in 1909 help to those caught up in the earthquakes on the Italian mainland and on Sicily. Many similar donations have been made over the years including those made during the two World Wars.

In the past few years donations have been made to Yeovil Hospital particularly to the Children's Ward and the Flying Colours Appeal, to the Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance, the Children's Hospices at Barnstaple and Wraxhill, St Margaret's Hospice, Five Ways Special School in Yeovil, as well as donations of equipment and financial support to individuals in need.

In 2002 Freemasons up and down the country celebrated 'Freemasonry in the Community' which was a week of events emphasising the involvement and support Freemasons gave to community projects. The sponsored Ski event, at the Yeovil ski-slope, in aid of the British Ski Club for the Disabled enabled a 'Sit-Ski' to be presented to the Club. This special ski enables those who have lost their legs, or the use of them, to actually use the ski slope. The funds raised by the sponsored event and a donation from the Province totalled £20,000.

One example of the support regularly given to non-masonic charities has been for Emergency Relief. In 2004 this Lodge sent £1,000 to The Grand Charity to help alleviate the problems caused by the tsunamis that hit Thailand, Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the islands of the Indian Ocean, which killed 250,000 people and left many people homeless and their livelihoods lost. Donations from lodges across England totalling £1 million were made to The Grand Charity which then gave grants that have helped reconstruct the lives of very many people, including children, who were caught up in that emergency. New schools were built in Hambatantola in Sri Lanka and Aceh Besar in Indonesia and a long-term project was established at Villapuram in India where ten villages and 1500 families had their lives

devastated by the tsunamis. The grants enabled new fishing boats, engines and nets to be purchased and child care centres to be set up. Additionally support for children's learning activities and women's self-help groups were established, plus health care clinics, and nutrition and sanitation and other health related initiatives were introduced.

In 2009 The Grand Charity gave the following grants to the Aid Agencies

- £10,000 - floods in Cumbria
- £25,000 - floods in Southern India
- £50,000 - earthquakes and floods in South East Asia
- £5,000 - floods in Namibia
- £5,000 - floods in Fiji
- £15,000 - bushfires in Australia

At the start of 2010, the Grand Charity gave £30,000 to Aid Agencies following the major earthquake in Haiti when over 100,000 people were killed. Later in March £20,000 was donated to the Red Cross to help relief efforts in Chile following the severe earthquake there.

Since 2005 many Teddy Bears have been donated to Yeovil Hospital and they have been given to children in the accident and emergency and children's units. The idea behind the scheme is that they are given to those young patients who are particularly distressed to distract them from their reason for being in hospital and to use the teddy bear as an aid in giving care and treatment. The scheme was started by an Essex Freemason in 2001 and is now covers the country during which time around 500,000 Teddies have been given to children which includes around 10,000 that have been given to children in Somerset hospitals and Hospices.

St Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil

From 2000 a special effort had made by Lodge members and the Province to support the building of the St Margaret's Hospice in Yeovil. Tony Old who was a volunteer at the Yeovil ski slope came up with the idea of a sponsored event, 'Ski Saturday'. He received the support of the Province, through the Provincial Secretary Terry Hart, and many Somerset Lodges. A number of spectacular sponsored ski races including the slalom, speed races and short straight runs, for the inexperienced, were held at the Yeovil Ski-Centre. Surprisingly, as it was held in March, the last event of the day had to be curtailed because of snow! 'Ski Saturday' received wide press coverage including television and through sponsorship and donations a staggering £15,000 was raised. Donations were made to the Hospice building fund and also the Children with Leukaemia charity and for equipment at a local health centre.

At the next annual Provincial meeting a further donation of £20,000 was given to the Hospice Fund from Somerset Freemasons. Further fundraising enabled a total of £40,000 to be donated to the St Margaret's (Yeovil) Hospice Building Fund and it was opened in December 2003 when one of its rooms was named 'The Somerset Freemasons Room' in recognition of the help received from Somerset masons. Further donations have continued to be made to the Hospice from the Grand Charity and from local Lodges, including Brotherly Love.

The Masonic Widows Association

This very worthwhile group started in 1995 and caters for the widows of all masons in the Yeovil area. They are an active group who meet monthly for coffee, often have a speaker. They also meet up annually with the other widow's groups in Somerset. The Group also gave a donation to the Province's 2007 Festival.

Chapter 8

SOCIALISING

Freemasonry is not just about lectures, short plays, its history and legends or supporting those in-need. It is also about enjoying other people's company, having fun, involving families and building long-lasting friendships. As membership of Freemasonry itself is limited to men it has been a common practice to involve wives, partners, family and friends in social activities.

Refreshment is a noteworthy part of most meetings. The custom of linking refreshment with a meeting probably stems from the practice of the various Trade Guilds celebrating their Annual Meeting with a feast. Noted early Freemason, Elias Ashmole, remarked in his diary entry in 1682 'We all dined at the Half Moon Tavern in Cheapside, at a noble dinner prepared at the charge of the new accepted masons.' In the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries lodge meetings were commonly held in a room at an inns or coffee houses when members sat around long tables and would intersperse labour with refreshment. As members of the early lodges would have travelled considerable distances by horse or by foot there was a need for refreshment, which might have included a dinner with wine and rum punch or a humble bread and cheese supper with ale, brandy and pipes.

Society generally and those attending Masonic meetings at that time often tended to indulge in excessive drinking and the first Book of Constitutions advised brethren to avoid 'all Excess, or forcing a brother to eat and drink beyond his inclinations.' However Dr Desaguliers, the Grand Master, revived the drinking of toasts in 1719, which had the result of encouraging the consumption of alcohol, as there were often many toasts to be drunk! When an important toast was proposed it would often be announced by 'Charge, Brethren, Charge your glasses to the top, My toast forbids the spilling of a drop.' Today toasts are more limited in number.

Separating the festive board from the formal meeting tended to evolve after 1813 following the Union of the Grand Lodges and the encouragement of separate meeting and dining rooms. In the case of our own lodge we continued to meet in the Three Choughs Inn for almost seventy years until the Masonic Hall was opened in 1894 with separate rooms for meeting and dining.

Music and song have long been associated with Masonic meetings. Many songs are and have been part of the ceremonial part of the meeting but also many reflect the social side of masonry with references commonly to wine, glasses charged full high, a noble toast, the flowing bowl. Brotherly Love has developed a musical heritage at the festive board with an Absent Brethren song, an Entered Apprentice song and a song to welcome the new Worshipful Master. A song to welcome our guests and visitors was introduced in 1979 and the evening is closed with 'Abide with Me'. The festive board is certainly a merry occasion!

The social side of Freemasonry, which includes wining and dining, having fun, building friendships, having vibrant discussions except those involving politics and religion, has proved attractive to many over the years and helps to account for the continuing popularity of Freemasonry.

Social Events

Social events have always been an important part of this Lodge's activities. In 1898 there was a summer outing, which left Yeovil at 8.00am and went to Lyme Regis, where lunch was taken. Then back to Bridport for tea eventually arriving back in Yeovil at 10pm. The cost was 10 shillings. More summer outings were arranged as the road network improved in the

new century and charabancs were able to transport larger numbers of people. Day trips were also made to Stourton and Longleat, to Torquay and Buckland Abbey and to Exmoor, stopping at Porlock, Minehead and Dunster for tea.

In the 1970's social events tended to be family and friends 'get-togethers' with everyone bringing some food, the bar was open, taped music was played and games like 'shooting for a bottle of scotch' taking place. Numbers attending though declined in the 1980's and a change was needed. After one or two Ladies Festivals, which did not cover costs, causing the Worshipful Master to make up the shortfall, Tony Old persuaded the Lodge Committee to form a Social Committee to organise future Ladies Festivals and run other social events. One purpose was to provide funds to repair or replace articles used by the Lodge as well as in exceptional circumstances to provide charitable donations. At the end of the first year the Social Committee was able to provide funds for a new set of collars and cuffs for the Worshipful Master and Officers.

In the 1980s Tony Old again played a leading role in arranging a number of very successful events. The first of these was a 'French Evening' that was something very different. Fancy dress was the order of the day and the Hall was decorated with posters obtained by him from the French Embassy for the 'Western Travel Services Ltd' (alias the 329 Social committee) and from Graham Whitworth who had recently returned from Paris. Tables had red and white tablecloths, the walls were covered by red, white and blue crepe paper, red candles provided light and a French night party pack from Jon Sibley created the atmosphere of a French nightclub. Gendarmes in full dress order (Tony Old, Richard Stallard, Russell Chatwin, Paul Newham) led the singing of traditional French songs with "Fingers" Whitworth on the ivories, whilst two can-can dancers from the Operatic Society enlivened the evening.

Following on this resounding success, a 'Wartime Evening' was arranged with the bar disguised as an air-raid shelter, an issue of replica ration cards as tickets, blackout tape on the windows. People wore a wide range of uniforms and outfits, including Tony Robins and Tony Chant resplendent with their WWII leather flying jackets and helmets. A siren 'called' everyone to dinner. A 'Twenties Night' was equally successful. Going further afield an 'Hawaiian Night' was held at Staddlestones Restaurant at Cote and later in the summer a Spanish barbeque at Richard Stallard's 'The Fleur de Lys' Inn, when it rained heavily and the skittle alley had to be used! But things moved on and the Social Committee was eventually wound up but as a result of these activities over £900 was raised and passed to the Lodge.

Various social events have though carried on over the years with the Worshipful Master of the year arranging all manner of events from Supper nights at the Masonic Hall to barbeques in the summer. Recently, following the Christmas meeting, our wives or partners and non-Masonic guests have joined us at the festive board. Another feature has been the introduction of a Gentleman's evening with the purpose of introducing Freemasonry to non-members to hopefully excite their interest in becoming members.

Ladies Festivals

A highlight of social activities has been the Ladies Festival, which is usually a black-tie dinner with dancing. It a formal recognition of the support given by wives and partners over a past year and is marked by each lady receiving a gift from the Worshipful Master.

The first mention in the records of a Ladies Festival or Ball was in 1890 when a dispensation was given by the Provincial Grand Master for masonic regalia to be worn at the Ball, but this was conditional that one of the Central Masonic charities should be supported. After expenses had been deducted from the proceeds there were insufficient funds available for donation! As a result five guineas was awarded from Lodge funds and several brethren

then gave individual donations bringing the amount up to ten guineas, thereby securing two votes for the Royal Masonic Institution For Boys.

In the 1920s several joint Brotherly Love and Parrett and Axe Ladies Festivals were held in the Victoria Hall in Crewkerne. In the 1970s and 1980s our Ladies Festivals were held at the Digby Hall. Up to 1979 only masons and their wives could attend but after that non-masons were welcome. All Yeovil lodges and the Lodge of Benevolence from Sherborne supported each other's Ladies' nights until the unavailability of the Digby Hall led to an alternative venue being sought. Initially many were held at the Shrubbery Hotel in Ilminster, later at the Wessex Hotel in Street and then at the Westland's Social Club. The first use of our own Masonic Hall for a Ladies Festival was in 1996. In 2007 the Worshipful Master Mark Plowman decided to hold a joint Ladies Festival over a weekend in Bournemouth, in association with his brother-in-law's Chilterns Lodge No 4643, which proved to be very successful with over £1000 raised for Cancer Research charities. The Ladies Festival in 2008 was held at Long Sutton Golf Club and in 2009 at the Manor Hotel in Yeovil, both were well supported and also raised substantial funds for charity.

The Travelling Gavel

The travelling gavel aims to promote visiting and friendship amongst Freemasons. There are several travelling gavels in existence but one in which the Lodge has a connection is started back in 1994 when the Master of St Martin's Lodge in Chatham, Massachusetts, USA, W Bro Proctor was installed as Master and present were eleven brethren from England. Of these five were from King Alfred Lodge No 3196 of Weston-Super-Mare and one from Loyal Lodge No 251 from Barnstaple. So when W Bro Proctor and two other members of St Martin's Lodge visited England in April 1997 they brought a travelling gavel with them and presented it to the Loyal Lodge, which they in turn then presented it to King Alfred Lodge. In October 1997 members of another Lodge at Weston having heard the story of the gavel raided King Alfred Lodge and claimed it. A raiding party from Meridian Lodge in Stockport then claimed the gavel from them.

In March 1998, our Master W Bro Shaun Stent accompanied by W Bro Steve Defries and Bro Max Bloor made a raid to Stockport and claimed the travelling gavel during their Old English Night. However in February 2001 the Lodge itself was raided by a contingent from Duncombe Lodge No 1486 from Devon, who had received inside information from one its members W Bro Jon Sibley, who was also a member of this Lodge, that we had the gavel and it was claimed by them.

Chapter 9

THE GRAND OFFICERS

To be promoted to become a Grand Officer of the United Grand Lodge of England indicates one must have given outstanding service to the Order. To date twelve members of Brotherly Love have achieved such high office.

Dr William Wynn Westcott

Of all the current and past members of the Lodge, William Wynn Westcott is still probably the most widely known in Masonic circles. He was born in Leamington Spa in 1848 where his father was a doctor. In 1852 the family moved to Martock linking up with his half-brother, Richard Westcott Martyn. Both Wynn's parents died before he was ten years old and Richard took over his care. Wynn went to Grammar School and University in London where he became a Member of the College of Surgeons, Bachelor of Medicine and Licentiate of the Society of Apothecaries. After qualifying he joined his uncle in his Practice in Martock in 1871 and soon also became Manager of the National Schools and Representative at Diocesan Conferences, Manager of the Fire Brigade, Factory Surgeon, Public vaccinator and Medical Officer of Health and Quartermaster to a battalion of Volunteers.

He married Elizabeth Burnett in London in 1873 and lived in the imposing detached Bridge House in Water Lane in Martock. He was a member of the Church of England and it was therefore very likely he attended the All Saints' Church in Martock, a stone's throw from his house. He was made a mason in the Parrett and Axe Lodge in 1871 becoming Master in 1877. Meanwhile he joined this Lodge on 3 December 1873, proposed by the Organist at the All Saint's Church, Walter John Nosworthy and seconded by Past Master Henry Raymond, a tailor in Yeovil. He often visited other lodges in the company of John Milborne, Master of Brotherly Love in 1876 and it was clear then that he was always keener on the ceremonies than on the festive board.

