

*Antient and Honourable Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons*



## **Connaught Lodge**

**No. 4802**

**75th Anniversary Meeting**

***Induction***

***of***

***W. Bro Gerald F. Aldhous***

***P.Prov.G.Reg.***

***Past Master***

Warwickshire Masonic Temple  
Stirling Road, Edgbaston  
Birmingham

Wednesday 21st February 2001

## The Founding Officers 11th February 1926

Worshipful Master .....	W. Bro. J. W. SHIELDS
I. P. M. ....	W. Bro. Maurice SMITH

### Officers

Senior Warden .....	W. Bro. H. KNIGHT-PALL
Junior Warden .....	Bro. J. B. BLACKMAN
Chaplain .....	W. Bro. F. C. FOSTER
Treasurer .....	Bro. R. RECORD
Secretary .....	Bro. H. H. SEWELL
Director of Ceremonies .....	Bro. G. J. HOPKINS
Almoner .....	W. Bro. P. HUDSON
Senior Deacon .....	Bro. J. HARRIS
Junior Deacon .....	Bro. N. HARRIS
Organist .....	Bro. W. MELLING
Asst. Director of Ceremonies ..	W. Bro. L. DUNN
Asst. Secretary .....	Bro. J. J. BROOMFIELD
Inner Guard .....	Bro. H. WRIGHT
Steward .....	Bro. H. E. RILEY
Steward .....	Bro. W. HARRISSON
Steward .....	Bro. A. H. CONDRY
Steward .....	Bro. H. SHELDON
Steward .....	Bro. A. S. PRICE
Steward .....	Bro. J. JARDINE
Tyler .....	Bro. Geo. COLLINS

## TOASTS

The Queen and the Craft

*Proposed by* The Worshipful Master

The Most Worshipful Grand Master

His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, K.G., G.C.M.G., G.C.V.O., A.D.C.

*Proposed by* The Worshipful Master

The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master

The Right Honourable Lord Farnham

The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master

Iain Ross Bryce, T.D., D.L.

The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master

The Most Honourable The Marquess of Northampton, D.L.

and the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past.

*Proposed by* The Worshipful Master

The Provincial Grand Master :

R. W. Bro. Stanley A. Lates

*Proposed by* The Worshipful Master

The Connaught Lodge, No. 4802

*Proposed by* R. W. Bro. Stanley A. Lates

*Response by* W. Bro. E. N. Roberts, P.Prov.G.Reg.

The Deputy Provincial Grand Master :

V. W. Bro. Michael J. Price, C.B.E., Past Grand Sword Bearer

The Assistant Provincial Grand Masters :

W. Bro. Victor W. Keene, Past Senior Grand Deacon

W. Bro. David J. F. Rawlins, Past Senior Grand Deacon

W. Bro. David W. Old, Past Junior Grand Deacon

W. Bro. Rodney Pitham, Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies

and the rest of the Officers, Present and Past of the

Provincial Grand Lodge of Warwickshire.

*Proposed by* W. Bro. J. D. Whitehouse

The Worshipful Master

*Proposed by* W. Bro. A. G. F. Hackett

P.Prov.G.Reg., P.Prov.S.G.D. (Worcs.), S.W.

The Visitors

*Proposed by* W. Bro. E. J. Eveson

P.Prov.A.G.D.C., J.W.

The Installing Master

*Proposed by* The Worshipful Master

The Tyler's Toast

# THE CONNAUGHT LODGE 1926 TO 2001

## AN ACCOUNT OF SOME NOTABLE DATES AND EVENTS IN THE LAST SEVENTY FIVE YEARS

This is not a full account of the History of the Lodge but rather a selection of occasions and meetings since 1926. I am indebted to W. Bro. Keith Harris who compiled a detailed History that was published in 1993 to mark our 400th Regular Meeting.

In early 1925 there were a number of Brethren from different Lodges who had expressed a desire to form another Lodge, amongst these Lodges was Alchemy Lodge No. 3950 which had been formed in 1919 for Pharmacists and Allied Professions. The Brethren in Alchemy at that time decided that they would like to support a daughter Lodge so that their friends who were not members of the Pharmacy Profession could become Freemasons. Accordingly the Connaught Lodge was sponsored by the Alchemy Lodge and, like it's Mother Lodge, it met on Wednesday evenings (traditional half day closing).

The Consecration of the Connaught Lodge took place at the Masonic Hall Severn Street, Birmingham on Thursday 11th February 1926 under the leadership of R. W. Bro. Col. W. F. Wyley, v.d., D.L. F.G.D. Eng., Provincial Grand Master who was supported by ten members of the Provincial Team.

