

On The Palace Square

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If you would like to contribute to the next issue

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DINING FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The menu will be “Le Plat du Jour”

Starter Starter of the Day

Main Course Chef’s Choice served with Seasonal Vegetables

Dessert The Sweet of the Day



Coffee and Mints

Dining Arrangements

If you wish to dine you will need to let Bro Steve Potts know by Wednesday 2nd May and please also let him know by this date how many guests you will be bringing. Meals ordered and not cancelled before May 2nd will need to be paid for.

stevepotts1@hotmail.co.uk

01737 557599

Late requests will not be accepted.

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

Cycling

There is a canal tow path ride from Woking Station. Meet at 10.am with a distance of about 19 miles. Once again Non masons welcome. Speak to Eric Allen or Pat Feenan for more information.

Ladies Weekend

By now you will have received details of the proposed weekend in Bourne-



mouth next year. If you would like more information please contact me. Sheila and I do hope you will be able to attend which I believe will be a fun weekend.

I would like to thank those who have already booked but we really do need more support. Book early and secure a sea view room which are limited.

Engage with the Public

I attended the Prestonian Lecture for 2012. It was entitled Scouting and Freemasonry: two parallel organisations. It was clear that there are a number of similarities that are common to both. With this in mind I made contact with the District Commissioner for Croydon. I suggested a few ideas to him and I await to hear when he has discussed with his Committee how they may wish to move this forward with us.

Additionally our Charity Steward John is in touch with a football team who are going to 11 a side football soon. This also presents an opportunity for public exposure. We are hoping they will change their colours to light blue with the sponsorship of Surrey Masons www.surreymason.org.uk John is investigating the cost. More information will be announced as soon as we have them for your comments

DETAILS OF OUR NEXT MEETING

Our next meeting is on May 9th 2012.

We will be starting at 4.30pm and our ceremony will be an Installation. 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. My contact details are above

Coarse Fishing

Peter Ashton is organising a fishing match on behalf of the SMSA on June 9th in Dorking. Speak to Peter for more information. Non masons welcomed

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You will meet Paul and Nigel in our next issue

THE Master Elect



I am really looking forward going into the chair of Old Palace for the second time. Only the third occasion when this privilege has been extended. I promise I will do my best. I got to thinking why did I join freemasonry and what I have got out of it. I will leave it to others to judge what I have put into it.

I had led quite a nomadic existence in as much as I was born in Pompey, bombed out in Pompey in 1941 and we were buried under the falling house for a time. Lived in Wembley. Stoke Poges near Slough, Edinburgh because my Dad was in a war time reserved occupation in Rosyth Dockyard and then Shepherds Bush. Finally at the age of 7 ¾ I went to school for the first time. Within 3 weeks that school was bombed so I had to go to another school. If you are a football fan the school was by QPR'S ground. I stayed there for a number of years although I was away doing National Service until I got married to Sheila and we lived in Mitcham, Bromley, Thorpe Bay, Hullbridge near Rayleigh, Essex and then Purley.

I joined Woodcote Park Golf Club back in 1976 but in those days Ladies were not admitted to the Clubhouse bar. There I met Dave Jarvis who subsequently proposed me and I joined in December 1978. My reasons for joining were that I was inquisitive as those that I knew who were members all seemed good guys and for the social life. Now what has freemasonry done for me.

Attending Lodge and participating in the ceremonies gave me confidence. I learned to work with people.

I have found that every single brother had a special talent and when that brother used his talent how he grew in confidence. In my job I was called upon to make presentations and my Masonic confidence helped me.

We learn early on about Brotherly Love and I am thinking about tolerance. I have learned to be tolerant towards the many changes I have seen occur in my life time and no doubt like you I am now aware there is no distinction of colour religion or social class when dealing with my brothers, friends and the general public. I believe the true mason will always be innocent of racial or religious hatred. Maybe a more modern way would be respect to all. I believe Masonry also taught me to set my sights high or to achieve. I know there have been many tasks set to me in both masonry and in business where my personal skills developed in masonry have helped me to succeed. Team work got me through.