He became Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies in 1877. He also joined the Royal Arch and Mark Degrees in Yeovil where he advanced to their Chairs and went on to achieve high office in both. After his uncle died he resigned from Brotherly Love in 1879 and he left his practice in Martock to go to London. He returned for the opening of the Masonic Hall in 1894 and also for the Centenary Celebrations in 1910 when he was one of the Officers representing Grand Lodge. He was appointed a Past Junior Grand Deacon in 1902. In 1880 he joined the 'Societas Rosicruciana in Anglia', a Society limited to Master Masons but beyond and outside Freemasonry and in 1891 he became its Supreme Magus remaining so until his death. In 1886 he became the eighth joining member of the noted Quatuor Coronati Lodge, which was set up to reflect on and research Masonic history. He became its Master in 1893 and again in 1903, which showed his standing among masons. He contributed many papers for the Transactions of that Lodge including 'Mason's Marks', 'The secret Alphabet of Cornelius Agrippa' and 'Symbolism of the Tabernacle'.

For the first two years after leaving Martock he studied Kabalistic philosophy and similar ideas before being appointed to the post of Deputy Coroner for Middlesex and Central London in 1881. In 1894 he became Coroner for North East London, a post he held until 1918. He wrote several books in his professional capacity including works on 'Suicide', 'Preventable Death in Children' and 'Sudden Death' and was joint author of sixteen editions of the 'Extra Pharmacopoeia'. He also became President of the Coroner's Society and a Justice of the Peace.

He increasingly became interested in the more exotic rituals 'beyond the Craft' joining several 'Rites' and 'Orders' including the 'Rite of Swedenburg'. This was at a time that whilst Craft Masonry was expanding quite rapidly, with the consequent increase in the number of lodges, whilst at the same time there was also widespread public interest in spiritualism. Westcott became one of the three founders of the 'Hermetic Order of the Golden Dawn', a non-Masonic Order, that involved the occult and 'magical practices' and whose members later included W B Yeats, and the actress Florence Farr. In 1897 as his membership of the Order had become known, he decided he had to resign, as he was advised that if he did not do so he would lose his job as Coroner. He was also the author of several books reflecting his interest in esoteric matters including 'A Treatise on the Kabala' and 'The Isiac Tablet'.

It was no doubt this aspect of his life, in writing many books and pamphlets on the esoteric and his interest in the occult, that caused support for his views and influence to lessen within Masonic circles.

In 1920 he left England to settle in Durban, South Africa where his daughter Lillian lived with her husband and their two children. He was a frequent visitor to lodges in Natal and often gave lectures on Freemasonry. He died in 1925 and his daughter Ida described the burial in Durban: 'The Masons gave him a grand Masonic funeral with full honours and he lies in a lovely sunny spot facing the sea.' The Freemason Magazine reflected that he had been a 'thorough and judicious investigator' and the obituary in Transactions of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge stated that he had been 'a great Mason and a disseminator of light.'

Alfred Gates

Alfred Gates, then manager of the West Surrey Castral Dairy Company in Sherborne, was proposed as a joining member in October 1895 by the Secretary of the Lodge, Bro Henry Rodber and seconded by the Senior Warden, Bro Charles Hook. He was at that time a member of Benevolence Lodge in Sherborne where he became its Master in 1898 and again in 1904. His first office in our Lodge was as Director of Ceremonies in 1908 and again during the Centenary year of 1910. He became Master in 1911. He was promoted to Past Assistant Director of Ceremonies in Grand Lodge in 1926 and also in the same year to Past Standard Bearer in the Royal Arch, having previously been First Principal in Brotherly Love Chapter in 1903.

Such was his standing in the Lodge that on 16 March 1927 a presentation of a silver loving cup and illuminated address was made to him on behalf of the members of Brotherly Love Craft and Royal Arch and the William de Irwin Mark Lodge in Yeovil. The Western Gazette reported that the loving cup was inscribed 'As an expression of deep affection and in grateful recognition of his great services to Freemasonry.' He died just over a month later.

Walter John Nosworthy

W J Nosworthy was a Professor of Music who with his wife and daughter ran the Ladies School at Girten House at the Park, which was 'situated in the healthiest and highest suburb of Yeovil.' The school offered, according to an advert in The Western Gazette, 'language, typewriting, music, dancing, swimming and tennis'. Six certified and foreign governesses assisted them. He was also the organist at All Saints' Church in Martock when he joined the Lodge in 1865, having been initiated in the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship No 135 in Bridgwater on 12 December 1864. He also joined the Parrett and Axe Lodge in Crewkerne in 1870 and became its Worshipful Master in 1875. He became Master of Brotherly Love in 1884 and again in its Centenary year. In recognition of his commitment to Masonic affairs he was appointed Provincial Grand Organist. In 1897 Lord Dungarvon, the Provincial Grand Master, promoted him to Past Senior Grand Warden in the Province. He later became Deputy Grand Organist in Grand Lodge in 1912.

Apart from his interest in Music he was a very keen supporter of Masonic Charities serving as a steward to the Benevolent Institution in 1878 and 1891, to the Boys' Schools in 1885 and 1886 as well as being the Charity Officer and Delegate for the Lodge for many years. In other Degrees he took the Chair in the Royal Arch Chapter of Brotherly Love in 1887 and 1889 and was promoted to Provincial rank on three occasions. As a Mark Mason he also took the Chair in 1887-88-89 and 1902, attained Provincial honours on three occasions and was invested in 1890 as Grand Organist of the Grand Mark Lodge of England.

The Lodge accorded a particular honour to him in 1910 when in recognition of his long service to the Lodge he was invited to Chair the Lodge for the Centenary celebrations. He was elected an honorary member in 1914, which was his fiftieth year as a Mason and forty-eighth year in the Lodge.

Walter Goddard Rogers

Walter Rogers became Deputy Provincial Grand Master in Devonshire in the mid-1870s. A solicitor, he was made a mason in December 1848 when in his early twenties. He was proposed by Thomas Cave and seconded by George Hancock. He attended the Lodge regularly from 1853 and became Master in 1856. His active work in the Lodge ended at the end of that year when he left Yeovil to go to Exeter where he continued as an attorney-at-law and solicitor.

In 1861 he was living in Exeter with his wife, Dorothy, daughter Mary, two of his sisters and three servants. In that year he joined St George's Lodge No 112 in Exeter. In 1877 he was appointed Past Grand Deacon of England, which is probably at the time he became Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire, but the loss of provincial records in the blitz in Exeter in the Second World War limits our knowledge of his Masonic activities in Devon. When he became Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Devonshire the Rev John Huyshe was the Provincial Grand Master who was encouraging lodges to meet in its own premises rather than inns and taverns in order to promote the respectability of Freemasonry. He died aged 90 in 1917.

The Rev Richard John Francis Thomas

Richard Thomas was a tower of strength in the Lodge between 1857 and 1873. In 1866 and also in 1867 he was Grand Chaplain of the Grand Lodge of England.

He was born in London on 24 November 1812 and spent his early childhood in Italy. He had been admitted a Queen's Scholar to St Peter's College in Westminster at the age of thirteen and in 1831 became a Commoner of Christ Church at Oxford where he obtained a third class degree in Classics in 1834 and graduated with a MA in 1840. It was while at Oxford he became a Freemason becoming a member of Alfred Lodge No 425. He was admitted into Holy Orders and held several Curacies before becoming Chaplain of Bancroft's Hospital School where one hundred boys were maintained and educated at Mile End in London. He then became Vicar of St John the Baptist in Yeovil in 1855, a position he held until his death in 1873.

He joined this Lodge as a joining member in September 1857. He had been asked to join in May 1857 but was concerned he would offend some of his parishioners so he politely declined. He did though agree for Provincial Grand Lodge to hold a service in the Church on 15 July 1857. Perhaps this occasion influenced him as he was subsequently elected a joining member. He was appointed Chaplain of the Lodge in 1858, an office he held for fifteen years, except for 1864 when he was Master. In 1858 he also acted as Provincial Grand Chaplain at the laying of the foundation stone of St Mary's in Taunton. He held that office for four years. On 10 July 1860 he was elected the first Worshipful Master of Parrett and Axe Lodge that met in Crewkerne. In December 1861 there was a contest between him and Bro Samuel

Cross for election to the Master's Chair in Brotherly Love. The Rev Thomas received the majority of votes but he stood down in favour of Bro Cross. He did though become Worshipful Master three years later in 1864.

He was an eloquent preacher with broad views and sympathies. He was a noted figure in the town and it is said he was held in the highest esteem by all classes and every shade of religious opinion. When he died in August 1873 a large number of townspeople attended the funeral, the shops in Yeovil were closed at the time of the funeral and business suspended for the rest of the day. A full Masonic funeral was accorded to him and a dispensation was given to attend the funeral in Masonic clothing. The Lodge Room was draped in black, as were the collars of all the Officers. Forty-eight brethren walked in procession to the church and then to cemetery where W Bro Jacob, the Worshipful Master of All Souls' Lodge in Weymouth, delivered 'an eloquent and impressive oration at the graveside'.

The Lodge held him in such regard that funds were collected to provide a beautiful memorial in the Yeovil cemetery, which is carved with many Masonic symbols. Additionally a brass tablet was placed in the chancel of St John's Church, which reflected the high esteem he was held in by both the Lodge and his parishioners.

David Leonard

David Leonard had an interesting introduction to Brotherly Love. Having been proposed by Stephen Baker, one his solicitor partners in Batten & Co, and whilst waiting for many months to be called by the Lodge, he accepted a job in Hong Kong. An Emergency meeting was then held to initiate him and to his surprise the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Harry Owen Hughes, was present. It transpired that he had previously been the District Grand Master for the District of Hong Kong and was able to give him many insights into life in Hong Kong and in Freemasonry there.

On arriving in Hong Kong he joined Zetland Lodge No 525, which met at Zetland Hall where all the Masonic meetings took place and where in different lodges the English, Irish and Scottish Constitutions were worked. The Lodge met monthly but had no rehearsals whilst there was just one Lodge of Instruction for all the lodges in Hong Kong. He became a Master Mason in Zetland Lodge becoming Master in 1983. Being of an Irish family, he joined an Irish Lodge, Sino Lusitano of Macau No 897IC, which met partly in Macau, a Portuguese enclave, and also in Hong Kong. He was later appointed a Past Assistant Grand Registrar and Deputy District Grand Master Hong Kong and the Far East, a position he retired from in 1996.

During his time as Deputy District Grand Master he travelled to Singapore, Japan, Australia, Singapore and Thailand. It was not easy balancing this role against his day job as a judge in the High Court, but also as a member of the Royal Arch and other Degrees, and having a role in the Royal Hong Kong Regiment (the Volunteers). He returned to the UK in 1997 to live in Wiltshire but has always made an annual pilgrimage to his Mother Lodge in Yeovil.

Frederick Edward Nutt

Frederick Edward Nutt was Deputy Provincial Grand Master between 1936 and 1948. He was made a mason in St Mary's Lodge in Bridport on 9 November 1916 and became a joining member of this Lodge in 1919 and Worshipful Master in 1927. He was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1935 at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting held at the Town Hall in Yeovil and succeeded Bro Rowland T A Hughes as the Deputy Provincial Grand Master for Somerset in 1936. He remained in that office until 1948 when ill health caused him to resign. In 1937 he was promoted to the rank of Junior Grand Deacon in the Grand Lodge of

England. He was Master of the Somerset Masters' Lodge for two years in 1941 and 1942 and his inaugural address was entitled 'Notes on the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset'.

He was Manager of the Westminster Bank from 1918 through to his retirement in 1943. During his time in Yeovil he involved himself in local affairs, which included being the Treasurer of the Yeovil Rural Council for twenty-four years, President of the Yeovil Rotary Club, Treasurer of the Ivel Club (which was a noted private members' club), and additionally he held a variety of positions at Holy Trinity Church. Indeed it was said that there were few public organisations in the town in which he was not in some way connected, often as Treasurer. After he retired he set up a Trust Fund, managing an appeal for funds for to benefit the Yeovil District Nursing Association and £1000 was subscribed to the fund. The Minutes of the Lodge recorded that he was 'an unswervingly loyal Freemason'.

Anthony Edwin Old

Tony Old was initiated into the Lodge in 1979 and was proposed by Bro David Young, then a well-known local architect, broadcaster, TV presenter and journalist. He became Master in 1990, promoted to Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1996, then Junior Grand Warden in 2000 and Past Senior Grand Warden in 2001. He was Treasurer of the Somerset Masters' Lodge for several years and took the Chair of the William de Irwin Mark Masons Lodge in Yeovil. He was promoted to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2003. A dinner was held by the Lodge to mark this significant promotion.

As well as being first class at learning and presenting 'work' in the Lodge he passed on his knowledge of the ceremonies when he was Director of Ceremonies in the Lodge. Beyond that he has been very active promoting the wider aspects of Freemasonry, which has included presentations to ladies and non-masons in this and other lodges. Mention is made elsewhere of his leading role in re-invigorating the social side of the Lodge for over a decade in the 1980s and 1990s. In the 1990s he organised the Yeovil Lodges' Carol Service at St John the Baptist Church in Yeovil, which attracted a large number of masons and their wives and families. Refreshments at the Masonic Hall and the presentation of cheques to various charities followed the service.

In the 1990s he played a significant role in promoting the concept of the 'openness' of Freemasonry in the Yeovil area following the lead of the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Stanley Hopkins. He also successfully managed the 'Freemasonry in the Community' event in this area in 2002.

Not content with being an active officer in the Lodge he took it upon himself to explore the archives and prepare a 'History of the Masonic Hall in Yeovil' to mark its Centenary in 1994 and he was also responsible for researching and preparing the exhibition of artefacts covering the years from 1894 to 1994. This obviously encouraged him further and he has produced articles on various aspects of the history of the Lodge for publication in the 'Transactions' of The Somerset Masters Lodge No 3746. In 2005 he retired from his accountancy practice and moved to live in Spain.

Arthur Leonard Pope

Arthur Pope was one of the stalwarts of Yeovil masonry in the first half of the twentieth century. He was born in 1876 in the Dorchester area but by 1881 he was living in Yeovil. In his youth he played football for Yeovil Casuals, but his main interest apart from business was Freemasonry.

In business he was associated with Messrs Aplin and Barrett Ltd, which became noted for its St Ivel cheese. He became Secretary in 1901 and in 1948 he was made Chairman in succession to the late Mr W S Barrett. In the same year he became Managing Director, a post he held until 1954. He retired as Chairman in 1956.

