

One Hundred Years

We are being told that we can all expect to live longer in the future. If this is so, I suppose that it could be possible in the years to come that a founder of a Lodge could be present at its centenary celebrations.

Sadly we haven't reached that point in time yet, your humble servant has been asked to pen a few thoughts on almost forty years membership of the Lodge. I hope to reminisce on some of the events and to remember some of the brethren of the University of Durham Lodge who have made their contribution to what the Lodge is today.

One of my earliest memories is of a tall, thin clergyman who arrived late for a meeting as I stood outside the Lodge room as an Entered Apprentice whilst the ceremony of a higher degree was in progress. He was the treasurer of the Lodge and his name was the Reverend Prebendary Charles Waton. He was the Vicar of St Benet Fink, Edmonton and was a Grand Officer. To me, he was a very important mason yet was very friendly and put me at my ease. If anyone had said to me at that time that I one day would also become a Vicar and a Grand Officer I would probably have died of shock!

One of the things I remember about Brother Waton was that he had a large ink stain on his apron proving I suppose that his tenure of the treasurership pre-dated the biro! The records show us that the Prebendary was Initiated in 1916, only ten years after the Consecration. He became Master first in 1921 and later again in 1937.

Anyway, back to 1904 it was a very different world to today. Orville and Wright had just completed the first controlled flight. How ironic that one hundred years later when we take air travel for granted, we have recently grounded, for good, the first super-sonic passenger aircraft – Concorde. At that time the founders of our Lodge were still beginning to grapple with motorised transport, if they could afford it!

It was in November 1903 that a number of keen masons, who were graduates of Durham University, met to consider the possibility of forming a Lodge in London. Some of them lived in the capital, others came from other parts of the country but who would be prepared to travel to London for the meetings. Surprising really, but perhaps steam trains ran on time in those days!

Having decided to proceed, W.Bro Frederick Spencer called a meeting at his home, 17 Wimpole Street, London W 1. There were present W.Bro. Sir George Hare Philipson and Bros. Abbot Anderson, Harry Spicer RN, Henry Bircham, Joseph Nicholas Lee, A. Leahy, R.J. Brobyn-Williams, F. Silva Jones, Richard M. Wilkes, Rowland H. Coombs, The Rev. William Holding, Percy S. Jakins, Thomas Dutton, T Outerson Wood T.H. Openshaw and A.E. Neale.

W.Bro. Phillipson having been voted to the chair and W.Bro Spicer as pro tem. secretary it was decided to proceed with an application to form a new Lodge. It was also decided that all graduates, licentiates and those holding honorary degrees in the University should be eligible for membership. The name of the Lodge should be "University of Durham Lodge" and that it should meet on the second Thursday in the months of January, March, June and November.

The annual subscription for town members should be one guinea and for country members half a guinea. The Initiation fee five guineas and the Joining fee three guineas. These fees were fixed low in order to meet the "widely expressed wishes of numerous graduates" in all parts of the country.

Sir George Hare Philipson was chosen as the first Master, The Rev. William Holding as first Senior Warden and T.H. Openshaw as Junior Warden.

Thirty five brethren signed the Petition and therefore the Founders of the Lodge were as follows: T. Herbert Alderson, W.M. Abbott Anderson, Henry Bircham, John Braithwaite, R.J. Burton, Frederick Cambridge, T.Ponsford Cann, Charles Forsyth, John G. Gibson, The Rev William Holding, J.R.Humble, Percy S. Jakins, J.G. Revington-Jones, S. Silva Jones, Herbert Knyaston, E.Burritt Lane, A. Leahy, Joseph N. Lee Loftus, G.W. Lumb, Alan Reeve Manly, Milner M. Moore, T. Horrocks Openshaw, W. Pitt Palmer, George Hare Philpson, William J. Sheppard, Arthur P. Sherwood, Frederick Spicer, John Stokes, William Travers, L.R. Tulliet, Richard M. Wilkes, R.J. Probyn Williams, M Dale Wood T. Outerson Wood and T.C.J. Young. It is worth noting that seven of the Petitioners were graduates in medicine of the university.

The Charter for the new Lodge was granted on 2nd March 1904 by the Most Worshipful the Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn K.G. under the Title of "The University of Durham Lodge no. 3030".

Consecration 5th May 1904

The following is an extract from the original minute book of the Lodge:

"The Lodge was Consecrated at the Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly W. in a most efficient and impressive manner by V.W. Bro. Sir Edward Letchworth ISA, Grand Secretary, most ably assisted by:

R.W. Bro. The Lord Barnard MA(Oxon) Hon DCL(Durh.) Provincial Grand Master, Durham as Senior Warden.

W. Bro. Edward Armitage MA(Cantab) PDepGDC as Junior Warden,

V.W. Bro. The Rev. Canon Brownrigg MA(Cantab) PGChap. as Chaplain,

V.W. Bro. Frank Richardson GDC as Director of Ceremonies,

W. Bro. H. Davan Wetton Mus.Doc.(Durham) PG Organist as Inner Guard.

Not the least noteworthy, in this really magnificently rendered service, was the beautiful and eloquent address given by the Grand Chaplain, in which he referred in glowing terms to the Home of our Alma Mater. "That ancient city built upon a hill".

Following the Consecration, the Grand Secretary Installed W. Bro. Sir George Hare Philipson M.A., M.D. DCL, FRCP into the Chair as the first Worshipful Master. The Worshipful Master then appointed and Invested his officers. Their names are engraved on the collar jewels still worn by the Officers of the Lodge today, a permanent reminder of our Consecration and those first officers.

The occasion was recorded in a number of newspapers and journals, extracts of each have been included in the Minute Book. There were thirty members present. Apart from the Consecrating team, the names of sixty five guests are recorded including the Worshipful Masters and representatives of Apollo University, Oxford Lodge no 357, Universities Lodge, Durham no 2352 and University of Edinburgh Lodge no 2974.

In the Risings, Bro. Secretary gave notice of nine candidates for Initiation. Six of them were clergymen, one a doctor, one a teacher and one a musician. He also gave notice that he had names of a considerable number of graduates in arts and medicine for whom proposers and seconders were required. They numbered between thirty and forty! One wonders how many of them eventually were Initiated.

Letters of apology were read from the Worshipful Masters of Isaac Newton Lodge (Cambridge) and the University of London Lodge both of whom sent fraternal greetings.

At the following meeting on 9th June 1904, five candidates were Initiated. They were Rev. Richard Coward, Clerk in Holy Orders, Herbert James Godwin, Physician and Surgeon, Cuthbert Harris, Musician, Rev. Samuel Reginald Granville Murray, Clerk in Holy Orders, Chaplain to HM Prison Warwick and Rev. George Joseph Woodward, Clerk in Holy Orders.

The minute book records that the Worshipful Master performed the ceremony in an impressive manner. One can only observe a hundred years on that he earned his supper!

On that occasion the Worshipful Masters of Apollo Lodge Oxford, Isaac Newton Cambridge, London University, Edinburgh University were elected as Honorary Members of the Lodge, which they still are to this day. Two further gentlemen were proposed as candidates for Initiation, Alfred Reid, Physician and Surgeon and Rev. Jeremiah Baddeley, Clerk in Holy Orders.

The Secretary read a letter from W.Bro. Hill Drury Secretary of the Universities Lodge in Durham, which it is worth recording in this history.

Bondgate Darlington
13th May 1904

Dear Bro. Spicer,

Will you kindly convey to the members of the University of Durham Lodge the grateful appreciation of the members of the Universities Lodge who were present at the Consecration, of the cordial hospitality accorded to them on that occasion, and say how delighted we shall be any time to welcome the members of your Lodge at the "Universities".

Faithfully Yours
Charles Hill Drury

It is interesting that in recent years, a number of members of the London Lodge have regularly travelled north to renew that association with our mother Lodge. Long may that continue!

On searching the minute book that covers the early years an amazing fact is revealed. No less than twelve of the Founders never attended the Lodge again and five others attended no more than once or twice! One can speculate on the reasons for this but one thing is for sure obviously masonry was not for them!

The meetings following the Consecration saw the approval of the By-Laws, more propositions of candidates and, of course, a number of Second and Third degree ceremonies. These by necessity were on the same evenings. Beginning at 5pm could have meant a late night. I recall, though sixty years later, in my early days in the Lodge, it was quite normal to do two ceremonies in an evening, provided one of them was a Second. In those days we also never began the meeting before 5pm. I don't particularly remember getting home late!

An early Initiate was Bro. The Rev. J. Leonard Hooppell , Vicar of St. Peter, Hoxton Square who was later to become one of the backbones of the Lodge, being Secretary for many years.

A joining member from the Northern Bar Lodge no. 1610 in 1906 was Edward Shortt. He was Worshipful Master in 1919,1926 and 1927. He was a Member of Parliament and a barrister and was a member of Lloyd George's coalition government of December 1916. In 1918 he was made Chief Secretary for Ireland and Home Secretary in 1919, the year that he first was in the chair of the Lodge. It is not surprising then that he was unable to attend for his Installation. This extract appears in the Minute Book of 23rd April 1919:

"The Worshipful Master having explained the position of W. Bro. the Rt Hon. Edward Shortt KC MP with regard to the prospect of his attendance on future occasions if elected W.M. for the ensuing year, and the unusual circumstances in which the order of seniority and eligibility of other members of the Lodge had been interfered with by their serving through the war, a ballot was taken and W.Bro. Edward Shortt was unanimously elected WM for the ensuing year"

At the following meeting for Installation on 25th June 1919, as I have said, Edward Shortt was unable to attend. The appointment and investiture of his officers nevertheless took place. The meeting of September 24th shows Edward Shortt as Senior Warden. W.Bro. E. Burritt-Lane LR in the Chair then proceeded to Install Bro Shortt. It was obviously a “short” meeting as his officers were already in place! In the following year Bro. Shortt was Invested as Junior Grand Warden in Grand Lodge. For many years the highest honour a member of the Lodge ever received. Bro Shortt died in 1935.

Going back to 1910, W Bro. R.J. Brobyn-Williams IPM of the Lodge was appointed to the active rank of Senior Deacon in Grand Lodge. The Lodge provided his jewel of office.

It would appear from the minutes that not many of the original applicants for membership were successful in finding proposers. The original enthusiasm began to wane and towards the end of the decade difficulties arose due to low numbers.

In 1912 W Bro F. Cambridge, Worshipful Master, was appointed Grand Organist. The Lodge provided his undress clothing.

Having experienced difficulties at the Criterion Restaurant in 1912, the Lodge obtained permission to move to the Holborn Restaurant.

The Great War years

With only seventeen members, the Lodge survived the 1914-18 war, somehow meeting regularly and supporting Grand Lodge’s appeals for funds to relieve distress. Attendances following the war were very poor. For example the meeting of 23rd April 1919 shows an attendance of only six brethren plus one visitor. The June meeting had a similar number. September saw a better attendance for the Installation of Edward Shortt, eleven members and eight guests. Sadly the meeting for December 3rd was not held, as the attendance book tells us, “the WM having previously ascertained that it would not be possible to form a Quorum.”

THE 1920’S

Although as the decade progressed there was a slight improvement, the attendance was usually under twenty. Numbers became more encouraging from 1926 onwards, but rarely above thirty in number. There must have been occasions when the survival of the Lodge was in question but surprisingly the minutes do not indicate this. Today, we worry about London Lodge numbers but it did not appear to worry our brethren of the past.

Lodge Ritual

In the Minutes of 28th January 1925 the following brief statement appears. “After remarks by Bros. Robson and Nicholson, and a general discussion, it was stated that the

Emulation Ritual is the working of the Lodge.” There is no record of quite what it had been before!

Perhaps of greater interest is a Minute of 26th June 1929. “Bro. Arthur William Barker LTh(Dunelm) was presented to the WM for Installation as WM elect and was duly Installed by W.Bro. Hemmans with the complete Ritual.” In the Diamond Jubilee celebration booklet of 15th May 1964 there is the following note which endorses this. “On 26th June 1929, the Board of Installed Masters was opened and closed in full form for the first time, and has been repeated with two exceptions ever since.” However, in earlier Minutes on several occasions the Installation is described as “being carried out in full form.” This surely indicates that the extended inner working had been used before 1929. It is quite significant that this decision was made in 1929 for it was in that year that Grand Lodge debated the subject. RW Bro. Alfred Robbins President of the Board of General Purposes said this: “ All the Grand Secretaries, at least from 1862 onwards said in the most clear and emphatic terms, whenever applied to for information on the subject, that the ceremony was irregular and that Grand Registrars have ruled emphatically the same way.” It needs to be said that Bro. Robbins was an Honorary Member of “The Author’s Lodge” which regularly worked the extended form and like us, still does to this day!

After much debate, Grand Lodge agreed that the extended inner working was a “harmless variation.” We are one of the few Lodges in London still working it although it is fairly common in the Provinces. It is quite intriguing is it not, that the Brethren of the Lodge in 1929 decided to formally adopt it at that time? Obviously they were proud of their way of conducting the Installation ceremony as we are today!

The 1930’s

At the Installation meeting in 1931 W.Bro. The Rev. J.L.E. Hooppell retired as Secretary of the Lodge. He had held the office since 1915. He had been Master in 1914 and had been made Past Assistant Grand Chaplain in Grand Lodge in 1920 - a true stalwart of the Lodge in difficult times. Others were the Treasurer J. Gray Tait, the Director of Ceremonies, Rev. C.F. Waton and Rev. Jimmie Dumphries. It is hard to imagine that the Lodge would have survived without their dedication. On his retirement Hooppell was made an Honorary Member. He died in 1936. He was succeeded as Secretary by W.Bro. Lawrence Hemmans MB. He was appointed to the active rank of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1945. He too was a valiant servant of the Lodge keeping things going through the second World War. Jimmie Dumphries and Charles Waton later joined by Harry Frost, Harry Freeman and Harold Priddy were other stalwarts of this period. Lawrence Hemmans died in 1951 only a year after his retirement as Secretary. He was succeeded by Harold Priddy who held the office until 1962.

