



Progress Report



Newsletter from the Lodge of Progress

December 2010

Featured this Month

Front Page

- **Farewell to Keith Tamblin**
A true Freemason
- **View from The Chair**
Owen's Xmas Message

Back Page

- **Christmas Gift Idea**
Last Chance for Provincial Cufflinks.
- **What's On this month.**
- **Dates for your Diary**
Xmas Function and Ladies Night details.
Installation meeting date – rearranged
Promotions Meeting.
- **... and Finally**
Anagram of the month.

Provincial Relief Chest Message from your Charity Steward.

Once the December Festivities are behind us I would urge all brethren 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.

I will ask the secretary to let all of you who have not yet completed a gift aid form to let you have one early in the new year.

Thanks for your support.

J.R.

Farewell to Keith Tamblin

It is always sad when a brother passes away and even more so at this time of year. November saw us lose Bro. Keith Tamblin, an outstanding Freemason in every sense of the word. Keith was one of our longest serving Master Masons, initiated into the Lodge of Progress on 21st April 1978. He chose not to progress through the chair but rarely missed any of our meetings. He was also a great supporter of Masonic Charities and regularly made payments via our Charity Steward – all of which were faithfully applied to good causes. As our Worshipful Master so adequately said, "There is no doubt that the North West corner of our lodge-room will now be missing a pillar."

Keith was brought into our lodge by Gerry Shotton and had recently joined the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, the religion commonly called the Mormon Church. There was a massive turnout of members at Keith's funeral. Barry Stock wrote, "To hear that Bro.Keith Tamblin, a close friend since 1979 had gone to the Grand Lodge above, made me extremely sad."

Gordon Graves also wrote to me saying, "Keith & me go a long way back, to the days when we had a Social committee and an account with a healthy balance. He never missed a meeting or Social and was always first at the hall to 'set-up'. When his wife died Freemasonry helped him over those early days. As mentioned he was almost an ever present, always arriving early to enable him to occupy 'that' seat. He was a good worker for the Lodge, a friend and a Brother and I cannot remember the number of times I along with others tried to get him into the Chair, so you can imagine the impact of the news."

We will all miss Keith – in words we are now familiar with, he lived respected and died regretted.

View from the Chair & Festive thoughts.

Seasons Greetings to you all.

What a white-out November is proving to be. It feels like we should already have our Christmas Trees up and be watching "The Great Escape" on TV.

Instead it is a full month to go before Christmas by which time we will have completed the first of our third degree ceremonies. What really astounds me is that after Christmas we will have only two more meetings before I pass over the chair to a new Master. People told me this year would fly by but you have no idea how fast it has gone. All I can say to my successor is don't blink as you will miss one of the greatest years of your life.

My thanks go to the whole team for a tremendous effort last month which saw us complete our second degree ceremonies for this year. Again our numbers were healthy resulting in 'long' tables, once more, having to be used to accommodate the masses!

With Christmas fast approaching our Almoner, Jack, will be doing his rounds to the Lodge widows with the usual seasonal message and gift. Jack is doing a sterling job and we should all be thankful for the work that he does – very quietly – behind the scenes. Jack has also been in touch with

Trevor Woodhead who, as many of you know, suffered a nasty fall at work, and has badly injured his back. Trevor hopes to join us for our December meeting but we will wait until he is fit and ready before we progress him though his next ceremony. Get well soon Trevor.

Looking ahead, plans are already in place for our Ladies night which will be held on Saturday 12th March and will feature an old favourite of ours – Stephen Lee Garden who Norma specifically requested. I have already had interest from members of other lodges and know we will have no problem in filling the hall but am keen to make sure that Lodge of Progress members have preference – as is only right. I will therefore be asking all members in January to let me know if they wish to attend before I release any tickets elsewhere. Numbers will be restricted to 80. Feel free to let either me or our secretary know as soon as you know your ticket requirements. These events are also ideal for inviting non-masonic friends.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you, on behalf of Norma and myself, a Happy Christmas, an enjoyable festive period and best wishes for 2011.

