

Abbot Lichfield News

"Keeping members in touch"

Issue 19 : April 2004



DEAN WATERFIELD VISIT

The visit of the Worshipful Master and 8 members of Dean Waterfield Lodge to our March meeting proved to an excellent occasion rich in Masonic fellowship and a golden opportunity to forge new friendships.

The evening would have given great satisfaction to V. W. Bro. Eric Beasey an instigator of these exchange visits.

Those Brethren in attendance enjoyed an excellent ceremony led by W. Bro. John Barnett and continued by W. Br. Doug Wills. The current Officers also put an extra polish to the evening. The candidate Bro. Adam Weldon, whilst being admirable himself, could not have failed to be impressed.

W. Bro. Eric Staite (Dean Waterfield) is to be thanked for his immediate willingness to assist us, at short notice, in playing the organ, when it was learned that our guest organist could be late in arriving. W. Bro. Eric at 86 years young, and the only remaining founder of Dean Waterfield, spent 30 minutes acquainting himself with our organ only to be ousted at 5.59 p.m. Whether in relief or disappointment has yet to be established.

Eric who recently lost his wife, used to play to her each evening, at her request, whilst she was cooking the dinner; a feature in his life he missed greatly. It is reported he no longer plays, other than in the lodge room, we may therefore have unwittingly, assisted him in getting him to play outside the Masonic premises in Court Street.

The Festive Board, enjoyed by all, brought about the usual banter particularly with regard to the "fire" the contrast between Worcestershire and Herefordshire being so marked. Who is right when you consider the origin of the "fire"? Answers on a post card please?

Messages from several sources reveal that the Hereford contingent thoroughly enjoyed their evening with us, long may these exchange visits continue.

A big thank you to all of those kind Brethren who sponsored our visiting Brethren.

Bro. E.J.C. (Ted) Rhodes, Celebrates 60 years in Masonry

Ted was Initiated on April 05, 1944 into Norman Lodge No 3502, Gillingham, East Kent. He is a Member of Sir Joseph Williamson Lodge No 4605, (School Lodge) Rochester, East Kent.

He joined The Sabrina Lodge No 6595, Worcester, on December 06 1979, and was made an Honorary member of Abbot Lichfield Lodge No 3308, Evesham on October 09, 2003.

Ted tells me that he was Initiated whilst on leave from the R.A.F. Although he was called up into the RAF, they had nothing for him to do, so he was sent to an Army Maintenance Unit at Cheadle Hume, even though he was apprenticed as an Aeronautical Engineer!

After a few weeks, Ted was then transferred to the (Putts) East Kent Regiment stationed in Ireland. He was Passed whilst on leave from there.

He was raised whilst on embarkation leave from the West Kents. Up until that time Ted said that he had not seen a Degree Ceremony performed, other than his own Initiation, Passing and Raising, and was on his way to India, where he was stationed at Bombay, Pune and Madras.

Ted's father, thinking he was still serving in India sent his Grand Lodge Certificate to him there, but by this time he had moved on. The Certificate eventually caught up with Ted in Burma. He said that this must have been the only Grand Lodge Certificate, that had seen service in the Burma Campaign!

Now serving in the Royal Engineers, in Burma, he put the Certificate into the Company trunk and forgot about it.

About six months after the war had ended, Ted's Company had been disbanded, he was in the transit camp at Rangoon from Myanmar and whilst having lunch one day, the Duty Officer, told him that the Colonel of the Camp wanted to see him.

Ted said that the Colonel asked him if he would like to go to Singapore, Hong Kong or Japan. Ted told him in no uncertain terms that he thought he'd done enough travelling, but agreed to stay put with the Colonel at the Transit Camp.

Seven or eight years ago, Ted said he discovered that it had been the Colonel who had found his Grand Lodge Certificate and that he turned out to be a Mason also, but had not said anything at that time!

Ted said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his sixty years of Masonry and his 27 years of visiting Abbot Lichfield Lodge and that he was extremely proud to have been made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

W. Bro. A.P. Stammers—Master Elect of Harlington Lodge No. 9225, Ampt Hill, BEDS

Extends an open invitation to all Abbot Lichfield Brethren to attend his Installation on Fri. May 14th at Ampt Hill Masonic Centre, Church Street, Ampt Hill, at 16:30hrs, for Lodge opening at 17:00hrs prompt. All wishing to attend should contact Sec. W. Bro. Dick Rollings, Tel: 01386 416 51 e-mail: al.lodge3308@tiscali.co.uk

Notice to Computer Users

Cartridge World at 4, Avon St. Evesham, Tel: 01386 44 20 04, can refill your colour & black cartridges, while you wait, which will save you up to 60% on the cost of a new one!

We welcome your News and Views.

Please forward any items for publication, personal or Masonic, to: W. Bro Dick Rollings Tel: 01386 416 51 e-mail: al.lodge3308@tiscali.co.uk

Reminder - Brethren who have not already done so, please let me have your e-mail addresses. It helps to beat the SNAIL MAIL.

Also, please confirm whether you have the ADOBE ACROBAT Programme on your computer.

Almoners Report

Dick Rollings received an update from Barbara Williamson, (Lady Mason) mother of Heather Ryan, owner of the Rest Home, that W.Bro. Alex Bowen, is in fairly good health and is still able to collect his newspaper from the shop. Full address is Brynmeddyg Rest Home, Balkan Hill Aberdovey, Gwynedd, LL35 0NH. Tel: 01654 76 78 11. Phone at about 19:00hrs and you may be able to speak to Alex.