With attendance still low it was decided in 1932 to expand the meaning of By-Law 1 which stated that the Lodge is especially established for the fraternal association of graduates of the University to include not only Graduates and Licentiates of Durham University but others who have completed a recognised course of study at a College

affiliated to the University. This alteration had little effect. For example the attendance book entry of 28th September 1938 shows that there were only seven officers and two members present and no guests. There were usually a good number of guests on Installation nights but very small attendances on other occasions.

The Lodge moves to its new home

The Lodge moved from the Holborn Restaurant in 1934 to the Comedy Restaurant in Panton Street, London SW1 and was to remain there until 1968 when the Lodge was given just one month's notice to leave after thirty four years!

1939/45 War

The attendance figures remained much the same throughout the war. There is no reference to brethren being "called up" for active service. Presumably they were all over age! There were guests at Installation meetings but very few on other occasions.

The 1940's, 50's and 60's

Following the war, sadly membership numbers did not improve. In 1948 there were twenty five members. Fifteen attended the June meeting with one guest. With this situation continuing it was decided in 1953 to further widen the interpretation of By-law 1 "that the word "especially" need not be interpreted "exclusively".

Fifty Years

At the jubilee meeting on May 21st 1954, there were twenty one members present together with thirty guests including three Grand Officers. Before the Lodge was Opened, the Brethren, having taken their places, the Master and his Wardens were conducted to their chairs. The Worshipful Master, W Bro John Orton MA, BSc (Lon.) asked the Brethren to be seated and explained what was to be done on this special occasion. He said that at this Jubilee meeting, the Lodge was to be Opened by the oldest living brother and officered by Past Masters in order of seniority. W Bro Rev C.F.Waton A.G.Chap, took the Chair. The other officers were as follows: W Bros: J.Orton SW, J.F.Arnold PPGReg. JW, F. Wilson Harlow SD, H. Freeman JD, H. Frost LGR DC, H.W. Priddy Secretary, Rev E.M. Newbatt IG.

The Lodge was Opened in the first degree following which the Master and the regular officers resumed their places. Following the installation in "full form" of Bro Frank Hall Thompson he invested his officers. At the Investiture of W.Bro Waton as Treasurer, the Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Harry Frost reported that Bro Waton had recently been appointed to the active rank of Assistant Grand Chaplain. He was saluted as such and suitably responded.

The three visiting Grand Officers, Bros Ward, Wilson and Day gave the addresses to the Master, Wardens and Brethren. W Bro Harry Frost gave a brief history of the Lodge and “our relation with Durham “the city founded hard upon the holy hill.”

It was obviously a long but very special meeting! The membership list published for the occasion showed that there were then twenty four members.

Teacher Initiates

Following the By-Law amendment there was some improvement in the late fifties with a number of Initiates who had been trained as teachers at Bede College, in Durham. The college was not at that time part of the University. By the mid-fifties a large proportion of the membership were from the teaching profession. One of these was W.Bro. George Marley SLGR , a Bede man, an Honorary Member today and for many years very active in the Lodge. He introduced a friend and fellow teacher from Cheam in Surrey, Jack Gilbert who was to be one of the first Initiates not associated with the university. Jack was to become a great influence in the Lodge. He introduced a number of Initiates who were not from the teaching profession. Nevertheless most of the membership were still teachers living in and around London. Meetings never began before five o'clock in order that the brethren could attend straight from school. At the beginning of the sixties all the offices were held by members of the profession, Harold Botcherby the Master, Clifford Lund, Senior Warden, George Marley, Junior Warden, Mervyn Casbon, Treasurer, Harold Priddy, Secretary, Harry Frost, Director of Ceremonies, George Dale and Jack Gilbert, the Deacons, Frank Thompson, ADC, Cecil Hall, Almoner, Alfred Kitching, Organist, Sammy Maguire, Asst. Secretary, Bill Petty, Inner Guard. The one exception was Edward Newbatt and he was a clergyman. One can only imagine that at dinner the main topic of conversation was the current state of the teaching profession!

Harold Priddy retired as Secretary in 1962 to be succeeded by Sammy Maguire. Though short in stature, he was a tower of strength at a time when the Lodge began to grow.

Non-teaching Initiates

Most of the new members were not from the teaching profession. Jock Fraser, Initiated 1958, worked for the Post Office, Peter Hemingway, Initiated 1959, was a commercial photographer and Ken Budd Initiated 1962, an advertising executive and artist. They were followed later by John Roake - joined 1968 - a Customs and Excise Officer, Geoff Taylor - joined 1976 - a Bank Installation Officer, Carel Sartory - joined 1978 - a Finance Company Representative and Jeremy Gaskell – joined 1982 - a Bank Sub-Manager. All these brethren have made a considerable contribution to the life of the Lodge in subsequent years.

I am not sure what the Founders of the Lodge would have thought but there is no doubt that the new members brought a new dimension which has continued to the present day. There were still however, Initiates from the teaching profession, Bill Petty, Leslie Hipkins, Ivor Wingfield, Alan Webster, Alan Child, Jim Grant (a Durham graduate) Jim Edwards and Keith Turner who all made a real contribution to the life of the Lodge.

At the meeting on 25th January 1963, the Secretary reported with regret the death of Lodge's oldest member, W Bro the Rev. Prebendary C.F. Waton PAG Chap.

W Bro Rev E.M.M. Newbatt, Chaplain, at the request of the Worshipful Master, spoke of Bro Waton's qualities as a freemason, a priest and a man. Bro Waton was Initiated in 1916, Master in 1922 and 1937. He was Director of Ceremonies in the 1930's, Chaplain in the 1940's and Treasurer from 1951 until 1961. A truly wonderful record. The brethren stood in silence as a last tribute to a loved and respected brother. The deaths of further brethren were also recorded at that period, Bros John Orton and in 1964, M.H.G. Casbon who died suddenly whilst in office as Treasurer, a post he had held ever since Bro Waton had relinquished it.

On a brighter note, W Bro Harry Frost was appointed to Grand Rank in 1964 as PAGDC although the minutes for some strange reason do not refer to it. He was Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge from 1953 until 1964, a total of eleven years. My memory of him was of a little man with a big heart who no doubt was a great servant of the Lodge for many years. He sadly lived for less than a year afterwards. He had been Master in 1943 and 1948. He was succeeded as Director of Ceremonies by W Bro Frank Thompson who had been his ADC. "Tommy" was a very different character, quietly efficient with a soft voice he was a Master at Watford Grammar School.

Diamond Jubilee

The Installation meeting on 15th May 1964 saw the celebration of the Lodge's sixtieth anniversary. W Bro George Dale was in the Chair and he was to Install Bro Jack Gilbert.

A special menu/ booklet was produced to mark the occasion which included a brief history. There were eighteen members present together with twenty guests.

Bro Jack Gilbert became W Bro The Rev Jack Gilbert during his year of office for he was Ordained in Southwark Cathedral in September 1964. There appears no reference to his clerical preferment in the minutes! There is no doubt however that the Lodge realised his potential for he became Chaplain in 1968, an office he held until 1983, a period of fifteen years. He succeeded W Bro Rev Edward Newbatt who had been the Chaplain of the Lodge since 1954. A period of fifteen years. Obviously the Lodge valued their collective spiritual oversight for such a long period in our history!

A move from the Comedy Restaurant after 34 years.

In 1968 the Lodge was required to move at very short notice from the Comedy Restaurant which had been "home" since 1934. It was understood that the premises were to become a Beefeater Restaurant. Brother Maguire the Secretary and the Worshipful Master Brother Jock Fraser made a hurried and "diligent search" for an alternative venue. At a meeting at The Comedy on May 17th seven brethren gave notice of motion that the By-Law be changed to delete The Comedy Restaurant and substitute "Tolaini's

Restaurant, 38 Panton Street, London SW1. Those who signed were Bros. Hemingway, Marley, Gilbert, Fraser, Budd, Child and Botcherby.

One month later at the June meeting the Lodge met by dispensation at Tolaini's. The notice of motion was approved and we began life in our new home. The Worshipful Master Raised Brother Douglas "Jim" Edwards in an exemplary manner. Brother Jim was later to become a quiet and efficient Treasurer for a number of years.

At this period, the Lodge enjoyed good attendances. At Jock Fraser's Installation (the last meeting at the Comedy) there were twenty six members present and twenty two guests. On the 16th May 1969 at the first Installation meeting at Tolaini's, Peter Hemingway was Installed by Jock Fraser in a superb ceremony. There were twenty one members and thirty guests. At most meetings during this period the attendance generally exceeded thirty.

The summons of September 26th 1969 records the death of the Pro Grand Master MW Bro. Rt. Hon. The Earl of Scarborough and as a consequence of his death the Lodge was to be in Masonic Mourning for six months. All officers were instructed to wear one black rosette at the point of their collars.

The 1970's

A new Lodge badge is designed - A new Master's Collar and new Past Masters' Jewels

Before the reading of the Minutes at the Installation Meeting of Bro Alan Webster on 15th May 1970, Bro John Roake spoke of his desire to present a new Master's collar to the Lodge. It would incorporate a silver chain, the new Lodge badge recently designed by Bro Ken Budd as well as the 250th Anniversary medal of United Grand Lodge. The new collar was carried to the Immediate Past Master, W Bro Jock Fraser, who formally presented it to the Worshipful Master, W Bro Peter Hemingway who was thus the first Master to wear it. New Past Master's jewels were presented to eight Past Masters. The new design also incorporated Ken Budd's splendid design which first appeared on the Lodge summons at the September meeting of that year and is still used today. At that meeting, there were twenty six members and thirty six guests present.

That year, W Bro "Tommy" Thompson retired as Director of Ceremonies after having served for six years. W Bro Arthur Maxwell, his ADC succeeded him. The Worshipful Master appointed four Stewards, a practice that continued for several years at that time. Attendances continued to be good at most meetings. At the September meeting Sammy Maguire, the Secretary reported correspondence concerning the new Central London Masonic Centre at Camberwell. After some discussion, Bro Maguire gave Notice of Motion that the sum of £ 50 be sent to the Central London Masonic Centre Limited as a deposit. The motion was seconded by the Treasurer, W Bro Jack Wilson. The motion was carried. It was further suggested that the Secretary should make further enquiries and ask if it were possible that one of the Directors of the proposed centre could visit the Lodge to provide further information.

At the following meeting in January, Bro Maguire proposed a motion that W Bro Harold Priddy should be made an Honorary Member . He spoke of the debt the Lodge owed to W Bro Priddy for his work as Secretary for twelve years and also of the debt he owed him personally when he was a young mason. W Bro Arthur Maxwell, Director of Ceremonies, in seconding the motion, also added his appreciation which was echoed by other brethren. A ballot was held which proved to be unanimous in favour of the motion.

On the move again

The Secretary reported that he had received a reply from the Central London Masonic Centre. After much discussion, the Lodge voted not to pursue the matter further. We did get our £ 50 back!

More importantly the Secretary reported on the rumour that Tolaini's Restaurant was to close. However the manager had denied this and had confirmed the Lodge dates for the following year. Despite this, it would appear that Tolaini's was already under new management because it was now called Santa Lucia Restaurant. This had alerted Bro Maguire to make various enquiries about alternative accommodation. He reported to the Lodge on his findings. Other brethren expressed their opinion that a more permanent venue should be sought. It was important that it should be still in central London. No further action was decided at this time.

At the May meeting, Bro Ken Budd was Installed with sixteen members present and fifteen guests.

Although nothing appears in the minutes there had obviously been much activity before this meeting regarding where the Lodge should meet. The following is recorded: " The Secretary reported the circumstances of the notice to quit the present meeting place and the temporary booking for two meetings at Wingfield House." The writer of this history cannot recall the circumstances but obviously after the January meeting we had been given just a short time to leave Tolaini's which had been our home for only three years.

Moving yet again!

The June meeting was held by Dispensation at Wingfield House, 261 South Lambeth Road, Stockwell, London SW 8. There was an encouragingly good attendance of thirty seven members and guests. Some brethren were unhappy about the move to Stockwell. There was however, limited car parking and a Tube station nearby. Numbers remained steady and for a while the Lodge settled down in its new home. There was still a steady flow of Initiates.

Sammy the Secretary retires

At the Installation of Bro Jim Edwards in May 1975, W Bro Sammy Maguire LGR stood down as Secretary of the Lodge. He had held the office for thirteen years, years that had

seen a significant growth in the Lodge and yet instability because we appeared not to have a permanent home.

Sammy coped with complete efficiency and dedication. Moreover he always had a smile on his face and a cheerful sense of humour. He needed it because he was constantly ribbed about his stature! Despite his size, there is no doubt he had been one of the giants in the life of the Lodge. The Worshipful Master expressed the feelings of the brethren in wishing sincere thanks to Bro Maguire for his considerable contribution.

He was succeeded by the writer of this history who was Invested in May and was Ordained a clergyman in the Church of England at the end of June. The two I hasten to add had no connection, but I trust it helped over the following years. After all, one of the earliest holders of the office was a clergyman!

