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LAST CHANCE

JUNE IS THE LAST MONTH THAT WE CAN DONATE TO THE 2010 RMBI FESTIVAL.

Please let us have your final donations NOW !.



Progress Report

Newsletter from the Lodge of Progress

June 2010

Early Start for our June Meeting

We always love to see visitors at our meetings but please set your alarm clock a bit earlier for our June meeting as we are bringing the start time forward to 5.30.

No – it's not changed to accommodate an installation meeting but instead a very special 'Harmony' for the night!

Our June meeting coincides with England's second World Cup game in South Africa so, in order to ensure that our brethren and visitors do not miss out on any of the action, we will be completing our ceremony in time for all to enjoy watching the game on a big screen in the festive board room at Chester-le-Street. To assist in catering, it would be helpful if all brethren intending to come along that night let me know by phone or email by Wednesday 16th June at the latest.

Quick thinking last month enabled us to abandon the 'round' tables to 'longs' for the festive board in order to accommodate nearly 90 members and guests – nearly twenty of whom were attending Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall for the first time.

As usual for our meetings there will be a late bar in operation so you should not go thirsty and, if you tell us you are coming, you will not go hungry either!

Phil Ramm. (Secretary)

Congratulations to our D.C.

Congratulations from the lodge are sent to Jonathan Copestake who, at a meeting of the Provincial Grand Chapter of Durham on 26th May, was appointed Prov. 1st AGSoj by the Grand Superintendent.

View from the Chair – A Full House in May !

One of the most difficult tasks in planning a meeting is to try and guess how many people will turn up and want feeding.

It was therefore a bit of a shock as well as a very pleasant surprise to see so many of our own brethren and so many visiting brethren with us in May to witness Trevor Woodhead & Dale Gordon taking their first steps in Freemasonry. It was especially nice to meet Bill Hall, who joined this lodge 30 years ago and now hopes to be visiting us regularly again.

As most of you probably realised, I was in considerable pain during the meeting thanks to a dodgy back which, I am pleased to say, is now easing a bit. The combination of the overwhelming numbers, and my back pain, made for a nerve-racking evening for me upstairs, but very satisfying and enjoyable once completed.

With my first 'First' now out of the way I am looking forward to June's in which I will try to do better! But we could not have got through the evening without the tremendous

team effort that is now synonymous with this lodge. Everyone chipped in and helped with several taking on work at very short notice. I must especially thank Brian Lister, Ken Tinkler Gordon Graves, Bryan Kennedy, Bob English and Ken Doughty together with our 'well rehearsed' team of Officers for their contributions in carrying out a well performed first degree ceremony. Above all thanks to Jonathan Copestake whose calm and professional manner kept the whole night flowing.

The meal on the night was tremendous and I must say a big THANK YOU to Carol and her staff and, indeed, to everyone one who assisted. I have no idea how the kitchen staff managed to stretch the meal as they did.

As mentioned by our secretary, our June meetings sees another double First Degree. I would love to see you there so don't forget we will be starting at 5.30.p.m. prompt to allow us to complete the ceremony in time to watch England's second World Cup match on the big screen!



Owen Craigs
(Master)

CONTINUOUS GIVING

Province Unveils plans for 'Continuous Charitable Giving' after the 2010 RMBI Festival.

Most Lodges have now received a presentation on the plans, that this Province has put in place, for those that wish to continue their charitable donations at the end of the current festival. All brethren who have given regularly by standing order, over the past few years, will shortly be receiving a letter from the Provincial Grand Master, thanking you for your kind donations, and instructing you on what **you** need to do when the Festival ends. Because current donations are made by Standing Order, Province cannot stop these so you will need to take action yourselves to do so otherwise your payments will continue to be sent to a completed cause! The new system of Charitable Giving is more simple and will be centred around Direct Debits. (Standing orders, like cheques, are now gradually being phased out)

CONTINUED OVER

CONTINUOUS GIVING - (CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE)

The new system is available now to all brethren and will enable them to plan their Charitable Donations towards the next Festival, which is for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. We are not asking you to donate a fortune now – but I doubt if the cost of half a pint of beer a week would be missed by any of us. Certainly I am sure that those who have supported the current festival by monthly donation have not missed their monthly payment and should be able to afford to continue within the new scheme. All of our donations are held in a central 'Relief Chest' which is administered and managed FREE OF CHARGE by Grand Charity – getting rid of the need for us to rely on the goodwill of volunteers to manually record all payments. They even attend to the 'Gift-Aid' tax reclaims which are currently undertaken manually by volunteers at Provincial Office each month. Above all there is NO RISK to the investments which generally stay in cash based funds. However, thanks to the 'buying power' that Grand Charity has, they are likely to be able to secure a much better return, in the longer term, than we could possibly secure ourselves.

