



# Progress Report

Newsletter from the Lodge of Progress

November 2010

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### Kenneth Howe to Retire as A.P.G.M.

Provincial Grand Lodge has announced that Kenneth Howe will be stepping down from his role as Assistant Provincial Grand Master on 29<sup>th</sup> November.

He will be replaced by John Arthur, current Master of the Grand Stewards Lodge who was the man behind the recent successful Raby Gala.

Our thanks go to Kenneth for his contribution to the Province over the last eight years and our best wishes also go to John on his new appointment.

## It's a Family Affair !

What a great night our October meeting ended up being. A fantastic first degree ceremony, performed by past masters which saw Keith Moffat being given the unique opportunity of initiating son Peter who at this time is one of, if not the, youngest freemasons in the country, into our Lodge ably assisted by Peter's grandfather, uncle and many close friends.

A full house witnessed the evening where it was nice to see that several members who, although they are rarely able to get to our meeting, had made a special effort to be there in order to witness the ceremony. Lodge founder Tom Moffat. Peter's grandfather acted as Junior Deacon for the night and Bro Dick Collins travelled up from Nottingham so that he too could undertake his 'debut' on the floor. Peter himself is no stranger to our building, as a former member of the Junior Band which regularly entertains members each Christmas he recognised many familiar faces on the night which, I hope will live in his memory for years to come.

*Phil Rann. (Secretary)*

Dad Keith Moffat, Granddad Tom Moffat and Uncle Dick Collins



Yes Peter – your Dad, Grandfather and Uncle are now also your Brothers ! It will make sense in due course.

## View from the Chair – Keith Moffat Reflects on the night !

Brethren,

I write this article the morning after our October meeting – feeling a little disappointed that my illness on the night prevented me from conducting my son's initiation ceremony in the manner in which I would have wished.

That said however, it was a superb evening and a very special one for the Moffat family.

For me it was indeed an honour to be asked to take the chair again in order that I could initiate Peter. I am therefore extremely grateful to our Worshipful Master for allowing this to happen, to all the officers for giving up their chairs and to all the past masters who took part in the ceremony.

I would like to pay tribute to my father who, at the age of 80, took to the floor again to act as Junior Deacon. Also to Peter's uncle, Dick Collins, who has good reason to be proud of his first ever work on the floor.

Peter thoroughly enjoyed his evening. We already have plans for him to start visiting – starting with Lumley Lodge installation and our fraternal visit to Ernest Dixon Lodge in October and to Robbie Burns Lodge in Scotland in November.

Peter asks that I thank all the brethren that kindly sponsored him on the night for his forthcoming sponsored run. He received over £100 from you.

This was a night which I will always remember and a big thank you goes out to everyone who helped make it so special – friends, family members and visitors.

I can now look forward to spending many happy times with both my father and my son as members of our very special lodge.

*Keith*



Bro. Peter Moffat

## The Master's Bit !

Although I am thoroughly enjoying my year in the chair, it was nice for me to take a back seat in September and watch our Past Masters in Action. Well done to Keith and his chosen team on a fantastic ceremony.

Visiting is of course an important part of freemasonry and I do get an enormous benefit from visiting other lodges both at Chester-le-Street and further afield. As a master I am also finding my knowledge of the workings of Province is increasing month by month – especially via the various seminars which Province put together. These not only give us a chance to hear what Province have to say but also give us a chance to speak with our fellow masters and to hear what their lodges are doing.

Finally, many thanks to those of you who attended our fraternal visit to Ernest Dixon in September to see our brother Dale Gordon take his second step in Freemasonry at Burdon Road. Another great night out !



*Owen Crags*  
(Master)

..... and you think you have trouble getting to lodge meetings in Chester-le-Street ?????

As winter approaches, the first flake of snow will fall on southern England and London and the home counties will grind to a halt !

Fortunately for us however, Bro. Paul Elliott does not let a little bit of snow stop him from travelling to our meetings ... normally .... but his plans last winter were somewhat thwarted when his helicopter developed a fault and had to make an emergency landing.

Still there are worse places to touch down I imagine maybe (answers on a postcard please.)

Fortunately the aviation equivalent of the R.A.C. were soon on the scene to get him home. I know this newsletter is sent to members of many lodges spread while at work or on holiday all around the world. If any of you have interesting stories with a Masonic link please send them in.



#### THE MONTH AHEAD — NOVEMBER 2010

The following is due to take place this coming month according to information that I have received. All 6.45 start unless stated. **PLEASE PRE-BOOK DINING FOR LUMLEY \***

November 2010	Lodge	Planned Business
Wednesday 3rd	Earl of Durham	Third Degree
Wednesday 10th	Finchale Priory	Double Third
Friday 12th	Eardulph	<b>Installation – 5.30 start</b>
Wednesday 17th	Lumley <b>*(Ticket Dining)</b>	50 <sup>th</sup> Certificate Presentation *
<b>Friday 19th</b>	<b>Lodge of Progress</b>	<b>Second Degree</b>
Wednesday 24th	Cestria	Open Night for potential members.
Friday 26th	Millennium Lodge of Research	Lecture

#### “Feed the Bear”

Live Entertainment for our Christmas Party on Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December.

**NOT FOR THE FEINT HEARTED !**

**Book your places now !**



#### And Finally.....

The answer to October's anagram: Which town or city in the Province with a Masonic Hall was... **“needles melt addition” ?** The answer was **MIDDLETON IN TEESDALE** – and well done to AGAIN David Johnson who was the first name out of the hat. David – you missed out again as you were not at our meeting so be sure to be with us in November to claim your prize !

For the next round of brain teasers I have turned to the name of a Lodge within the Province. Hopefully this will make both Bernard Hope and David Johnson sweat a little more this month! Which lodge therefore is **“in the actress”** and where does it meet?

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 November festive board for a liquid prize – but you will have to be at our meeting to get it !

All LOP Members are welcome to our practice meetings held on the first Thursday of each month. **All** officers are expected to attend Lodge Practices meetings.

**And Finally ...** Remember, ‘Progress Report’ is now only available on-line though our lodge website. If you have something you would like me to mention next month then please get in touch.

#### Dates for your Diaries.

Please make sure these dates are in your diary:

##### ♦ Provincial Promotions Meeting – Monday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2010

Rainton Meadows Arena, Houghton-le-Spring. Contact the secretary or view the Provincial website for more information.

##### ♦ Provincial Carol Service – Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2010

Durham Cathedral – wrap up warm and join us for festive music and celebration at this magnificent building. Bring your friends and family.

##### ♦ Christmas Social – Feed the Bear – Rock Group *(not for the feint hearted !)* Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2010

Tickets are £10 to include our Christmas Carol's Festive Buffet ! A good night out will be had by all.

**Our WM is now taking names for this social – book now to avoid disappointment. Numbers will be limited.**

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

At Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall. Details to follow.

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

You will soon be getting your 2011 diaries. Make this your first entry.

#### CESTRIA LODGE OPEN NIGHT

**Cestria Lodge will be hosting an open evening at their November meeting.**

An invitation is extended to Brethren from all lodges to invite their friends who have expressed an interest in joining Freemasonry to come along and enjoy a Masonic evening. Guests will be invited into the Lodge Room, after formal business, where a Power Point presentation about Freemasonry will be given by W. Bro Bernard Hope. If you would like to attend with a guest please email David Anderson on [cestria4493@gmail.com](mailto:cestria4493@gmail.com) so that he can plan for catering.

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

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