W Bro Arthur Maxwell, the Director of Ceremonies also retired after five years in office to be succeeded by W Bro Jock Fraser his assistant. Jock was to hold the office for eleven years until shortly before his death in 1986.

Another move

At that same Installation meeting in May 1975 it was announced that Wingfield House proposed an increase in rental charges and dining fees. Expressions of dissatisfaction with the venue had already been expressed and once again it was decided that other accommodation should be found. Our new Secretary made further "diligent search" and at the June meeting the following notice of motion was put to the brethren: "That with effect from the fourth Friday in January 1976, the Lodge will regularly meet at the Lancaster Gate Hotel, London W2." In accordance with the Book of Constitutions the motion was signed by "no fewer than seven brethren." The motion was carried at the meeting of September 26th which was the last occasion that we met at Wingfield House. We had met there for only four years.

Lancaster Gate Hotel seemed to satisfy most of the brethren. The facilities were good and the meals seemed satisfactory. However a Notice of Motion by the Treasurer for an increase of fees was given at the January Meeting due to a substantial loss in the previous year. The Secretary in his Newsletter for that meeting said that he was sure that the brethren did not need reminding that we needed maximum support to make our move to Lancaster Gate Hotel a success. The indications were that the facilities were a vast improvement on Wingfield House.

The future of the Lodge in doubt

The Secretary called an informal meeting of all brethren to discuss the future of the Lodge at the Prince of Wales Inn in Great Queen Street on 17th January before the Officers Night rehearsal: W Bro Wilson, the Treasurer intended to make the long journey from Somerset for the meeting. He said in the Secretary's Newsletter:

“As Treasurer I thought it appropriate to write about the motion to increase fees for 1976-7. In 1970-71 our subscription was £3-3-0d, as it had been from 1963-64. In 1971-2, as a result of decimalisation, it became £ 4.50. By 1973 it was clear that inflation would call for another rise and in 1974-5 our fee became £ 7.00. Since that date, as you know from your own personal incomes, inflation has added 40%-50% to costs. Therefore, our fees need an additional, say 50%, to keep up with costs for the next two or three years. It seems inevitable that this sort of exercise is going to be necessary every two or three years, unless there is a return to the more constant value of our money as in the years before 1960. There will be much to be decided at our January Lodge meeting. Should we have a combined dining and membership fee? Should we retain our present system? Whatever is decided, the Lodge can only keep going if members support it wholeheartedly over the next few years in our new venue. Please help by attending regularly, so that the real purpose of the Lodge is achieved, i.e. a strengthening of the bonds between us all; by bringing a guest when you can to swell the numbers (minimum needed 30), by paying arrears to help solve our immediate difficulties; and by returning to the Secretary the card of attendance. Remember a minimum of 30 are needed. Meals ordered have to be paid for by the Lodge. A great deal of our Lodge funds over the last three years have gone to pay for dinners ordered and not cancelled or under the minimum.”

Another increase in subscriptions

There is no mention in the January meeting minutes of how the informal meeting went but the May meeting records that the increase in fees were as follows:

Annual Subscription: £10.50, Initiation Fee: £20, Joining or Re-joining Fee: £7.50, Country Members Fee: £ 6.00.

At Bro John Roake's Installation on 21st May 1976 there was a large attendance. There were 20 members and forty three guests. Surely a record.

Dining numbers at the other meetings during Bro Roake's year were good which would have pleased the Treasurer. After the Installation, a proposal was made for a joining member, Bro Geoffrey William Taylor an Installation Officer with National Westminster Bank and a Master Mason in Red Scarf Lodge no. 8448, proposed by The Worshipful Master and Seconded by Bro Secretary. Also a candidate for Initiation Mr Anthony John David Gilbert, son of W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert.

At the June meeting the ballot was successful for both candidates.

Following the ballot, the Worshipful Master immediately appointed and invested Bro Taylor as Junior Deacon of the Lodge. A rapid advancement! Bro Taylor had been the second Initiate in Red Scarf Lodge, a new Lodge of which the Worshipful Master had been a Founder. It was specifically founded as a Scouting Lodge for those involved with the Gang Show. This began a long association between our two Lodges resulting for many years, in a shared Lodge of Instruction and cross- visiting at meetings.

At the meeting on 24th September, the Worshipful Master vacated the Chair in favour of W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert who Initiated his son Anthony Gilbert. The Worshipful Master delivered the Ancient Charge. Congratulations were recorded from all present and also from W Bro Priddy who had written "under doctors orders" but was still hoping to be able to come to Lodge and sent his heartiest congratulations to W Bro Jack Gilbert and his son. Bro Harold was sorry not to be present as he had not seen a father Initiate his son before. Bearing in mind Harold's long association with the Lodge this was probably the first occasion in the Lodges history that a happy event like this had happened.

The constant problem of inflation

At the January meeting, the Secretary W Bro Hemingway, in his Newsletter wrote this: "We are constantly being told that inflation is a threat to our customary way of life and of course freemasonry cannot be excluded from this. We are having to face increased costs right across the board from Grand Lodge dues to the price of meals. I am afraid that I have to inform you that the Lancaster Gate Hotel have increased our rental charge and also meal prices which will be from £ 3.20 per person plus VAT. This may seem steep, but when I tell you that I was recently at a meeting at one of our sister Lodges at the Connaught Rooms where the dining fee was £7, it doesn't seem so bad! Nevertheless Jack Wilson our Treasurer is having great difficulty in keeping our finances in the black and I am sure he would greatly appreciate the payment of outstanding subscriptions. I don't have to stress how important it is to exceed our minimum dining figure of 30. So please bring as many guests as you can afford and return your slips early!"

Ladies Festivals

The Lodge had always enjoyed a successful Ladies Night. Bro Keith Turner was the Festival Secretary for W Bro John Roake's occasion where his ladies were his two aunts. It was memorable evening in January, well supported not only by the Lodge members and their ladies but by the "Gang Show" Lodge, Red Scarf including Bro Ralph Reader.

Bro Jim Grant a Scot, was Installed as Master in May 1977. Jim was Headmaster of a Church School in South London and a Graduate of Durham. He performed two Initiations and a Raising in his year with great efficiency. With his native modesty, he had said that if only time permitted he would definitely perform all three degrees in one evening just to show what a good ritualist he was!

More financial problems

Sadly in that year, the dining numbers only once exceeded the minimum figure. The Treasurer had reported that there was a deficit on the previous year's accounts of £50. This was entirely due to having to pay for dinners not consumed.

Earlier in the year a meeting of Past Masters discussed the approaching 75th Anniversary. As the actual date falls on Saturday 5th May 1979 it was thought that we might mark the occasion by moving our Installation meeting to coincide with this date. The Secretary had

written and gained the approval of the Grand Secretary with a promise that a senior Grand Officer could be in attendance. Bro Hemingway said that he would attempt to “produce something in printed form as a memento” (how history repeats itself!).

Not surprisingly, in the Secretary’s Newsletter of January 1978, the Treasurer once again drew the attention of the brethren to the financial situation. With costs rising all round it was essential to increase our membership to such a figure that there would be 30 members present at every Festive Board.

“The City Volunteer” was again the venue for Bro Jim and his Lady’s Festival, once again efficiently organised by Bro Keith Turner.

W Bro Fred Barty, a joining member and a senior Surrey mason was our Master in 1978. Fees were once again increased. There was a good attendance at the Installation meeting in May, 22 members and 24 guests. At the June meeting, W. Bro Jack Gilbert Raised his son Anthony. In thanking the Worshipful Master for giving him the opportunity of Raising his son, Bro Jack commented that it “afforded him the opportunity of delivering a long lecture to his son without being answered back.” Those of us who knew Headmaster and operatic producer Jack well, knew that “to answer him back” was more than anyone dare do!

Another family occasion

The meeting on 26th January 1979 saw yet another family occasion. The Worshipful Master vacated the Chair in favour of the Secretary, W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway who Initiated his son Mr Paul Christopher Hemingway, assisted by W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert (who had been his Headmaster) and W Bros G. Marley and K. Budd, all who had known Paul from an early age. In vacating the Chair in favour of the Master, W Bro Hemingway thanked him and the brethren who assisted him for their support on this memorable occasion in his and his son’s, Masonic career. Incidentally, the Worshipful Master, was a Master at Wilson’s Grammar School in Camberwell when Paul had been a pupil there.

We received W Bro R. Housman PAGDC as an official visitor from Grand Lodge at that meeting. A new Grand Lodge venture that perhaps was the beginning of “the planting of the seed” that has eventually become the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London!

75th Anniversary

The seventy-fifth Installation meeting (I guess), took place as planned, exactly seventy five years to the day of the Lodge’s Consecration on Saturday, 5th May 1979. The Worshipful Master, W Bro Fred Barty PPAGDC (Surrey) Installed another teacher, Bro Peter Gordon Granat. Among the 25 members present were three old stalwarts of the Lodge, W Bros Maxwell, Maguire and Thompson. There were 23 guests including 2 Grand Officers. Bro Granat was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon according to the custom of the University of Durham Lodge. “The extended inner working” as it is commonly called. On the third rising, greetings and best wishes from a number of other Lodgers were given on the occasion of the 75th Anniversary. At the festive board

following the meeting, W Bro Sammy Maguire LGR, former Secretary, now resident in Suffolk, gave a “brief observation” on the past 75 years. This proved very interesting and was well received.

Senior London Grand Rank

At the June meeting, the Secretary reported the introduction of Senior London Grand Rank and an increase in the number of London Grand Rank awards. As a matter of interest of the twenty three living Past Masters at that time, only seven were holders of London Grand Rank.

W Bro Granat proved to be an excellent ritualist. He had shown his ability in Lodge of Instruction which had been for some years under the direction of W Bro Jock Fraser.

The dining numbers at the three other meetings in the Masonic year were all sadly under the thirty minimum.

At the September meeting the brethren stood in silence as a mark of respect to the memory of W Bro Harold Priddy LGR, WM 1944, Secretary 1950-1962 who had died in June. W Bro Arthur Maxwell LGR spoke in tribute to Bro Harold and of his great and valued service to the Lodge. The Worshipful Master then thanked W Bro Maxwell for his care and concern for Bro Harold and his wife over recent years.

The 1980's

The 300th meeting of the Lodge was on 25th January 1980 with W Bro Peter Granat in the Chair who Raised Bro Paul Hemingway assisted by W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway who delivered the Charge. A notice of motion was given for yet another increase in fees. W Bro George Marley, the Almoner reported on the health of W Bro George Dale who was in hospital following the amputation of a leg. Sympathy and best wishes were sent to Bro George.

At the meeting on the 16th May, Bro Geoff Taylor was Installed as Master. There were 22 members and 36 guests present, including W Bro Ralph Reader and 10 other brethren from Red Scarf Lodge, Bro Geoff's mother Lodge.

Our own Grand Officer

Before the Installation, the Worshipful Master W Bro Granat congratulated W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert on his appointment as Past Assistant Grand Chaplain. The Worshipful Master said that this was an individual appointment based on merit and was well deserved. So once again the Lodge had its own Grand Officer.

As was well known in the Lodge, Bro Jack was the Headmaster and Bro Peter Granat his Deputy at Cheam Junior Boys School.

Another move, a permanent home at last?

At the June meeting, the Secretary gave notice of motion that “ with effect from the fourth Friday in January 1981 the Lodge will regularly meet at Mark Mason’s Hall, 86 St James Street, London SW1.” The motion was supported by eight brethren. A Dispensation had been granted in order that the Lodge could meet there at the September meeting.

The Secretary reported that he had received a call from Bro George Dale who was now at home and recovering slowly. The Secretary also announced that W Bro Jock Fraser, the Director of Ceremonies was to be Invested with London Grand Rank, a well-deserved honour.

Mark Mason’s Hall

On the 23rd January 1981 the Lodge met for the first time at Mark Mason’s Hall where we have met ever since! The notice of motion to alter the By-law and meet there was passed. There were 21 members and 7 guests present.

At the Installation of Bro Danny Sleeper in May, W Bro Edwards the Treasurer, presented the accounts. He said that the increase in subscriptions had improved the Lodge’s financial position and that a larger balance would be carried forward than the previous year.

The Secretary announced that Bro Hipkins was to be Ordained in the Church of England in June.

At the September meeting, Bro Secretary announced that W Bro Sammy Maguire was to be promoted to Senior London Grand Rank. Bro Sammy was now living in Suffolk and had joined a Lodge there. Bro Secretary also told the brethren that he himself had been appointed to London Grand Rank and promoted to Provincial Grand Chaplain in the Province of Surrey.

Numbers attending during that year varied little from Lancaster Gate but we did not have to cope with the 30 minimum dining rule!

Mr Jeremy James Gaskell and Mr Edward Granat were Initiated by W Bro Peter Granat at the January meeting in 1982. The Charge was given by W Bro Geoff Taylor.

Bro Keith Turner was Installed as Master in May 1982 with 20 members and 19 guests present. The Worshipful Master informed the brethren of the recent illness of W Bro Jock Fraser who was recovering from a heart attack. The good wishes of the Lodge were expressed for a speedy recovery.

The Secretary announced the appointment of Lord Farnham as Assistant Grand Master.

A new Pro Grand Master

At the September meeting also the Secretary announced the appointment of MW Bro Lord Cornwallis as Pro Grand Master and RW Bro The Hon Edward Latham Balieu as Deputy Grand Master. He also reported an increase of costs at Mark Mason's Hall particularly in the Temple Hire. A discussion followed and Bro Secretary, who was to attend a Secretary's meeting, promised to report at the next Lodge meeting.