Also, in view of the comments raised about the current Festival – specifically that individuals were not given enough time to plan their giving - this solves the problem. All Lodge of Progress brethren are asked to download and complete a form from our own website which will enable you to set up a modest monthly charitable donation.

If enough of us do this then it should provide us with an ample fund ready for the launch of the next Festival.

As a lodge, our Charity Steward would like to see that every member gives into the new scheme from September – no matter how small your monthly contribution. Just help a little bit – whatever you give will be thankfully received and, I can assure you, faithfully applied. Please support this initiative, Charity should be at the heart of every Freemason - is important that we think back to when we joined this organisation and the vows which we made when we did.

Phil Rann. (Secretary)

THE MONTH AHEAD — JUNE 2010

The following is due to take place this coming month according to information that I have received. All 6.45 start unless stated.

June 2010	Lodge	Planned Business
Wednesday 3rd	Earl of Durham	Double Second
Wednesday 10th	Finchale Priory	First Degree
Friday 12th	Eardulph	Third Degree Ceremony
Wednesday 17th	Lumley	Lecture – FRATERNAL VISIT
Friday 19th	Lodge of Progress	Double First Degree 5.30 start
Wednesday 26th	Cestria	NO MEETING IN JUNE

CHESTER-LE-STREET MBA ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

THURSDAY 24TH JUNE 2010 @ 7.00 PM.

All members of all Lodges meeting in the Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall are also members of the Charity and as such are entitled to stand for election as trustees. Should the total number of nominations exceed seven an election will take place at the AGM - *Ian Heaviside* (MBA Secretary)

And Finally.....

The answer to May's anagram: Which Masonic Hall was "**Sin Hold**" ? The answer was far too easy - SHILDON – and there were a few correct guesses. The winner from last month was 'Rocky' who can claim his reward from our WM at the June meeting.

As this is the last newsletter before the summer recess so I thought for this month I would give you an anagram of an event which I hope you will enjoy partly by visiting a specific Masonic Hall as well as in your own homes. With that in mind, what therefore is an "**Acrid Puff Owl**" ?

Please e-mail or post the answer to me and all the correct answers will be entered into a draw to be made at our June festive board for a liquid prize – but you will have to be at our meeting to get it !

As you well know by now, our DC, Jonathan, is always looking for volunteers to either take on a piece of work, or to share a piece with another brother. Please come along to Lumley L.O.I. and offer your services. All officers are expected to attend Lodge Practices meetings.

And Finally ... the next edition of 'Progress Report' will be published towards the end of August. Feel free to let me have any articles for inclusion either in the report, or on the website.

Dates for your Diaries.

Please make sure these dates are in your 2010 diary:

♦ Fraternal Visit to Lumley Lodge

Wednesday 17th June. – Please support our Master on his first fraternal.

♦ Annual Promotions Meeting

Saturday 26th June. Hartlepool and Seaton Carew. Support John Rutherford on his appointment.

♦ RMBI Festival Dinner 2010 – Thursday, 23rd Sept.

(LIMITED AVAILABILITY) at Rainton Meadows Arena,

If you would like to attend this Gala Dinner with Bring your partner and celebrate our achievements then your application needs to be sent to the organisers **NOW**. Ticket Price: £48.00 which includes a reception drink, canapés, 5 course meal, wine and entertainment.

Contact your secretary or see the Provincial Website for more details.

♦ Christmas Social

Saturday 11th December, 2010

Our new Master has already planned a Christmas Social. A band has been booked and a good night should be had by all. - **Details in September.**

NEW LODGE WEBSITE

Our new Lodge Website is now up and running. From here you will be able to download the latest editions of 'Progress Report' and seek further information about Freemasonry in the Region. You will also find the Provincial Newsfeed updated daily and links to many other interesting Masonic Websites.

Take a look at : www.progress8259.wordpress.com

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

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