

ANTIENT AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY  
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

Lodge of  
Peace and Unity  
No. 5844



GOLDEN JUBILEE

1942 - 1992

# LODGE OF PEACE AND UNITY

1942 - 1992

## A BRIEF HISTORY.

Compiled by  
W. Bro. D. McAllister, Prov.G.Purs

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Today we give thanks for the 50th anniversary of the Consecration of the Lodge of Peace and Unity no. 5844, on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of England. May 12th 1942 was the day that the seed which had been nurtured first showed its tender shoots to the world. 50 years on we see how it has grown. We now live in a world that has enjoyed relative peace for many years, but even in this tranquil time we still complain of the difficulties that surround us; how difficult it is for us to attend our lodge meetings; the food we are served is perhaps not always to our liking; the car park is always full. Brethren, if our predecessors had been put off by such trivia would we now be enjoying the fruits of that seed they planted on our behalf? Thank God they were made of sterner stuff.

By May 1942 the World War had been in progress for nearly three years with no end in sight. Although the daily bombing had passed the people still suffered the great privation of rationing of food and clothes. The army faced dangers in many theatres of war, the campaign in North Africa, in the Far East, at sea in the North Atlantic.

How then, against such a background, did our founders find time and inclination to practice their craft? Although I can find no documentary proof it has been suggested to me that the original discussions which resulted in our Lodge being formed took place during fire watching duties at the height of the air-raids which devastated our city. Those of you who have been founders of a lodge know how these minor discussions suddenly evolved into the one or two become a group sufficiently large to form a lodge.

I suppose that in some respects we owe Adolf Hitler a vote of thanks; it was his aggression that united the people of this land against a common enemy. The persecution of many groups in his own land, including the banning of freemasonry, undoubtedly gave rise to a considerable interest being shown here. When one considers that nine candidates were initiated in the first year, after Consecration, one can appreciate this interest.

Unfortunately there is little or no evidence of the founders early meetings, therefore much has to be gleaned from hearsay. Fortunately we still have a brother who was initiated in that first year and it is from my recollections of his conversations with me over a number of years that I suggest the reasons for our foundation.

An examination of the Founders List shows so very clearly where the Lodge originated. Of the eighteen founders seventeen were members of Corinthian Lodge. Whilst it has been suggested that the reason for founding a new lodge was that Corinthian had grown to such an extent that brethren were not progressing through the lodge as quickly as reasonable, an examination of the founders show that all but three were in office or were past masters. This view, therefore, could be challenged, but the fact that nine candidates were initiated in the first year shows the pressure that Corinthian was under.

Where does a history begin? Like the birth of a child one must look back at its parents and the family tree before one considers its attributes.



Having traced our ancestors back, what delight it gives us to welcome visitors on our direct line of descent from Atholl Lodge to this meeting. When we consider their age we are surprised at their preservation, but they have all been with us on many occasions and although the sceptic has been known to comment about not being able to do anything about relations they are welcomed here today as brothers and friends. In fact many of our cousins are also here with visitors from Temperance, Israel, Concord, St. Christopher and Grosvenor all represented.

Now let us return to May 15th 1942.

The eighteen Founders assembled at Edgbaston Assembly Rooms, Francis Road, to be Consecrated into the Lodge of Peace and Unity No. 5844. No doubt there had been many a rehearsal under the guidance of Wor. Brother E. J. Stamp P.G.D. Prov.D.C. since the petition had been signed and approved in Corinthian Lodge on 17th January 1942.

The United Grand Lodge of England, having acceded to the request, issued the warrant. So now all was ready. The notice convening the meeting was issued to cover the Consecration of two new Lodges, 5844 and 5845 Vellum Lodge.

Prov. Grand Lodge was opened in due form by Wor. Brother C. F. Monk, Asst. Prov. G. Master in charge, assisted by the Prov. Officers. The Prov. Sec. Wor. Brother S. Guise P.A.G.D.C. read the warrant and the Prov. Grand Chaplain Wor. Brother Rev. Noel R. Prentice gave his oration, which began 'Having come from Stratford on Avon to take part in this solemn and historic occasion.....'. History does have a way of repeating itself!

The main aspect of this oration was centred on the names Peace and Unity and that the circumstances of the times had deepened the reality of these terms. Peace was the Devine Benediction for which the world hungered, but peace when won has no endurance without unity. Peace is the passion of the masonic soul, which seeks a worldwide brotherhood and Unity is a masonic practice, achieved at least wherever true masons meet.