The Lodge welcomed W Bro Jock Fraser after his recent illness. Bro Secretary gave apologies from W Bro Ken Budd who was recovering from heart surgery.

At the January meeting 1983, W Bro Keith Turner did a "double Raising" of Bros Knight and Turney with distinction.

Bro Secretary reported that the Lodge of Instruction regrettably had to close through lack of support. He urged the younger brethren particularly, to join an LOI near to where they lived. He could help them with venues. He also gave a report on the Secretaries meeting a Mark Masons Hall. He records no details but the Treasurer proposed yet another increase in subscriptions. This gives us a clue as to at least one conclusion that can be drawn from the Secretaries meeting!

At the meeting in May 1983, W Bro Keith Turner Installed W Bro Bill Petty. This was Bill's second time as Master. He was previously in the Chair in 1965. There were 21 members and 19 guests present.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr Graham Peter Hemingway, Local Government Officer. Proposed by his father, W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway and Seconded by his brother, Bro Paul Hemingway. Also for Mr David Alan Lucas, Local Government Officer. Proposed by W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway and Seconded by Bro Paul Hemingway.

At the June meeting both the candidates for Raising were absent! At very short notice the Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Jock Fraser gave an Explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board.

One more family occasion

At the September meeting, W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway Initiated his son, Mr Graham Peter Hemingway and Mr David Alan Lucas, both in local government working for the London Borough of Lambeth. Bro Paul Hemingway acted as Junior Deacon with W Bros Fraser and Budd assisting in the ceremony. W Bro Tony Chadney, Worshipful Master of the Hardware Lodge no. 3365 and Father in Law of Mr Graham Hemingway delivered the Charge. In vacating the Chair, W Bro Peter Hemingway thanked the Master for the opportunity of Initiating his second son into the Lodge.

The secretary had received a letter from Mrs Dale expressing thanks for the concern for Bro George whose health was now very poor.

At the January meeting 1984, a tribute was paid to the late W Bro George Dale, Worshipful Master in 1963 who had died in November . The brethren stood to order in his memory.

The Worshipful Master Raised Bro J Gaskell and Bro George Boyeldieu and gave the Traditional History.

Bro Secretary read a proposal form for a Joining Member, Bro Lee Power a Police Officer and Master Mason of Cheam Village Lodge no 6394 and as a candidate for Initiation, Mr Geoffrey Owen Masters a Retail Manager.

W Bro Bill Petty PPAGDC (Essex) the Worshipful Master, Installed Bro Carel Sartory at the May meeting. There were 14 officers and 15 guests present.

A joint ballot was taken for Bro Lee Power and Mr Geoffrey Masters which proved successful. Bro Graham Hemingway and Bro David Lucas were Passed at the June meeting. There were only 21 members and guests present. W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert PAGChap having been absent at the Installation meeting was Invested as Senior Warden.

At the September meeting the Worshipful Master Raised Bros G Hemingway and D. Lucas. The Traditional History was given by W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway assisted by W Bro Jock Fraser.

At the January meeting 1985, Bro Geoff Masters was Passed. Bro Secretary reported on Grand Lodge proceedings and especially the press release on recent criticism of Freemasonry.

The Worshipful Master, W Bro Carel Sartory Installed W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert PAGChap as Master for the second time. There were 20 members and 26 Guests present.

The Worshipful Master recorded the sad loss of W Bro Harold Botcherby LGR who had died on the 8th March. He called upon W Bro George Marley who gave a moving tribute to Bro Harold who had been a long and faithful servant of the Lodge and would be sadly missed. The brethren stood to order in tribute.

Another "Clerical" Grand Officer in the Lodge

W Bro Jock Fraser LGR proposed a vote of congratulations to the Secretary, W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway on his appointment and investiture to the active rank of Deputy Grand Chaplain in Grand Lodge. He proposed that his written remarks be appended to the minutes for "future reference." This was agreed. The secretary reluctantly complied! Bro Hemingway thanked Bro Fraser for his kind words and the brethren for their good wishes.

Apologies had been received from W Bro Keith Turner who had moved to Exmouth. He sent good wishes.

The June meeting was not well attended with only 16 members and guests present. Bro Geoff Masters was Raised by the Worshipful Master.

At the September meeting, a joint ballot was taken for W Bro Alan Child as a re-joining member and as a candidate for Initiation, Mr David Hurley. The ballot was successful and Mr Hurley was duly Initiated by the Worshipful Master.

The Secretary reported on "revised" charges by Mark Masons Hall.

The secretary spoke on the future of the Royal Masonic Hospital and had written to all brethren on the subject. There was to be a vote by all governors of the hospital, which almost certainly included most of the members of the Lodge. He urged all concerned to use their vote wisely.

A sad time

Shortly before the Installation meeting on the 16th May 1986 the secretary had to write an urgent and sad letter to all brethren. Dated the 8th May it read: "It is with deep regret that I have to inform you that the Worshipful Master, W.Bro Rev Jack Gilbert died suddenly this morning. The funeral service will be at St Dunstan's Church Cheam, Surrey on Tuesday 13th May 1986 at 10am followed by cremation at Randall's Park, Leatherhead."

This of course, was a great shock to his family and many friends in his church life, his school life and the amateur theatre for which he had given so much of his talent over so many years. There was a very large attendance at his funeral.

He had been due to Install Bro Paul Hemingway, one of his former pupils, only three days following the funeral. There is no doubt that Jack would have wanted the meeting to take place and plans were quickly put in place that that should happen.

W Bro Geoff Taylor acted as Worshipful Master and Opened the Lodge. After the Minutes were read and confirmed the brethren stood in silent tribute in memory of the Worshipful Master, W Bro Rev Jack Gilbert PAGChap, PPGChap(Surrey) who had died on Ascension Day, Thursday 8th May 1986. Bro Secretary paid tribute to Bro Jack giving details of his Masonic record and his considerable contribution to his mother Lodge. He would be sadly missed.

Brother Paul Hemingway was then Installed by his father, W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway assisted by W Bros Taylor and Fraser.

W Bro Fraser offered congratulations to W Bro Peter Hemingway on his re-appointment as Deputy Grand Chaplain.

Bro Secretary read a number of letters of condolence from brethren regarding the death of W Bro Jack Gilbert. Bro Treasurer proposed and W Bro Fraser seconded that the sum of £20 be sent to Cheam Parish Church in memory of the late W Bro Jack. This was unanimously carried. Bro Anthony Gilbert had written to thank the brethren for their kindness and sympathy.

The suggestion of a Centenary Fund

For the first time in a long while, the Lodge had no ceremony to perform at the June meeting. The secretary read the By-laws and once again W Bro Jock Fraser stepped into the breach by giving an excellent explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board.

W Bro Fraser proposed that the Lodge should establish a Centenary Fund to “defray the cost of the Centenary celebrations in the year 2004.”

There was a very small attendance at the September meeting, 13 members and only one guest, Bro J Saxena, later to become a member!

Arising from the minutes, the secretary reported on a recent committee meeting which had recommended the setting-up of a Centenary Fund. The secretary asked that a sum of £5 per member should be asked for, per annum from next May. This proposal was seconded by W Bro Ivor Wingfield and carried.

The Lodge was Opened in the second degree. Due to the unavoidable absence of the candidate for Raising, Bro Hurley, a rehearsal of the ceremony took place with Bro Geoff Masters volunteering as candidate.

The treasurer proposed yet another increase in subscriptions.

The Secretary informed the brethren that there was now a permanent exhibition on the history of Freemasonry in the library of Grand Lodge. This was open to the general public.

Grand Lodge had approved an alteration to the Penalties in the ritual and each Lodge was required to inform the Grand Secretary when these had been implemented.

W Bro Ivor Wingfield was to be honoured with London Grand Rank in October. He was congratulated.

A better attendance at the meeting on January 23rd saw W Bro Ivor Wingfield Open the Lodge due to the non-arrival of the Worshipful Master, W Bro Paul Hemingway. He arrived just in time to Initiate Mr Stephen Tucker, a Police Officer. This was the first time in the Lodge that the revised Obligation was used with the penalties omitted.

Another sad loss

At the Installation meeting on 15th May 1987, the Worshipful Master, after the Opening announced some very sad news. W Bro Jock Fraser had died on 2nd April. He called upon the secretary to pay tribute to him:

“Brother Jock had been Initiated into the Lodge in 1958. He was master in 1968. He was first ADC and then Director of Ceremonies for many years. As Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, he was its “driving force”. Jock was a master of the ritual, always ready at no notice at all to “step- in” to fill a gap or to deliver a lecture. Posterity will show that Bro Jock was one of the “Shining Lights” in the Lodge’s history. He received the richly deserved honour of London Grand Rank in 1980. He had great dedication and leadership and tremendous enthusiasm combined with an ability to teach and encourage. He was present and active at the last Installation meeting and delivered a lecture at the June meeting last year. He became ill soon after. He showed great courage during his illness. His dedication to the Lodge was seen in knowing that he was unlikely to be present at this May meeting, he re-wrote and typed the extended Inner Working to comply with the new Grand Lodge rule regarding the penalties. It was a slow and laborious job which he tackled with his usual love and dedication. Jock was always an innovator, the Lodge always came first. It was he who suggested that a Centenary Fund should be set up. It is fitting that it should begin in the year of his death. I feel privileged to propose that it should be called the Fraser Centenary Fund as a memorial to him and his great contribution and example to the Lodge.

There was a large gathering at his funeral, well supported by this, his mother Lodge. He will be sadly missed.”

The brethren stood in silent tribute to his memory.

His year in office had been particularly sad for W Bro Paul Hemingway having lost both Jack Gilbert at the beginning and Jock Fraser at the end. They both had known Paul for most of his life.

Fraser Centenary Fund opened

Bro Treasurer proposed that a Post Office Investment account named the University of Durham Lodge Fraser Centenary Fund should be opened. This was carried.

The Worshipful Master then Installed W Bro Jim Grant for his second term, he had previously occupied the Chair in 1977.

W Bro Jim Grant’s year progressed reasonably uneventfully. Bro Stephen Tucker was Passed in June. Bro Jitendra Saxena Joined the Lodge and Bro Tucker was Raised in September. Congratulations were offered to W Bro Jim Edwards who was to be Invested with London Grand Rank in October

In January, the Worshipful Master gave an excellent presentation of the First Degree Tracing Board. A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr Glen Tyzack and Bro Lee Power was elected as Master for the ensuing year.

A "Very" Grand Chaplain

After Opening the Lodge in May 1988, the Worshipful Master congratulated V W Bro Rev Peter Hemingway on his recent appointment as Grand Chaplain. W Bro Sammy Maguire was elected an Honorary Member and there was a successful ballot for Mr Glen Tyzack to be Initiated. The Worshipful Master Installed Bro Lee Power according to the custom of the Lodge.

The accounts were presented with a loss of £14. The treasurer commented that dinners were being ordered and not paid for. Bro Secretary commented that we needed to be more rigorous about dining numbers. Those meals ordered must be paid for.

Bro Secretary reported that W Bro F. Barty, W Bro J. K. Turner and Bro A Gilbert had resigned. These were accepted with regret. Brothers Turner and Gilbert intimated that if their personal circumstances changed they might seek re-election. Happily in the case of Keith Turner this has happened. He is once again a full member!

At the June meeting Mr Glen Tyzack was Initiated and his brother in law, Bro G. Masters gave the Charge after Initiation.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation for Mr Paul O'Neilly, a Dental Surgeon was read.

At the meeting in September, The Worshipful Master Passed Bro Tyzack and his proposer, W Bro Paul Hemingway, Initiated Mr O'Neilly.

At the meeting on 27th January 1989 the Worshipful Master Raised Bro Tyzack.

An increase in subscriptions was approved and Bro Jeremy Gaskell was elected Master for the ensuing year. At the Installation of Bro Gaskell on 19th May there were 21 members present and 19 guests. Bro Gaskell was Installed by W Bro Power according to the custom of the Lodge.

Proposal Forms for two candidates for Initiation were read, Mr Lawrence West and Mr Simon Bancroft- Hinchey.

In June, the Worshipful Master Passed Bro O'Neilly and W Bro Paul Hemingway delivered the Tracing board. The ballot for the candidates for Initiation was successful. W Bro Jack Wilson, Master in 1959 and Treasurer for many years was elected an Honorary Member.

Best wishes were extended to Bro O'Neilly who was about to leave for the USA for a two year dental scholarship.

At the September meeting, the death of W Bro Clifford Lund, Master in 1961 was reported.

Mr Christopher Bancroft-Hinchey was Initiated by the Worshipful Master. The Charge after Initiation was given by W Bro Wingfield.

Congratulations were offered to W Bro Jim Grant who was to be invested with London Grand Rank.

The secretary gave notice that Universities Lodge no 2352 in Durham, was to celebrate its Centenary on 27th April 1990. Our Master was to be invited as a guest. Other brethren would be welcome but would sadly have to pay for their dinners! Academic hoods and gowns would be worn.

The 1990's

At the Installation Meeting on 18th May 1990 there were 29 members and 31 guests present. The guests included V W Bro Gavin Purser the Grand Director of Ceremonies and W Bro Ken Reed PSGD Asst Prov Grand Master of Middlesex.

The ballot for a Joining Member, Bro Arthur Bancroft- Hinchey and as an Initiate, Mr Keith Nicholson was successful. Brother Bancroft-Hinchey was welcomed into the Lodge as a member.

Bro Graham Hemingway was then Installed into the Chair by W Bro Jerry Gaskell, the Worshipful Master. The addresses were given as follows: Master VW Bro Peter Hemingway, Wardens: W Bro Paul Hemingway, Brethren: W Bro W. Hartley.

