



# **THE NEWARK PASSWORD**

**Autumn 2023**

**Published by the Newark Masonic Hall Company Limited**

## **NEWARK ON TRENT**

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Everyone welcome - Four courses plus Tea/Coffee only £9.50



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and 1st December  
12 noon for 12.30pm

*For bookings, please contact  
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London Rd, Newark.**

Wednesday 6pm Millgate Community Centre

Thursday 9am Pelham Street, Newark



**CONTACT TRACY FERGUSON  
07871 950256 (m)**



# The chairman writes . . .

Brethren

I reported in the Spring edition that the company were looking to refurbish the bar area over the closed season and by the time you will be reading this article, that will have been completed.

The back of the bar has been removed to reveal the windows that have been replaced which has brought light into the bar. The badly worn bar top surface was sanded down to reveal a beautiful sound wood that has received several coatings of Danish oil which was the preferred finish by the builder, W. Bro. A Whittle and the finished colour is a contrast to the original stained frontage. *(See page 16)*

The company's thanks are expressed to those who answered a call to arms to strip the old wallpaper from the bar walls on Saturday 19th August. Armed with scrapers, steamers and much enthusiasm a small army created a sauna like atmosphere in which several layers of paper plus clothing were removed within three hours of hard work.

Present was myself, Pete Smith, Doug Ing, Paul Simpson, Adrian and Julie Crampton, Jim Barrie, Nick Scott, Steve Haberton and Les English. Mike Harbron provided invaluable service in clearing up the discarded paper and Irene Crossley provided refreshments. Only one lodge was not represented on the day.

As anticipated, the paper removal revealed walls that required re-skimming to give a smooth finish for decorating that has been completed in the same colour scheme as that of the dining room.

Attention will now be given to refurbishment of the foyer, dining room annexe and main stairwell when funds permit and it is hoped that the 'strippers' will have sufficiently recovered to assist in paper removal when required. Redecoration of the Temple is also a consideration, if not a priority.

All these works require funding and despite FEST2029 the hall requires your continued support in raising monies towards refurbishment.

It is hoped that the secretary's office will soon be re-opened for use and the bar stock relocated.

Unfortunately, energy costs have caused an increase in unit rents and the company has also been hit with business rates which hitherto have been under the threshold and we are currently looking to appeal the decision.

A new masonic season is about to restart under a backdrop of a "Membership Challenge" which Newark lodges need to embrace as the hall's sustainability is dependent on maintaining or increasing unit membership levels.

Chairman



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**CIPHE**





# Reflections *by the editor*

Think of the hit musical "Fiddler on the Roof" and the opening song "Tradition" sung by the main character of the show, Tevye, the poor peasant milkman. In the song, Tevye, explains the roles of each social class and sets up the major theme of the villagers trying to continue their traditions and keep their society running true as the world around them changes.

And so it is with Freemasonry. Tradition is an essential part of the Craft and throughout its long history there has been little change from the original concept of brotherly love, relief and truth.

As editor I gave space in the Spring 2023 issue for W Bro Bill Ashley to express his view of freemasonry entitled "As I see it".

It may have been controversial as some saw it but in this traditional age of free speech it was his thoughts to which, of course, he is entitled.

What he perhaps missed was a sympathetic adherence to that magic word "tradition" and to what extent should we preserve it. W Bro Bill wrote "the worst manifestations of this is witnessing senior masons endlessly arguing about minute points of procedure and strict adherence to ritual...that makes little or no sense. He may see it as this but as royalty famously said "recollections may vary" and indeed some of his fellow brethren have paraphrased this remark with "opinions may vary".

Ritual is part and parcel of our Freemasonry and like a Shakespearean play you should not alter the words to suit the period. We are immersed in that odd word Woke at the moment when people want to rewrite history to block out things they no longer like or support and we can be in danger of doing that to Freemasonry.

Tradition is integral to Freemasonry as it is to part of ritual. We are what we are and we should explain that carefully to potential new members. Tell them we have "plays" to re-enact and that, like all theatre, they may be expected to learn their lines. If they are not able to do this for whatever reason then it needs explaining that help will be available to them but it should not stop their progress through the Lodge. But those "plays" are very much part and parcel of our tradition and our progress through it is part and parcel of being a Freemason. Basics and the meanings of which we must not change.

We demonstrate our Craft to others by our own actions and by how that is received by the "outside world". W Bro Bill Ashley demonstrated that with his recent and very commendable raising of more than £3,000 selling Loving Care Teddies throughout his village. The local paper recently gave publicity to £5,000 donated by Freemasons to Newark charities. All telling people that Freemasonry is alive to local and non-Masonic issues.

