

# On The Palace Square

Volume 3 Issue 21 April 2009  
If you would like to contribute to the next issue

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Well Saturday 28th March came around very quickly for Old Palace's Ladies night hosted by W.Bro Andy Fox and his good Lady Kim.

Over 90 people turned up at the Croydon Masonic Halls for what turned out a real bash!!

It was less formal than some previous functions but had that fine balance of tradition along with Andy's laid back approach!!

Croydon Halls surpassed themselves with a fantastic setting that put a lot of Hotel's to shame. It was like the Ritz!! The food was first class and the company even better. We had the usual suspects taking control of the raffle (Peter Ashton) which raised £510 and the Pool team of Mike, Gill and Jo running the numbers game!! (Well Gill and Jo really) which raised £209.00.

Auction wise we had a signed football shirt from some small local team!! This raised the sum of £305 so all in all over a £1000 raised on the night. The proceeds will be given to St Christopher's Hospice and The Herbs Trust which funds medicine and care for horses that simply don't have the life they deserve.

Brendan proposed the toast to the President and Andy responded whilst proposing the Ladies toast to which Kim did a nice reply.

The Disco was now in full flow and everyone was in high spirits. The evening came to a close around midnight and everyone commented on a great evening whilst reciting

"Happy to meet"

"Sorry to part"

"Happy to meet again"

## PROVINCIAL FUN WEEKEND

July 4/5th

Look out for details how you can take part.



A note for your diary on **June 28th** Summer BBQ and an opportunity to watch this years Biggin Hill air fair in comfort at chez Brendan and Sarah's who have kindly agreed to host this event. They will supply all the food and drink and entrance will be by means of a charity donation (Last year we achieved an average donation of £10 p.p) young children free. Do come along for what was an extremely fun event if last year's do is any guide.

## DETAILS OF OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on May 13th We will be starting at 4.30 pm and we will be doing an Installation ceremony. If you are not a member of Old Palace and wish to attend either contact your normal host or give me a call. We would be pleased to see you.

Eric's contact details are above

## DINING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The menu will be

### **Starter**

Flat Mushroom filled with bacon and cheese

### **Main Course**

Canon of lamb with redcurrant and rosemary, served with roast potatoes, baton carrots and fresh broccoli

### **Dessert**

Hot Black cherries served with ice cream



### **Vegetarian Option.**

Goats cheese and caramelised onion tart

If you are an Officer then a meal will be booked so please let Nick know if you cannot make it.

If you are member and **you can't attend then** let us know so that we make your apologies.

Please let Nick Barnes know by Saturday 7th March how many guests you will be bringing.

Any changes after that date cannot be guaranteed. Alternative meals can be provided as well as any dietary needs.

## TWYTW

That was the year that was. We always new it was going to be a good year with Andy being our W M and he did not let us down and on top of that he was selected to play a major role in the Surrey Craft Festival.

We welcomed Keith Burchell and Greg Townsend as new members and were sorry to see Andy Randall leave us due to work commitments with a new venture. For those who like statistics our average age of our 41 members is 57 years 5 months and the spread of ages is Under 40 6 members, 41-50 9, 51-60 11, 61-70 8, 71-80 3 and over 80 we have 4 members.

We averaged 22 members(23) for our meetings and 15(15.5) visitors Brendan came up trumps hosting the Summer BBQ at chez Brendan and Sarah's and we are indebted to them for supplying all the food and beverages and for the good view of the Biggin Hill airshow. This raised £700 for the 2008 Festival and local charities.

Our alms collections were down slightly at **£756.17** before re-claimed tax of **£504** against last year at £837 before tax and the Raffle income **£1325** against last year £1107. We received **£1817** by (£1736) way of regular gift aids (£474) plus re-claimed tax of £491 and we had **16** (16) Regular Gift Aids in operation at the year end. Last year's figures are in brackets. Miscellaneous income Ladies Night **£1000** (£1004)

We very much look forward to seeing W Bo Larry in the chair who will bring his own very individual style to our meetings.



Peter keeping in touch with one of our past members Neil Holloway Yes Peter, I have dropped out of Masonry completely, although my wife and I are going to a white table meeting soon.

I'm fighting fit and am about to go on a week's holiday to Panama City in Florida followed by a few days in Poland on a snow shoeing expedition. I've also entered a triathlon Sprint and will probably do an aquathlon – that's 500m swim and 5km run in July. On top of that a really good friend in America is trying to persuade me to go in for one. She has done 6 so far and she is a tiny 76 year old! Mmm. Still thinking about that one. I'm also studying for a Masters Degree with the Open University and revelling in having 6 grandchildren. Just over a year ago I spent a week trekking in the Sinai Desert – luggage carried by camels. We went to all the great places from the Masonry story – Mount Horeb, Mount Sinai and so on. Still not sure what I'm going to do when I grow up.