W Bro Carel Sartory, Festival Secretary reported on a highly successful Ladies Festival at Tunbridge Wells.

After the Opening and the reading of the Minutes at the meeting on June 15th, the Worshipful Master welcomed the guests including W Bro Hoffbrand, Worshipful Master of our sister Lodge University of London no 2033.

Mr Lawrence West was Initiated by the Worshipful Master.

The Working Tools were presented by Bro David Lucas, Senior Warden and Proposer of the candidate and the Charge after Initiation was given by W Bro Jim Grant LGR.

The Worshipful Master reminded the brethren that his list was for The Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, 50% to go to Cornwallis Court in Bury St Edmunds where the late W Bro Jack Gilbert's mother in law resides.

W Bro Paul Hemingway had recently been a guest at his old school Lodge, Old Wilsonians Lodge no 6602. He brought greetings from its Worshipful Master, W Bro Fred Barty, a former member and Past Master of this Lodge.

A Right Worshipful Guest

At the meeting in September, the Worshipful Master welcomed the guests including RW Bro Gordon Bourne, Pro Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex. The first brother of Right Worshipful rank to be present in the Lodge in living memory.

The Master Initiated Mr Keith Nicholson and the Charge was given by Bro Geoffrey Masters, Junior Warden.

The secretary announced that at the Investiture in October, W Bro Geoff Taylor our Director of Ceremonies was to be Invested with London Grand Rank. Congratulations were offered for this well deserved honour.

The Worshipful Master Raised W Bro Christopher Bancroft-Hinchey to the Third Degree at the January 1991 meeting. The Charge was given by VW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway and the Traditional History by W Bro Jeremy Gaskell.

At the Installation Meeting on 17th May 1991, the Worshipful Master Installed Bro David Lucas. There were 20 members and 20 guests present.

An increase in subscriptions was approved as follows: Initiation fee £40, Joining fee: £17.50, Annual Subs: £40 (within 50 miles of London), £30 (outside 50 miles of London).

At the June meeting, Bro Lawrence West was Passed by the Worshipful Master and the Second Degree Tracing Board was presented by W Bro Paul Hemingway.

Details were given of the celebrations of the 275th Anniversary of Grand Lodge to be held at Earls Court.

Cash flow problems

At the meeting in September, W Bro Paul Hemingway presented the report of the Charities Association. He said that there had been a general loss of interest in supporting the charities and the Association was having to subsidise general Lodge funds because of cash flow problems. This was due to brethren being slow in the payment of subscriptions. It was stressed that there was a pressing need for more prompt payment. Ways and means of encouraging this were discussed. Payment by Bankers Order was suggested.

W Bro Graham Hemingway thanked the brethren for their support of his Master's List.

Bro Keith Nicholson was Passed to the Second Degree by the Worshipful Master and the Tracing Board was presented by W Bro Paul Hemingway.

The secretary gave further details of the 275th Anniversary celebrations which were to take place in June 1992. A proposal form was read for a candidate for Initiation: Mr Ian Chawner, a police Officer. Proposed by Bro S Tucker and Seconded by Bro Nicholson.

In January 1992, following a successful ballot, Mr Ian Chawner was Initiated into the Lodge of Masonry by the Worshipful Master. The Charge was given by Bro G. Masters the Senior Warden and a Grand Lodge Certificate was presented to Bro C Hinchey by VW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway.

A commemorative jewel

The secretary reported that a jewel was to be struck to commemorate the 275th Anniversary. Individual jewels for brethren would cost £10 each and one for the Master's collar £100. The purchase of a jewel for the Master's collar was approved to commemorate this milestone in English freemasonry.

The Charity Steward announced progress on the New Masonic Samaritan Fund which needed support. The problems of the Royal Masonic Hospital were discussed.

At the Meeting in May, Bro Geoffrey Owen Masters was Installed in the Chair by the Worshipful Master, W Bro David Lucas. The addresses were given by W Bro Sartory to the Master, W Bro Petty to the Wardens and W Bro Hartley to the brethren.

Further details regarding the 275th Anniversary celebrations were given.

The secretary reported that he had received a letter of resignation from W Bro Ivor Wingfield LGR. It was with genuine sorrow and regret that we had to accept this for Bro Ivor had given great service to the Lodge over many years, and his presence would indeed be missed.

Absent for the first time in forty years!

W Bro George Marley LGR had recently suffered a stroke and although he was recovering would not be present and was in fact missing the first Installation meeting for forty years. Best wishes for a speedy recovery were expressed to one of our most loyal and enthusiastic members.

The Worshipful Master welcomed the brethren and guests to the June meeting, held for the first time in the Grand Temple of Mark Masons Hall.

The treasurer presented the accounts reporting that the loss shown was due to the lateness of fees being paid before April 31st. The situation was now satisfactory. He pleaded that subscriptions should be paid more promptly. Benevolent Fund money should not be "borrowed" because of cash flow problems.

Bro Paul O'Neilly was Raised to the Third Degree by the Worshipful Master and the Traditional History was given by W Bro Carel Sartory.

Grand Lodge 275th Anniversary celebrations

The secretary described the events of the 275th Anniversary celebrations of Grand Lodge at the Earls Court arena. It was an inspiring occasion attended by over ten thousand brethren from all over the world. The Lodge had been well represented by the Worshipful Master and other brethren. It was an occasion that all present would long remember.

The secretary read a proposal form for Initiation for Mr Paul Michael Kurn a Design Draughtsman. Details would appear on the next summons. A letter from Mrs Vera Marley thanked the Lodge for its support of George. His speech had been affected and his ability to write. He was however improving slowly. He was thrilled to hear that he had been appointed to Senior London Grand Rank.

Best ever charity result

At the September meeting, W Bro Paul Hemingway the Charity Steward gave his report. This past year had been the highest charity amount ever. The brethren were to be congratulated on the result but should not be complacent and support was needed for the Master's List this year. The adoption of the Charity accounts were adopted with thanks to the Charity Steward.

The ballot for a candidate for Initiation for Mr Paul Michael Kurn was successful. He would be Initiated at the following meeting. Bro Keith Nicholson was then Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Worshipful Master. The Traditional History was given by W Bro Walter Hartley. The Worshipful Master in congratulating Bro Hartley for a wonderful rendition commented that it was 26 years since Bro Walter had been in the Chair.

A Masonic video

The secretary announced that a Video recording of the 275th Anniversary celebrations of Grand Lodge was now available.

He also announced with pleasure that W Bro Carel Sartory was to be appointed to London Grand Rank.

A further sad loss

At the meeting in January 1993, it was announced with deep regret, the sudden death, whilst on a cruise, of W Bro Sammy Maguire SLGR on New Year's Day. Brother Secretary and W Bro Bill Petty both gave tributes to his life and immense contribution to the Lodge especially during his long time as secretary when his wise counsel carried the Lodge through difficult periods. Although following his retirement to Suffolk, Bro Sammy's attendances were few, he kept a great interest and corresponded regularly with the older members. He will indeed be missed. The brethren stood in silent tribute to his memory.

The Worshipful Master then Passed Bro Ian Chawner. The Tracing Board presentation was deferred. Mr Paul Kurn was then admitted and Initiated by the Worshipful Master. The Charge after Initiation was given by the Senior Warden, Bro S.K. Tucker.

The secretary announced with regret the resignation of W Bro Jim Grant LGR who had been Master in 1977 and 1987.

A Junior Grand Warden retires as Secretary

At the Installation meeting on May 21st 1993, there were 18 members and 15 guests present. The Worshipful Master offered hearty congratulations to Bro Secretary, Right Worshipful Brother Rev Peter Hemingway on his appointment and Investiture to the active rank of Junior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England at the Grand Festival in Freemasons Hall on 28th April last. Bro Hemingway was then saluted and responded with thanks to the Worshipful Master for his kind remarks.

A vote of thanks was expressed to W Bro Carel Sartory who was to retire as Treasurer after four years in office. A vote of thanks was also proposed by W Bro G Taylor and seconded by W Bro C Sartory for RW Bro Peter Hemingway who was also to retire as Secretary of the Lodge after eighteen years in office. Bro Hemingway responded with thanks, commenting that there had been only a handful of secretaries in the Lodge's history and although he had enjoyed his period enormously he hoped that his successor would not "hang on to the job" as long as he had. It was good for the Lodge for jobs to be handed on more frequently.

The Master Elect was Bro Stephen Karl Tucker was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon according to the custom of the Lodge.

Proposal forms were read for candidates for Initiation for Mr Andrew Timothy Robinson and Mr Stefan Iwan Tkaczyk.

London to have a Charity Festival

The secretary spoke of the proposed London Festival for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund 1993-6.

W Bro Paul Hemingway, Charity Steward, reported another record year for the Charity account but there was always room for improvement.

The secretary announced with regret, the resignation of W Bro Jim Edwards who had served the Lodge well as Master and Treasurer. The secretary said that he would write to him accepting his resignation with regret and wishing him and his family well.

At the meeting in June, following a successful ballot, the Worshipful Master Initiated Mr Andrew Timothy Robinson, Captain in HM Army. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Ian Chawner and the Charge was given by W Bro Geoff Masters.

RW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway proposed and W Bro Jeremy Gaskell seconded that W Bro George Marley SLGR should be elected an Honorary Member. This was approved unanimously.

The new Treasurer, Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey, announced that the accounts had been audited and said that as he had not been treasurer during the previous year, he felt able to propose their adoption. This was seconded by W Bro Masters and carried.

At the meeting in September, W Bro Paul Hemingway was congratulated on being appointed to London Grand Rank He was to be Invested in October by the Assistant Grand Master. The Charities had again raised a record amount. A total of £850 was to be split between The Samaritans and the New Masonic Samaritan Fund. This qualified the Lodge for Patron status. A vote of thanks was proposed to W Bro Paul Hemingway for his hard work.

Bro Ian Chawner was then Raised to the Third Degree by the Worshipful Master. W Bro G Taylor delivered the Traditional History. The proposed Initiation of Mr Stefan Tkaczyk was postponed as he was unavailable.

Charities Act

The secretary said that the new Charities Act would affect Masonic charitable giving and needed to be studied carefully.

A proposal form in the name of Mr Timothy James Cook, a Recruitment Consultant, was read.

The secretary reported that a new association was being formed to be called the School Lodges Association incorporating Lodges with school, college or university backgrounds. It was approved and carried that the Lodge should join this association and two brethren agreed to attend the inaugural meeting and report back.

At the meeting on January 28th 1994 W Bro Geoff Masters occupied the Master's Chair as the Master, was unfortunately attending his aunt's funeral. He had asked that his apologies be given and wishes to the brethren for a pleasant evening.

It was the 40th Anniversary of W Bro Bill Petty's Initiation. He was unable to be present but congratulations were offered to Bill on this milestone in his masonic career.

Bro Paul Kurn was Passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft by the Worshipful Master.

The Working Tools were presented by Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey. The Tracing Board was deferred to a later date.

The Worshipful Master asked RW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway to take the Chair who, following a successful ballot, Initiated Mr Timothy James Cook. The Charge was given by W Bro Geoff Taylor.

The Royal Masonic Hospital to close

The secretary announced that Coopers and Lybrand had been appointed receivers of the Royal Masonic Hospital by the Charity Commissioners.

The treasurer gave notice that at the next meeting he would propose an increase in subscriptions. £40 to £50 and country members from £30 to £40.

After the Opening of the Lodge on 20th May, the Worshipful Master, W Bro Stephen Tucker, informed the brethren of the unfortunate death of our Tyler, W Bro Arthur Rideout who had died in February after a long illness. The brethren stood to order in his memory.

The treasurer presented the accounts and after answering a few questions, he was congratulated on the layout and presentation. They were adopted and accepted unanimously.

The Worshipful Master then Installed W Bro J.K. Saxena in the Chair according to the custom of the Lodge.

The treasurer following his notice of motion, proposed an increase in subscriptions. This was proposed, seconded and adopted. Brethren were reminded that in paying their fees, a donation of £5 was needed if not expected towards the Fraser Centenary Fund.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read in the name of Mr Mark Gregory Bissell.

Warm weather

At the June meeting, the Worshipful Master allowed the brethren to remove their gloves because of the warm weather. He then Passed Bro Tim Robinson to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The Tracing Board was presented by W Bro G. Taylor.

The treasurer suggested that RW Bro Peter Hemingway be nominated as London Visitors Scheme representative. The brethren agreed that given time he might be suitable!

An apology had been received from W Bro Ken Budd who had unfortunately been in hospital.

Bro Secretary informed the brethren that he was to be Installed as WM of Solea Lodge no 9498 in the Province of Suffolk in Bury St Edmunds on 25th October and that all would

be welcome as his guest. W Bro Walter Hartley remarked upon this “remarkable institution” where all men are equal, indeed we even have one of the High Rulers of Masonry adopting the role of Inner Guard in our own Lodge.

Low attendances

A small number of brethren attended the September meeting and a number of Past Masters had to occupy the offices.

Bro Tim Cook was Passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft by the Worshipful Master. The presentation of the Tracing Board was deferred.

A ballot for a candidate for Initiation for Mr Richard Charles Divall, an engineer, proved successful. W Bro G. Masters was invited to take the Chair and Initiated Mr Divall. The Charge was given by Bro G. Tyzack and the Working Tools by W Bro J. Gaskell.

Bro Alan Webster who now lived in the north of England had recently suffered a severe stroke. It was decided that an application to the Grand Charity should be made on his behalf for assistance.

Further sad losses

Again, the attendance at the meeting on 27th January 1995 was small, 14 members and 1 guest.