But we must not lose sight of what Freemasonry is all about. Giving to charity is just one aspect. Encompassing 21st century brotherly love relief and truth in recruiting more younger people into our Craft is very important but we must never lose sight of that basic concept and objectives. Keeping our traditions alive is paramount in all of this for, after all, we have been doing it for more than 300 years and changing for change sake is most certainly not a good enough reason.

# Letters

## ANOTHER VIEW

I have dictated my thoughts to a friend as my written English is not good. I am not a Newark Freemason but through a friend I was able to see a copy of your recent Password and was interested to read the article by W Bro Ashley which he entitled "As I see it".

I have received help in writing this letter and I am afraid he sees it in a totally different view to mine and does not seem to realise what our ancient society is all about. I have been a Freemason for almost 30 years and have had the honour to go through the chair of my lodge. I have to say here that I am not English but came to England from Eastern Europe and had very little skills in the English language when I arrived.

I had to learn quickly but it has been Freemasonry that has helped me to understand the language much better and that is because it gave me the opportunity of having to learn my ritual as I went through the offices. I learned better to understand it and although my memory is not good I was given every help possible and if it became too much for me then another brother came to my rescue.

W Bro Ashley says that a newly made brother in his lodge was left alone and not knowing what to do next. That does not happen in my lodge but it is not a fault of Freemasonry. I was never left alone so, sorry to say, I think that it is a problem with W Bro Ashley's lodge.

*Eight*

My own experience from when I joined at only 22 years old is that Freemasonry which I had no idea of before I joined has made a big and better difference to my life and its ritual and brotherhood is a factor of this as I readily explain to any of our new brothers.

*A P name and address supplied via email.*

## ROYAL ARCH THOUGHTS

If most Royal Arch Masons think back to the reason why they joined our Order, it is more likely to be because somebody they knew (and respected) spoke to them, rather than through something they had read or "heard" about. We all know Craft Masons who would make suitable candidates and, if our numbers are to hold up, and then increase, each of us should be talking to them about our beautiful Order, and encouraging them to join us.

Having gone to the trouble to attract new members, we then need to keep them! It is important that the warmth of their initial welcome, when they were (rightly) the centre of attraction, is maintained and they are quickly absorbed fully into the life of the Chapter. In particular their questions need answering; the traditions of the Chapter need explaining; and, when the time is right for them, they will need help to move through the various offices.

*Past Principal, details provided*

## GRAND LODGE

Having read a piece about visiting Freemason's Hall in I have to say that it is one of the most interesting places I have ever been to. The Grand Tour revealed lots about our Craft that I certainly did not know and the exhibits create a lot of inter-

est, not only in themselves but the brethren they belonged to.

I was able to stand in the Grand Temple and it is an awe inspiring place. You can imagine the atmosphere that must prevail when the ceremonies are held there. I think every Mason should visit there and be as thrilled as I was at getting to know more about us

*RTS, Newark*

## LETTERS

I am always interested in reading the letters to the editor as they usually cover such a wide field of interest but it was the "Beer Drinkers Paradise" when looking through old issues which rang my particular bell. I used to be a regular drinker at The Old White Hart in the days that it was run by the Kirrage family. It was a popular pub and a pity that it closed down although it is now re-opened. I recall a beam that was filled with memorabilia tickets to famous events. Pubs no longer seem the same in this modern society.

*Thirsty Mason, details supplied*

## The editor welcomes more letters

Although most letter writers do not wish to be identified all letters must be accompanied by a full name and address and a contact telephone number although this will not be used if you do not wish so. All pseudonyms relate to real people

They can be posted to Newark Password, 27 Main Street, Farndon NG24 3SA or they may be emailed to philip@ingalluk.com





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# It's all about aprons

Masonic Aprons are one of the most interesting, beautiful and curious items in the Fraternity's history. Members of medieval, operative stone-masons' guilds wore large animal hide aprons, providing them with as much protection as possible from the sharp rock shards with which they worked.

*With pictures of  
Masonic aprons  
through the ages*

Early Masonic aprons were similar, but in the late 1600s, men began to join the guild who were not actual stone-masons, but who were "Accepted" into the Fraternity nonetheless, and it is they who may have introduced the practice of decorating their aprons.

Worshipful Brother Harry Rylands, Past Master Lodge No. 2, and Past Grand Steward, wrote *The Masonic Apron* (Research Lodge Quatuor Coronati No. 2076, Transactions Volume 5, London, England, 1892). In this important, early analysis of the Masonic Apron, he states, "The bordering with

ribbon and decorations were, I think, introduced by the Speculative Masons, and may perhaps have been a mark of distinction."

White leather was mentioned as the material for the Aprons in the Book of Constitutions, which outlined various coloured silks that were allowed to be used as lining, a regulation repeated in the editions from 1739 up to 1784. Linings protected the clothing from the white marks from undyed leather.