The Lodge being duly Consecrated, the first Master W. Bro. Samuel Arthur Godsall was installed into the Chair of the Lodge of Peace and Unity by W. Bro. Chas. F. Monk, Asst. Prov. Grand Master

in charge. W. Bro. John McDonnell was invested as the first I.P.M. The Wardens and Officers were then appointed by the W.M.:

W. Bro. Philip Waldron.....	S.W.
Bro. E. A. Kirby.....	J.W.
W. Bro. Herbert A. Brown, P.P.A.G.D.C. ....	Chaplain
W. Bro. John. McDonnell, P.P.A.G.Supt.Wks. ....	Treasurer
Bro. Albert Edgar Horton .....	Secretary
W. Bro. John N. Chick .....	D.C.
Bro. Francis Muhlemann .....	S.D.
Bro. Colin I. Thompson.....	J.D.
W. Bro. Charles P. V. Wall .....	Almoner
Bro. William F. Adams .....	Asst. Sec.
Bro. John L. Godsall.....	I.G.
Bro. Albert S. Gidley .....	Stwd
Bro. Thomas Witherspoon.....	Stwd
Bro. Albert C. Cartwright.....	Stwd
Bro. George Payne.....	Stwd
Bro. George C. Collins.....	Tyler

Only two founders were not appointed to office that day, W. Bro. Hubert L. Cartwright, the Master of Corinthian Lodge and Bro. Harry Pountney, who as Master Elect could be excused from office. Bro. Muhlemann was absent due to illness. Although I have no information of his infirmity, it was sufficiently serious that he was unable to attend any meeting until 11th June 1945. The total attendance at the meeting was 185 and the charity collection taken on behalf of the Warwickshire Benevolent Fund amounted to £13.2.6.

The following were proposed for honorary membership:

- W. Bro. Chas. F. Monk, P.G.D., Asst.Prov.G.M. in charge
- W. Bro. E. J. Stamp, P.G.D., Prov.G.D.C.
- W. Bro. Samuel Guise, P.A.G.D.C., Prov.G.Sec.
- W. Bro. A. J. Egginson, P.P.G.Sw.B.

The following were proposed as joining members:

- Bro. Clifford Hollis
- Bro. William H. Kinnear
- Bro. Frederick A. Murray

The following as candidates for initiation:

Mr. Leslie W. Cox  
Mr. Neville H. Brown  
Mr. Henry C. Mundy  
Mr. Walter K. French  
Mr. Henry E. Bunn

History, we are told, has a happy way of repeating itself. The greeting on behalf of the visitor was given by a W. Bro. A. Dudley Evans, P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.D., of Howe Lodge No 587. In fact he was a regular visitor for many years, including Ladies Nights.

These then are a few comments concerning that first meeting. Obviously the foundations had been well and truly laid and the materials were now at hand to build "a superstructure honourable to the builder".

The Secretary, Bro. Albert Horton, filled that first minute book with many comments which help to paint a vivid picture of this vibrant new lodge. From his notes we learn that the Master had been one of the escorts to the Right Wor. Prov. Grand Master Brig. Gen. W. H. V. Darell on the occasion of his installation on Saturday July.

The first Regular Meeting on September 14th 1942 was tinged with sadness at the report of the death, on active service, of The Most Wor. Bro. Air. Comd. S. K. H. The Duke of Kent K.G. Another link of past to present, on 30th June 1932 many of us will attend Grand Lodge to celebrate the 25th anniversary of his son's Installation as Grand Master.

At that first meeting Bro's Cox and Brown were the candidates, Bro. Neville Brown being initiated by his father Herbert. Clifford Hollis, a joining member was appointed as organist.

The 6th Regular Meeting on 8th March was of particular significance. The Lodge suffered a grievous loss at the death of Wor. Bro. John McDonnell, its I.P.M. and Treasurer. It also initiated a Mr. William Thornes Hartley, now our oldest surviving Past Master. It is with interest that a scan of the Tylers' Books show that W. T. Hartley signature is rarely missing. It would appear that in the 49 years he has only missed six meetings of this Lodge, a truly remarkable effort.

The Report of the first Ladies Evening also appears in the Lodge Minute Book when 156 Ladies, Brethren and Visitors attended (cost 30/-) starting at 2.30 with dancing to 8.00 p.m. I have tried very hard to find the menu for that evening, but although a card exists, no mention is made of the food supplied, very little mention is made of the War or the privation of rationing. The only indication that everything was not totally normal is the variation in Lodge meeting times, obviously altered to cater for blackout and transport difficulties, a Toast to 'His Majesties Forces' and a continual deferment of the investing of Bro. Neville Brown as Steward due to his absence on active service.