The Lodge took its name from the reigning Grand Master at the time of its Consecration, the Duke of Connaught, who was the third son of Queen Victoria. He was the fifteenth member of the British Royal Family to become a Freemason and he was installed as Grand Master in 1901 to succeed his Brother the Prince of Wales who acceded to the throne as King of England. The Duke of Connaught reigned as Grand Master until March 1939 when ill health forced him to resign after a record thirty eight years in office.

The first Regular Meeting of Connaught Lodge was held on the 17th March 1926. In 1928 the Lodge made the first of its three changes of venue, relocating to the Connaught Room of the Imperial Hotel Temple Street, holding the first Meeting there on 1st February 1928.

On 16th January 1929 the Lodge Minutes record receiving a Deputation from the Alchemy Lodge and there has been an annual intervisitation between the two Lodges ever since.

The Connaught Lodge of Instruction held its first meeting on 28th January 1931.



The 50th Regular Meeting took place on 19th September 1934 with W. Bro. A.H. Condry as Worshipful Master, the Labour being a Passing and Raising Ceremony.

Following the outbreak of War the activities of the Lodge continued, however during the heavy bombing raids of 1940/41 and due to the requirement for blackout, the starting times and timetables were disrupted. The opening of the Lodge was brought forward to Midday and, on occasions the Labour reduced to Openings and Closings and the Festive Boards cancelled. The Lodge was fortunate and thankful that none of the Brethren were lost or sustained serious injury over those years.

It was during this time that the Lodge moved to its second home with the Lodge holding its final meeting at the Imperial Hotel, Temple Street on 16th April 1941 and on the 17th September 1941 it held its first Meeting at its new home the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms, Francis Road.

The 100th Regular Meeting took place on 20th January 1945 with W. Bro. G.F. Daniels as Worshipful Master. The Labour was the Ceremony of Raising.

The 21st March 1951 saw the 150th Regular Meeting with W. Bro. Eli Smith as Worshipful Master. The Labour was the Initiation of Mr. Harry Marshall.

The Bi-Centenary Meeting was held on 21st October 1959 with W. Bro. Norman Gough as Worshipful Master and the Labour was the Raising of two Candidates. On display was the Menu Card of the Festive Board following the Consecration which contained all the signatures of the Founders.

On 15th September 1965 the new Lodge Banner was dedicated by W. Bro. Sir Stanley J. Harley P.G.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master supported and assisted by six Provincial Officers.

The 250th Regular Meeting was held on 17th January 1968 with W. Bro. A. E. Walker as Master, the Labour being the Initiation of Mr. Douglas Cole.

The Lodge made its third move and the final Lodge Meeting was held at the Edgbaston Assembly Rooms on 17th March 1971

On 15th September 1971 the Lodge held its First Meeting in the Warwickshire Masonic Temple Stirling Road and the Labour was the Initiation of Mr A. G. F. Hackett. The Worshipful Master being our current longest serving Brother W. Bro. E. Neville Roberts. It is understood that W. Bro. Hackett was the first person initiated in the new Temple.

The Jubilee Meeting was held on 18th February 1976 when the Lodge was honoured by the attendance of R. W. Bro. Sir Stanley J. Harley, D.L., Provincial Grand Master who witnessed the Installation of Bro. J. Rabbits by W. Bro. H. S. Hill.

In a short but sincere speech the Provincial Grand Master promoted W. Bro. Leslie Mills to P.Prov.J.G.W. on the floor of the Lodge. A Firing Glass was presented to everyone attending the meeting.

On the Saturday following a Jubilee Thanksgiving Service was held at St. Peters Church, Harborne conducted by W. Bro. The Rev. S. Farrington P.Prov. S.G.W. (Worcs). The day ended with a Social Function, a Dinner and Dance, at the Warwickshire Masonic Temple.

The 300th Meeting was held on 17th March 1976 with W. Bro. J. Rabbits as Master. The Labour was the Initiation of our current Master, W. Bro. John N. V. Moore.

The 350th Regular Meeting was held on 21st November 1984 with W. Bro. A. Graham Cross as Worshipful Master. The Labour was the Initiation of Mr. J. Trevor Richmond.

On 19th February 1986 the Lodge celebrated its Diamond Jubilee with W. Bro. Eric. E. Hynett as Worshipful Master. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of R. W. Bro. Vernon J. Nicholls, Provincial Grand Master, who witnessed the Installation of W. Bro. A. G. F. Hackett. At the Festive Board a cheque was presented to the Provincial Grand Master towards the 1990 Festival Appeal. A Commemorative Glass was presented to everyone attending the Festive Board. To mark this Diamond Jubilee Year Charity funds accumulated over previous years enabled the Lodge to present one of the most modern Incubators to the Birmingham Childrens Hospital.