Aprons began to be much smaller, as the Lodges began to be filled with more speculative rather than operative Masons. The flap, which was previously held up with a button or a thong passed around the neck, for increased protection, or which hung loosely down, was folded over intentionally and tied around the waist.

From 1760-1770, in line with the advance of printed pottery and engraved summonses, the aprons became more decorated. "As jewels, differences of rank,

and other matters increased in number, so the taste for symbols and the decoration of aprons advanced, and they became more and more ornate."

By 1786, Aprons were much smaller than the old aprons that went almost to the ankles. They were



often ornately decorated with any number of symbols, and were diverse in size, material and decorative elements. Spangles, sequins, bullion fringe, embroidery, three-dimensional items sewn on, paint, engraved prints, engraved prints which were painted ... almost anything was used in Masonic Apron decoration and design.

In 1814, the United Grand Lodge of England ordered



# It's all about aprons

a general uniformity of design and lining colour.

Uniformity in the Masonic Apron shape and design didn't take hold until after the 1840s, and, while there are distinctions in colour and symbol, the wide variety of earlier days diminished and



has mostly disappeared from the Masonic world.

The Apron is not a modern invention, in fact it is the most ancient of all garments. In the 3rd Chapter of Genesis these words are written: "and the eyes of them both were opened, and they knew they were naked, and they sewed fig leaves together, and made themselves aprons."

We are not so much interested in Adam and Eve's apron as we are in the Masonic apron. Boutelle, in his story of the building of King Solomon's Temple, says: "When the construction of King Solomon's Temple was commenced, workmen were selected to carry out the different trades. Hiram, the widow's son, proclaimed that before entering upon the undertaking the aid of God should first be invoked, and as the Temple was to be God's Holy House and erected to Him, each workman having a part in its construction should offer a sacrifice to God on the Altar of Burnt Offering. The Lamb

had in all ages been deemed an Emblem of Innocence and was offered as a sacrifice. With the exception of the skin, the whole of the lamb was consumed. The skins were properly prepared and Hiram caused aprons to be made of them. One apron from the skin of each lamb sacrificed, one apron for each mason under him."

When the aprons had been presented to the workmen, Hiram is reported to have said: "Masonic authority makes this, the snow-white lambskin apron, its first tangible gift to you and ordains that all Masons in all ages, wherever they may be throughout the world, shall ever receive it and always wear it." The apron is an emblem of innocence. Innocent life has gone out of the world: for every man an apron - for every apron a life.

This is the badge of a Mason. It sets the Mason apart from other men. There



shall be many who seek to wear it and those to whom it is given shall exalt themselves because of possessing it. No other gift that mere man can bestow can equal this honour and dignity. Kings can bestow no decorations or titles so worthy as this.

The Senior Warden says:



"More ancient than the Golden Fleece or Roman Eagle, more honourable than the Garter or any other Order in existence, being the Badge of Innocence and bond of friendship."

According to Bro. Howe in his book "THE FREEMASONS' MANUAL", Emnolphus of Trace was initiated in the Elusian Mysteries (in Greece) in the year 1350 B.C. He was made the first priest and it was he who instituted the lambskin as a symbol of Peace and Goodwill. Thus it will be seen that the apron is indeed "more ancient than the Golden Fleece or the Roman Eagle."

The apron is a perfect square, its four right angles teach us that Purity, Truth, Sincerity and Honesty are the foundations of morality. Its four sides remind us to practice the four cardinal virtues - Temperance in word and deed; Fortitude in a noble purpose; Prudence in judging wisely; Justice to the humblest and greatest alike. The Square (or 'four') is the symbol of matter. Four was the emblem of matter to the

# It's all about aprons



ancients because they thought the earth was flat, square, and marked by the four points of the compass.

The flap is a triangle whose three sides teach us to relieve a distressed brother. To be kind and friendly in dealing with our fellow men. The triangle is the threefold revelation for God, or Divine Wisdom.

The circle formed by the strings is the symbol of Spirit.

## The Entered Apprentice Apron

This should have the flap pointing upwards, indicating that Divine Wisdom has not yet truly penetrated the gross matter of our bodies.

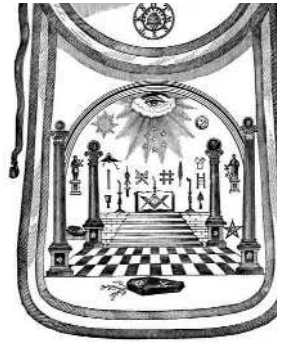
The flap of the apron when raised forms a triangle stand-

*Twelve*

ing on a square. This was considered by the Egyptians as a most perfect figure because in the Egyptian ceremony of Initiation into their mysteries, the candidate, blindfolded and with a chain around his neck, is led by a brother to a door in the wall of the temple of the lodge and the door formed a triangle symbolising Heaven and square representing the area of the entrance on which he trod symbolised earth, thus the entrance symbolised passing from Earth to Heaven. The granite triangle in the king's chamber in the Great Pyramid is said to represent the triune God of the Egyptians.