He joined the Lodge of Brotherly Love in 1904 and he remained an active member until his death in 1962 when he was still Treasurer of the Lodge. He became Worshipful Master in 1913, the same year in which he was married. He was a keen supporter of the Lodge's charity work and was its Charity Representative for many years. In 1929 there was a High Court judgement concerning the ownership of the Masonic Hall, which meant that the Lodge needed to pay off the mortgage to the estate of W Bro Gates, he offered to pay £700 of the £775 required as a loan to the Lodge with interest agreed at 4.5%, which he then refunded to the Lodge.

He received many Masonic honours and became a Grand Officer with rank of Past Grand Standard Bearer in 1947 and then Past Grand Deacon in 1959. He was a founder member of both the Progressive Science and Corinthian Pillar Lodges in Yeovil and became Master of Progressive Science Lodge. He also was active in other Masonic Orders gaining Grand Rank in The Royal Arch and he became a founder member of the Yeovil Chapter of the Ancient and Accepted Rite in 1957 having been a Past Most Wise Sovereign of Weymouth Chapter. He was known for the quality of his 'work' in the various degrees, which went beyond the repetition of words and had a real impact on many brethren. He was always approachable by young masons.

Arthur Pope was also well known in Dorset. He joined Benevolence Chapter in Sherborne in 1945 and he played a leading role in re-establishing the Royal Arch in Dorset after the Second World War. He was honoured to become Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Dorset between 1957 and 1962. He was eighty-one years old when appointed. It is of interest that he did not actually join a Dorset Craft Lodge until 1957 when he joined the Lodge of Benevolence 1168 in Sherborne.

Sidney Theodore Thring

Sidney Thring was born in Milborne Port in 1872 and was a partner with Reginald Luffman in the well-known local glove manufacturers 'Thring and Luffman' which was located in Reckleford in Yeovil. He was well regarded in business becoming President of the Yeovil and District Glove Manufacturers Association.

He became a mason on 9 Jan 1907 and three years later in December 1910 the Lodge gave their hearty congratulations to him when he married. He was Master for two years in 1916 and 1917. When he was re-elected for a second year there was discussion whether there should be a second formal Installation for him. The matter was referred to the Provincial Grand Secretary who replied that 'as the present WM had been installed and undertook to carry out the duties until a successor should be approved and installed in his place, that under the circumstances no installation ceremony whatever will be required.' So Sidney Thring just carried on and appointed his Officers.

He had a considerable interest in Charity work and was Charity Representative for many years. On 4 April 1928 he presented the tracing boards that are used in the Lodge today. He was a founder of Progressive Science Lodge and a member of the Somerset Masters' Lodge. In 1944 he attained the Grand Rank of Past Assistant Grand Director Ceremonies and also as Past Grand Standard Bearer in Supreme Grand Chapter.

Norman George Warry

Norman Warry joined the Lodge in 2007. He was made a mason in the Parrett and Axe Lodge No 814 in 1968, becoming a Master Mason in May 1965. He was Master of Parrett and Axe in 1980-81 and again in 2005-06. He was promoted to Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 1986 and then Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1996. He was the Provincial charity representative in the south of the Province for many years. He was promoted to Past

Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 2000. He is currently the Chairman of the Somerset Masonic Bowling Association.

William (Bill) Vaux

The Vaux family had a connection with the Lodge even before he joined. The very valuable chairs for the Worshipful Master and Senior and Junior Warden were stored at his father's premises at Ilchester for safe keeping during WWII. Bill Vaux himself was born in Merriott and attended the village school. In 1926 he became a pupil at King's College, Taunton, and stayed there until 1932 after which he joined his father's business. He volunteered for National Service during the Second World War and served with Royal Army Service Corps from 1940 until 1946.

He was made a mason in the Lodge on 2 November 1949, proposed and seconded by two well-known businessmen of the town, William Ricketts and Roy Vincent. He became a very enthusiastic mason becoming Master of Brotherly Love in 1961 and a founder of two lodges, namely Corinthian Pillar Lodge in 1957 and the Old Aluredian Lodge, his old School Lodge in Taunton, where he became Master in 1970. He was the Provincial representative for the Royal Masonic Hospital for several years and often drove the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Kenneth Kinnersley to meetings across Somerset. He was promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1977 and was further promoted to Grand Rank as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1986. This was a significant honour and the members of Brotherly Love and Corinthian Pillar held a dinner in his honour. Members of Brotherly Love also subscribed to a magnificent crystal decanter that was presented to him.

He was a significant benefactor to the Lodge presenting the grand piano used at the festive board, the mahogany chest to store regalia in the ante-room, a bookcase and with two other brethren, Maurice Sexton and Harold Haynes, paid for the existing carpet in the Lodge Room. He donated the Volume of the Sacred Law that is still used in the Lodge today. In 1960 noting that the two old banners of the Lodge were in a poor state of repair he arranged for them to be professionally restored and reframed at his own expense. They are now on the walls behind the Master's and Senior Warden's chairs. With the establishment of the Masonic Hall Company in the 1950's Bill was insistent that the Master's and Warden's Chairs must remain the property of the Lodge and not be transferred to the Company which was agreed.

Bill was a noted antique dealer, with premises close to the bridge over the river in Ilchester known as the 'Ilchester Galleries', and he would always bring an impressive set of silver candlesticks to Installations and the Christmas meeting. But apart from Masonry his true love was cars and motorsport. He took part in the London to Brighton Classic Car run on several occasions, whilst the 1903 Thorneycroft 10hp car, Registration PS58, which he bought in 1960 and sold in 1978, is now in the possession of the Hampshire Museum Service. He owned many classic cars, particularly of Edwardian pedigree, which he stored at a private museum, and he was frequently seen at the Silverstone and Castle Coombe racing circuits.

Chapter 10

SERVICE TO MASONRY

Masons with 60 years service

Walter Rogers, Joseph Brutton, George Allen, Geoffrey Hinks, the Rev George Mullard and Derek Blanchard achieved the rare distinction of being masons for over sixty years. Walter Rogers was the only one who received Grand Rank and more details about him are in the chapter on Grand Officers.

Joseph Brutton was well-known brewer and wine and spirit merchant for a time in partnership with fellow mason, Thomas Cave. He was born in Exeter but moved to Yeovil and became a joining member of Brotherly Love in December 1853. He had been initiated on July 23 1853 into the Lodge of Union at Starcross in Devon. He was the Master in the Lodge's Jubilee year 1860, the same year in which he married Elizabeth Lillington Hall. An Address of Congratulation was presented at a banquet held for him in May 1860. They had two daughters and two sons but unfortunately his wife died in May 1869. In 1871 he married Mary Georgina Cull and by 1883 they had eight children. The family and five servants lived in Princes Street, adjacent to the brewery. In 1893 he retired from his business and moved to Eastbourne but still took a keen interest in the Lodge. He presented one of the two pillars in the Lodge Room to mark its Centenary in 1910. He died in 1914 and was buried in the Yeovil cemetery.

George Allen was initiated in 1894 when he was twenty-five years old. He was a glove manufacturer in Yeovil. He became Junior Deacon in 1900 and a year later became Secretary. In October 1953 he was made an Honorary Member of Brotherly Love.

Geoffrey Hinks joined Brotherly Love in 1929 when he was twenty-six years old. In the Second World War he was a wireless engineer and became a Captain in the Royal Engineers. In November 1989 the Worshipful Master, W Bro Graham Whitworth, presented him with a silver goblet and a 60th anniversary certificate. In May 1992 he kindly gave the Lodge new songbooks. On a Saturday in February 1993 the Lodge held a special meeting to mark his 90th birthday.

The Rev George Mullard received his 60th anniversary certificate in May 2003 from the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Terry Hart, and also a commemorative card and centenary jewel from W Bro Tossell on behalf of his mother lodge in Plymouth. This followed on from his 50th anniversary certificate presented to him in May 1993. He had become a mason in Plymouth, joining the Sir Francis Drake Lodge in 1943. He later moved to become the vicar at East Coker Church. On his first visit to Brotherly Love, in March 1950, he was asked 'where were you made a mason?' to which he innocently replied 'Plymouth!' He soon became its Chaplain, a position he held for forty-two years until retiring in December 1997 when VW Bro Vernon Harding, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, presented him with a gift of crystal glassware. He became Master in 1964 and was four times the Provincial Grand Chaplain. In 1999 was promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden. For many years he hosted the annual Carol Service at East Coker Church and later at Holy Trinity Church. He was elected as an Honorary Member in 2003. He was a lover of wine, especially Barolo, and also made wine at his cottage in Alvington, which he and his wife had completely renovated in his spare time! He also built a boat and the family often went fishing off the East Devon coast. He loved caravanning and drove to the south of France, Spain and Italy almost every year until he reached 80 years of age. A keen and enthusiastic mason he was pleased to see his son, Paul, and grandson, Kingsley, join the Lodge.

Derek Blanchard achieved sixty years in masonry in March 2009 and his 60th anniversary certificate was presented to him at his lodge in Bideford, when several members of Brotherly Love were present. A fourth generation mason he was demobbed from the Army in 1946 and in his first week back in Yeovil his father, having been Junior Deacon at the initiation of Bro Salisbury, collapsed on his way home from the meeting. It was an emotional experience for him to be invested with his father's Master Mason's apron and later his Master's apron. He was made a mason in the Lodge in March 1949 and became Master in 1960, which was the 150th anniversary year of the Lodge. In 1960 he left Yeovil to work as a sub-postmaster in Devon but in his eleven years in the Lodge in Yeovil he only missed one meeting. He continued his Masonic career in Devon reaching the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. In March 1999 he was presented with his 50th anniversary certificate by VW Bro Vernon Harding, who was on his first visit to the Lodge as Deputy Provincial Grand Master. He was elected as an Honorary Member of Brotherly Love in 2005. Over the years he continued to make annual visits to Brotherly Love from Bideford, accompanied by W Bro Andrew Eastman, until deteriorating health in the recent years curtailed his visits. He had hoped to be present at the Bi-Centenary meeting but died in February 2010.

Masons with 50 years service

Name	50 th Anniversary	Notes
W Bro Walter J Nosworthy	December 1914	Master 1884 and 1910
W Bro Henry F Raymond	July 1932	Master 1890
W Bro Arthur L Pope	March 1954	Master 1913
W Bro William J Stevens	March 1960	Master 1919
W Bro Walter C Hicks	September 1978	Master 1945
Bro Walter G Gibson	May 1979	Works Manager at Petters Ltd
W Bro Roy P Vincent	May 1979	Master 1949
W Bro Percy W Atkins	May 1980	Master 1948
Bro Frank Reid	April 1986	His Mother Lodge was in New South Wales, Australia
W Bro William Henderson	April 1987	Master 1956
Bro James Wood	November 1988	Initiated in St George's Lodge No 1723 in Bolton
W Bro Bernie Slater	October 1997	Master No 6348
W Bro John M Bennett	December 1997	Master 1959
W Bro David Button	February 2007	Master 1972
W Bro Harold C Lewis	May 2007	Master 1991
Bro Ronald E Denning	February 2010	Farmer
Bro Derek J S Rogers	April 2010	Building Society Manager

Thomas Cave

Thomas Cave was a central figure in the Lodge for almost fifty years during the first half of the nineteenth century and without him the Lodge of Brotherly Love may well have not have survived. He was a brewer in Yeovil and for a time in partnership with Joseph Brutton. He was made a mason in Martock in November 1817. He had a strong personality and it is likely that his influence was instrumental in the move of the Lodge in 1819 to Yeovil. The first four

meetings in Yeovil were actually held in his house in Princes Street, where 'the room was large and suitable and could easily be tiled.'

He was Worshipful Master no fewer than eight times between 1821 and 1852 and Treasurer between 1845 and 1858. Even as early as 1822 the Minutes recorded the thanks of the members 'for his zeal in the cause of masonry and ability displayed by him in presiding over the brethren and for his endeavours to promote the prosperity of this Lodge and Masonry in general.' In 1834 he was presented with a silver vase 'for his indefatigable and unremitting exertions on behalf of Masonry and this Lodge in particular.' Earlier in 1823 he became First Principal in the Brotherly Love Royal Arch Chapter and until his death he took that Chair no fewer than twenty-five times!

It was during his year as Master in 1844 that the most remarkable meeting of the Lodge took place amongst the trees at the top of Windmill Hill. In the same year 1844 members unanimously passed a resolution that 'they gladly avail themselves of the joyful event of his marriage by offering him their sincere and fraternal congratulations with the ardent prayer that it may be attended with every blessing.' In typical style Thomas Cave, then the Master, did not miss a meeting during the rest of the year.

Later when the Lodge was in difficulty through lack of members he took the Master's Chair in 1851 and again in 1852 when he said 'we should stick together like a bundle of sticks.' At the end of 1852 the brethren passed a resolution 'that the cordial and grateful thanks of the Lodge be recorded in favour of Bro Cave for his long and faithful services, especially within the last two years, having served in an emergency the office of Worshipful Master.'

Thomas Cave played an important role in what might be termed the Robert Donne affair. In 1859 Bro Robert Donne was proposed as a re-joining member. It transpired that Bro Donne had left the Lodge in 1838 with six years dues in arrears. At a Lodge meeting in February 1859 Bro Harris proposed and Bro Ferris had seconded that he be considered 'not in arrears.' Bro Donne was then elected at the March meeting but the Provincial Grand Senior Warden, who was present, challenged this decision by the Lodge members as being illegal and unconstitutional. In April the election was not confirmed because it transpired that notice of the election had not been given on the summons. There followed considerable correspondence between the Lodge and Grand Lodge, and Thomas Cave eventually proposed a petition to the Board of General Purposes, which was seconded by the Provincial Senior Grand Warden, pointing out the unconstitutional nature of the whole matter. The result was that the Worshipful Master was severely reprimanded by the Board of General Purposes for permitting 'irregularities' in the voting. This was because some brethren who had voted were not eligible to vote as they had not paid their subscriptions and also for being swayed by the more vociferous members of the Lodge. The Master, W Bro Edwards, did not attend any further meetings in 1859 and tendered his resignation at the next Festival of St John but remained a member until 1866. Bro Donne, who had been proposed by none other than the Rev R J Thomas, did not pursue the matter and did not rejoin the Lodge.

Thomas Cave died in 1863 having been an ardent and enthusiastic member for forty-six years.

The Sibleys

There cannot be many examples of three generations of the same family being made masons in this Lodge. The Sibley family certainly feature in this regard.

