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As this is the last edition - I hope you've enjoyed reading our Progress Reports.

Provincial Relief Chest Message from your Charity Steward.

This is my last request using this format that all brethren consider making a modest donation to the new Relief Chest Scheme in order to help us all save towards our next Festival Target. Many brethren give generously to every appeal made at our festive boards for non-Masonic causes but I am urging you to do something about this one. The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys is a well deserved cause. Please do your bit to help. John R.

Progress Report

Newsletter from the Lodge of Progress

February 2011

Progress Report Bows Out.

All good things must come to an end and, as with many other things, also outlive their usefulness. With the birth of our Lodge Website, and the new Provincial Gazette, much of the news you would normally see in this publication can be communicated by one of the new-comers. Feedback has told me that the most popular section of our newsletter was the "What's On?" section showing what we and other lodges are doing for the month ahead. I have therefore now placed a new page on the website dedicated to this and this will be updated as and when Lodge Secretaries tell me what is planned in their lodges.

Please, if you have access to the internet either at home or at your local library, try and make a conscious effort to visit the website each month when you receive your summons and check out other Provincial news which can be accessed for our site.

By now every one of you should have received the first edition of the new Provincial Gazette and Lodge of Progress has already had its first entry, an interview with our youngest member, Peter Moffat. If you want to re-read the new publication and have lost your copy, you can view it on-line by following the links from either the Provincial Website or our own website. Our Lodge is well mentioned in the first edition – referring to Phil Heavside and David Battensby's outing to Hawthorn House just before Christmas, and a half page spread on our youngest member Peter Moffat. There was a 'typo' or two when the editors adjusted my original article for the first edition but these have been corrected on the on-line version. And just to prove I do take my wife out occasionally, there is a picture of us on the inside front cover!

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View From the Chair.

My Time is nearly up

This being my last opportunity to report on the Master's view from the chair, I would like to reflect on my year in office. It all started with a brilliant night that I will hold in my memory for the rest of my life, my installation. What an excellent night that was for me and I hope for the rest of you.

We then went rushing into a third degree ceremony for my first meeting which I found to be rather difficult and nerve racking, this was followed by two meetings introducing four Initiates.

Our very good friends at Ernest Dixon Lodge helped us out by performing a Second Degree ceremony for us at their Lodge and this was really enjoyable for me as I have very strong links and happy memories with that lodge.

I was very relieved when our fifth Initiate candidate Peter Moffat was initiated by his father during our Past Masters evening which I'm sure W. Bro. Keith will remember and reflect on with great pride and pleasure for many years to come.

Another highlight for me was attending the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge to see our Charity Steward W. Bro John Rutherford, and other brethren from our temple, receive their Provincial Honours.

Returning from our summer recess to undertake the third degree ceremonies was a delight but a great pity for me that I was unable to complete Trevor Woodhead's third degree ceremony, due

to his unfortunate accident from which I'm sure we all wish him a full and speedy recovery.

During my year as master I managed to squeeze in 61 happy and enjoyable Lodge visits so far within the province in what has been a very hectic year for me, and can I take this opportunity to thank those Lodges, their brethren, and their catering staff most sincerely for the very warm welcome and generous hospitality offered without fail at every visit.

Also a big thank you, particularly to those Lodge of Progress 8259 brethren, who have supported me on some of those visits. I must also thank all Officers and brethren who have given up their time and worked so hard in assisting, helping and supporting me during my year. There are however two more events still to come before my year as Master is finished, the first of which being our Lodge of Progress Ladies' Night which both Norma and I are really looking forward to, on Saturday 12th March. We hope to see many of our brethren attend the evening which I am sure will be an excellent evening. Ticket price at a reasonable £15.00 per person means the tickets are already going fast. Stephen Lee Garden, who you all know will I'm sure do us proud with his singing and entertainment.

Finally I will be working hard over the next few weeks to prepare for the installation of our new Master and trust he will receive the same sort of support I have experienced throughout my year.

I wish him, and you all, the best of health, happiness and enjoyment.



Owen Craigs
(Worshipful Master)

CLS Lodges help make Finchale's Ladies Night a success!

The weather in December meant that Alan and Jen Oliver's Ladies' Night had to be postponed to the new-year but support from their brethren and from other lodges led to a successful night when Elvis was DEFINITELY in the building.

Yes - Eddie "Elvis" Arries was the star entertainer with Kate Bush also making a surprise appearance for one song. Most importantly – £250 was raised for Breast Cancer Relief.

Our own Tom Sawyer was instrumental in persuading the attendees in parting with their cash - all for a very good cause.



.. on 26th February at Lumley Castle. On behalf of the Lodge may I wish Lee and Debbie every happiness for the future.