I'd really like to go to Timbuktu, cycle the length of Britain, go into space, take the Blue train to Cape Town or the trans- Siberian Express, climb Mt Fuji, visit an oil rig, go to Easter Island, see Angel Falls in Venezuela, cross the Simpson Desert, play golf at St Andrews, see a great grandchild. All it takes is money and time and I'm running out of both of them.

Please give my regards to everyone in the Lodge Neil

### **Guildford Cathedral Service**

The Annual Cathedral Service will be held on **Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> October 2009**, beginning at 3pm. The Service celebrates and gives thanks for our Order and its work in the local Community. Last year we were well supported by Community Leaders from all over Surrey, including a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, the Mayor of Guildford and 22 other Mayors, Council Leaders and their partners. It really was a colourful and memorable occasion, showing the public face of Freemasonry in an imposing and accessible setting.

Chris in Oz was keeping in touch With Peter earlier this year.

### **Peter**

Bet you are watching the weather back here and having a right laugh!

Mind you it was fun on Monday, had a day off work and spent the day building a snowman and playing snowballs!

It only happens once in a blue moon so we should enjoy it, the kids certainly do. Problem is we grown ups just moan about it until we get out in the snow then we become kids again.

Deep joy!

Ho ho ho

Bet you are having a heat wave down there.

### **Chris**

Totally true – Melbourne had record breaking weather - 4 days of over 44 degrees – the transport system shut down as it was too hot and all the lines buckled!!

### **£15,000 for Australian Bushfires Appeal**

The President of The Grand Charity has approved an emergency grant of £15,000 to assist victims of the bushfires that tore through the state of Victoria, Australia. The money will be donated to the Grand Lodge of Victoria, at Melbourne, *Grand Master's Victoria Bushfires Appeal*

### **Guildford Cathedral cont**

Such was the response last year to our preacher, Father Donald Minchem that I am pleased to say that he has already accepted an invitation to preach again this year, I am sure we are in for another sterling address The Provincial Grand Master is confident that this year's Service will receive the same excellent support from all Lodges in his Province. He is hoping that the Cathedral, which can hold over 1000 people, will be filled with brethren and their families and friends, thus demonstrating a real bond between Freemasonry, the Community and the Cathedral – a real family occasion. Brethren should be advised that full Masonic regalia can be worn at the Cathedral. Refreshments will be available in the Refectory, before and after the service.

## The Pro Grand Masters At his last Grand Lodge Meeting

Some extracts from the Pro Grand Master's address on the presiding on his last Grand Lodge on the 10<sup>th</sup> December 2008.

Amongst many issues reported in the Quarterly Communications held on 10<sup>th</sup> December (If you wish to read the complete version let me know) he stated; 1 "I have tried to impress the Brethren that they are responsible for the success or otherwise of their Lodges, and to give them the freedom to explore ways of making their ritual more impressive for the candidate and more enjoyable for their visitors. Many bad habits have crept into ceremonies over time which have nothing to do with the rituals and which only serve to increase the length of our meetings. We are trying to accommodate young men with pressures of time and money, family and business. We should consider anything which makes it easier for them to enjoy masonry as long as it is within our rules. **We should not be afraid to experiment with new ideas**"

2 "Personally I see recruitment as a public relations and marketing exercise and the best public relations we can ever have is the individual Mason talking to his friends enthusiastically about his Masonry. The best marketing will, I hope, soon be our Grand Lodge web site. This is the single most important public face of English freemasonry. It is the easiest way for men to find us, and it is where we should be laying out our stall to attract quality candidates. It is then up to Lodges to ensure the interview process sifts out unsuitable men.

## Continued from previous column

A lot of effort has been going on behind the scene to develop a first class web site, aimed at men in the 35-50 years old age range. This will include some video element and is due to go live in March. I am very excited by its potential".

3 " For retention we have the mentoring scheme. Every candidate should be given a mentor to help him understand what we do and why, and introduce him to other members of the Lodge. Nothing puts a candidate off more than a holier-than-thou approach from far more experienced Brethren who should know better. Arrogance has no place in an organisation which teaches brotherly love as its Grand Principle. A candidate should be encouraged to ask questions and if we do not know the answers we should point him in the right direction to find out"

4" The efforts made by so many Brethren should now be channelled into attracting and retaining good men and improving the quality of our Masonry. This will ensure our future and preserve one of the last great initiation societies in existence today. I am sure my successor will have many ideas of his own".