Frank Sibley was initiated, aged 49, on 5 April 1922. He was a structural engineer. Somewhat unusually he was made a Fellowcraft and Master Mason in 'double ceremonies' with the same candidate Bro John Bell, a schoolmaster. He did not progress to the Master's Chair but remained a member until his death in January 1963.

Richard Sibley was rather better known as Dick Sibley was also an engineer like his father. He was a very keen mason who helped produce an annotated 'Workings practiced in the Lodge from Time Immemorial', in which he was assisted by Arthur Pope and William Ricketts. It is still a reference book used for the ceremonies of the Lodge. He was made a mason in February 1939; a month later advanced to the Second Degree and in April was made a Master Mason. In total a period of fifty-six days. In November 1939 he received his Grand Lodge certificate, just one year after being proposed as a candidate for Freemasonry! He was Master in 1957 and during the year Bro Lilley, who was stationed at the Yeovilton Air Station, was made a Master Mason at the request of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

He was a founder of Corinthian Pillar Lodge in 1957 and seconded the Petition to Grand Lodge. In the same year he became a full member of the Somerset Masters' Lodge, having been a Correspondence member since 1940. In 1958-59 he was Master of the William de Irwin Mark Masons Lodge whilst in 1962 and 1963 he was First Principal in the Royal Arch Chapter of Brotherly Love. For nine years he was Director of Ceremonies for the Lodge and also Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction where he was quite capable of throwing a Brother in the deep end, being a firm believer in the principle 'the best way of learning is by doing the job' He was however quick to praise and tolerant of those who struggled to learn.

Jonathan Sibley was proposed as a candidate for Freemasonry in February 1976 by his father, Dick Sibley, He was made a mason on 14 April 1976 with his father in the Chair in what must have been a ceremony of some note and emotion for both of them. His father also took part in the Second and Third Degree ceremonies and during the latter ceremony Jon was invested with his grandfather's apron. Although moving to South Devon, as an area manager for a brewing company, Jon continued to attend the Lodge and in 1988 he became Worshipful Master. In May of that year W Bro Stanley Hopkins made his last visit to the Lodge before relinquishing his Office of Assistant Provincial Grand Master - he was later to be appointed Provincial Grand Master.

In 1991 Jon joined Duncombe Lodge No 1486 that met at Kingsbridge in Devon, where he was elected Master for 1997 and then appointed Director of Ceremonies from 2002 until 2008. He holds the ranks of Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in Somerset and Past Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in Devonshire.

Although based in South Devon, Jon has continued to attend our meetings and has many times, usually at short notice, stepped in to take on an active role in the ceremonies. In recognition of being the senior active Past Master in the Lodge he was invited and has accepted to be the Master for the Bi-Centenary year.

The Stallards

The Stallards, Richard and his father Arthur were stalwart figures in the Lodge in the second half of the twentieth century and the first decade of the twenty-first.

Arthur Stallard was born at Deal and had an early interest in music so much so he learned to play the piano without the benefit of a piano! He just drew a keyboard on paper and practised without the sound of the notes but at an early age he had become proficient enough to become a church organist. He joined Devonport dockyard as a shipwright and then joined the Royal Marine Band and stayed with them for eight years. He was then accepted into the London police where he stayed until 1961 during which time he became Master of Eccleston Lodge No 1624. Moving back to Devon he ran three public houses until taking over the 'Fleur de Lys' in Yeovil in 1967. Knowing former police friends like Maurice Long and David Williams he joined the Lodge of Science in Wincanton No 437, having first been made a mason in London. In 1970 he joined Brotherly Love and later became organist, having learned how to play this 'steam' organ by borrowing a library book. He was affectionately known as 'Kojak' because of his baldness.

Richard Stallard was born in Fulham in London during Arthur's police service. He later went to the Westminster City Grammar School on a Governor's scholarship at the age of ten. He joined the Sea Cadets and spent four years 'before the mast' at Lambeth Bridge. At sixteen he joined the National Westminster Bank in Shepherds Bush and then in Mayfair. He moved with the family to Devon, where he joined the Exeter branch of the Bank, commuting daily from Barnstaple, and then finally moved to Yeovil. He qualified as a cost accountant and worked for Westland Engineers as a section leader in Yeovil until one day being totally fed up, he left. With Janet and three children to support and no job he started working at the 'The Fleur'. He then took over as landlord in 1975 and relinquished the lease in 2001 when he joined the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton. For many years 'The Fleur' had become a popular venue for Yeovil masons to meet and to put the world to rights.

Made a mason by his father in 1975 in the Lodge, Richard excelled in mastering the ceremonies and he supported many brethren over the years in their preparation for the Chair. As Worshipful Master in 1986 and again in 2006 and as Director of Ceremonies, for four years, he helped ensure high standards of 'work' in the Lodge. He became an active Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies and later a Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. He joined several other Orders and took the Chair two years running in the Royal Arch Chapter where he also became Deputy Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies. His singing at the Festive Board and Ladies Festivals was renowned.

He was the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Hall Company in the early 1990's as it considered building an extension. His enthusiasm and financial background helped secure the finance needed and proved several influential doubters wrong concerning the viability of the project. It has become a first class addition to the Masonic Hall and is well used for social events as well as for Masonic functions. For many years he also acted as the licensee and bar manager for the Masonic Hall, a task that took much of his limited spare time.

Richard was an active supporter of masonry, a forthright and confident person yet with a sense of humour that endeared him to his many friends.

Worshipful Masters

To become Worshipful Master of the Lodge is a significant honour for a mason. It is usual for the mason to have progressed through various offices in a lodge hierarchy and to have the confidence of the brethren to lead a lodge for the ensuing year. It now involves representing the Lodge at the meetings of other lodges, attending Lodges of Instruction and a rehearsal, organising social functions and chairing the Lodge committee.

During the nineteenth century twenty-eight Masters completed two years in the Chair of the Lodge. However some did more. Thomas Cave acting was Master on eight occasions, John Slade on five, Edward Latham and William Poole on four. Since 1900 only four members have been in the Chair for two years namely Sidney Thring, Percy Tucker in the Second World War, Richard Stallard and the present Master, Jon Sibley.

The Officers of the Lodge

By 1819 the principal Officers were the Worshipful Master, the Senior and Junior Wardens, the Senior and Junior Deacons, the Treasurer, the Secretary and Tyler. Deacons were not generally appointed before 1819. An Inner Guard, Bro Thomas Chant took the new office in 1820, which he held for twenty-seven years. The Rev Richards Jenkins Stone was elected the first Chaplain in December 1825 whilst the first Organist was Bro Richard Trehern, who was appointed in 1832 but left a year later. The first Director of Ceremonies with a collar and jewel of office was W Bro Henry Raymond (Master in 1861) who was appointed on 8 January 1868, although Bro Garratt was appointed a Director of Ceremonies in the Lodge in 1850 and

1851. For many years the Lodge appointed a Charity Representative but it was not until 1976 that Grand Lodge introduced the office of Charity Steward. Bro O C A Pengilley was the first Charity Steward invested by the Worshipful Master.

Officers with long service

Many members held different Offices covering many years, however some held one particular Office for a long time. The Rev George Mullard was our Chaplain for an unbelievable forty-two years whilst other long serving Chaplains include the Rev Richard Thomas who was our Chaplain for fifteen years between 1858 and 1873, Gilbert Lewis for twenty years between 1935 and 1955 and Harold Lewis will have been in post for eleven years at the Bi-Centenary meeting.

George Wellington was Treasurer between 1822 and 1842, Fred Cox managed thirteen years from 1858, Bernie Slater seventeen years from 1967 and more recently Derek Larnar for twelve years. Reginald Turner was an ever-present Secretary for twenty-one years from 1934 until 1955, Frank Steer for twenty years from 1956 and Steve Defries completed eleven years up until becoming Senior Warden in 2008.

John A Milborne played the organ for nineteen years from 1888 until 1907, Graham Whitworth for ten years from 1990 and William Ricketts was the Director of Ceremonies from 1935 until 1950. Walter Nosworthy, Arthur Pope, Sidney Thring, Bill Vaux had long associations with charity work as well as James Worner who was our Charity Representative for twelve years from 1928.

Tylers

John Spratt was one of four Candidates proposed, elected and made Entered Apprentices at the first meeting on 19 April 1810. He became a Fellowcraft in May and a Master Mason in July of that year. He was not admitted as a subscribing member as such but as a Serving Brother. A Serving Brother was a mason who was paid for his duties in a lodge. John Spratt lived in Martock and was a cordwainer, who was a person who made high quality shoes from new fine soft leather, so he was a skilled craftsman. He was Tyler for twenty-eight years until 1838 when he retired and the Lodge voted him a monthly annuity of 10 shillings, which was paid until his death in 1841. In 1839 the Lodge gave him a grant of 30 shillings and later paid for his photograph to be taken just prior to his retirement, which is on display in the anteroom.

James Harvey was one of the great Tylers of the Lodge in the nineteenth century. He became an Entered Apprentice on 9 October 1832 and took over from John Spratt as Tyler in 1838, a post he held until 1848. In 1848, at a time the Lodge was struggling to recruit and retain members, he became its Inner Guard but shortly afterwards he did not attend the Lodge for some time. He was reappointed Tyler in 1858 and continued in post until 1880, making in total thirty-two years as Tyler and forty-eight years as a Mason. He was held in high esteem and the Lodge paid his funeral expenses.

John Edwards took on the role of Tyler in 1888. He had been appointed after an unusual circumstance. It had been proposed in 1887 that the existing Tyler 'Bro Simeon Watts be the Tyler for the ensuing year' but he was not re-elected. A year later John Edwards was appointed and continued in office until May 1904 when he tendered his resignation because of his ill health.

In 1914 Arthur Newis was elected Tyler. He continued in post for thirty-four years. Later he was elected a Life Member of this Lodge. He had been made a mason at St John Lodge in Perthshire and advanced to become a Master Mason in 1907. On 21 April 1948 a presentation was made to him by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master VW Bro Frederick Nutt in appreciation of his work as Tyler/Janitor for both Brotherly Love and Progressive Science

Lodges and also for the Mark and Chapter Degrees. Later that year Bro Newis unfortunately had to retire because of his ill health.

Ronald Tuttiett did an amazing thirty-eight years as Tyler of this Lodge starting in 1968 when he acted for Bro Tuck, the existing Tyler, on a number of occasions. He was installed as Tyler in January 1969. He also became Tyler for the other Craft Lodges and the other Orders of Freemasonry that met at the Masonic Hall. He mastered the differing requirements of each Lodge or Chapter and the Lodge Room was always meticulously prepared, the value of which was only really recognised when he retired. He also did many other jobs that helped in the smooth running of the Masonic Hall.

Ron had been a scholar at the Royal Masonic School for Boys and was therefore aware of Freemasonry before he joined Brotherly Love in March 1968 and became a Master Mason in 1970. In recognition of his service he was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Pursuivant in 1988 and Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 2004. He retired on 11 January 2006 and at a packed meeting the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro David L Jenkins accompanied by his Senior and Junior Grand Wardens thanked him for his long period of service to Somerset Freemasonry and presented him with a copy of the Summons from his Initiation. The Master of the Lodge, W Bro Richard Stallard then rose and announced that he had been elected an Honorary Member of the Lodge and presented him with a decorative sword to mark his retirement. Then the Masters of the Craft Lodges and Chairs of the other Orders rose and presented Ron with a substantial cheque in recognition of his service to them. His wife, Christine, joined Ron at the festive board and she was given an engraved vase and flowers in recognition of the support she had given him over so many years.

Chapter 11

SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY

Service in Wartime

No Lodge members were killed in the First World War although several took part. Linsey Denner, a draper who started 'Denners', and Frederick Davis were with the West Somerset Yeomanry, which was part of the South West Mounted Brigade. Ernest J Farr was with the National Reserves. Thomas Parsons enlisted in 1914 and in 1915 advanced to Lieutenant in the Army Service Corps, Mechanical Transport Section. On 26 December 1918 Lieutenant Graham Membury, who was the son of Bro J Membury, was initiated at a Lodge of Emergency. Regretfully at the meeting previous on 11 December 1918 it was reported that his brother had been killed on active service. At another Lodge of Emergency on Sunday 10 March 1918 Captain, later Major, Joseph Peart who was on leave from the Western Front in France serving with the Somerset Light Infantry, was made a mason (he later became Master of The United Services Lodge No 3993 in Derbyshire).

A Lodge of Emergency was called on Sunday 20 June 1915 when Cyril Percival Renouf, was made a mason. He had joined Kitchener's army and as he expected to leave 'very soon' to join the Expeditionary Force he would not be able to attend a Regular meeting. In October 1916 he received a Commission as a Lieutenant while he was serving with the 21st Royal Fusiliers in 'tanks' in France. In 1917 he joined the Tank Corps and was a member of the Chief Engineer's Establishment and on the staff of Central Workshops 'somewhere' in France but probably on the Western Front. He was promoted to Acting Major, then Major and early in 1919 received the OBE, having been mentioned in despatches by Sir Douglas Haig for valued Military Service with the Tank Corps in France. The King invested him with the OBE in the quadrangle of Buckingham Palace in May 1920.

Meanwhile in June 1915 the Lodge had received the Quarterly Communication of Grand Lodge when there was a recommendation to Grand Lodge from the Board of General Purposes:

'That in order to prevent the peace and harmony of the Craft being disturbed it is necessary that the Brethren of German, Austrian, Hungarian or Turkish birth should not, during the continuance of the War, attend any meeting of Grand Lodge, or of a Province or district Grand Lodge, or of a Private Lodge or any other Masonic meeting and that such brethren are required by Grand Lodge to abstain from such attendance.' Members of the Lodge were unhappy about this suggestion and advised Grand Lodge that 'That this Lodge entirely disagree with the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee and that each individual Lodge be left to deal with such Brethren as they think fit.'

However Grand Lodge passed the original resolution on 2 June 1915.

During the War Grand Lodge produced a Masonic Card that brethren could carry in battle and was printed in English on one side and in four languages, French, Italian, Japanese, German on the back. This card was clearly meant to indicate 'Masonry universal' even in war.

Brotherly Love Lodge No 329



Under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of England
and with the approval of the M W Grand Master has
issued this card to Bros
a member here whose signature is appended

The above named Lodge presents and vouches for the Brother whom this card
is issued as a worthy Master mason and so commends him for brotherly care and lawful
aid to any mason who finds him in distress and need-incident to his service as a British
sailor (soldier)-with the assurance that any courtesies so extended will be deeply
appreciated and reciprocated should the occasion arise.