The Worshipful Master announced that once again there was sad news for the Lodge. W Bro Arthur Maxwell LGR and W Bro Ken Budd LGR had both died since the previous meeting. W Bro Bill Petty paid tribute to Bro Arthur, WM in 1958 who had been Director of Ceremonies for a number of years. RW Bro Peter Hemingway spoke warmly about Bro Ken, WM in 1971. He had been Chaplain of the Lodge as well as an Assistant Director of Ceremonies. He was a highly gifted artist and the Lodge symbol which he designed, would be a lasting memorial to him. Both brethren would be sadly missed. The brethren stood to order in their memory.

W Bro Stephen Tucker was invited to take the Chair and Raised Bro Paul Michael Kurn to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. The Traditional History was delivered by W Bro Bill Petty.

Bro Glen Tyzack was elected Master, and Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey was elected treasurer for the ensuing year.

W Bro Jeremy Gaskell was currently WM of Sir Thomas White Lodge no 1820 and W Bro Graham Hemingway was WM of Solea Lodge no 9498.

At the Installation meeting on 19th May 1995 there were 16 members and 10 guests present. The Master-elect, Bro Glen Tyzack was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon according to the custom of the Lodge. W Bro Sartory gave the Address to the Master, W Bro Taylor to the Wardens and RW Bro Hemingway to the Brethren.

The secretary announced that the London School Lodges Festival was to be held 2nd September.

The secretary sadly reported the exclusion of a brother for non-payment of dues.

W Bro Carel Sartory stressed the importance of the Jock Fraser Centenary Fund.

At the June meeting, W Bro Paul Hemingway reported on the Charity Account. He proposed that at the forthcoming London Festival for the New Masonic Samaritan Fund, the Lodge should aim to achieve bronze award as soon as possible. All members were urged to take covenants.

Bro Richard Charles Divall was Passed to the degree of a Fellow Craft by the Worshipful Master. The Tracing Board was presented by W Bro Paul Hemingway LGR.

Bro Treasurer explained that the Lodge continued to suffer cash-flow problems. Annual dues were required as soon as possible!

Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey gave news of the Worshipful Master's Ladies Festival to be held at the Queen's Hotel Brighton.

Another Senior London Grand Rank and three Tyzacks!

At the meeting in September, Bro Tim Robinson was Raised to the Third Degree by the Worshipful Master assisted by RW Bro Peter Hemingway and W Bro Carel Sartory. The Worshipful Master greeted W Bro Fred Barty a Past Master of the Lodge and a former member, on his first visit for many years.

The secretary announced that W Bro Geoff Taylor LGR was to be Invested with Senior London Grand Rank and W Bro Jeremy Gaskell with London Grand Rank. The news was greeted with pleasure and support.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr Alan Chawner, Electrical Engineer.

W Bro Carel Sartory spoke warmly of the late and sadly missed W Bro Ken Budd.

In welcoming the guests at the meeting in January 1996, the Worshipful Master, W Bro Glen Tyzack, said that he was delighted to see three Tyzack's present. Bros Trevor and Craig of Londesborough Lodge no 1681 as well, of course, himself!

Following a successful ballot, The Worshipful Master Initiated Mr Alan Chawner. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Tim Robinson and the Charge was excellently presented by the Senior Warden, Bro Chris Hinchey.

A ballot was taken for the Master and Treasurer for the ensuing year. It was unanimous in favour of Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey as Master and his father Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey as Treasurer.

There was then discussion about achieving a Bronze award for the NMSF. W Bro Taylor undertook to hand out covenant forms.

RW Bro Peter Hemingway reported that as Third Grand Principal he had been guest of honour at a Royal Arch Chapter Bi-Centenary in Plymouth where he had met W Bro Keith Turner, a Past Master of the Lodge. Bro Keith asked to be remembered to the brethren.

A new Director of Ceremonies

There were 16 members and 12 guests present at the Installation meeting on 17th May 1996. Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon.

In his Investiture of officers, the WM appointed W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR as Director of Ceremonies. W Bro Geoff Taylor SLGR, was heartily thanked for his splendid service over the past ten years as DC. He was not going to take a back seat however, for he was Invested as Charity Steward.

The addresses were given by W Bro Masters to the Master, W Bro Saxena to the Wardens and W Bro Sartory to the Brethren.

The secretary informed the brethren of the resignation of W Bro Stephen Tucker. This was accepted with much sadness and regret. Bro Steve had been a very keen and active member.

At the meeting in June the Worshipful Master informed the brethren that since the last meeting, W Bro Bill Petty had died. R W Bro Peter Hemingway, who had visited Bill in hospital, paid tribute to him for his contribution to the Lodge over many years. Also to his activities in the Province of Essex and many other degrees in masonry. The brethren stood to order in his memory.

Bro Richard Divall was Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Worshipful Master. The Exhortation, Charge and Signs were delivered by W Bro Geoff Masters and the Traditional History by W Bro Geoff Taylor.

It was unanimously agreed that the Lodge should open a Lodge Relief Chest.

At the meeting in September, W Bro Jeremy Gaskell presented the Lodge with a cushion with a pedestal fall in Durham Palatinate purple. This was for the Volume of the Sacred Law to rest on. It had the Lodge's name and number embroidered on it. The Worshipful Master expressed his, and the Lodge's grateful thanks for this wonderful gift.

Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey, the Treasurer was welcomed back after his recent illness. He then expressed his happiness at being present.

The Worshipful Master then presented the Lodge with a new gavel for use in the Lodge. Again, sincere thanks were given for this generous gift.

W Bro Taylor, the Charity Steward said that he had written to all the brethren that the Lodge should aim for a gold jewel for the London Festival.

The Worshipful Master Invests his father

The Treasurer presented the accounts and after answering a few questions, they were adopted unanimously. He was thanked for all his work in what had been a difficult year for him.

The Worshipful Master then took great delight in Investing his father as Treasurer of the Lodge.

Bro Alan Chawner was Passed to the Second Degree by the Worshipful Master and the Tracing Board was presented by W Bro G Taylor who was thanked for "an excellent piece of work."

The secretary informed the brethren of the resignations of W Bro Alan Webster and Bro Eric Knight. They were accepted with much sadness.

A Bronze Jewel

Friday, 24th January 1997, saw 16 members and 4 guests present.

The Charity Steward reported that the Lodge had now received its Bronze Jewel, a Silver is within grasp and that a Gold is certainly achievable.

Bro Alan Chawner was Raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason by the Worshipful Master. The Exhortation was given by W Bro Tyzack, the Charge and Signs by W Bro Masters and the Traditional History by W Bro Taylor.

Bro Paul O'Neilly was elected Master and Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

After the Lodge was Opened at the Installation meeting in May, the Charity Steward, W Bro Geoff Taylor reported that the Lodge was only 2 covenants away from achieving a Gold Jewel for the London Festival for the NMSF. Thanks were expressed to Bro Paul

Hemingway and Geoff Taylor for all their hard work. Bro Treasurer presented the accounts for 1996/7. It was proposed that £250 be donated from the Charity Account to the Gunnar Nilson Fund. This was carried. It was then proposed that the Ladies Festival account be closed with £250 to be donated to the NMSF and £128.89 to the Jock Fraser Centenary Fund. Again this was carried unanimously. The general accounts were proposed, seconded and adopted with a vote of thanks to the treasurer.

Bro Paul John Roffey O'Neilly was then Installed in the Chair of King Solomon by the Worshipful Master according to the custom of the Lodge. After the WM had appointed and Invested his officers, the addresses were given as follows: Master by W Bro Gaskell, Wardens by W Bro Masters and Brethren by W Bro Saxena.

The secretary gave notice of the 50th Anniversary Festival of the Federation of School Lodges to be held at Tiffin's School, Kingston on Thames on 6th September 1997.

A proposal form for an Initiate, Mr Ronald Chawner, a Transport Manager was read.

A Gold Jewel

At the June meeting, the Charity Steward circulated the Charity Association accounts. They were proposed, seconded and adopted. The Charity Steward then proudly announced that the Gold Jewel target had been attained and that the jewel would be presented in November 1997. Thanks were expressed to Bro Geoff and Bro Paul Hemingway for all of their hard work towards this.

Following a successful ballot, the Worshipful Master Initiated Mr Ronald James Chawner. The Working Tools were presented by his brother, Bro Alan Chawner and the Charge was given by Bro Carel Sartory LGR.

Bro Glen Tyzack informed the brethren of a Garden Party to be held on 27th July at his home in Twyford in aid of the Fraser Centenary Fund.

Death of a Past Pro Grand Master

The Worshipful Master announced at the beginning of the September meeting the death of RW Bro Earl Cadogan Past Pro Grand Master, and in our Lodge, in particular, W Bro Walter Hartley LGR and Bro Ben Hooper. RW Bro Peter Hemingway spoke warmly and appreciably of all three brethren who had in their own and very individual ways, served masonry well. He echoed the views of many of those present, when he suggested that Bro Walter would affectionately be remembered and impossible to replace.

The Charity Steward reported that the Lodge was now to be presented with its Gold NMSF Jewel on 22nd January 1998.

Bro Ronald Chawner was Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft by the Worshipful Master, the Working Tools were presented by W Bro Geoff Masters and the Tracing

Board by W Bro Paul Hemingway LGR. The Worshipful Master congratulated him on his excellent rendition.

London Visiting Scheme

The secretary reported on the new London visiting scheme and that the Lodge's visitor was to be W Bro Tony Southwood AGStB.

He also gave notice of the 1998 Grand Charity Festival and the London Festival Gala Dinner.

W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR informed the brethren of a proposed visit to the Authors Lodge on 19th November to see their extended inner working and the possibility of the formation of an association with other similar London Lodges.

W Bro David Lucas, the Almoner, reported that he had heard from Mrs Hartley and it was agreed that the charity column be donated to the NSPCC in memory of Walter.

W Bro Geoff Masters reported on Red Scarf Lodge 25th Anniversary meeting and the Gold Jewel Presentation to them at the meeting.

W Bro Glen Tyzack reported that £500 had been raised for the Jock Fraser Centenary Fund at his Garden Party. Bro Glen was thanked for his generosity and hard work. It was felt however, disappointing that only a few members had been able to attend.

At the meeting on 23rd January 1998, W Bro Geoff Taylor SLGR, Charity Steward, reported that the Lodge had raised over £10,000 for the NMSF and as a consequence had been presented with a Gold Jewel the previous evening. The Festival had raised £10,400,000 over the last four years and was an excellent result.

A ballot for a Joining member, Bro Robin Woods, a Police Officer and a Master Mason of Middlesex Century Lodge no 5837. Also for a candidate for Initiation, Mr Laurence Nigel Carr, an Information Technology Manager was taken. In both cases the ballot was successful. Bro Woods entered the Lodge and was welcomed as a member. Mr Laurence Carr was then Initiated by the Worshipful Master. The Working Tools were presented by W Bro Tyzack and the Charge by W Bro Masters.

W Bro Carel Sartory LGR was elected Master and Bro Arthur Bancroft- Hinchey as Treasurer for the ensuing year. This was to be Bro Carel's second time in the Chair. He previously served as Master in 1984.

W Bro Gaskell reported on his visit to Authors Lodge, which he found to be an interesting and instructive evening. He suggested an affiliation with other similar Lodge's should be explored.

The Worshipful Master welcomed our newly appointed Visiting Grand Officer W Bro Tony Southwood AGSt B and W Bro Bahadur Najak, IPM of Universities Lodge no 2352 in Durham.

At the Installation meeting in May, there were 14 members and 6 guests present including our Official Visitor, W Bro Tony Southwood.

Bro Treasurer presented the accounts, pointing out the deficit for the year. After questions, he gave notice of a motion for an increase in fees and a change in the amount of time allowed for payment of dues. It was also suggested that a voluntary levy be paid by June 1998 of £10 to alleviate the position. The accounts were adopted with thanks to the treasurer for his hard work.

W Bro Carel Sartory LGR, was then Installed in the Chair of King Solomon according to the tradition of the Lodge, by the Worshipful Master. After the appointment and Investiture of the officers, the addresses were given to the Master by W Bro Geoff Masters, the Wardens by W Bro Jit Saxena and the Brethren by RW Bro Peter Hemingway.

The secretary read a very pleasant letter to the Lodge that he had received from W Bro George Marley SLGR.

In presenting the Charity Association accounts at the June Meeting, the Charity Steward proposed that the sum of £500 be added to the Master's List for the Bud Flanagan Cancer Fund. The accounts and this proposition were unanimously accepted. The Charity Steward, W Bro Geoff Taylor reminded the brethren that a successor for his post was urgently needed!

The Worshipful Master then Passed Bro Laurence Carr to the degree of a Fellow Craft. The Tracing Board was excellently explained by W Bro Gaskell LGR.

The Royal Masonic Hospital sold

After the Lodge was Opened at the September meeting, the Charity Steward reported the sale of the Royal Masonic Hospital. Proceeds were to go to the NMSF and London money would be kept separate.

The Worshipful Master vacated the Chair in favour of W Bro Geoff Taylor SLGR. W Bro Geoff Masters took his place as Junior Warden. Bro Taylor then Raised Bro Ronald Chawner to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. W Bro Paul O'Neilly explained the Traditional History and the signs of the Degree. The Worshipful Master then resumed the Chair.

W Bro Gaskell LGR reported his intention to once again visit Universities Lodge in Durham on 18th March and invited others to join him.

The secretary reported that W Bro David Lucas was to be invested with London Grand Rank in October. W Bro Lee Power had received Provincial honours in Surrey.

