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Brian to take the chair.

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Provincial Relief Chest Message from your Charity Steward.

Now that December's Festivities are behind us I would ask all brethren, who have not yet done so, to consider making a modest monthly donation to the new Provincial Relief Chest Scheme.

This will enable us to start saving **now** towards our next Masonic festival, the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

A Gift-Aid Form is enclosed with this newsletter where sent in hard copy and attached by email for others. PLEASE HELP US – even if you can only give us £2 a month.

J.R.

Progress Report

Newsletter from the Lodge of Progress

January 2011

A White Ending to 2010.

If I tell you that my daughter got married between Christmas and New-Year, and that six weeks before the wedding I had enquired about hiring a snow machine, you will not be surprised to know that by the time the wedding day had arrived, I had seen quite enough snow and decided to abandon the artificial stuff!

Earl of Durham and Lumley fell victim to the bad weather and had to cancel their Christmas meetings although Finchale Priory, Eardulph, Cestria and us took benefit from the partial thaw and enjoyed Carol's 'Christmas Offerings' to the enjoyment of all members and visitors who attended.

Eardulph were the first to brave the weather, followed by Finchale, Cestria and then ourselves with numbers increasing meeting by meeting. As usual, ours was that last meeting of the year and we were properly entertained by the NASUWT Chester-le- Street Riverside Youth Band who played carols for us at our festive board.

As usual the members and visitors showed their appreciation through a generous collection which was donated to the band.



A New Year and New Challenges.

Time for some New Year Resolutions!

Considering the recent bad and bitterly cold weather it was a relief to see so many brethren supporting our Lodge to see our two Bro's William Ashley Stephenson and Bro Thomas Peter Moffat taking their third step in Freemasonry.

Not so long ago it would have taken many months, or even years, for a candidate to achieve Master Mason status but here, in our Lodge, we have just witnessed the lightning progression of Peter Moffat – who was both the youngest ever candidate admitted into our lodge, and quite possibly the youngest Master Mason in the country by the time our December meeting had finished.

You may be interested to know that the new Provincial Gazette, a copy of which will be sent to all of you at home, will feature an article about Peter's swift progression into our organisation.

Reflecting on our December's ceremony, my sincere thanks must go to Neil Marshall for standing in for Bryan Kennedy, with less than one hour's notice, to give a magnificent rendition of the Exhortation & Charge. Both Bryan Kennedy and Gordon Bailey's absences were due to central heating bursts in the cold weather and I hope both managed to get dry and sorted in time for Christmas. Thanks also go to Tom Moffat, John Rutherford, Gordon

Graves, Phil Rann and Paul Black – all of whom took active parts on the night and the rest of my team for their support give us a great end to 2010.

I was also pleased to see Trevor Woodhead back in the lodge after such a bad accident. and that he managed to stay for the festive board. Let's all hope and pray that his recovery continues and that he too can complete his third degree before too long.

I would like to thank the Junior Band for their Christmas Carol performance which I am sure we all enjoyed, Alan Hope has asked me to thank everyone for their support in donating £151.00. to the band on the night, he said it the most they have ever received from any of the Lodges within the Province.

It is hard to believe that the year has passed so quickly and that I now only have another two more meetings to fulfil before my year in office will be complete. I am just beginning to enjoy the position of Master (when the others bosses will let me) I am however really grateful for all the support I have received throughout the year.

As we pass into 2011, let's not lose sight of the main principals of our organisation – especially Charity – and remember those less fortunate than ourselves..

I wish you a peaceful, healthy and prosperous new year.



Owen Craigs
(Worshipful Master)

Visit to Scottish Lodge

For the brave-hearted who would like to visit the land of Braveheart, our Senior Warden, Lee Slater, is arranging a trip to Lodge Irvine Newtown No 1662, at the Masonic Temple, Bank Street, Irvine Ayrshire, Scotland on Saturday 16th April 2011 for their installation meeting – this being the day after our first working meeting of our new year.

Neil Marsden has very kindly offered to lend us a minibus for the journey and a sober driver has been found! Accommodation is being organised in the Irvine Guest House and it is anticipated that a total cost of no more than £45 to cover your bed and transport. Meals will be an added extra cost. Anyone interested in attending must let Lee have a deposit of £25 as soon as possible. There are 14 places only. First come, first served.

Brian Lister heading back to the Ernest Dixon Chair



Our very own Brian Lister will, for the first time, be installed into the Chair of Ernest Dixon Lodge, 7856, at their January meeting at Burdon Road, Sunderland. Brian will be the first Past Master of our lodge to take their chair and has extended an invitation to all Lodge of Progress Brethren to attend. He asks that you let him know **as soon as possible** if you are able to make it so that he can arrange catering.