The Lodge had a disagreement with Grand Lodge at end of the First World War over their request for membership dues for those on active service in 1917 and 1918. The Lodge thought this unfair and initially refused to send them. However Grand Lodge was adamant that those able to pay should do so. The Lodge compromised and made them Country Members instead!

W Bro Colonel William Marsh, helped the war effort in a different way. He had been initiated into Brotherly Love on 18 November 1874 and became Master in 1891. A solicitor, he was also an enthusiastic Volunteer and Territorial officer for many years and in 1895 he received promotion to Lieutenant Colonel. As Colonel he took command of the 2nd Volunteer Battalion Somerset Light Infantry in 1903, which later became the noted 5th Somerset Light Infantry. He was very active in the recruiting campaign for the War. On the formation of the British Red Cross Society he raised and was the first Commandant of the Somerset Detachment and became its County Director at the outbreak of war in 1914. His 'indefatigable' efforts for the Red Cross Society made him well known across the County. He was awarded the CBE by George IV in 1919 for his great services to the British Red Cross and was personally invested by the King at Buckingham Palace. A few weeks later he was appointed Deputy-Lieutenant for Somerset.

In the Second World War it is likely that all members, excepting age and infirmity, took part in some form of National Service. Certainly members joined the Royal Navy, the Army, The Royal Air Force, the Home Guard and The Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve. It was pleasing all returned safely from their duties although not all without injury.

Among the Serving brethren were William Cooper, a Major in the Dorset Fortress Territorial Army who then joined the SEAC in North West India and Ceylon. Frank Hansford was in the Police and Public Safety Service working in Belgium, Holland and Germany and was partially disabled in the left arm when working in Bremen just after the end of the war by which time he had been promoted to Major. William Henderson became a Warrant Officer Aircrew (Observer) and he was wounded in operations in North Africa and was invalided home. Geoffrey Hinks was a Captain in the Royal Engineers and saw service in North Africa and Italy. Ronald Richards was in the Royal Air Force, Thomas W Richards was in the Royal Navy, Norman Harvey was in the RAF, Doug Neale was promoted to commissioned rank in the Royal Navy and served in submarines, Leslie Lawrence was stationed at RNAS Yeovilton in 1943 when he was made a mason here in Yeovil. This was because he was due to be made a mason in Zeland Lodge No 1157, that met in Alexandria in Egypt, but his ship left at 'a moments notice' and so his joining Freemasonry was delayed. He remained a member of the Lodge for almost fifty years. He lived on the south coast and became Master of Bishopswood Lodge No 7920 at Fareham in 1965.

Gordon Nicholls, who was initiated into the Lodge in 1988, joined the RAF in 1939 and worked as Ground Crew on Balloons at Headquarters in London. He was then sent to Yeovil and then volunteered to join the No 218 Gold Coast Squadron. He was trained for Air Crew in Canada on Avro Ansons where he qualified as an Air Bomber (Navigation). Back in Britain he was then based at several air stations and finally from February 1945 at RAF Chedburgh, Bury St Edmunds from where he undertook twenty-three missions in Avro Lancasters flying to Germany, especially to the well-defended Ruhr industrial area. He married Olga in 1942 and surprisingly he managed to keep his flying career 'under wraps' until after the war, as he did not want to worry her! He returned to civilian life in 1946 as a fully qualified sign writer and also did some professional boxing. After retiring he coached at the Yeovil Boxing Club for over thirteen years during which time he became the chief coach to the Western Counties. He was the first professional boxer to be awarded an Amateur Boxing Association medal for his services to boxing. Gordon also became the first Lodge Mentor.

Many others worked in Civil Defence, the Royal Observer Corps, as Air Raid Wardens, the Home Guard, the Fire Service, the Special Constabulary, and also at Westland Aircraft, which became noted for producing the Supermarine 'Spitfire' after the bombing of the Supermarine factory at Southampton during the Battle of Britain. Indeed Westlands produced more Spitfires than any other factory in England during the War. It also developed the naval version called the 'Seafire'.

After the Second World War 'Westlands' decided to focus on designing and constructing helicopters rather than fixed-wing aircraft and therefore many members have been involved in the development and production of various helicopters including the Sea King, Lynx, Apache, Merlin and as such have been indirectly involved in various conflicts including those at Suez, Korea, the Falklands and more recently in the Balkans, Iraq and Afghanistan. One of our members, Territorial soldier Captain Adrian Watkins, in civilian life the radiology manager at Yeovil District Hospital, had extended periods of service in Kosova, Iraq and at the British Base in Helmand Province in Afghanistan where he was in charge of the radiology unit at Camp Bastion Hospital.

Civic links

It is perhaps not surprising that many masons have been involved in the affairs of the town as a sense of responsibility and concern for others is common to both activities. The list is quite considerable over the years but from the mid 1950s this has become fewer noticeable. No doubt this relates to the period of Freemasonry becoming more introspective and 'secretive' after the World War ended in 1945, which along with some bad publicity in the 1970s and 1980s led to a more suspicious view being taken of the Order. This was particularly evident in local government.

George Wellington was the Portreeve in Yeovil between 1813 and 1820. The Portreeve, who was elected by the burgesses, was a reasonably significant figure at that time as he carried certain duties related to the old Corporation, which held over thirty properties in the town for which rents were paid. His duties included keeping Nun's Well in Silver Street in repair as a common pump, keeping a fire engine properly maintained, paying the men who worked at the fires and to give small payments to mariners and soldiers returning home. The corporation, through him, also paid 4p a week to four 'aged' women who lived in the Portreeve's Almshouse in South Street. He was proposed into the Lodge of Brotherly Love, as a joining member, by Thomas Cave and seconded by banker Henry Whitmarsh in January 1820 and was a member for twenty-seven years. He was Treasurer from 1822 until February 1842 when he was presented with a handsome Bible in recognition of his valuable services to the Lodge.

Robert Damon was a Justice of the Peace and a Church Warden at the Holy Trinity Church. He had been brought up in Dorchester where he was made a mason in the Lodge of Faith and Unanimity in 1871 and then joined Brotherly Love on moving to Yeovil. He became Master in 1878 and again in 1888 and 1889. He took many offices in the Lodge and he was a keen supporter of its charity work. By his death it is said the Lodge lost one of its strongest pillars at that time.

Edmund Damon, brother of Robert, joined the Lodge in 1908 when he had just retired from running the Co-operative Outfitting Stores in High Street with his brother Robert. He was keenly interested in public affairs and served three terms as Mayor in 1909-1911 and 1916-17. He became Master in 1912 and followed this by becoming Director of Ceremonies.

Dr Ptolemy Colmer was a physician who became a joining member from Benevolence Lodge in Sherborne in 1888. He was a prominent member of the community being the Mayor of Yeovil in 1879 and again for three years between 1890 and 1892. Whilst Mayor he guided the Council 'so well in difficult matters' that at a great banquet to mark his retirement he wore a striking new chain of office in silver gilt, which had been purchased by public subscription and is now inscribed with the names and dates of all the Mayors of the Borough.

Henry Francis Raymond worked with his brother in the gloving trade and was involved in the affairs of the town as a Town Councillor. He was made a mason in the Lodge in 1882 and became Master in 1890. He was at various times Treasurer, Director of Ceremonies and a Charity Representative of the Lodge and was one of the authors of the 'Centenary History of the Lodge.' He was a mason for fifty-seven years. A man of forceful personality he played a leading role in the Lodge for many years and took much interest in the town's organisations including the Yeovil Hospital.

Norman Buchanon was Mayor between 1911 and 1915. He was born in the Outer Hebrides and joined the Lodge in 1895 and became Worshipful Master in 1904. He had been promoted to Past Provincial Senior Grand Warden in 1910 and was one of the founders of the Somerset Masters' Lodge No 3746. He also was Treasurer, Secretary and Charity representative at various times and at the Centenary celebration in 1910 he presented the Lodge with the mahogany bookcase. On December 31st 1915 he returned home after carrying out one of his mayoral duties attending a recruitment meeting in Crewkerne. On going up the stairs he slipped on the fifth stair, fell heavily downstairs, was knocked unconscious and never recovered. Present at his funeral in St John's Church were Aldermen and Councillors, Magistrates, Police, Fire Brigade and Church representatives, Belgian refugees and a large gathering of masons.

William Richard Edwards Mitchelmore was born at East Allington in Devon but by 1901 had moved to Yeovil. He was the proprietor of two Temperance Hotels, The Albany and The Fernleigh in Middle Street in Yeovil. He was made a mason in the Lodge in 1919 and became a Master Mason but did not progress through the ranks or participate in any of the ceremonies. He became known as the 'Peace' Mayor because he was Mayor of Yeovil between 1917 until 1921. He was made a Freeman of the Borough of Yeovil in 1930. He was a supporter of municipal housing and Mitchelmore Road is named in his honour.

John Henry Boll was elected to the Town Council in 1898 and served as Mayor in 1911-12 during which time the Council's first large housing estate was established at New Town. He was born in Hanover in Germany in 1858, the descendant of an old Hanoverian family of ship owners and corn merchants, settled in Yeovil in 1878 and became a naturalised British subject in 1885. He married his employer's daughter, Bessie, and eventually ran the Company of 'Hill and Boll' who were coachbuilders. The firm assisted 'Petters' in the construction of the one horsepower 'horseless' carriage in 1895 by building the vehicle body. This was a significant event because it is said to be the first car with an internal combustion engine that was built for sale in Britain. It was built primarily to carry two people and could

reach ten miles an hour on a level road. He was made a mason in the Lodge in February 1893 and became Master in 1900.

Other Mayors have been William Cox 1882-84, Edwin Helliard 1884-86, George Gawler 1892-93, H Cary Tomkins 1897-98, whilst the Mayor in 1921 Ernest J Farr had Yeovil's first motorised fire engine named after him, known as 'The Farr'. The most recent Mayor and mason was Peter Unwin, a schoolmaster, who joined the Lodge in 1970 and was Mayor in 1971-72.

Clerical links

From early times the Lodge has had an ongoing relationship with the Church community including vicars, priests, churchwardens, bell ringers and members of church choirs. Approximately twenty-three vicars or priests have become members of the Lodge since its formation, not only from Yeovil but also from places as far afield as Cerne Abbas, Lopen, Thornford, West Coker and Stoke-Sub-Hamdon. Many became Chaplain of the Lodge.

The Rev Richard F Thomas and the Rev George Mullard have been two noteworthy members. The Rev John Middleton White, the Curate at Norton-sub-Hamdon, was our earliest link with the Church as he was present and led the service at the Consecration of the Lodge at All Saints Church in Martock in 1811. A year later he became a joining member of the Brotherly Love and in the same year he was a petitioner for the 'Mystic Stone' Royal Arch Chapter, which folded soon after it had been chartered. Although he rarely attended the Lodge, he was present with other Lodge members at the public procession for the Proclamation of King George IV in 1820.

A noteworthy Lodge meeting took place on 5 November 1924 and featured a remarkable number of Clergy. The Western Gazette reported that

'A Masonic gathering, as unique as it was interesting, and one, which will rank as historical in the records of the Lodge Brotherly Love 329 was that held on Wednesday evening at the Masonic Hall. The occasion was the 'raising' of Brother the Rev A N S Holbrook (curate of St John's) and Brother Percy Gaylard to the Sublime Degree of Master Mason. There was a large and notable attendance including the Very Worshipful Bro Archdeacon Farrar PGCh Eng, W Bro A Gates AGDC Eng, the three vicars of Yeovil Bro J E S Harrison (St John's), W Bro L Lamsdon (Holy Trinity), Bro W H Haviland (St Michaels)- plus the Rev L R Cotter (West Coker), The Rev Bro H Jocelyn Davies (Stoke-under Ham, Chaplain of the Lodge), the Rev Bro Trevor Griffiths OBE (Sparkford), the Rev Bro F Waldegrave (Poynington), the Rev W Anderson (Superintendent Minister of the Wesleyan Circuit) as well as a full attendance of officers. At the conclusion of the Lodge business the Brethren partook of supper together, the remainder of the evening being devoted to speeches on Masonic subjects interspersed with music.'

The Yeovil Lodges have often held an annual carol service for all freemasons, friends and family. Senior Provincial Officers have often attended. For many years the service was organised by Brotherly Love members and the Lodge Chaplain, the Rev George Mullard, regularly led the service. The services have been held at various locations including East Coker Church, Holy Trinity Church, St John's Church and St Andrew's Church in Yeovil. Recently the service has moved to the Lodge Room. Tea, sandwiches and cakes at the Masonic Hall have followed the service.

Chapter 12

INTERESTING LIVES

William Bridle

In July 1808 William Bridle was twenty-six years old when he was selected to become the Keeper of the County Gaol and the House of Correction at Ilchester with a salary of £400 per annum. At the time he was the chief mate of the convict ship *Retribution* on the River Thames and he turned down an offer to command another convict ship in favour of moving back to his native county. Previously he had been in the Army and had risen through the ranks to become a Quartermaster. He became a joining member of the Lodge in November 1811 and was elected by ballot to be Worshipful Master in February 1819. He resigned from the Lodge in 1821.

So how did this respected Freemason with the responsible job as the Prison Keeper or Governor at Ilchester gaol, be found guilty of cruelty to a prisoner, lose his job, then be virtually exonerated and finally fall on hard times needing relief from Grand Lodge?

When William Bridle took over as Keeper there were sixty-two prisoners, mainly male. There was little order inside the walls as Bridle found 'a scene of drunken frenzy or gambling association.' Visitors could meet the prisoners anywhere in their own section of the gaol and 'the daily occurrences were debauched, profligate and dreadful.' There was no laundry, with the bedding being washed by one woman in her kitchen outside the gaol, there was only one water pump for the prisoners, the courtyards were not paved, the officers were not armed and the prisoners not provided with any employment. Bridle saw his task to improve conditions at the gaol. Within six months the situation in the gaol had improved considerably. Bridle also became unhappy about the public executions at Gallows Five Acre, half a mile from the gaol on the road to Yeovil, on 'hang-fair day' and he arranged for them to take place inside the gaol. Spectators were still able to view the proceedings from the bridge, riverbank and the coal wharf for which they were charged one shilling. But this change of location was much to the annoyance of the local traders who lost much custom as the tradition of hang-fair day began to die out.