Mike Hadley informed Dick Rollings that he had recently called in to see Bro. Jeremy Yates, who now resides with his partner at 1 Lilac Close, Upton-on-Severn. Tel: 01684 59 11 94. He is managing quite well and hopes to be able to visit the Lodge again, when he is feeling well enough to do so.

W.Bro Parsons is now recovering quite well from a leg injury.

W.Bro. Stammers, former Member, is now recovering from an operation to stabilise his heart rhythm.

We regret to announce that Mrs Ann King has recently undergone a serious operation and is slowly making a recovery

Please let W.Bro. Gordon know of any problems which a Brother or a widow might be having. W.Bro. Gordon Freeman Tel: 01386 44 24 59

For those requiring reasonably priced SPECTACLES

Evesham Eyewear, formally Graham Jennings of Offenham, is now based at 'Malt Cottage,' Westside, North Littleton, Evesham, WORCS. WR11 8QP, which is adjacent to The IVY Pub in North Littleton.

All you have to do, is phone

Sylvia Oliver, Tel: 01386 83 45 33

for an appointment and take along your prescription.

Special Masonic Birthdays in 2004 are:

Bro. E.J.C. (Ted) Rhodes	Initiated April 1944	60 years
W.Bro. A Russell	Initiated September 1954	50 years
W.Bro. Dr Astley	Initiated December 1959	45 years
W.Bro. John Barnett	Initiated February 1969	35 years
W.Bro. Brian Thompson	Initiated October 1974	30 years
Bro. Oliver Udry-Lister	Initiated February 1999	5 years

What is Worcestershire Associated Masonic Lodges (WAML)?

This association was formed to promote the interests of Freemasonry in general, and of the Province of Worcestershire in particular, by allocating every lodge in the province to one of 13 groups.

Through this medium, any brother or lodge, may bring forward any recommendation to the Association for consideration. The association serves to liaise between individual Brethren, Lodges and the Rulers of the Province; it strengthens Masonic ties throughout the Province, both between Member Lodges of each Group and between Groups themselves and it fosters the charitable aspects of the Institution.

Group 2, of which we are members, consists of all of the Malvern and Evesham Lodges and throughout the year there are several social events organised, which serve as a medium for us to get together as a larger Fraternal Group and also gives us an opportunity to raise money for Charity. But it is not just social events that bring member Lodges together, there are also Masonic events, such as the Group 2 Lodge meetings that Member Lodges undertake to host. This year Abbot Lodge is hosting just such a meeting at their October Meeting. The Masters of Member Lodges will be invited to take on the Brethren may also recall that the recent Masonic Hall open days were organised under the umbrella of Group 2.

This year Group 2 are privileged to hosts the Annual Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting on 19th June at Birmingham University and we shall be responsible for providing Stewards to manage Registration, Alms collection and the laying out of the Hall.

It is hoped that this has been enlightening and any Member is urged, if there is any issue or recommendation that you feel should be brought to the attention of Provincial Grand Lodge, then contact one of your Group 2 representatives, who are The Worshipful Master, the Senior and the Junior Wardens. They can then pass on this information to Province, through the Group system.

Bro. Steve Norris Tel: 01527 76 10 33

Lodge News

The Programme for 2004 will be:

- Jan - Installation
- Feb - Lecture
- Mar - Second Degree Ceremony
- Apr - Lecture
- Sept - Installation
- Oct - Second Degree Ceremony
- Nov - Third Degree Ceremony PM's Night
- Dec - Lecture

Important Notice

Would all those Members who were not initiated in Abbot Lichfield Lodge, please let Dick Rollings know the date of your Initiation and Lodge Name and No., so that we can add your Special Masonic Birthdays to the list.

Social Report March 2004

Brethren, just a short report on this occasion. I have already started to receive many responses in regard to the Ladies Night, which bodes well for another very successful evening, so I would urge brethren to reply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. Well over 50 have booked already. This year will see us at "The Vale Golf Club" on 30th October, a bit earlier than in previous years but our Worshipful Master has a very hectic year personally, with his Daughters wedding and Sons 21st Birthday in and around the same time. The Brethren send best wishes to your bank manager Worshipful Master and we hope he recovers from his nervous breakdown soon.

We are looking forward to a great skittles night at "The BBC Club" on 26th March, which is fast approaching, and which is an ideal opportunity to bring along non-Masonic friends to a fun social event. And at a very reasonable cost of £7-50 which includes a wonderful buffet.

I will provide at the next Lodge meeting details of the annual summer lunch, which is booked for 13th June.

Bro. S Norris Tel: 01386 76 10 33

CHARITY STEWARDS REPORT

We are all well aware that one of the principles of Freemasonry is being CHARITABLE. Abbot Lichfield Lodge has an enviable record in this direction and I would like to highlight this with a few facts and figures.

Prior to 2002, W.Bro. George Simpson, the Charity Steward at that time, had devoted most of his efforts towards the 'Grand Charity Festival 2000' and how well you all did with your fund raising.

In 2001, when I became Charity Steward, I was given a free hand to support local charities. You all rose to the task and after I had set a target of £1500 you raised in excess of £2000, over £1000 of which went to local non Masonic charities.

The following year the target set was £2000 and again you exceeded it with over £1700 going to non Masonic charities and over £700 to Masonic causes.

In 2003 we again exceeded the target of £2300 and over £1000 went to each of Masonic and non Masonic charities.

We have started 2004 well and with the target set at £2500 I am keen to support as many local charities that I can.

Already £800 has been donated.

Please continue to support all fund raising activities?

Our efforts serve well to enhance our reputation in the local community.

Bro. Roy Briscoe, Tel: 01386 44 28 02