



Worcestershire SOURCE

The Newsletter of Worcestershire Freemasons

Commemorative Issue

The Official Visit to the Province of Worcestershire by the Grand Master

The Freemasons of Worcestershire were honoured and extremely privileged to receive a visit by our Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent to Rainbow Hill, Worcester on Thursday, 10th December 2009. The visit coincided with the accreditation of the Worcestershire Masonic Library and Museum by the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council – a significant achievement by the Curator, W. Bro. John Hart and his team. It was the first visit to the Masonic Province of Worcestershire by a reigning Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England since the foundation of the province in 1847.





The Provincial Grand Master welcomes HRH the Duke of Kent and the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire to Rainbow Hill, Worcester



His Royal Highness is introduced to VW Bro. Robert Vaughan, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master

The MW Grand Master, HRH the Duke of Kent welcomed to Rainbow Hill

RW Bro. Richard Goddard, our Provincial Grand Master, said "The visit to our province by the MW Grand Master comes shortly after the achievement by W. Bro. John Hart and his hardworking Provincial Library and Museum team in gaining the accreditation about which you will all by now have heard. I congratulate all those concerned who have brought great credit to the Province of Worcestershire, and trust that our achievements will continue to go from strength to strength in this, and all of the other fields of endeavour in which we are engaged.

Our Royal visitor was clearly impressed by the number and range of exhibits and, I'm sure, by the depth of knowledge displayed by the members of the team. I, together with my wife, Helena, was proud to host a very pleasant and informal luncheon to honour our distinguished visitor in the recently refurbished dining room at Rainbow Hill. His Royal Highness mentioned his regret that he couldn't spend more time viewing our magnificent collection, and thanked us for the hospitality he had enjoyed during his visit. This commemorative issue of the Worcestershire Source will, I hope, convey at least some of the pleasure that was felt by all those who were privileged to be present on the day".



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His Royal Highness is introduced to the Provincial Grand Master's wife, Mrs Helena Goddard



The Grand Master signs the Visitors Book



W. Bro. John Hart, the Curator of the Worcestershire Masonic Library & Museum is presented to His Royal Highness.

A Memorable Day for Worcestershire Masons

The visit by HRH the Duke of Kent began with his arrival at Rainbow Hill at 12.45, accompanied by the Lord Lieutenant of Worcestershire, Sir Michael Brinton. The Duke was welcomed to the City of Worcester by the Mayor, Cllr. Andy Roberts, and the Chairman of Worcestershire County Council, Cllr. John Cairns.

The Provincial Grand Master then introduced his wife, Mrs. Helena Goddard and VW Bro. Robert Vaughan, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

The party then moved to the first floor, where W. Bro. Colin Young, Chairman of the Library and Museum Committee, invited His Royal Highness to enter the Library and Museum. Members of the Museum team and our good friend, TV personality Mr. Henry Sandon were then individually presented, and the Curator, W. Bro. John Hart provided the Grand Master with an explanation of the significance of some of the artefacts in our collection. W. Bro. Tony King, Deputy Curator, then showed the Grand Master a further number of unusual items.

The Royal party then adjourned to the newly refurbished main Lodge Room, where the Provincial Grand Master introduced W. Bro. Raymond Rooke, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. He then invited His Highness to unveil a plaque commemorating his visit, and to sign the Visitors Book. His Highness was then invited to join the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistants, together with those members of the Library and Museum Committee present for a formal photograph before the Worshipful Masters present (overleaf).

The Grand Master was then invited to join the other invited guests for an informal luncheon in the dining room, following which he departed, having left our Provincial Grand Master with a message of thanks and appreciation for the courtesies extended to him.

Prince Edward George Nicholas Paul Patrick, the Duke of Kent has held the office of Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England since he was first elected in 1967. It is an office which was also held by his father, who was the fourth son of King George V, between 1939-42. He is a cousin of both the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh.

The Origin of the Provincial Library and Museum

The recently enlarged and refurbished Library and Museum houses the largest collection of Masonic artefacts outside the Museum of the United Grand Lodge of England in Great Queen Street, London. The purchase of the extensive private collection of George Taylor, a Kidderminster Mason, provided the origin and nucleus of the Museum's present collection, which includes a fascinating range of porcelain, Sunderlandware, jewels, medals, regalia, apparel and old manuscripts, including early versions of the Ancient Charges; the 'Wood', 'Inigo Jones' and 'Lechmere' manuscripts.

Members of the province are reminded that the Provincial Library and Museum is normally open for visits by both Masons and the general public on Tuesday and Thursday mornings between the hours of 10am and 12am, except during the months of July and August and for two weeks over Christmas and the New Year. The Curator is very happy to open the Library and Museum at other times by prior arrangement. Disabled access and facilities are provided for visitors.

Presentation of Certificates

During February and March 2010, 50 year Anniversary Certificates will be presented to long serving Brethren by the Rulers.

W Bro K Wilkinson will receive his from VW Bro. Robert Vaughan on 1st February, followed by W Bros J N Foulkes and M T Bough on 3rd February, presented by W. Bro. Colin Young, and then W. Bro's G V Clarke (19th February) and J G Bennett (23rd February) will receive their certificates from W. Bro. Raymond Rooke.

W. Bro. M L Homer's will be awarded by W. Bro. Stuart Edwards on 2nd March and the Provincial Grand Master will present W. Bro. J S Stallard with his on 17th March.

It is hoped that all these Brethren will be supported by as many of their friends and colleagues as possible on these very special occasions.



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The Grand Master pictured with our Provincial Rulers and Members of the Library & Museum Team

Pictured left to right:

Back Row: W. Bro. John Potter, Bro. Peter Merris, W. Bro. Alvin Dally, W. Bro. John Vickers, W. Bro. John Hart, W. Bro. Bob James, W. Bro. Tony King, W. Bro. Henry France-Sargeant, W. Bro. John Tapson, Bro. Alex Sutton, W. Bro. Bernard Jennings.

Front Row: W. Bro. Colin Young (AsstProvGM), RW Bro. Richard Goddard (Provincial Grand Master), HRH the Duke of Kent, VW Bro. Robert Vaughan (DepProvGM), W. Bro. Raymond Rooke (AsstProvGM).

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