Then the political agitator 'Orator' Henry Hunt was sent to the gaol for his part in the Peterloo Massacre in Manchester in 1819. At first Bridle and Hunt got along well and even dined together. However Hunt's influence with the other prisoners began to undermine discipline in the gaol particularly as Bridle was often absent transporting prisoners around the country. Bridle then removed the privilege of allowing Hunt to have regular visits to his private room by his mistress Mrs Vance. Hunt responded by writing a pamphlet called 'A Peep into a Prison' which aimed not only to undermine Bridle but the Government as well because of the conditions in the gaol. The local magistrates conducted an Enquiry, which Bridle claimed was unduly influenced by Henry Hunt. He was found guilty of some charges partly because as he was advised not to produce any evidence as a more important Parliamentary Commission was set up at the same time to investigate Hunt's claims. The result of the local enquiry was that Bridle was charged with two offences at the Wells Assizes and was found guilty of just one, which was causing a 'blister' to be put on prisoner Gardiner's head. He was fined £50 and lost his job. Bridle who had needed to finance his own defence, including Counsel's costs and those of his supporting witnesses, not only had lost his job but virtually all his savings. On 23 January 1823 the Lodge passed a resolution

affirming that he was a man of 'the strictest integrity and eminently distinguished by virtues of his humanity and kind-heartedness' and 'a victim of a cruel and merciless persecution'. In addition to personal donations from Lord Cork and Sir John Ackland, the Lodge agreed to give him 'a sum of £16 as a mark of the regard and esteem of the brethren.' William Bridle wrote to the Lodge with his thanks both for the donation and their support and 'the kindness towards me in this particular, will never be obliterated from my memory.' What was perhaps unprecedented was that the members of the jury and his own Counsel gave their fees to Bridle to help him pay the fine. A subscription list was also opened and many local and London banks sent donations to him.

Bridle then hit hard times for in April 1835 the Lodge supported Bridle in his petition to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution for Aged Freemasons for relief. A surprising footnote is that the post of Keeper of the Gaol was advertised on 11 September 1838 at a salary of £250. William Bridle applied for his former job but was not selected! The gaol closed in 1843.

Sir Henry Machu Imbert-Terry

Sir Henry Imbert-Terry has been our only member to be a Knight of the Realm. He had joined this Lodge in 1886 from Lodge Eurydice in Exeter and was an active member until he resigned in 1899, at which point he presented his shares in the Masonic Hall Company to the Lodge. Although not becoming Master of the Lodge he was clearly an active member for in 1892 it is recorded he presented the Ancient Charges to the Master, Wardens and Brethren at the Installation meeting.

He came to Yeovil because between 1886 and 1892 he was the Conservative Candidate to represent South Somerset in Parliament, during which time politics in the Yeovil area was 'uncommonly lively'. He was a remarkably clear and polished platform speaker and was noted as being a man of 'honourable principles, straightforward conduct and devotion to his constituency for six years' but was unsuccessful at both general elections, the last by only 400 votes and one of his supporters said it was 'the scandal of the Town'. He had previously contested the Barnstaple seat in 1882 and the County Division of West Devon in 1885.

Having left Yeovil for pastures new he was appointed Chairman of the National Union of Conservative Associations between 1905 and 1907 and then he became the Chairman of the Organising Committee of the Conservative and Unionist Party between 1907 and 1917.

He was an accomplished author and his many books included 'A Constitutional King - George the First' and 'A Misjudged Monarch - Charles Stuart'. He was a Council member of the Royal Society of Literature becoming its Vice-President in 1922. His recreations were shooting, music, arboriculture and literature as well as masonry. In 1917 he was created a Baronet, the Imbert-Terry Baronetcy of Strete Raleigh in Whimble in the County of Devon. He died in 1938.

Dr George Danford Thomas

Dr Thomas was involved in the Dr Crippen murder case in 1910, the year of the Lodge's Centenary. He was one of the three sons of the Rev R J F Thomas all whom became masons at the same meeting in the Lodge in 1875. He was born in Yeovil in December 1846 and educated at the Grammar School in Yeovil and later became a pupil to W Bro Dr William Tomkins, a member of the Lodge. He trained as a surgeon being admitted a Member of the Royal College of Surgeons in 1871 and later obtained the degree of MD at the University of Brussels in 1876.

He offered his services to the Red Cross Society during the Franco-Prussian War and went through the hardships and perils of that dangerous post and was praised in a report by one of the French Committee, M Labourgarde, President of the ambulance at Chalons-sur-

Marne who wrote 'I have sent a young English surgeon, who from first to last was valuable to us on account of his courage, self-abnegation and his affectionate sympathy, he leaves with his ambulance to encounter a thousand hardships.'

Returning to England he obtained a position as a General Practitioner in Paddington in 1874 and was then appointed Deputy Coroner for Central Middlesex under Dr Hardwick in 1875 and in the same year became Medical Officer of Health for Willesden. He then studied law at the Inner Temple, which enabled him to become better qualified to become a coroner. When Dr Hardwick died in 1881 he applied for the post and in competition with Mr Bolton, a local Solicitor, was elected by an overwhelming majority.

In the course of his work as Coroner he dealt with a wide range of inquests. One of the strange ones was reported in the New York Times with the headline:

'Bought secrecy for Ruiz suicide-Some talk of perjury'

Mrs Ruiz was found shot dead in London on May 16 1909. One of the Reporters present at St Pancras Coroner's Court admitted a rich American had paid him not to report the story. Danford Thomas was surprised there were only four witnesses, the doctor who testified to the suicide, the servant at the nursing home, Miss Caney who was Mrs Ruiz's companion and a man who said he was a Frenchman and represented interested parties. It appears the story was not published because of the veiled references to an American millionaire and the fear of the drastic English libel laws. It appears that Mrs Elsie Vanderbilt mentioned Mrs Ruiz, who was an American actress known as Ruth Hilton, in the successful suit for divorce against her husband, the millionaire Alfred G Vanderbilt!

Danford Thomas remained a member of the Lodge even though he lived in London and retained a keen interest its affairs as well as being a supporter of its charitable work. He presented the Lodge with a portrait of his late father and in 1910, in honour of the Centenary, gave one of the pillars still present in the Lodge Room. He died in 1910 after holding the first inquest into the remains of a body found under the floor of a cellar at 39 Hilldrop Crescent in Camden. The remains were identified as Cora (also known as Bella) Crippen, the wife of Dr Hawley Crippen. Dr Crippen and his lover, Ethel Le Neve, were arrested on the SS Montrose after it entered Canadian territorial waters. This was the first successful use of wireless communication.

Dr William Tomkins

Dr William Tomkins was a well known a surgeon in Yeovil. He was proposed into the Lodge by John Alexander, a druggist in Yeovil, and seconded by Robert Cayme, a sailcloth manufacturer. He was made a mason in the Lodge on 22 March 1931. He was appointed a steward in 1832. He also gave lectures in the Lodge on 'One of the Five Noble Senses-Seeing' in November 1833 and followed this up in May 1834 with one on 'Hearing'. In December 1835 he was elected Senior Warden and took the Chair in December 1836 at which ceremony he invested six of his Officers, the others being absent. At this meeting, the Festival of St John, were fifteen brethren from Brotherly Love and one visitor. He continued in office as Master in 1837 and 1838 and again in 1842. He was clearly an enthusiastic mason. Whilst in office in 1837 he led the members of Brotherly Love in the procession at the Proclamation of Queen Victoria in Yeovil. In November 1847 he was appointed to audit the accounts of the Treasurer and to be a Lodge representative at the forthcoming Festival. One month later his resignation letter was received, probably with some surprise and for reasons we are unaware.

In 1831, the year he joined the Lodge he was caught up in the agitation for Parliamentary reform. As a result of the House of Lords rejecting the Reform Bill, rioting broke out in Yeovil and several houses of those believed to support those against reform, including that of William Tomkins, had their windows broken and furniture destroyed. The

next day the Mudford and Martock Yeomanry were called out and assisted by the Third Dragoons from Taunton, order was restored.

In February 1834 he presented a paper to the Royal College of Surgeons regarding the state of the medical profession in the West Country in which he pointed out the bureaucratic and financial problems they had to contend with as well as complaining about the 'widespread system of quackery.' It appeared that illiterate and unqualified individuals offered bone setting and advertised remedies for ills to which that many people responded. Chemists in particular centred on his complaints as they supposedly could provide 'medicines' for coughs, aperients and digestive pills, worm powders etc. Indeed, he complained 'that the druggists and chemists of this town prescribe and dispense more medicines, dress more wounds and ulcers, inoculate and vaccinate more patients than general practitioners.'

He was a 'campaigner', for as Parish Medical Officer and a Town Commissioner he was a prime mover in the agitation leading to an Enquiry, led by Dr Thomas Rammell in 1851, into the water supply and sanitary condition of the town that showed it was 'unsatisfactory'. Water for the inhabitants came from shallow wells which yielded water of 'bad quality as it was frequently contaminated by leakage from private drains and cesspools.' Such were the sanitary conditions of the housing for the poorer classes, that 'Divine Mercy alone had preserved the town from the ravages of malignant cholera.' Incidentally it took until 1870 for the first waterworks to be opened with water being piped to Yeovil from boreholes at Woolcombe near Evershot.

The Rev Dr Joseph Wolff

Joseph Wolff was initiated into Freemasonry at the Lodge meeting on 1 December 1846, a year after becoming the Minister at the rural parish of Isle Brewers, near Langport.

Such an introduction belies one of the most colourful characters ever to join the Lodge. He was variously known as the 'Oriental Traveller', 'the Eccentric Missionary', 'a Religious Fanatic' and 'the English Dervish'. He was probably the first noted Jewish-Christian missionary of modern times. During his many travels and expeditions between 1821 and 1846 he suffered starvation, was often robbed by thieves, suspected of being a Russian spy, condemned to death three times, tied to a horse's tail, offered for sale as a slave, given two hundred blows to his bare feet and then had to walk for fifteen hours without water on an intensely hot day. On one occasion he was told that if he did not agree Muhammad was the prophet of God 'we will sow you up in a dead donkey, burn you alive and make sausages of you.' Yet with a profound belief in God and the Bible, his 'presence' as a speaker, his fluency in languages, his persuasive skill in discussion, his sense of humour and his practice of carrying official letters of introduction from Monarchs and Ambassadors he managed to survive many dangerous situations.

He was born in Weilersbach, near Bamberg in Germany, in 1795, where his father David was the Rabbi. At an early age he showed a true Jewish zeal for learning and at the age of eleven was sent to the Protestant Lyceum at Stuttgart, then the Roman Catholic Lyceum at Bamberg where he resolved to become a Christian and a Jesuit missionary. He was adept at learning languages, it is said he eventually became fluent in fourteen, and gave private lessons in Hebrew in Munich to provide some income.

At twenty years old, having studied at the Protestant University of Tubingen in Germany, he made his way to Rome to study at the Roman Seminary to become a missionary. Being of an enquiring and independent mind he often had arguments over the papal claim to infallibility and he, a lover of the Bible, did not readily accept the doctrines and dogmas of the Roman Catholic Church. He was expelled from the Seminary and was escorted out of Rome by twenty-five gendarmes. He was though fortunate to have met in Rome, Henry Drummond who was a rich banker with an interest in religious matters and who invited him to England.

In London having visited several religious groups he entered the Anglican Church and was then sponsored by Henry Drummond and Lewis Way at Cambridge University, where he resumed his studies of Oriental languages. Again sponsored by Henry Drummond he then proceeded to become a freelance missionary in order to pursue his passion, which was as a Christian Jew to win over other Jews to Jesus. He completed four major journeys to the Middle East, Central Asia, India and Africa each lasting between two and four years.

On returning to England in 1826 after his first major journey he met Lady Georgina Walpole, a daughter of Horatio Walpole, the Earl of Orford, at a dinner party and they married in February 1827. In that year he became a naturalised Englishman and travelled with his wife to Holland giving lectures. Whether in England or abroad he drew large crowds because of his unique accounts of his travels to places that few had visited. His wife, Lady Georgina supported him in his journeys and indeed accompanied him on some occasions. They had a son, Henry Drummond Wolff, who was born in 1830 who became a knight, a noted politician and diplomat specialising in foreign affairs. Georgina died in 1859 and two years later he married Louisa Decima, daughter of James King the Rector of St Peter-le Poer in London.

His last major journey was between 1843 and 1845 to Bokhara, in Uzbekistan, to determine the fate of two missing British Officers Lieutenant Colonel Charles Stoddart and Captain Arthur Conolly, where he again narrowly escaped death. On returning he was offered the vicarage of Isle Brewers in Somerset in 1845 by General St John Michael where he remained until his death in 1862. Just prior to his death he was considering yet another missionary journey. He was buried in the churchyard of the All Saints Church in Isle Brewers.

He clearly had a great regard for the well being of his parishioners. Isle Brewers was a village of 300 people, composed of two worthy tenant farmers with the rest being poor labourers who lived on 8 or 9 shillings a week. He provided thirty-five families with coal and bread during the winter, paid much of the salary of the schoolmistress. By badgering his many friends and acquaintances and even fellow passengers in railway carriages he was able to raise funds to build a new church for his parishioners, the old one being 700 years old and subject to flooding. The new church of All Saints cost £1500. Joseph Wolff contributed £200, which he had mainly earned from his publications.

Soon after arriving at Isle Brewers he was made a mason in the Lodge on 1 December 1846, having been proposed by Bro Charles Plaister, a Yeovil draper, and seconded by W Bro William Tomkins, a surgeon. Perhaps surprisingly the Lodge paid his fees of £5 guineas. Dr Wolff presented a copy of the book he had written about his travels to Bokhara at that meeting. Joseph Wolff is not recorded as attending any further meetings but he did remain a member for many years. In 1854 he requested that the Lodge support one of his parishioners who was in need. The Lodge replied that if he paid up his dues for the past seven years they would donate half to the relief of the parishioner! There is no record of the result of this response except that he sent a private letter to W Bro Thomas Cave. He remained a member of Brotherly Love and was subsequently asked to remit only his Provincial and Grand Lodge dues to clear his record. The last request for dues, along with those for several other members, is noted in 1858.

Joseph Wolff had a magnetic personality and was immensely popular as a preacher and was invited to speak in many churches in many countries. He was a friend of William E Gladstone, Benjamin Disraeli, Sir Walter Scott, Alfred Lord Tennyson, General Sir Charles Napier and many other well-known people. He wrote several books about his travels, with his account of his mission to Bokhara running to seven editions.