At the last meeting of the first year, on 15th May, the Master, W. Bro. Godsall was invited to sign the V.S.L. in the space provided. This is a tradition which has continued since that day and all subsequent Masters, on the night of Installation, have so appended their signatures.

Initially, members of the Lodge received an invitation to attend Corinthian Lodge's Lodge of Instruction, but on February 8th 1943 it was proposed to form the Peace and Unity Lodge of Instruction, with W. Bro. S. A. Godsall, Master, as first Preceptor. The report of the Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction, given at the October Meeting 1943, showed that the first meeting of the L.O.I. had been held on 5th April 1943. In that first period they held seven meetings at which the average attendance had been sixteen. This when the Lodge was in Summer recess, what enthusiasm!

A notation after the Lodge minutes of that October meeting reported on the appointment of W. Bro. S. A. Godsall as the Prov. Grand Warden. This is, as far as I have been able to ascertain, the highest acting rank ever held by a Brother of this Lodge. W. Bro. A. E. Horton, the fourth Master and the first Secretary is the only member to have been appointed in Grand Lodge when in 1957 he was appointed P.G. Sd.B. In the 50 years, we are delighted to record that W. Bro's. C. I. Thompson, W. F. Adams, W. T. Hartley and W. F. Hennery have all been appointed to the rank of Past. Prov. Warden in recognition of their service to this Lodge and to the Province of Warwickshire.



The Banner of the Lodge was to have been Dedicated on 13th September 1948 by W. Bro. Chas F. Monk, Dep. P.G.M., but this had to be deferred because of the funeral on that day of W. Bro. Dr. Henry McGowan, Asst. Prov. G. Master. The Dedication eventually took place on 8th November 1948, when the founders were presented with Founders Jewels. Also, at that meeting, three of the original Consecrating team, W. Bro's. C. F. Monk, S. Guise and E. J. Stamp were presented with special Consecrating Officer's Jewels. It is interesting to note that at this meeting forty members of the Lodge were present and apologies were recorded for five more; what growth from the original eighteen in five years!

Charity has always been one of the main aims of our Fraternity. This Lodge has supported and met the various call on its generosity, with the Lodge becoming a Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution in 1969 and always achieving its targets for the Festivals under the Presidency of Provincial Grand Masters of Warwickshire. It is with great pride that this year we can record, in celebration of our Consecration, that we became Patrons of The New Samaritan Fund.

The Lodge continued to meet at Francis Road until 13th September 1971, when the first meeting in the new Masonic Temple, Clarendon Road, took place at which W. Bro. Stanley Butler installed his successor W. Bro. Ron Johnstone.

Unfortunately, the records of the Lodge have not been maintained in their 'fullest splendour' and I must thank W. Bro. Don Prime for helping me to clamber over and through all the old archives in the basement. What a relief it was to find our first Minute Book. Thanks also to our Almoner W. Bro. William H. Foster for information on the Charities.

I would just like to comment on some odd bits and pieces which have come to light, which either amused me or were of special significance.

At the most recent Consecration in this Province I was particularly impressed at the installation of the first Master of Warwickshire R.A.F. Lodge, with the singing of an oratorio 'Be Thou Faithful'. A Minute of this Lodge, dated 14th February 1946, expressed the disapproval of the Prov. G. Master of such being rendered at installation meetings and that it should be discontinued immediately, with a return being made to the Prov. Secretary that this had been read in open Lodge.

The name Peace and Unity has been adopted by a Royal Arch Chapter, sponsored in this Lodge at its meeting of the 11th March 1946 and Consecrated in June 1946, and also at the Mark Lodge 1066 Consecrated later that same year. So the concept of the 'Trinity' of Peace and Unity began, this being very dear to the heart of our first Master who, in April 1947, presented ten members of the 'Trinity' with a Booklet on the three Lodges. Unfortunately, I have not been able to trace a copy from the original group, but I have in my possession a copy of the same booklet which was presented to Bill Hartley on 8th January 1951 after he was advanced into the Mark Lodge on 17th November 1950. This booklet was given to me a few years ago by Bill when I became a member of this band and it is one of my most treasured possessions. It clearly lays out his progress through the three Lodges with the date of his appointment to the various Offices, culminating in him becoming Master of this Lodge on 13th September 1954, 1st Principal of the Chapter 1st November 1957 and Master of the Mark Lodge 20th January 1961. Regrettably at the present time, only three members of the 'Trinity' exist.