Another word comes to mind is charity and it goes with out saying that this has been developed through masonry. I think above all freemasonry has instilled in me a desire and a need for honesty, tolerance, trust, charity and loyalty. I believe when I meet a brother I am meeting someone who will offer me friendship and moral support and any practical help that may be needed. Freemasonry reminds me to be a good citizen also and a belief in God. Earlier on I mentioned the social side of freemasonry. I wonder where you stand on this.

Continued from previous column

One of our newer members has spoken to me and indicated he thought there would be more social events involving the ladies. I hope we can address that issue in my year.

Charity Stewards Report

The report will be short and sweet for this meeting. I only really have a report on the James Terry Court Fete which will be taking place at James



Terry Court on Sunday 10th June from 2.30 pm to 4.30 pm. The address is James Terry Court Warham Road S Croydon. Please support this great event if you can. The Lodge have already purchased raffle tickets for the day. If you wish to buy any I still have a few left. First come first served!



We are still waiting to receive our Certificate for the Teddies for Loving Care from Stewart Butcher. I hope to provide an update during our meeting if possible.

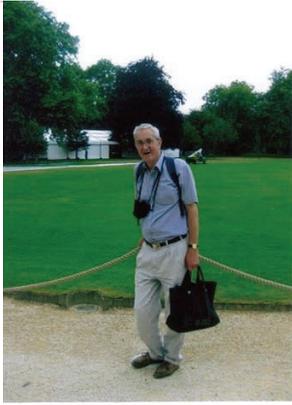
In terms of suggestions on raising funds for the Lodge via Charity I would welcome some Ideas from the other Brethren in the lodge. If you do have any ideas please let me know. John



Provincial Lectures

These will be on the 5th June at Surbiton sponsored by Upper Thames lodge who have supported us many times in recent years at our meetings. They also gave us good support when we hosted the Festival. It would be great if we could get our boys along to do the same. Andy

MEET SOME OF OUR NEW MEMBERS



Thank you for your welcome. Here is some details of my background

My name is Alan Johnson. I am 75 years old and am a retired building contractor. Having worked in most areas of the construction industry I retired as director and general manager of my own company. The best part of my job was the variety of contracts and the worst part was the dreaded sub contractors.

My last major holiday was in Florida when we took the grandchildren to Disneyworld.

My main hobby these days is gardening and trying to protect The Bank of Grandad from the invading hoards.

My family consists of my wife Sylvia, my son, daughter and three grandchildren.

I joined Old Palace Lodge because my mother Lodge Fairfield closed and I knew members of Old Palace through Croydon Milenary Chapter who invited me to join.

To date I find you to be a very friendly, welcoming and energetic Lodge and long may it continue.

I used to play soccer, cricket, badminton and swimming but these days I am an armchair spectator of many sports..

My remaining ambition is to continue to collect my pension for many years to come.

My name is Brian Edwards and I am 77 years young

My occupation, for the first 38 years was a retail butcher then around 1990 I worked with a friend in his newly formed Labour Hire to the building trade. I found this a very enjoyable time. My wife then contracted cancer and I took redundancy in order to look after her. Sadly she died on her 61st birthday 29/04/1995. As I was now over 60 I decided not to return to work and did a little holiday relief.



My last major holiday was a cruise in the Caribbean last December and I am going again this coming December!! It was really very enjoyable

My hobbies are family, Masonry, DIY and travel, and of course keeping my partner happy!!!

I have one son and three granddaughters who live close to me and we meet very frequently.

My mother lodge into which I was initiated 17th September 1964 duly handed in its Warrant last October and as several of the members of Old Palace are members of my Chapter I feel very much "at Home" here.

So far so good.....early days yet but very good to have joined.

Continued from previous column

I no longer play any sports these days but I still swim and walk quite a lot

My ambition.... As Spook of Star Trek said ..to live long and prosper. I am also interested in a very amateur way computers and technology.