Chapter 13

LINKS WITH OTHER LODGES

Parrett and Axe Lodge No 814

At a meeting of Brotherly Love on 13 July 1859 the Worshipful Master reported that their recommendation to Grand Lodge that a Warrant be granted to a new lodge to be held at Crewkerne had been rejected!

At the time all but one of the proposed founders were members of Brotherly Love and following pressure by the petitioners it was finally accepted. The new Lodge was given the number 1116. On 10 July 1860 it was consecrated at the George Hotel in Crewkerne. The Rev Richard J F Thomas, a member of Brotherly Love and Vicar of St John's Church in Yeovil, was installed as the first Master. He presented the Volume of the Sacred Law that is still used today. In 1863 the Lodge number was changed to 814. Brotherly Love supplied the candlesticks and tracing boards at a cost of £7 7s 0p. The tracing boards had the date 1809 on them and it has been suggested that they could possibly be the boards used by the Scientific Lodge that met in Crewkerne and had been passed to our Lodge after it was erased. Additionally Brotherly Love gave celestial and terrestrial globes to them in 1860. In May 1916 Mrs Buchanon, the wife of our Past Master Norman Buchanon, gave the Lodge the Book of Consecration, which was dated 10 July 1860, The noted W Bro Dr William Wynn Westcott, a member of Brotherly Love between 1873 and 1880, became Worshipful Master of Parrett and Axe Lodge in 1875.

Progressive Science Lodge No 5007

Following a visit from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Col Alfred Thrale Perkins, in 1924 he commented that as Yeovil was expanding and as the Lodge of Brotherly Love had over one hundred members it was time to think of consecrating another lodge in the town. Consequently discussions took place and the result was that the Worshipful Master and Wardens of Brotherly Love signed a petition for a new lodge in Yeovil in September 1927. The Minute book of the new Lodge shows that three names were considered for the Lodge with 'Progressive Science' chosen, the others being 'The St Ivel Lodge' and the 'Wyndham Lodge.' The minutes of the new Lodge recorded

'During the Mastership of W Bro C L Normandale in 1926, nearly all the Past Masters of Brotherly Love agreed to become Founders of a new Lodge. The first meeting of the Founders took place at the Westminster Bank on 4 March 1927 under the presidency of W Bro E Nutt, the Worshipful Master of 329, where it was unanimously decided to proceed with the formation of the new of the Lodge. W Bro Benjamin B Swaffield, a Joining Member of 329, and a Past Master of 'Unity 386' in Wareham and PPSGW (Dorset) was chosen as Master with the first Tuesday of the month chosen as the day of meeting. A full meeting of the Founders, of whom thirty out of the thirty-six founders were from Brotherly Love, took place on 17 March 1927 at the Masonic Hall where it was agreed for application to be made to Grand Lodge for forms to be signed by the Petitioners, with the WM and Wardens of 329 signing in Open Lodge of 329, which was done at the meeting of 27 September. At a meeting of the Founders on 2 February 1928 at the Masonic Hall it was announced that the Grand Master had granted the petition and the warrant was dated 1 February 1928. The Consecration ceremony took place on 2 October 1928 at the Masonic Hall with the Provincial Grand Master, The RW the Venerable Arthur Farrar, Archdeacon of Wells, presiding and assisted by Provincial Officers and members of Brotherly Love and neighbouring Lodges.'

Two of our Past Masters, Sidney Thring and William Ricketts, as well as becoming founder members of Progressive Science also became Master of the Lodge. It is a joint shareholder with the other Yeovil Lodges in the Masonic Hall Company.

Corinthian Pillar Lodge No 7552

The 1950s saw an expansion of interest in masonry in the Yeovil area. In Brotherly Love alone, there were thirty-six new members or joining members between 1950 and 1957. It was not surprising therefore that there was interest towards establishing a new lodge in the town. A meeting of six Master Masons, which included W Bro Harold Haynes of Progressive Science, was held at the National Westminster Bank on 25 March 1957 with W Bro Arthur Pope of Brotherly Love elected to preside. In May 1957 W Bro Pope proposed that the Lodge of Brotherly Love approve the formation of a new lodge in Yeovil and it was agreed to sponsor a petition to grant a Warrant for the new lodge. It would meet on the third Friday of the month and it would be called Corinthian Pillar Lodge, named after the architectural pillar of 'Beauty'. There were twenty-eight founders of the new Lodge of which eleven were from Brotherly Love, but none of them or any of our Masters since then have become the Worshipful Master of Corinthian Pillar.

The Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Claude Lumsden Norman, with the full Provincial team in attendance, consecrated the Lodge on 8 November 1958. He installed W Bro Harold Haynes as their first Worshipful Master. A total of ninety-seven masons attended the Consecration meeting, which was followed by dinner at the nearby Manor Hotel at a cost of 12s 6d per head.

In 1961 an equivalent number of shares in the Masonic Hall Company, as held by Brotherly Love and Progressive Science, was offered to Corinthian Pillar and accepted by them. All three lodges were then the principal shareholders in the Company.

The Scientific Lodge No 203

The Scientific Lodge No 203 met at Crewkerne from 1807 but had originally been constituted in Shadwell in London in 1766 at the King's Arms Punch House. In 1808 the Charter was transferred to Crewkerne and the Lodge met at the George Inn.

The Lodge provided five of the seven petitioners for Brotherly Love although one of the petitioners, James Peironnet, never actually attended a Brotherly Love meeting. At our first meeting Bro Thomas Gaylard, was elected a joining member, having been made a mason in the Scientific Lodge in 1807. Later four other members of the Scientific Lodge became joining members namely William Willie and Thomas Trask in 1810 then Philip Collins in 1820 and George Budden in 1821. The Lodge itself was erased in 1827.

Royal Naval Lodge No 2761

The District Grand Lodge of Malta was formed in 1815 when two Craft Lodges were consecrated. By the end of the nineteenth century there were seven Lodges meeting in Malta. In 1979, fifteen years after independence, the British military base in Malta closed and the recruitment of suitable candidates was proving difficult. Also at that time the Maltese government required all organisations in Malta who received financial support from outside the country to register and obtain approval to continue. The United Brethren Lodge No 1923 had surrendered its warrant in 1982 and other lodges considered moving to the United Kingdom. It appeared initially that the Royal Naval Lodge would move to Bath but a phone call from Bro John Rawlins, of Corinthian Pillar Lodge and a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy

serving at the Royal Naval Air Station at Yeovilton, suggested Yeovil might be considered, as there was considerable support from Yeovil masons.

In September 1984 a request was received from Gerald Bryant of the Royal Naval Lodge No 2761, which had been meeting in Malta, concerning the possibility of establishing the Lodge in Yeovil. Our Lodge committee enthusiastically supported this request. A last minute offer to transfer the Lodge to Sherborne caused much consternation as so much preparatory work had already been undertaken. After much background work and dispensations from Somerset and Malta it was agreed the Lodge would meet in Yeovil.

The last meeting in Malta was held in December 1984 following which the Worshipful Master, C E (Jack) Warner, flew to UK to install his successor, Gerald Bryant, at an Emergency meeting held in Yeovil on 11 January 1985 where the Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, Kenneth C Kinnersley was also present. The formal transfer of the Lodge to the Province of Somerset took effect from 2 January 1987. From those early days it has often returned greetings to 'our adopted Mother Lodge'. It is now a shareholder in the Masonic Hall Company.

The Sherborne Lodges

Although Sherborne is in Dorset, it is the nearest and largest population centre to Yeovil and it is perhaps no surprise there has been a close relationship between brethren of our lodges.

The first Lodge of Benevolence in Sherborne was consecrated in 1786 but was erased twelve years later in 1798. A second Lodge of the same name received its Warrant on 30 November 1818 and was consecrated on 11 January 1819. Present at that meeting was Thomas Cave who a year later 'presented' Bro George Warry at his Installation as Worshipful Master. Close links between the two lodges continued and in 1820 members of Brotherly Love travelled to Sherborne and joined with their brethren in full regalia in the procession for the Proclamation of His Majesty George IV. Similar visits were made to Sherborne for the Proclamation of Edward IV and Queen Victoria. On each occasion they dined afterwards as the 'guests of the inhabitants of Sherborne.' On 26 July 1837 brethren of the Lodge of Benevolence were accorded a vote of thanks for joining in the public procession in Yeovil and attending an 'Especial Lodge to assist in the Proclamation of Our Most Gracious Queen Victoria.'

Fraternal visits are also recorded back in September 1835 when we were invited by the Lodge of Benevolence to attend a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Dorset. In April 1836 'considerable thanks' were expressed to the Master and brethren from Brotherly Love for their attendance and assisting to fill some of the offices which were vacant due to a number of their brethren being unable to attend.

In February 1851 Nathaniel Highmore, a surgeon and a Past Master from the Lodge of Benevolence No 459, joined Brotherly Love. This was probably because the Lodge in Sherborne did not meet after 1851 and was formally erased in 1859. In December 1852 he was elected Master of Brotherly Love for the year of 1853, even though he had not previously held an office in the Lodge. This was at a time of low attendance at our Lodge meetings. During 1851 there were often only between seven and eleven members present at meetings and during the year there was only one candidate and a re-joining member. The May meeting was abandoned because there were insufficient masons present to open the Lodge. Nathaniel Highmore also became First Principal in the Brotherly Love Royal Arch Chapter on two occasions. In 1864 he was elected an Honorary Member of our Lodge, a year in which saw sixteen new members join - what a contrast!

Later in November 1875 brethren from Yeovil and Crewkerne were invited to attend a Lodge of Emergency at Benevolence Lodge in Sherborne to witness Serving Bro Elgar made

a Master Mason and to attend the banquet afterwards. A year later brethren from Benevolence Lodge made a return visit to Brotherly Love.

A new Benevolence Lodge, No 1198, had been warranted and consecrated in 1867 with two of the Petitioners coming from Brotherly Love - namely James Buckman, a Professor of Agriculture who lived in Bradford Abbas, and Louis Ruegg who lived in Sherborne. A Past Master of Brotherly Love, Henry Raymond, acted as Master when four brethren were made Master Masons at the meeting in November 1867. He was cordially thanked for his kindness and the admirable and impressive manner in which he had performed the ceremonies. At the next meeting in December the Master delegated the Chair to Joseph Whitby, another Past Master of our Lodge, who carried out a Third Degree ceremony, after which the Worshipful Master resumed the Chair and initiated a new candidate. At the ninth meeting our Master, Fred Cox, initiated a Serving Brother and Past Master John Ryall passed a candidate to become a Fellowcraft mason.

In 1868 there was an influx of no fewer than seven members from the newly consecrated Lodge of Benevolence to Brotherly Love, which included their first Master, John Roberts Phelps Gooden and its Junior Warden, the Rev Richard Henry Wingfield Digby. The opening of the Salisbury–Yeovil railway line in 1860 and the opening in 1861 of branch line to the new and impressive Yeovil Town Station made travelling easier and quicker. The Three Choughs Hotel provided a carriage to and from the station, which encouraged the visits.

Another link between Benevolence Lodge and Brotherly Love was the day of the lodge meeting, as both were linked to the full Moon. In 1819, the second Benevolence Lodge, and again the third Lodge of that name in 1867, agreed that it would meet ‘on the Monday nearest the full Moon’ whilst Brotherly Love had always met on various days but always ‘on or before the full Moon’ since our formation.

Two of our Grand Officers have also been members of both lodges. Alfred Gates, a keen and ardent mason, joined us in 1895 and was Master in both lodges. Arthur Leonard Pope, a stalwart of Brotherly Love, became the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Dorset in 1957 just after he joined Benevolence Lodge. A number of other masons have become Masters in both lodges, the most recent being Colin Vine, Master of Brotherly Love in 2004 and at Benevolence in 2002 and in 2007.

Somerset Masters’ Lodge No 3746

In April 1915 many members of Brotherly Love attended the consecration of this new lodge amongst whom were several of its founders namely; S Russell Baskett, Norman Buchanon who became its Director of Ceremonies, Charles Pitcher, Alfred Gates, Edmund Damon, Frederick Weston and Arthur Pope. Later, Frederick Nutt, then Deputy Provincial Grand Master, became Worshipful Master in 1941 and again in 1942.

Fraternal Visits

A feature of masonry is for masons to visit other lodges and develop long- lasting friendships with other masons. Mention has been made with the links with the Lodge of Benevolence in Sherborne and Parrett and Axe in Crewkerne whilst another link was the visit of brethren of the Robert Thorne Lodge of Bristol on 25 April 1934, which proved to be a ‘unique occasion’. No doubt other visits with Robert Thorne happened over the years but they then fell away until a revival of this link was made in 1997, which has continued intermittently since then. Other fraternal visits have taken place with Alfred and Guthrum No 4535 in 1936 and St Nicholas’ No 4561 in 1970 and 1972. In the past decade there have been fraternal visits with St Dunstan’s Lodge No 7973, which meets in Glastonbury.

Close ties have always existed between Brotherly Love and its daughter Lodges. Many have been members of more than one lodge or become regular visitors at meetings.

The respective Masters historically became Honorary Members for their year-in-office, while now all have an open invitation to their respective meetings and the festive board.

The Royal Arch Chapter of Brotherly Love No. 329

The Charter of the Chapter of Brotherly Love No 329 was granted on 6 November 1822. This followed a petition that was sent to the Supreme Grand Chapter signed by Thomas Cave, George Wellington, Philip Collins, Thomas Bowdage, John Spratt, John Greenham, John Pearce and Edward Thomas Percy. All but the last three petitioners were members of our Craft Lodge. The new Chapter was given the Number 624, the same as the Lodge of Brotherly Love, because following the constitutional changes of 1817 an instruction had been issued that all Chapters must be attached to a Lodge with the same number. The first meeting was held on 16 September 1823 in the Lodge Room in Vicarage Street and was led by Thomas Cave. At the meeting three members of the Lodge of Brotherly Love were proposed as members.

It was not, though, the first local Royal Arch Chapter that included members of Brotherly Love. The Mystic Stone Chapter No 117 was chartered by the 'Moderns' Grand and Royal Chapter following a petition by the Rev John White Middleton, Robert Chaffey and Thomas Hamlyn on 10 March 1812 and met at the George Inn, Martock. The latter two were members of the Lodge of Brotherly Love at the time of submitting the petition in January 1812 and the Rev Middleton joined at the February Lodge meeting. This Chapter was not linked to the Lodge, as prior to 1817 the Grand and Royal Arch Chapter was separate from the premier (Moderns) Grand Lodge. However the Chapter did not flourish and no returns were made to the Grand Chapter.