One of the early traditions of this Lodge was started when the Master of Corinthian Lodge, W. Bro. Clifford Hollis was invited to close the Lodge, on that occasion in the Three Degrees, with the assistance of his Wardens at the 14th Regular Meeting on 13th March 1944. This honour was reciprocated at the next meeting of Corinthian Lodge when the Master of Peace and Unity closed their Lodge. This practice of inter-visitation and Closing the Lodge has continued to this day and it has helped to maintain a close and friendly relation between our two Lodges.

In conclusion let me provide you with a few statistics on the membership of this Lodge since that great day in 1942 and an indication of the 'begetting' of the present members.

Of the eighteen Founders, seventeen were members of Corinthian Lodge No. 4432., nine Founders became Master of the Lodge of Peace and Unity, six Past Masters have also been Master of Corinthian No. 4432, and four Masters have been in the chair twice. 105 candidates have been initiated, of whom 34 have so far been through the chair. Three joining members have also become Master of this Lodge: F. A. Murray, T. F. Retter, L. H. Flude.

One initiate, Bro. Allan George Otty, moved to Nairobi after his initiation on 14th November 1949. In 1951 arrangements were made with the District Grand Lodge of East Africa, for him to be Passed and Raised in the Progress Lodge No. 3727 - on behalf of the Lodge of Peace and Unity. 'Masonry Universal!!'

Year	Master	No. of Candidates	Present Members Initiation Year
1942	S. A. Godsall	9	W. T. Hartley
1943	P. B. Waldron	4	
1944	E. A. Kirby	4	
1945	A. E. Horton	2	
1946	C. I. Thompson	3	
1947	W. F. Adams	2	N. H. McLeod
1948	J. L. Godsall	1	
1949	T. Witherspoon	2	
1950	H. L. Cartwright	2	
1951	F. A. Murray	1	
1952	N. H. Brown	2	N. F. Brown
1953	H. E. Bunn	2	A. H. Whittaker
1954	W. T. Hartley	2	
1955	F. W. Skelcher	2	
1956	T. G. Winslow	2	
1957	C. S. George	2	S. Butler
1958	C. S. George	2	
1959	F. Chambers	3	W. H. Foster
1960	N. H. McLeod	1	W. F. Hennery
1961	H. Millership	3	
1962	W. G. Haynes	2	D. G. Pearson
1963	G. P. Earnshaw	2	
1964	A. W. Lucas	1	

Year	Master	No. of Candidates	Present Members Initiation Year
1965	N. F. Brown	1	
1966	W. G. Wyatt	2	
1967	A. H. Whittaker	2	P. W. Lucas
1968	E. H. E. Dunn	2	
1969	B. C. Matthews	1	
1970	S. Butler	2	J. W. Greensmith
1971	R. G. Johnstone	1	
1972	F. W. Hannah	3	D. J. Roberts
1973	W. H. Foster	2	
1974	W. F. Hennery	2	K. E. Albutt
1975	J. Dawes	1	
1976	T. F. Retter	2	D. McAllister D. B. Ward J. E. Burns
1977	D. G. Pearson	2	
1978	H. Ward	1	
1979	P. W. Lucas	2	G. Taylor
1980	D. C. Scattergood	1	T. L. Roberts
1981	J. W. Greensmith	1	J. W. Greensmith
1982	L. H. Flude	3	
1983	D. J. Roberts	1	S. J. Ebbs
1984	R. E. Albutt	1	
1985	D. McAllister	1	R. S. Magar
1986	D. B. Ward	2	I. D. Kinnery P. J. Hutton
1987	D. B. Ward	1	R. G. Overton
1988	J. E. Burns	1	C. C. Gellion
1989	G. Taylor	2	R. Morris
1990	W. T. Hartley	1	M. L. Williams
1991	R. E. Albutt	2	R. S. Todd M. R. Darby

I trust that in presenting this short resume of our history there has been sufficient of interest to all our visitors for them to look forward to our next landmark of 75 years and I extend an invitation to all my personal guests to join with me on that merry occasion. To the members of the Lodge, particularly our 'younger' brethren, I hope that this paper has increased your awareness of our ancestry and the unpayable debt we owe to those eighteen Founders of this our Lodge.

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