



Progress Report

Newsletter from the Lodge of Progress

Summer 2010

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Chester-le-Street Masonic Hall Events

Please don't restrict your visits to our Masonic Hall to your Lodge nights.

The Lounge Bar is open every night from 7.00 pm to members and their guests to enjoy a relaxed and friendly atmosphere.

Most weekends you will find some form of event happening so watch the notice board and book your places.

Honour for Lodge Charity Steward

Many Lodge of Progress brethren enjoyed a great day out at Hartlepool back in June to witness John Rutherford receiving his Provincial Honours from the Rt W Provincial Grand Master, Norman Eric Heaviside. John was promoted to the rank of Past Provincial Assistant Grand Registrar.

John's 'down-under' work pattern since he was 'in the chair' prevented him attending the lodge as much as he would have liked to have done but since receiving his 'pardon' and being 'repatriated' to these shores, he has continued with the work of previous Charity Stewards within our lodge and helped to ensure that we achieved the original target set for us by the late PGM, Derek Richmond.

Our Worshipful Master, Owen Craggs, who also had a speaking part in the annual meeting, well supported by our brethren, was one of the first to congratulate John on receiving his honour. Brethren from most other lodges in Chester-le-Street were also honoured at the annual meeting.

Phil Rann. (Secretary)



View from the Chair – Summer Thoughts

I must admit that I was a bit concerned that we may not have good support for our June meeting due to the World Cup, England football match. I can report however that my fears were unfounded thanks, in the main, to Phil Heaviside who kindly provided the big screen for the night so that we could enjoy 'harmony' with a difference! We arranged an early start for the meeting and Festive Board and I was very pleasantly surprised at the excellent turn-out. I am sure this contributed considerably to making the evening memorable for our two new initiates, Jamie Sables and William Ashley Stephenson, even if the England team did not perform as well as we did on the night!

It was also a pleasure to see Stan Davidson back in the Lodge, standing in at very short notice, performing several bits of work. Thanks Stan for coming to our rescue. I must also thank a number of people, who helped out on the night, including Colin Stephenson, John Rutherford, Brian Lister & Bryan Kennedy from Progress, as well as two of our many visitors, Terry Harbottle and

last but not least Grahame 'Rocky' Rodger, who I think by now must have fulfilled the Tyler's job in every craft lodge in Chester-le-Street!

As mentioned by our secretary, I indeed had the privilege to be at the Provincial AGM to see John Rutherford receive his honours and I would like to thank those of you who attended and supported him on that occasion. Well done John.

With the recess now drawing to a close I suppose it is time to get our heads back in the book ready for 'round two' and our first batch of second degree ceremonies. If you are able to take on any work please let Jon Copestake know as I am sure he would welcome your offer. I'm also aware that some of our brethren have not enjoyed the best of health over the summer and, to those, I wish a speedy return to good health and look forward to their return to the Lodge in September if well enough to attend.

I hope most of you have enjoyed your break, and hope you can make our fraternal to Eardulph.



Owen Craggs
(Master)

CONTINUOUS GIVING

You will all know by now that as the RMBI 2010 Festival has ended, you should have cancelled any standing orders that you had running in aid of that festival.

Hopefully you will also have agreed to continue with your charitable donations to the new Province of Durham Relief Chest which will assist our lodge in achieving future festivals. The next festival in this Province will not be until 2021, and that will be for the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys – a cause which I know all of you would be keen to support.

So far, throughout this Province, we have received over 500 pledges to the new relief Chest by direct debit – and these are still coming in. My hope, as your Charity Steward,

CONTINUOUS GIVING - (continued from front page)

... is that **every** member of our Lodge will support the new initiative and contribute a small amount into the new scheme. We are not asking you for a massive amount – just the price of half a pint of beer a week will suffice to give the Lodge of Progress a flying start to the next Festival.

Remember that, in Freemasonry, no brother is asked to make any donation to charity that he cannot afford. Neither do we expect him to restrict his charitable giving to Masonic Causes. But I truly believe that we can **all** do our bit on this one. Are you really going to miss £1 a week?

You have probably heard this before but I make no apology for reminding you. This Province is a net recipient as far as Masonic charities are concerned – or put simply we receive far more in aid and grants than we actually contribute. We need therefore to show the rest of the country that we too are happy to 'do our bit' for worthy Masonic Charities when called upon to help.

So what are you waiting for – please, if you have internet access, visit our website and download the new direct debit form. If you can't do that for any reason please ring me or contact the secretary and we will download a form for you and send it out for you.

Agree to donate whatever you feel appropriate – within your means – but do please at the very least give a little bit. Do not leave it for others to make your donations for you. Thank you in anticipation of your support.

"Whatever you feel disposed to give will be gratefully received and faithfully applied."

John Rutherford.

(Charity Steward)

THE MONTH AHEAD — SEPTEMBER 2010

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

September 2010	Lodge	Planned Business
Wednesday 1st	Earl of Durham	Second Degree
Wednesday 8th	Finchale Priory	Double Second
Friday 10th	Eardulph FRATERNAL	Second Degree
Wednesday 15th	Lumley	Elections for next year
Friday 17th	Lodge of Progress	Double Second Degree
Wednesday 22nd	Cestria	Second (for Finchale Priory)
Friday 24th	Millennium L of Research	Is There A Masonic Mythology ?

Bill Forrester

We were all sorry to learn of the sudden death of Bill Forrester in August. Although Bill was not a member of our lodge he was a frequent visitor and it was pleasing that seven members of Lodge of Progress attended Bill's funeral in order to give him a fitting send-off. A retired marine engineer, Bill had travelled the world by sea and it was fitting therefore that the collection made at his funeral was in aid of the RNLI.

And Finally.....

The answer to June's anagram: What was the event taking place that month – very much in the news - "**Acrid Puff Owl**" ? The answer was again far too easy – **FIFA WORLD CUP** – and there were a few correct guesses. The winner was John Knaggs who can claim his reward from our WM at the September meeting.

For the next round of brain teasers I have turned to the name of a north-east town or city where you may find a Masonic hall. Where then is "**Inland Grot**" to be found?

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 September 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 ... 'Progress Report' is now only available on-line through our lodge website. If anyone has problems accessing or reading any of the newsletters please let me know.

Dates for your Diaries.

Please make sure these dates are in your diary:

♦ Fraternal Visit to Eardulph Lodge

Friday 10th September – Please support our Master on his first fraternal. Eardulph are also visiting us this month.

♦ 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 – Feed the Bear – Rock Group

Saturday 11th 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.

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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