Lee's future happiness however depends on him being returned safely, and with all his hair, from his stag night in Wakefield which is to be held the

night after our next meeting and at which many brethren from Chester-le-Street Lodges are attending. Please note that although I have mentioned already that many of the articles I would normally write about will be appearing in the new Gazette, details of Lee's stag night may not be so recorded!

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

February 2011	Lodge	Planned Business
Wednesday 2nd	Earl of Durham	First Degree Demonstration
Wednesday 9th	Finchale Priory	Installation 5.45 start
Friday 11th	Eardulph	First Degree
Wednesday 16th	Lumley	First Degree
Friday 18 th	Lodge of Progress	Elections and Lecture
Wednesday 23rd	Cestria	Installation – 5.30 Start

We also wish the Sam Raistrick and Ken Anderson, Masters Elect for both Finchale Priory and Cestria Lodges, all the very best for their forthcoming installation meetings. Installations for both Finchale Priory and Cestria Lodges take place this month – see above for start times.

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

- ◇ **Finchale Priory Lodge 7059 – 60th Anniversary Wednesday 9th March, 2011.**
Likely to be a busy meeting so watch their website and ours for any special notices.
- ◇ **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.**
Remember this is a 5.45 start **and if you intend to dine you need to reserve a place for yourself and any guests.**
Every year people say .. "But I thought you knew I would be coming!" but sadly the Lodge Crystal Ball is out of commission at the moment so you need to either email or telephone to let us know. This is especially important if you are bringing guests and wish to sit together. Tom Sawyer has very kindly agreed to look after the installation dining plan as our SW will be busy on his honeymoon until the week before our meeting.
- ◇ **2011 Annual Provincial Meeting – Saturday 25th June, 2011.**
Watch our website for further information nearer the time.

Remember to book your seat
and those of your guests for
our installation meeting.



No – yet again someone solved it !.

I asked if you could decipher the name of this well known Grand Lodge Officer: **"wishbone- all calm "** The answer was Michael Snowball and the winner this time was W. Bro Grahame "Rocky" Rodger who just beat David Johnson to the winning post.

My thanks to Derrick Harle for holding the fort while I was checking out the weather, and getting in some serious sailing and relaxing, on and around the Caribbean Islands.

March will see our installation meeting and – as usual – we will need Lodge of Progress brethren to make firm bookings with the master-elect for themselves and any guests as soon as possible after our February meeting.

All requests received up to the end of February will be honoured after which the meeting and festive board will be opened up to other lodges. Book by emailing your requirement to progress8259@gmail.com or complete and return the card enclosed with this newsletter if you are receiving it by hard copy.

Phil Ramm

W.Bro. Phil Rann - Secretary

New Gazette is a big Hit!

(Continued from Page One)

C WINTER 2018/19

THE NEW Gazette

PUBLISHED BY THE FREEMASONS OF THE PROVINCE OF DORSET

£3,002,839 89p

FANTASTIC ACHIEVEMENT BY THE FREEMASONS OF THE PROVINCE OF DORSET

In the presence of the Deputy Grand Master, the members of Durston and Bournemouth over 60 Freemasons and their partners, a reception dinner had been held at Durston House, Hinton, Dorset, to mark the end of a 5 year fundraising history during which £3,002,839 was raised for charity.

The money has been raised by Freemasons and their families in many fundraising and enjoyable ways including county games, sporting events, dinner dances, vehicle sales, horse festivals, gardening courses, fancy fairs, a variety of sponsored events - golf, walking, cycle rides, as well as donations from individual Freemasons.

Dorset's Speciality, Deputy Grand Master of Freemasonry in England and Wales, who, as the principal guest, travelled from London for the occasion said "This momentous achievement contributed £430 for each Freemason in Dorset which is a very good result in challenging economic times".

The money raised will be donated to the NHS, a national charity that operates 17 care homes across Dorset and raises grants, research, nursing and charitable care to permanent residents as well as people living, home improvement loans and holiday facilities in Dorset. MASE chief executive David Jones, in announcing the amount raised, said:

The average raised per Lodge was £72,947 and matched the 5 Marston Lodges donating the most money, Dorset Lodge No 1033 (Dorchester), St Martin's Lodge, Dorset £30,644; St John's Lodge No 4043 (Bournemouth) £25,439 and Agrippa Lodge No 2745 (Durston) £20,857. He said "As a Lodge with only 40 members, Agrippa Lodge averaged £1,044 per member, an outstanding achievement".

To conclude the event the Provincial Grand Master, Sir Nicholas made presentation of a memento given to the principal visitors and confirmed to the members of the 16 Lodges making the highest amounts.

With this being a new publication it will inevitably come in for comment and, dare I say, criticism – especially from those who liked the old style Gazette.

If you have any **constructive** comments on your new newsletter please feed them back so that your views can be taken into account when the next edition is put together. You can send these direct to the Editing team by email at: news@pgldurham.org or if you are not on email you can write to me.