Owen Craigs
(Worshipful Master)



Visiting Outside the Province – Oriental Lodge's 20th Anniversary Meeting.

You have heard many people say that "Visiting is an important part of Freemasonry" and let me assure you it is also one of the most enjoyable aspects. Seeing different Masonic Halls, experiencing the different ways in which some lodges conduct their ceremonies is always interesting and experiencing their hospitality is sometimes amazing. I recently attended Oriental Lodge 9371, in the Province of Northumberland, and experienced a wonderful double first degree ceremony. Learning our ritual can be tough enough but when you have to learn, understand and recite it back in a language that is not your first is commendable. Needless to say the 12 course festive board at Stowell Street was equally impressive – if only I had left room for their Birthday Cake !

Provincial Cufflinks – an ideal Stocking Filler !



There are still a few sets of gleaming new quality cufflinks with our Provincial Crest on them available if any of you have NOT met Kenneth Howe this year. (Those of you who have met him will, I am sure, have been sold some!)

Pictured in their own presentation box they are an ideal gift to friends in the craft, as well as to guests and visitors from other Provinces.

If you require a set please email me straight away and I will try and acquire some for you while the limited stocks last, priced at just £12 a set.

Order now from Phil Rann – 0191 389 0009 or email progress8259@gmail.com
(£1.00 postage and packing may be added per order if you can't collect at our December meeting)

Lodge Christmas Social

"Feed the Bear"

Live Entertainment for our Christmas Party on Saturday 11th December.

NOT FOR THE FEINT HEARTED !

Book your places now from Tom Sawyer



THE MONTH AHEAD — DECEMBER 2010

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

December 2010	Lodge	Planned Business
Wednesday 1 st	Earl of Durham	Elections
Wednesday 8 th	Lumley	First Degree
Friday 10 th	Eardulph	First Degree
Monday 13th	Finchale Priory	Double Third Degree
Wednesday 15 th	Cestria (Brought forward)	Second (Demonstration)
Friday 17th	Lodge of Progress	Double Third Degree

Date Changes / Fraternal Meeting and Volunteers required.

Note that three lodges, Finchale Lumley and Cestria have switched from their normal meeting dates with Finchale also switching from a Wednesday to a Monday. Earl of Durham are formally visiting us in December and we will, as usual, be stewarding for the Earl of Durham Lodge at their installation on Wed. 5th January. Volunteers – as usual - will be asked for at our next meeting.

Dates for your Diaries.

Here are some important dates for you to add to your 2010/11 diaries:

♦ Provincial Carol Service – Friday 3rd 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 11th December, 2010

Admission by Ticket - £10 - to include our Christmas Carol's Festive Buffet !

A good night out will be had by all.

Numbers limited – phone Phil now if you want to come and have NOT yet got a ticket..

♦ 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.

♦ 2010 Annual Promotions Meeting - Postponed due to snow.

To be rearranged for early 2011 – watch the website for news.



And Finally:

Congratulations:

... to Mark Gilpin who will be sneaking off to 'tie the knot' with his lovely lady Eileen on the 18th December. On behalf of the Lodge, Mark, we wish you both all the very best for the future.

Last Month's anagram competition saw me asking who or what was "in the actress" There were several suggestions but the only correct (and printable) one was **St Catherines**, who meet at Crook. Yet again both Bernard Hope and David Johnson did not even break into a sweat in solving this so for December, and with my mind also on my daughter's forthcoming wedding, I have a festive challenge. In what Christmas Carol will you find "**bacon for bride**" Hopefully that will keep the dynamic duo pondering for a bit longer than usual !

Finally, spare a thought this Christmas for those brethren in ill health, those at work and those who may have lost their way. May we wish them all a speedy return to good health, good cheer, and good fortune for the year ahead.

Happy Christmas 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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