Mrs Babs Fraser unfortunately needed a knee operation. Concern was expressed about contact with the Lodge's widows.

The next meeting of the Lodge was on 22nd January 1999. There were present 10 members and 4 visitors.

The Charity Steward reported that he would be writing to all the brethren before the next meeting and expressed his wish that the Centenary in 2004 would coincide with a significant donation to charity.

The Lodge was Called Off. The Worshipful Master welcomed W Bro John Hamill PSGD, Grand Librarian who delivered a lecture entitled "Time Immemorial." The lecture, without any notes, kept all those present entertained and enthralled.

The Worshipful Master then thanked Bro John for his lecture describing it as "a veritable feast."

The Lodge was Called On. Bro Ian Chawner was elected Master and Bro Arthur Bancroft- Hinchey was elected Treasurer for the ensuing year. Bro Arthur thanked the brethren for their continued confidence and support.

W Bro Cresswell Alcock was unanimously elected a Joining Member of the Lodge and was warmly welcomed by the Worshipful Master. W Bro Anthony Graham Frost, PM of the Duke of Richmond Lodge no 3143, was proposed by W Bro Tyzack and seconded by W Bro Masters as a Joining Member.

The secretary gave a number of apologies including that of the Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR who was married yesterday in Antigua (not considered a very good excuse!).

Bro Treasurer happily reported that all subscriptions had been paid but reminded the brethren of the forthcoming proposal for an increase.

At the Installation meeting on 21st May there were 15 members and 5 guests present.

After the Lodge was Opened, it was reported, with sadness, the death of W Bro Jack Wilson. RW Bro Peter Hemingway spoke warmly of Bro Jack who had been Master in 1959. It was Bro Jack who had Initiated him during that year. He had been a very dedicated Treasurer for a number of years. He was a humble and genuine individual who, when offered London Grand Rank politely declined the honour. He, and Sammy Maguire together, had carried the Lodge through difficult times.

Another Grand Officer in the Lodge

The good news announced was the well-deserved appointment to Grand Rank of W Bro Geoff Taylor. He had been Invested as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies at the Grand Festival in April. He was congratulated by all the brethren. The Lodge had another Grand Officer.

Geoff as Charity Steward, who was to stand down in that office, suggested that the accounts be presented in June. The Worshipful Master thanked him for his efforts over recent years and expressed his delight that a keen replacement had been found for this important role.

Bro Treasurer presented the accounts announcing that the deficit shown had been cleared by a few donations. The adoption of the accounts was proposed, seconded and carried with thanks to the treasurer.

Bro Ian Edward Chawner was then Installed in the Chair by the Worshipful Master, W Bro Carel Sartory LGR The Worshipful Master appointed and Invested his officers including W Bro Chris Bancroft- Hinchey as Charity Steward. The addresses were given by W Bro Masters to the Master, to the Wardens, W Bro Saxena and to the Brethren W Bro Paul Hemingway.

W Bro Jeremy Gaskell reported upon the recent visit by six members to Universities Lodge no 2352 in Durham and said “a very carnival time was had by all.”

The secretary reported that our Visiting Grand Officer, W Bro Tony Southwood PAGStd B would be attending in June.

W Bro Paul Hemingway thanked the brethren for the support he had received during his wife’s recent illness and for the work of the NMSF.

A proposal form was read for a Joining Member, W Bro Anthony Graham Frost and a candidate for Initiation, Mr Simon George Farrar Moffatt, Chartered Surveyor.

At the meeting on the 18th June, Bro Secretary reported the death of Bro Alvan Nicholls. Nick, a teacher, had been an infrequent visitor over the years. He had been Initiated with Bro Jock Fraser. He would chose to come occasionally to a June meeting in order to “make the numbers up” as he put it. The brethren stood to order in his memory.

Bro Laurence Carr was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason and W Bro Jeremy Gaskell delivered the Traditional History. A ballot was taken for Mr Simon Moffatt, a candidate for Initiation and W Bro Anthony Frost as Joining Member. The ballot was unanimous in favour of both candidates.

A new tradition and 40 years in the Craft

The recently purchased old Past Master's Jewel was presented to the Immediate Past Master, W Bro Carel Sartory LGR. A "new tradition" begun. It is now always to be presented to be worn by the IPM.

The Worshipful Master congratulated RW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway PJGW on his 40th Anniversary as a member of the Lodge. This was warmly endorsed by all present in the Lodge. Bro Peter responded by saying that it was an honour and a privilege to be a member of this, his mother Lodge.

W Bro Glen Tyzack reminded the brethren that he would be delighted to receive money for the Fraser Centenary Fund.

At the meeting in September, in presenting the Charity Association accounts, the Charity Steward proposed that the balance of the Ladies Festival Fund be transferred to the Lodge Relief Chest. This was unanimously approved.

W Bro Carel Sartory LGR acting as Worshipful Master due to the unfortunate absence of the Worshipful Master, welcomed W Bro Tony Frost as a Joining Member. W Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey was Invested as Charity Steward.

W Bro Glen Tyzack was congratulated on his summer garden party which had raised over £400 towards the Fraser Centenary Fund. He was thanked for an excellent event.

W Bro Gaskell reported on the informal "Inner-Working" inter-visiting scheme. W Bro Carel Sartory announced his intention to becoming a member of Universities Lodge no 2352, our sponsoring Lodge.

W Bro Paul O'Neilly took the Chair and Initiated Mr Simon Farrer Moffatt. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Laurence Carr and the Charge was delivered by W Bro Geoff Masters.

W Bro Geoff Masters was warmly congratulated on his forthcoming Investiture to London Grand Rank.

The secretary read items of correspondence from London Management.

The New Millennium

The first meeting of the new Millennium was on January 28th 2000. There were only 12 members and one guest present. Again sadly, the Worshipful Master was not present. W Bro Glen Tyzack took the Chair.

The Charity Steward gave his report, informing the brethren that many of the covenants were to run-out in March and urged brethren to renew them.

W Bro Geoff Masters LGR took the Chair and Passed Bro Simon Moffatt to the Degree of a Fellowcraft. The Working Tools were presented by W Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey.

W Bro Glen Tyzack resumed the Chair and thanked W Bro Masters for an excellent ceremony. An explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board was given by W Bro Jeremy Gaskell.

W Bro Geoff Taylor PAGDC was elected Master for the ensuing year. He had previously been Master in 1980. Bro Geoff thanked the brethren for their support and confidence.

Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey was elected as Treasurer.

W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR reported upon the forthcoming visit to Durham for Universities Lodge no 2352 meeting.

Proposal forms were read for a Joining Member, W Bro Joseph Dominic Bentley and for Initiation, Mr Mark Anderson Panton.

The Worshipful Master was again absent at the Installation meeting of his successor on 19th May 2000. W Bro Geoff Masters LGR was the acting Worshipful Master

Bro Charity Steward reported on changes to the covenanting scheme and reminded brethren that new regular payment promises were required. He then set the target of £10,000 to be donated to charity in 2004 to celebrate the Lodge Centenary.

W Bro Geoff Taylor PAGDC was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon by W Bro Paul O'Neilly according to the traditions of the Lodge. The Working Tools of an Installed Master were presented by W Bro Simon Fernie PAGDC of Authors Lodge. The Addresses were given to the Master by W Bro Carel Sartory, to the Wardens by W Bro Geoff Masters, and to the Brethren by RW Bro Peter Hemingway.

A joint ballot was then taken for a Joining Member, W Bro Joseph Dominic Bentley, a self-employed International Financier and a candidate for Initiation, Mr Mark Anderson Panton, a Managing Director. The ballot proved successful for both candidates. W Bro Bentley was then welcomed as a member of the Lodge.

Bro Secretary reported on various London matters and the readjustment of Dining Fees was discussed with the possibility of not including wine.

W Bro Glen Tyzack reported that the Fraser Centenary Fund now stood at £1,968.00. He urged the brethren to remember the fund when paying their subscriptions.

The First White Table

The June meeting was very special and a "first" for the Lodge. The Lodge was Opened, and after the essential business was completed it was Closed. The brethren then retired from the Lodge room in regalia and escorted wives, partners and non-masonic guests back into the Lodge room.

The officers of the Lodge taking their places, the Worshipful Master welcomed the guests and explained what was to happen. W Bro Gaskell and RW Bro Hemingway then gave an explanation of the regalia and the duties of each officer. They answered questions.

W Bro Alan May, a Past Assistant Provincial Master of Middlesex then entertained all present by reading “a sermon by Charles James Martyn, Circa 1872.”

The guests were then accompanied from the Lodge room and entertained to an excellent Festive Board.

It was generally agreed to have been a happy and relaxed occasion and should be repeated.

At the September meeting, the Charity Secretary on giving his report advised the brethren of the advantages of a regular payment promise and set a target of raising £10,000 by the Centenary in 2004. The Lodge accounts were presented by the Acting Treasurer and were unanimously adopted.

Mr Mark Anderson Panton was Initiated by the Worshipful Master who also gave the Charge.

The proposed visit to the Authors Lodge on 15th November was discussed.

Bro Secretary read a letter from Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey, the Treasurer, who while still unwell was making good progress.

W Bro Tyzack reported on the Summer Garden Party which raised £620 towards the Fraser Centenary Fund.

The Lodge met on 26th January 2001. There were 14 members and 2 guests present.

The brethren stood to order in memory of W Bro “Tommy” Thompson LGR, Worshipful Master in 1954 and for a number of years, Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge.

W Bro Masters reported upon the recent enjoyable visit to Authors Lodge.

Bro Simon Moffatt was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by the Worshipful Master. W Bro Carel Sartory LGR gave an explanation of the Traditional History. W Bro Creswell Alcock was elected Master and Bro Arthur Bancroft- Hinchey, Treasurer, for the ensuing year.

W Bro Tyzack reported upon the continuing progress of Bro Arthur Bancroft- Hinchey who was still unwell following surgery. He also reminded the brethren of the next Garden party and the plans of the Centenary Committee.

Bro Secretary gave greetings from W Bro George Marley SLGR and Bro Rev Leslie Hipkins.

Death of Lord Farnham

At the Installation meeting on 18th May, there were 13 members and 5 guests present. The Worshipful Master announced that since our last meeting, the Pro Grand Master, The Rt Hon. MW Bro Lord Farnham had died. RW Bro Peter Hemingway spoke of his enormous contribution to masonry. He would be sadly missed. The brethren stood to order in his memory.

The Worshipful Master Installed W Bro Creswell Alcock in the Chair of King Solomon according to the custom of the University of Durham Lodge. The addresses were given by W Bro Sartory, Master, W Bro Saxena, Wardens, W Bro Bentley, Brethren.

W Bro Masters reported on the recent visit to our sponsoring Lodge, Universities 2352 in Durham and W Bro Sartory gave news of contact with Achilles University Lodge no 4078 in Newcastle.

There were only twelve members and guests present at the meeting in June. Sadly, the Worshipful Master had been taken ill that day and was unable to be present. W Bro Geoff Taylor assumed the Chair and Opened the Lodge. He welcomed W Bro Keith Turner on his return to the Lodge after many years.

Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey reported on the progress of the charities promises for the Centenary target. He also, in the absence of the Treasurer, who was still unwell, presented the accounts. These were approved and adopted.

The Worshipful Master then Passed Bro Mark Panton to the Degree of a Fellow Craft and also gave the Explanation of the Tracing Board.

Bro Keith Turner, WM in 1982, thanked the brethren for their welcome and expressed his delight at “being home once more.”

At the September meeting, the Worshipful Master Opened the Lodge and welcomed everybody. He vacated the Chair for W Bro Geoff Masters LGR to Raise Bro Mark Panton to the Third Degree. The Traditional History was given by W Bro Geoff Taylor PAGDC. The Worshipful Master resumed the Chair.

Bro Secretary announced that an immediate grant of £50,000 by the Grand Charity, had been sent to the Grand Lodge of New York for relief work following the events of 11th September and he reported on correspondence from London Management.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr David Frederick Pojta, Electronics Development Engineer. Also a candidate for re-joining, W Bro Keith Turner PPAGDC (Devonshire).

The possibility of a Lodge Banner was discussed to mark the Centenary. With great pleasure, the secretary announced that our treasurer, Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey had been appointed to London Rank, a “first” for the Lodge and a well deserved honour for a hard working treasurer.

At the Meeting on January 25th 2002, the Worshipful Master was unavoidably absent. The Chair was taken by W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR. He announced that the Worshipful Master had been admitted to hospital that day suffering from a suspected heart attack. Sympathy was expressed by all the brethren.

RW Bro Peter Hemingway, on reading the Minutes, explained why he was acting as secretary. His son, Graham was unavoidably absent because his wife, Karen had undergone major surgery on the previous day and he obviously needed to be with her. Best wishes to Bro Graham and his wife were expressed for a speedy recovery.

Bro Peter commented that it was nostalgic for him to return to the secretary’s chair after some eight years, a post he had held himself for the previous eighteen years. He hoped, however, that he would not be asked to assume the duties again.

Following a report, W Bro Paul O’Neilly entered the Lodge, apologized for his late arrival and was immediately conducted the Chair.

A joint ballot was taken for W Bro Keith Turner, a re-joining member and Mr David Pojta, a candidate for Initiation. The ballot was successful. The Worshipful Master then Initiated Mr David Pojta into the Light of Freemasonry. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Mark Panton and the Charge delivered by W Bro Geoff Taylor. Bro Richard Charles Divall was elected Master and Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey LR as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

A new home for London Management

The acting-secretary spoke of the continued reorganisation of London masonry. The numbers of groups of Lodges and Chapters were to be reduced to ten. We would in future, be part of the Kent group. London Management was shortly to be re-housed at 33 Great Queen Street, almost exactly opposite Freemasons Hall.