On 21st February 1990 W. Bro. A. G. F. Hackett was inducted as Worshipful Master, the first Past Master to serve a second term as Worshipful Master.

Following the Initiation of Bro. Iain Gemmell on 20th October 1990 the Lodge now had four Fathers and Sons, Brothers Horace and Martin Wright Wallace and Eric Eveson, Trevor and Paul Richmond and John and Iain Gemmell.

The 400th meeting of the Lodge was held on 17th February 1993, the Worshipful Master being W. Bro. Keith Harris. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of R. W. Bro. Stanley A. Lates, Provincial Grand Master, who witnessed the installation of W. Bro. Angus H. Rodger. A Firing Glass was presented to all eighty-nine brethren attending the Meeting.



On 18th January 1995 Bro A. J. McChesney was presented with an Apron by W.Bro M.B. Harris, a former Connaught member, and the apron was made up from the aprons worn by three generations of the Harris family all of whom had been Members of the Lodge.

The 15th February 1995 saw the retirement of W. Bro John Gemmell as Lodge Treasurer after a period of twenty two years.

The 44th Lodge of Instruction Festival was held on 20th September 1995 and the members were extremely honoured to welcome as their President W. Bro. W. J. Whittall, Assistant Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire.

On 20th January 1999 a Dispensation was granted for the wearing of Masonic Regalia for a Gentlemen's Evening. Four Gentlemen attended but unfortunately none have yet taken up the opportunity to join the Lodge.

The Seventy Fifth Anniversary Meeting is due to take place on 21st February 2001 when we welcome R. W. Bro. Stanley A. Lates, Provincial Grand Master, who will be making his last visit to the Lodge as Provincial Grand Master. The scheduled Ceremony is the Installation by Induction of W. Bro. Gerald Aldhous.

The account of our History is now complete but what of our future ?

In the Sixties and Seventies the Lodge had a membership of seventy plus members with a waiting list of up to three years. Since those times the membership has declined and in the last ten years there have only been two new Members of the Lodge.

The current active membership is now at such a level that it is becoming increasingly difficult to fill all the Offices, however, the Members are doing their utmost to recruit new members and to encourage some of our existing members to become more involved. Following meetings and discussions, a strategy is now in place and we hope that there is a future for the Connaught Lodge, for at this time of uncertainty we owe it to our Founders to endeavour to continue.

W. Bro. G. F. Aldhous

2019/13.283

Worshipful Master .....	W. Bro. G. F. ALDHOUS, P.Prov.G.Reg.
I. P. M. ....	W. Bro. J. N. V. MOORE, P.Prov.S.G.D.

### Officers

Senior Warden .....	W. Bro. A. G. F. HACKETT, P.Prov.G.Reg., P.Prov.S.G.D. (Worcs.)
Junior Warden .....	W. Bro. E. J. EVESON, P.Prov.A.G.D.C.
Chaplain .....	W. Bro. A. G. CROSS, P.Prov.G.Reg.
Treasurer .....	W. Bro. W. J. EVESON, P.Prov.J.G.D.
Secretary .....	W. Bro. J. D. WHITEHOUSE
Director of Ceremonies .....	W. Bro. I. J. GEMMELL
Almoner .....	W. Bro. A. G. CROSS, P.Prov.C.Reg.
Charity Steward .....	Bro. M. T. WRIGHT
Senior Deacon .....	Bro. B. G. POW
Junior Deacon .....	W. Bro. E. E. HYVETT, P.Prov.J.G.W., P.Prov.S.G.W. (Staffs.)
Organist .....	W. Bro. W. J. EVESON, P.Prov.J.G.D.
Asst. Director of Ceremonies .....	W. Bro. K. T. HARRIS, P.Prov.J.G.D.
Asst. Secretary .....	W. Bro. A. H. ROEDGER, P.Prov.J.G.D.
Inner Guard .....	W. Bro. J. M. GEMMELL, P.Prov.J.G.W.
Steward .....	
Tyler .....	W. Bro. G. BICKNELL, J.P., P.Prov.J.G.W. (Worcs.)

### Past Masters and Brethren not in Office

W. Bro. J. T. Richmond  
 Bro. P. C. Richmond  
 Bro. P. R. Tinegate  
 Bro. A. J. McChesney  
 Bro. A. V. C. Smail

### Honorary Members

W. Bro. E. N. Roberts, P.Prov.G.Reg.  
 Bro. W. C. Cowdrill, P.Prov.A.G.Std.B.