The meeting starts at 5.45pm and tickets are £10. Brethren can ring him on 0191 3852171 or email brian.lister2@talktalk.net.

There is a possibility of a bus from Chester-le Street although this will depend on numbers. This meeting also unfortunately coincides with the date set for Sportsman Lodge's postponed December meeting.

Brian has been a good servant of our lodge so if you are free please support him. Brian – on behalf of the lodge have a great night and a great year in office.

Chester-le-Street Lodges play Santa at Hawthorn House

Eardulph and Lodge of Progress, organised a special collection at their December meetings in order to buy presents for Hawthorn House in Durham, a residential care home with just ten residents who have learning disabilities.



The collection raised £200 and David Battensby, Master of Eardulph and Phil Heavyside, ADC at Lodge of Progress bought around 30 items including two Nintendo Wii games, board games, jigsaws, colouring books, pencils, rattles and a indoor (soft foam) ten-pin bowling set.

Phil said, "I was surprised just how excited the service users and the staff were when we handed over the toys. It was something they desperately needed and will be made good use of for the foreseeable future."

Hawthorn House has sent a card of thanks to both lodges in which all the residents have signed their names and anyone who contributed to the collection who would like to visit them would be made very welcome.

THE MONTH AHEAD — JANUARY 2011

The following is due to take place in January according to the information that I have received as at the day of going to press. All 6.45 start unless stated.

January 2011	Lodge	Planned Business
Wednesday 5th	Earl of Durham	Installation 5.30 start
Wednesday 12th	Finchale Priory	Lecture and Elections
Friday 14th	Eardulph	First Degree
Wednesday 19th	Lumley	First Degree
Friday 21st	Lodge of Progress	Double Third Degree
Wednesday 26th	Cestria	50 year certificate and lecture

Volunteers required and 50 Year Certificate Presentation.

For Earl of Durham's installation, our lodge will again be acting as stewards. If you are free on Wed. 5th January, any volunteers would be appreciated. A good friend of ours, Alan Horsfield, a regular visitor, will be getting his 50 year certificate from John Arthur, who will hopefully by then have been appointed as our newest Assistant Provincial Grand Master. Congratulations Alan – enjoy your night.

Dates for your Diaries.

Here are some important dates for you to add to your 2011 diaries:

♦ Rearranged 2010 Annual Promotions Meeting

Rearranged for FRIDAY 7th JANUARY 2011 – at Rainton Meadows Arena times are to remain the same (6.00pm meeting start and 8.00pm for the banquet). Please note that with regard to the banquet, those who had indicated to dine on the 29th November will be automatically carried forward to 7th January. If anyone does not wish to dine on 7th January, they need to contact Provincial Office as soon as possible.

♦ Lodge of Progress Ladies Night - Saturday 12th March, 2011.

At Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall. Stephen Lee Garden.

♦ 2011 Installation Meeting - Friday 18th March, 2011.

You will soon get your 2011 diaries. Make this your first entry.

♦ Lodge of Progress 2011 Christmas Bash - Saturday 10th December, 2011.

At Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall. I know it's a long way off but we will have another attempt at beating the weather and holding a festive function – details to be arranged but the hall is booked so put the date into your new diaries !

David Carney – Get Well Soon

I know I speak for most brethren when I say that we were very sorry to hear that Dave Carney, our allocated APGM, has had to take a back seat from his Provincial Duties for a while due to illness.

Dave – we all miss you at Chester-le-Street and look forward to seeing you back on your feet with us – and in good health – as soon as possible.



And Finally:

That Man Johnson has done it again !

I thought I would have flummoxed you with last months anagram but yet again – David Johnson solved it !.

I asked In what Christmas Carol will you find "bacon for bride" The answer was 'Away in a Manger as those letters, rearranged, spell out "No crib for a bed"

For this new year – and with memories of your festive food fading into the distance, see if you can decipher the name of this well known Grand Lodge Officer: "wishbone- all calm "

Derrick Harle will be assuming the role of Secretary for our January meeting and will also be handling all email queries during the second half of January. Accordingly your February edition of Progress Report will be a couple of days later than usual reaching you.

Finally, a reminder from our DC that all officers are expected to attend lodge practices, held on the first Thursday of each month at 6.45 pm. Anyone wishing to take on a piece of work at any meeting should advise Jonathan accordingly.

Best wishes to you all.

Phil Rann

W.Bro. Phil Rann - Secretary

Please keep your secretary informed of changes of address (including e-mail) and phone number.

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