A proposal form was read for a joining member, Bro George Ward, a Master Mason in the Lodge of Brotherhood no 1980.

Greetings were to be sent to the Worshipful Master for a speedy recovery.

The Installation meeting took place 17th May 2002. There were 16 members and three guests present. W Bro Geoff Taylor acted as Worshipful Master in the absence of the Worshipful Master who was still unwell. After the Opening and Charities Association Report, W Bro Geoff Masters took the Chair and Opened the Lodge in the Second and

Third Degrees. He then vacated the Chair in favour of W Bro Paul O'Neilly who Installed Bro Richard Charles Divall in the Chair of King Solomon according to the custom of the Lodge. The Working tools were explained by W Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey, Bro Mark Panton and W Bro Keith Turner. The Addresses were given by W Bro Carel Sartory to the Master, W Bro Jit Saxena to the Wardens and RW Bro Peter Hemingway to the Brethren.

Bro George Ward was unanimously elected as a Joining Member

Best wishes were sent to Bro Arthur Bancroft- Hinchey LR who was not well at all and remained in hospital.

Four anonymous brethren had purchased firing glasses for use in the Lodge.

The meeting on the 21st of June was tinged with sadness. Since the last meeting our Treasurer, Bro Arthur Bancroft-Hinchey LR had died after a long illness borne with great courage and determination. RW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway who had officiated at his funeral read a letter from the family of thanks for the Lodge's support. (This is now appended to the Minute book). Bro Hemingway spoke of the high regard and affection for Arthur that there was in the Lodge and he would be sadly missed. Sincere sympathy was expressed for W Bro Chris, his mother and his family in their sad loss. The brethren stood to order in his memory.

The Worshipful Master welcomed the guests including our Visiting Grand Officer W Bro Tony Southwood PAGStB.

Bro David Pojta was Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft by the Worshipful Master. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Mark Panton and the Second Degree Tracing Board was explained by W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR.

Bro Laurence Carr gave news of Bro Tim Robinson who was to return to the UK in November following military service in Canada for the past two years. He and his wife would return with a new baby and he had been promoted to Lt. Colonel. Must be the Canadian air!

W Bro Glen Tyzack reminded the brethren of the forthcoming garden party in aid of the Fraser Centenary Fund. He was thanked for all of his efforts and wonderful hospitality.

At the September meeting Bro David Pojta was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason by the Worshipful Master. W Bro Geoff Taylor gave the Exhortation and Charge and W Bro Jeremy Gaskell, the Traditional History.

W Bro Tony Southwood PAGStB our VGO, read details of the proposed foundation of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. He then answered questions and a discussion ensued. Brethren were advised to write to London Management with their views. There were brethren who expressed their concerns and indeed opposition to the plan.

W Bro Chris Bancroft- Hinchey was elected Treasurer in succession to his late father.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr Robert Yearsley Norman, a Business Architect and Senior Manager for Prudential Insurance.

W Bro Geoff Masters reported that a total of £32,000 had been raised for “Whizz- Kids” charity by the sponsored car rally in which he took part. He thanked the Lodge for their support.

W Bro Glen Tyzack reported that the Garden Party had broken even despite poor weather and a relatively low attendance. He was thanked for his continued efforts.

There were 14 members and 3 guests present at the meeting on 24th January 2003. Bro Charity Steward presented the latest statement of the Lodge Relief Chest. The target of £10,000 was achievable but brethren were still encouraged to take out regular payment promises.

Following a successful ballot, Mr Robert Yearsley Norman was Initiated by the Worshipful Master. The Charge was delivered by W Bro Geoff Taylor.

The accounts for the year were presented and adopted with thanks to the treasurer.

W Bro Joseph Dominic Bentley PPAGReg(Surrey) was elected Master, and W Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

The Centenary celebrations were discussed and brethren were urged to consider numbers who would attend.

An application for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr John Dowland, a self-employed Architect.

Bro Mark Panton undertook to look at designing a Lodge Website for consideration at a future meeting.

At the Installation meeting in May, there were 14 members and 10 guests present.

After the Opening, RW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway was congratulated on his promotion to Past Senior Grand Warden at the recent Grand Investiture. Probably the highest honour ever received by a member of the Lodge in its history.

W Bro Keith Turner was congratulated on his promotion to Past Provincial Grand Registrar in the Province of Devonshire.

Bro Charity Steward presented the latest financial situation which showed a balance of £5,721.00 at 30th April and commended the benefits of regular payments. He also reported that the Fraser Centenary Fund stood at £5,392.

A ballot for a candidate for Initiation for Mr John Dowland proved successful. Following the Opening of the Board of Installed Masters, W Bro Joseph Bentley was installed in the Chair of King Solomon by the Worshipful Master according to the tradition of the Lodge. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Laurence Carr, Bro Mark Panton and W Bro Jeremy Gaskell. The Addresses were given by W Bro Geoff Masters to the Master, W Bro Jit Saxena to the Wardens and RW Bro Peter Hemingway to the brethren.

In the Risings, Bro Secretary reported that the formation of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London had been approved by Grand Lodge and would be Consecrated by the MW Grand Master on 1st October 2003.

In June, the Worshipful Master Initiated Mr John Dowland. The Working Tools were presented by W Bro Jit Saxena and the Charge after Initiation by W Bro Geoff Masters.

Bro Charity Steward reported that the Lodge was “on target” to meet its proposed Centenary charity figure.

It was proposed that the Lodge should become a Founder member of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. This was passed unanimously.

W Bros Glen Tyzack, Geoff Taylor and RW Bro Hemingway indicated that they would represent the Lodge at the Inauguration of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge at the Royal Albert Hall on 1st October.

Bro Secretary reported on the proposals for the Lodge 2004 Centenary. Various tasks had been distributed amongst the brethren with another meeting planned for September.

W Bro Geoff Masters reported to the brethren that he was to be appointed to London Grand Chapter Rank in the Royal Arch. Bro Geoff was warmly congratulated.

W Bro Jit Saxena thanked the brethren who helped him following his illness after the January meeting.

Bro Tim Robinson was welcomed back to the Lodge after his posting in Canada.

At the September meeting, the Charity Steward reported that there was just over £6,000 in the Lodge Charity Chest and £5,624 in the Fraser Centenary Fund.

Bro Bob Norman was then Passed to the Degree of a Fellow Craft by the Worshipful Master. The Working Tools were presented by Bro Laurence Carr and the Tracing Board was explained by W Bro Paul Hemingway.

The secretary reported on the plans for the Centenary celebrations and he reminded the brethren that the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London would be Constituted on the 1st October and that a number of brethren from the Lodge would be attending. The Lodge would be a Founder Lodge.

It was with great pleasure that it was announced that W Bro Glen Tyzack was to receive London Grand Rank. Nobody had done more for the Lodge in recent years. It was a thoroughly well-deserved honour. Bro Glen thanked the brethren for the enthusiastic way that they greeted the news.

Details were given of the Centenary meeting of the University of Edinburgh Lodge, one of our sister Lodges.

A proposal form for a candidate for Initiation was read for Mr Kevin Woodward. The accounts for the year 2002/2003 would be considered at the January meeting.

The Centenary year begins

The first meeting of this special year took place on 23rd January 2004. W Bro Joseph Bentley, the Worshipful Master was in the Chair. After the Opening he presented W Bro Rick Divall, with the Past Masters breast Jewel.

A ballot took place for a candidate for Initiation, Mr Kevin James Woodward. After a successful ballot, he was Initiated by the Worshipful Master. The Working Tools were explained by Bro Bob Norman and the Charge was delivered by W Bro Geoff Taylor.

An election took place for the Master and Treasurer in this Centenary year. The Senior Warden, RW Bro Rev Peter Hemingway PSGW was unanimously elected Master who thanked the brethren for their confidence and hoped that it would be a memorable year for us all. W Bro Chris Bancroft-Hinchey was elected Treasurer who thanked the brethren for their support. He presented the accounts which were approved.

W Bro Tony Southwood PAGDC, our VGO, presented the Master with the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London Founders Jewel. This was to be affixed to the Master's collar as a permanent reminder of the foundation.

Further details of the Centenary celebrations were discussed. The Installation meeting would be on 21st May, A Banner Dedication would take place at the June meeting on June 18th. This was to be an open meeting with ladies and non-masonic guests present followed by a White Table. The Centenary would be on September 24th with the Assistant Grand Master, RW Bro David Williamson as Guest of Honour.

There was to be an extra emergency meeting on Thursday 18th November. W Bro Jeremy Gaskell LGR spoke of the Public Schools Festival to be held this year at Merchant Tailors School. He is a member of the organizing committee.

Bro Mark Panton showed the brethren his suggestions for a Lodge Website. He was congratulated for his efforts.

The Lodge was Closed with due excitement in anticipation for the year ahead.

Author's note

This has truly been a labour of love. Obviously, as I have worked through it, many memories of the past forty or so years of my involvement, have come flooding back. There have been worrying times when the survival of the Lodge was in doubt. Sad times, when a greatly loved brother has been taken from us. There also have been truly memorable occasions and many happy ones. Because above all, the University of Durham Lodge has been a happy Lodge. Sometimes at the festive board, too happy, some would say! Yet, I am sure every member over the years, and certainly many guests have said, that we are a Lodge that enjoys our masonry. Surely that is what it is all about.

Over the past twenty or so years I have been involved in many Centenaries and Bi-Centenaries. I have often been critical of other Lodge and Chapter histories for their repetitive nature. I hope that I haven't fallen into the same trap, although I fear that I have. If so, my apologies in advance.

Perhaps I shall be able to view the Bi-Centenary history at a distance. Who knows? Of course, I shall not comment on it!

Peter Hemingway
February 2004

Masters of the University of Durham Lodge

1904 Sir George H Philipson
1905 William Holding
1906 T Horrocks Openshaw
1907 Henry Bircham
1908 Henry Bircham
1909 F Silva Jones
1910 F Herbert Alderson
1911 Frederick Cambridge
1912 Joseph N Lee
1913 E Burritt Lane
1914 J Leonard Hoppell
1915 George H Burkhardt
1916 H George Critchley
1917 Frederick W Metcalfe
1918 E Burritt Lane
1919 Edward Shortt
1920 Thomas W Hanforth
1921 J Gray Tait
1922 Rev C F Waton
1923 Frederick W Gilbey
1924 W Stanley Sutton
1925 Frederick Spicer
1926 Edward Shortt PGW
1927 Edward Shortt PGW
1928 LF Hemmans
1929 Arthur W Barker
1930 Rev J M F Dumphreys
1031 L L Butcher
1932 J F Arnold
1933 T B Robson
1934 G Thompson
1935 J Hill
1936 G H Dyer
1937 Rev C F Waton
1938 Rev J M F Dumphreys
1939 F W Harlow
1940 H R Wight
1941 H R Wight
1942 H Freeman
1943 H Frost
1944 H W Priddy
1945 R Milnthorpe

1946 G M Frewer
1947 H Freeman
1948 H Frost
1949 J M F Dumphreys
1950 J M F Dumphreys
1951 Rev E M M Newbatt
1952 Rev E M M Newbatt
1953 J Orton
1954 F H Thompson
1955 F D Maxwell
1956 M H G Casbon
1957 S B Maguire
1958 A A Maxwell
1959 J J Wilson
1960 H M Botcherby
1961 C Lund
1962 G C Marley
1963 G J D Dale
1964 J Gilbert
1965 W M Petty
1966 W Hartley
1967 E C Buckwell
1968 J T Fraser
1969 P Hemingway
1970 A T Webster
1971 K G Budd
1972 A J Child
1973 I Wingfield
1974 I Wingfield
1975 D J Edwards
1976 J D Roake
1977 J A S Grant
1978 F H Barty
1979 P G Granat
1980 G W Taylor
1981 D S Sleaper
1982 J K Turner
1983 W M Petty
1984 C F Sartory
1985 Rev J Gilbert
1986 P C Hemingway
1987 J A S Grant
1988 L Power
1989 J Gaskell
1990 G P Hemingway
1991 D A Lucas

1992 G O Masters
1993 S K Tucker
1994 J K Saxena
1995 G Tyzack
1996 C S Bancroft- Hinchey
1997 P J F O'Neilly
1998 C F Sartory
1999 E Chawner
2000 G W Taylor
2001 I C Alcock
2002 R C Divall
2003 J D Bentley
2004 Rev P Hemingway

Treasurers

1904	T Outerson-Wood	1961	M Casbon
1906	E Burritt Lane	1964	J J Wilson
1915	F Silva Jones	1980	D J Edwards
1917	E Burritt- Lane	1989	C F Sartory
1923	J Gray Tait	1993	A Bancroft- Hinchey
1951	Rev C F Waton	2002	C Bancroft- Hinchey

Secretaries

1904	Frederick Spicer	1950	H W Priddy
1906	Rev J L E Hooppell	1962	S B Maguire
1914	Frederick Cambridge	1975	Rev P Hemingway
1931	L F Hemmans	1993	G P Hemingway

Directors of Ceremonies

1904	Rev L R Tuttiett	1949	G Thompson
1905	E Burritt Lane	1958	H Frost
1911	R J Probyn-Williams	1964	F H Thompson
1919	H G Critchley	1970	A A Maxwell
1929	Rev C F Waton	1975	J T Fraser
1935	J F Arnold	1987	G W Taylor
1945	Rev C F Waton	1996	J J Gaskell