Notes from the Almoner's Chair April 2012



I hope you are all well and looking forward to the Summer.

These notes are very short as I will have another one for the May meeting

due to the fact I am unable to attend the meeting as I have to be in Wales.

Eric kindly spoke to some of the senior members and told me:-

Harman Smith-Weston He is still suffering with ménière's disease. He sounded fine and all being well he will be attending the next meeting. He said he has good and bad days

Dave Jarvis is currently in intensive care in Worthing Hospital. I spoke with Marion and he was admitted on Saturday 14th April with acute appendicitis which went wrong leading to heart problems, lung probs and as at yesterday his kidneys had stopped working.

I will follow this up and give you all an update.

John Hedges He will be coming to meeting. Be nice to see

TWO SPECIAL SYMPOSIUMS FOR YOUNGER OR NEW MASONS

The Provincial Grand Master is keen to know what young or new Masons feel about Masonry – and these symposiums will give you the opportunity to express your views and opinions openly and honestly.

These sessions are open to all Freemasons in Surrey who have been in the Craft for eight years or less... including our newest Brethren who are Entered Apprentices, Fellow Crafts, or newly-Raised Masons.

The symposiums will take the form of open debate. There is no set agenda – just the open floor from which you can state a view, make a comment or suggestion. We want to hear from you about your views on Masonry in Surrey or the Craft in general.

I will attend to answer questions and to take back to the Executive your suggestions, views and concerns.

This grass-roots initiative has a high priority on the Provincial Grand Master's agenda for the future of his Province, and he hopes as many will attend as possible so that he can get a representative view of the new and young Masons of Surrey. The sessions should encourage frank and honest debate.

You can attend either of the sessions at:

Guildford on Tuesday 29th May 2012 starting at 7.00, with coffee and biscuits served at 6.30.

Or Nutfield on Wednesday 30th May 2012 starting at 7.00, with coffee and biscuits served at 6.30.

Please let Leo know if you want to join him. You will need to book if you will be attending. There is no charge for attendance.

Almoner' Report cont.

Dave Wilcox Still recovering from having prostate removed. He is doing regular walks to build up his strength, and will be at the next meeting

Bob Whittaker does not drive much these days on account of some form of eye disease. Sends his regards and will be thinking of us all on May 9th

Les Ashford is unable to attend due to holiday arrangements. He sends his best to all and will be thinking of us and will attend a meeting in Eric's year.

If you have any news or you have a problem let me know. Remember I am here to help, but can only help if you keep in touch. Phillip

The Home's Representative's Report April 2012

I have attended most of the committee meetings of James Terry Court.

The residents are enjoying their new home and rooms. The work on stage two is progressing well. I have a few copies of the latest Shannon Court Journal if anyone would like a copy or at www.shannoncourt.org



In previous issues Peter Ashton has told us how he found the art work for our Lodge jewel. We owe Peter a debt of gratitude because he retired but only for 6 months. He is now back working very hard as he gets a new division off the ground. During that 6 months he investigated the various bits and pieces which had been passed on from secretary to secretary. As you know, we obtained a grant to restore our jewel plans. You will recall that the drawings were designed by Cyril Spackman of Hallstone jewel fame. Above you will see the design. By our next meeting this should be displayed in the Croydon Halls. Thank you Peter.

Homes Report cont

All members of Old Palace can see the latest circular from James Terry Court on line also at the JTC web site. www.fojtc.org.

I need to remind you all of the Grand Summer Fete, which is on Sunday 10th June 2012, 2.30pm to 4.30pm and will be back at James Terry Court. Also the famous Hog Roast, to be held on Saturday 7th June 2012, 7pm onwards. This event is £20-00 per person and if anyone wishes to go, they can order the tickets from Steve Norris stevenorris@btinternet.com.

The Shannon Court Garden Party takes place on Sunday 24th June 2012 at 2.00pm- 4.30pm. I have a few tickets. Phillip