Thomas Cave in March 1822 had requested the Supreme Grand Chapter that the Charter of the Mystic Stone No 117 be revived, but it replied pointing out that unless a full list of members and the appropriate fees were paid this was not possible. Alternatively a petition from nine registered Royal Arch Masons was needed to establish a new Chapter linked to the Lodge. Even though only eight eligible Royal Arch Masons signed the petition for the new Chapter a Warrant was issued. The Chapter is still active and in good health. What is remarkable about those early days is that Thomas Cave was the First Principal on no fewer than twenty-five occasions.

The Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset

The first lodge in Somerset was probably Lodge No 28 that met in Bath in 1725 but was then erased in 1736. Meanwhile another lodge had opened at the Bear Inn in Bath in 1732 and in 1786 joined with the Royal Cumberland Lodge. The first Provincial Grand Master of Somerset was John Smith, who was an MP for Bath, and he was appointed in 1768 when there were four active Lodges, two in Bath, one in Bridgwater and one in Taunton.

The Provincial Grand Master in 1810 was Colonel John Smith Leigh, who was appointed in 1796, but because of his army duties around England at a time of political unrest, his first and only Provincial Grand Lodge meeting was at Taunton on 10 April 1810. This was held in connection with the laying of the foundation stone of the Taunton and Somerset Hospital. This was just a few days before the first meeting of this lodge on 19 April. He died in 1813.

For four years the office was not filled until the Duke of Sussex appointed Arthur Chichester, a gentleman of a well-known family from North Devon, who introduced what can be considered as sweeping and radical changes. He visited virtually all the lodges in Somerset, often carrying out the ceremony, which he saw as part of reinforcing the role of the Provincial Grand Lodge after the break of four years. In August 1817 he ordered that a meeting of Brotherly Love be held at the George Inn at Crewkerne. The ordinary business of

the Lodge was transacted, after which Mr Robert Lyddon, a tanner of South Petherton, was initiated by the Provincial Grand Master himself. Arthur Chichester soon became unpopular as fees for each Lodge member and newly appointed Provincial Officers were introduced as well as fines for non-attendance at Provincial meetings for all Provincial Officers and the Masters and Wardens of private Lodges. Such matters caused considerable resentment in the Lodges and in 1820 he resigned and was replaced by Colonel Charles Kemys Kemys Tynte, MP for Bridgwater, who proved to be just the man to weld the Province together.

Meetings of Provincial Grand Lodge have taken place in Yeovil in 1838, 1849, 1857, 1866, 1884, 1894, 1910, 1934 1935 and 1947. At the 1838 and 1849 meetings between thirty and forty brethren attended respectively. The 1857 meeting involved a Dispensation authorising 'a public procession of Provincial Grand Lodge, the Lodge and visiting brethren, to St John's Church for Divine Service clad in badges and jewels of the Order.' The procession was headed by a band, which cost £5, whilst another 12s 6p was paid for a policeman at the Town Hall, where the meeting was held. The meetings in 1866 and 1884 were also held at the Town Hall. The 1894 meeting was linked to the dedication of the Masonic Hall and the 1910 meeting associated with the Centenary of the Lodge. The 1947 meeting was held in the Assembly Rooms, with robing in the nearby St John's Schoolrooms. Lunch was limited to fifty at the Manor Hotel whilst the others who attended were asked to make their own arrangements. All were though invited for tea afterwards at the Masonic Hall.

The meeting in 1935 in Yeovil, held under the banners of Brotherly Love and Progressive Science, was significant for as well as being the Annual Meeting it was also the Installation of the new Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Brigadier-General Claude Lumsden-Norman, formerly Deputy District Grand Master of Punjab, by the MW Pro Grand Master Lord Ampthill. As 600 masons attended the Lodge, which was in Masonic mourning for the late RW Provincial Grand Master, it was held in the Assembly Rooms in Princes Street and St John's Church schoolrooms were used for assembly and robing. Lunch was taken at the nearby Manor Hotel. At the meeting W Bro Frederick E Nutt, from our own Lodge, was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden and a year later became Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The alms collected were given to the Yeovil Jubilee Hospital Fund.

Relations with the Province have generally been productive but from time to time there have been discussions or indeed disagreements. One example concerned the holding of Lodge meetings on Sundays. The plan was to initiate two candidates on Sunday 23 June 1918. Several previous such Lodges of Emergency had been held on a Sunday' during the War because candidates in the Forces were on leave for short periods. The Lodge saw this as a continuation of past practice and in accordance with Book of Constitutions. The Provincial Secretary advised Sunday has always been looked upon as 'dies non...and I think it well the Lodge abstains from holding such a meeting.' A telegram from the Provincial Grand Master was received hoping the meeting would not go ahead. The Lodge decided 'that in deference to the wishes of the Provincial Grand Master the Lodge will not be held.' That was not the end of the story for in November the Lodge Secretary wrote to Provincial Grand Lodge complaining that no reply had been sent to the Lodge to two letters and at the same time advising that it was the intention of the Lodge to meet in Emergency on a Sunday if necessary. However further correspondence with the Province resulted in the Lodge stating 'in deference to your expressed wish it was not considered desirable to hold such a lodge.' During the Second World War Grand Lodge decreed that meetings should not be held on a Sunday either.

In January 1969 there was a special meeting after the Lodge meeting itself. A letter had been received from the Provincial Grand Master, based on reports of his representatives at Installation, W Bro Frampton the previous year and W Bro Hewlett in 1969, that were very

critical of the workings in the Lodge. At a meeting with the Provincial Grand Master, our Master W Bro Philip Hillard reported that whilst there were no specific criticisms there was 'a pervading feeling of slackness'. Discussions ensued and it seems there were problems resulting from 'prompting' without using the book, which the Immediate Past Master agreed to use in future, there was a lack of 'snap' in movements, a lack of confidence and 'swank' by officers on the floor and variations to Emulation Working that led to uncertainty by the officers. Attendance at Lodge of Instruction was recommended and all those taking part should aim for the 'best possible' not 'that is good enough'.

In 1973 the Provincial Grand Master had asked about the traditions of the Lodge ceremonies and as a result W Bros Dick Sibley, William Ricketts, Arthur Pope and Albert Winsor produced an annotated book of the '329' ceremonies. Two years later the Provincial Grand Master wrote saying he hoped the Lodge would rectify some 'errors' in its practices. Many were procedural and in addition he requested that the Chaplain sit to the left of the Master and not to his right in the Temple, which was agreed. In recent years the Provincial Grand Secretary agreed for the Chaplain to sit to right of the Master unless there was an official visit from a Provincial Grand Lodge Officer.

Appendix

MINUTES OF THE FIRST MEETING

No 617. Lodge of *Brotherly Love*, *George Inn*, *Martock*
19 April 1810. Lodge opened in due form

<i>Right Worshipful Master</i>	<i>RW^o Bro Charles Marsh</i>
<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>Bro John Pottenger Westcote</i>
<i>Junior Warden</i>	<i>Bro Henry Carey</i>
<i>Treasurer (Acting)</i>	<i>Bro Thomas Westlake</i>
<i>Secretary (Acting)</i>	<i>Bro John Nicholletts</i>
<i>Steward (Acting)</i>	<i>Bro John Timson</i>

Warrant of Constitution received and read.

John Spratt of Martock, Cordwainer
Nath' Pyne Thomas, Linen Draper
John Marquand, Merchant
Dan'l Read, Innkeeper

all of the above places, were proposed to be made Masons in this Lodge by
Bro' Westcote and seconded by Bro' Hamlyn.

Then proposed by the RW^o Master in due form, all duly elected, and made
Masons in the first Degree

The Lodge was then closed with Harmony, to Thursday, on or before the next
full Moon.

OFFICERS 1910

<i>Worshipful Master</i>	<i>W Bro Walter J Nosworthy</i>
<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>W Bro Henry Raymond</i>
<i>Junior Warden</i>	<i>W Bro Frank Gaylard</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>Bro Rev L R Cotter</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>W Bro Charles Pitcher</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>W Bro Norman Buchanan</i>
<i>Director of Ceremonies</i>	<i>W Bro Theodore Neal</i>
<i>Almoner</i>	<i>Bro H P Priest</i>
<i>Senior Deacon</i>	<i>W Bro Henry Boll</i>
<i>Junior Deacon</i>	<i>W Bro Eli Wilson</i>
<i>Assistant Director of Ceremonies</i>	<i>W Bro Alfred Gates</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>W Bro Frank Bastick</i>
<i>Inner Guard</i>	<i>W Bro Nicolson Johnston</i>
<i>Stewards</i>	<i>Bro Edmund Damon</i> <i>Bro Thomas Parsons</i> <i>Bro Arthur Pope</i> <i>Bro James Worner</i> <i>Bro S Whitcombe</i> <i>Bro Sidney Thring</i>
<i>Tyler</i>	<i>Bro Vincent Moore</i>

OFFICERS 2010

<i>Worshipful Master</i>	<i>W Bro J R Sibley PPGSuptWks</i>
<i>Senior Warden</i>	<i>Bro Ken Whittle</i>
<i>Junior Warden</i>	<i>Bro Paul Dampier</i>
<i>Chaplain</i>	<i>W Bro Taff Lewis PPGSwdB PZ</i>
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>W Bro Derek Larner PPGSuptWks</i>
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>W Bro David Perkins PrJGW PZ</i>
<i>Director of Ceremonies</i>	<i>W Bro Colin Vine PrADC PZ</i>
<i>Almoner</i>	<i>W Bro Derick Smith PPGReg PZ</i>
<i>Charity Steward</i>	<i>W Bro David Moger PPJGD</i>
<i>Senior Deacon</i>	<i>Bro Kevin Saunders</i>
<i>Junior Deacon</i>	<i>Bro Adrian Watkins</i>
<i>Assistant Director of Ceremonies</i>	<i>W Bro John Pinder PPGStB</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>W Bro Martin Emslie PPGStB</i>
<i>Assistant Secretary</i>	<i>W Bro Ray Edwards PPGReg</i>
<i>Inner Guard</i>	<i>W Bro Melvyn Adams</i>
<i>Stewards</i>	<i>Bro Russell Chatwin PPAGStB</i> <i>Bro Colin Trott</i> <i>Bro Colin Deakin</i> <i>Bro Dene Watson</i>
<i>Tyler (Acting)</i>	<i>Bro Ron Tuttiett PPGSuptWks</i>
<i>Mentors</i>	<i>W Bro Melvyn Adams</i> <i>Bro Gordon Nichols PPAGStB</i>
<i>Information Officer</i>	<i>W Bro David Perkins PrJGW PZ</i>
<i>IPM</i>	<i>W Bro Steve Defries PPJGW</i>

PAST MASTERS OF THE LODGE

1810 C Marsh	1895 F Gaylard	1954 T Richards
1811-12 J Westcote	1896 C Hook	1955 F Howard
1813-14 H Cary	1897 F Buchanon-Smith	1956 W Henderson
1815-16 T Hamblyn	1898 F Garland	1957 R Sibley
1817-18 W Bridle	1899 E Louch	1958 A Lucas
1818-20 R Chaffey	1900 J Boll	1959 J Bennett
1821-22 T Cave	1901 J Brook	1960 D Blanchard
1823-24 S Cayme	1902 T Neal	1961 W Vaux
1825-26 J Slade	1903 E Wilson	1962 A Buttell
1827-28 W Poole	1904 N Buchanon	1963 H Braxton
1829-30 J Slade	1905 L Goodman	1964 G Mullard
1831 H Etheridge	1906 J Johnston	1965 W Black
1832-33 W Poole	1907 P Kingston	1966 L Hole
1834-35 T Cave	1908 C Pitcher	1967 F Fishleigh
1836 J Slade	1909 W Beale Collins	1968 E Barnes
1837-38 W Tomkins	1910 W Nosworthy	1969 P Hillard
1839 S Cayme	1911 A Gates	1970 F Millward
1840-41 E Latham	1912 E Damon	1971 J James
1842 W Tomkins	1913 A Pope	1972 D Button
1843-44 T Cave	1914 J Worner	1973 W Masters
1845-46 E Latham	1915 S Whitcomb	1974 D Jones
1847-48 C Plaister	1916-17 S Thring	1975 K Barber
1849-50 G Hancock	1918 J Somerville	1976 E Caple
1851-52 T Cave	1919 W Stevens	1977 A Mason
1853 N Highmore	1920 P Richards	1978 D Neale
1854-55 R Shout	1921 F Coles	1979 K Thorne
1856 W Rogers	1922 A Oddy	1980 S Baker
1857-58 F Ferris	1923 T Hardyman	1981 A Merry
1859 E Edwards	1924 J Worner	1982 J Sword
1860 J Brutton	1925 A Barrant	1983 H Evans
1861 H Raymond	1926 C Normandale	1984 H Joyes
1859 S Cross	1927 F Nutt	1985 P Lelohe
1860 J Whitby	1928 W Vitty	1986 R Stallard
1861 R Thomas	1929 W Shilam	1987 H Parris
1865-66 J Ryall	1930 W Andrews	1988 J Sibley
1867 E Gaylard	1931 W Ricketts	1989 G Whitworth
1868-69 F Cox	1932 H Foot	1990 A Old
1870 C Style	1933 J Freeman	1991 H Lewis
1871 J Farley	1934 F Farley	1992 R Edwards
1872 J Chaffin	1935 W Waterman	1993 D Larner
1873 W Milborne	1936 A Winsor	1994 G Hughes
1874 W Cox	1937 C Tyler	1995 D Perkins
1875 J Milborne	1938 F Purchase	1996 P Newham
1876-77 G Forster	1939 H Walker	1997 J Pinder
1878-79 R Damon	1940-41 P Tucker	1998 M Paterson
1880 H Edgar	1942 B Denning	1999 D Moger
1881-82 E Howell	1943 H Hebditch	2000 M Emslie
1883 H Cobb	1944 H Perris	2001 W Roberts
1884 W Nosworthy	1945 W Hicks	2002 R Stent
1885-86 J Milborne	1946 A Payne	2003 M Bloor
1887 S Baskett	1947 H Trask	2004 C Vine
1888 W Gillard	1948 P Atkins	2005 R Smith
1889 R Damon	1949 R Vincent	2006 R Stallard
1890 H Raymond	1950 A Harris	2007 M Plowman
1891 W Marsh	1951 F Hansford	2008 M Adams
1892 J Rodber	1952 A Feinson	2009 S Defries
1893-94 B Whitby	1953 C Mitchell	

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