## Continued from next column

Well the evening ended around 10.30pm and everyone said they cannot wait until next time and hope we can get the numbers up. We all said we'd love Eric to come and would all chip in for his petrol mind you not sure if prawns and lobster tails would get him too far!!

## Is this really Cpl. Jones



## FRIDAY NIGHT IN THE PARK

20th February saw yet another Club of Instruction Supper organised by "Whispering John Smith" held at the Croydon Park Hotel.

19 Members including several wives and a parent!! Our new friend Leo Hopkins turned up to what is now a regular event.

Unfortunately Worshipful Master Andy was on crutches due to a mishap with a member of the public so he had to rely on several brethren to go to the buffet for him. This led to several plates of lettuce cucumber and carrots being brought to the table all of which were returned quicker than they arrived!!

Andy provided a raffle prize of a bottle of whisky which was duly won by W.Bro Phillip Powell saying " I never win anything " Think he's said that 14 times now!!! £55.23 was raised by the raffle.Thank you Brendan for the 23 pence! Well he has retired now.!!

Everyone had a good time especially Larry Mackenzie who has now come to three events with his hair the same colour!! Steve Surridge and his wife Debbie arrived all in Brown looking like "Harold and Hilda" from "Ever Decreasing Circles" and our oldest member Keith Stevens had to fight off autograph hunters looking for "Corporal Jones" from "Dad's Army". Nick Barnes made a club record of 15 visits to the buffet, the last visit ending in tears as it was closing with Nick demanding" I haven't had me pudding yet"!! Bryan Taylor offering tickets to all and sundry for any West End Show all with restricted views from the car parks!!

## Flood Relief: Fiji - £5,000 - March 2009



In response to a request from the South West Pacific Group of Lodges, The President of The Grand Charity has approved an emergency grant of £5,000 to help victims of severe flooding across Fiji.

Triggered by torrential rains in January the flooding affected most of Fiji and destroyed housing and infrastructure, leaving thousands homeless. Many of the families now housed in the emergency relief centres have lost everything and have only the clothes they were wearing when they escaped the waters. The estimated cost of the damage has been calculated to be in excess of £60 million. The emergency relief grant will support the relief efforts of the South West Pacific Group of Lodges.

## Subscriptions



Your subscriptions are **now** due in the amount of £117. If you prefer you can make out a standing order for 10 payments of £11.70 but you must start this month.

## HELP FOR HEROES

Our brother Ian Fernandez is running his first ever marathon later this month at this years London event on April 26th.

To mark this occasion and to give him some justification for putting his mind & body through this **TORTURE** he decided it would be a good idea to raise some money for charity.

Therefore he decided to raise as much as he can for **Help for Heroes** which is, as you may be aware, one of the PGM's chosen charities.

So, as he knows that we, as a team, are a supportive bunch and generously **he** thought he would give you the chance to prove it by making a donation.

No amount is too **BIG** or too **small** and any contribution will be gratefully received.

Ok, now that you are all jumping at the chance to show him your support, here is how you can go about it.

**1.** You can sponsor him online by credit or debit card - just go to his Justgiving page:  
<http://www.justgiving.com/ferntastic>  
Justgiving sends your donation straight to Help for Heroes and automatically reclaims Gift Aid if you're a UK taxpayer, so your donation is worth even more.

**2.** You can sign his sponsorship form or email him your pledge which he can transfer onto the form on your behalf.  
(To get gift aid he needs the following details on your email pledge Name, Home address & Post code)  
**We all wish him good fortune for this very worthwhile charity and gives us all a chance to show our gratitude to our armed forces.**

### Subs cont from previous column

Ring Mike for our bank details. Its as easy as that

## CONGRATULATIONS



Well done to W Bros Nick Barnes and Paul Savage who will be promoted at the Annual General Meeting on June 24th by the Provincial Grand Master. Paul has put in many years of hard work at Old Palace and hardly a meeting goes by without Paul standing in for someone. Well done Paul and thanks. Nick was rewarded for the hard work he has put in for the Province carrying out his active role in the last 12 months. Come along to the AGM and support your brothers and remember the Festive board has been sold out for the last 2 years so book early.

## Need new regalia badges?

When and if you need a new or replacement Provincial Badge in either dress or undress form or military or police embroidered uniform accessories you can get a quote from [caero@ctccircle.co.uk](mailto:caero@ctccircle.co.uk)

## Remember

If your wife wants to learn to drive, don't stand in her way

One of the great things about books is sometimes there are some fantastic pictures" George W Bush

## And Finally

Every meeting we all sing "So mote it be" but do you know what it means.

Answers by e-mail or text only