## The Fellowcraft Apron

The Fellowcraft Apron has the flap pointing down and indicates (1) That wisdom has begun to enter and therefore control matter, and (2) that the Soul and body are acting in unison. The two rosettes stress the dual nature of man and have a clear reference to the two Pillars. The two rosettes also point out that the Fellowcraft has not yet completed Freemasonry as it requires a third rosette to form a triangle. It is thought by some that the blue rosettes added to the Fellowcraft apron indicate the progress being made in the



science of regeneration and that the candidate's spirituality is beginning to bud forth, also that the wilderness of the natural man is now blossoming as the rose, in the flowers and graces of his regenerated nature.

## The Master Mason's Apron.

The addition of the third



rosette forms a triangle, pointing upwards. A triangle, point upwards, represents Fire or Divine Spark. It is the emblem of Shiva, the third member of the Hindu Trinity. It also represents spirit. The triangle of the flap and triangle of the rosettes form a square where they overlap. This square represents matter. Thus we have the union of Body (square), Soul (top triangle) and Spirit (lower triangle).

*In writing this article the editor acknowledges the information and contents available in both historical documents and by leading authorities on Freemasonry*

# Miscellany

## Referendum

A referendum on freemasonry was held in Switzerland on 28th November 1937. Voters were asked whether they approved of a popular initiative that would ban the practice. The proposal was rejected by a large majority of voters and cantons.

## Royal Arch

The 'Strategy for Freemasonry 2022 and Beyond' had a clear emphasis on the future of English Freemasonry - consisting of the Craft and the Royal Arch.

Indeed, the new Pro Grand Master and Pro First Grand Principal has stated that the undeniable and intrinsic link between the two means that it is imperative for us to move forward with a coherent, integrated plan for both.

The Grand Superintendent stated that ultimately, although we should be grateful for the assistance of UGLE/SGC and our Membership Focus Group, the sustainability and success of each of our chapters is in the hands of their individual members.

Joining the Royal Arch (or 'Chapter') is the fourth and final stage in Pure Antient Masonry, as defined in the Act of Union of 1813 that created the current United Grand Lodge of England.

Anyone who has been a Master Mason for four weeks can join—and should aspire to join the Royal Arch, because becoming a Companion of the Order continues their voyage of discovery.

The Ceremony of Exaltation sees members follow the clues from the Third Degree to complete their journey in Pure Antient Masonry, in a spectacular and unforgettable ceremony.

Through ongoing participation, members will work together with old friends and new Companions to build on the principles of the Craft, and unlock fresh perspectives on the meaning and value of Freemasonry

The two Newark based Royal Arch Chapters, Alexander 1661 and Vernon Bussell

8332 welcome new members and anyone interested in Royal Arch can obtain full details from their designated Craft Lodge Royal Arch representative.

## Sunday lunches

Sunday lunches are an important part of our social calendar but they need organising. We are looking for more couples to help in continuing to make them a success and attract more people to this popular dining event.

If you are able to donate a little of your time then please contact Jim Barrie on 01636 892985 or Pearl Holmes on 01636 682939

## Password editor required

It is some 14 years since I took over the editorship of Password following in the footsteps of my predecessors W Bros Stan Denner and Raymond Spurr and all those worthies who went before them.

I have thoroughly enjoyed this period of editing the magazine and seeing it emerge, currently, as a full colour publication and, I am told, one of the best Masonic magazines of its kind.

Now, approaching my 90th birthday, I would like to stand down as editor to make way for someone, perhaps a little younger, to take over the reins and continuing its development in future years.

With this in mind I have indicated to the Masonic Hall board of directors that I would like them to be looking for a replacement. I will be very happy to help and advise my successor in any way they may require.

**At the same time it is immediately essential for a brother to take on the responsibility of looking after the advertisements for Password. This is a very important and not too onerous a task as the revenue from advertising is what makes the publication possible rather than it being a burden on other funds.**

The Newark Password provides an important link for Newark Freemasons and I do hope that we will see brethren coming forward..

Interested? Then please contact the Masonic Hall secretary, W Bro Fraser Macintyre who will be able to take matters further.

*Philip Ingall*

*Thirteen*

# THE BYRON CHARITY

Quite recently a question was asked "What do I know about the Byron Charity" I know precious little other than I do know there is a Byron Charity in the Town of Hucknall, but nothing other than that. Several days later after many enquiries to friends and contacts, to my utter amazement I found that the John Byron Charity in Hucknall was still alive and active 451 years after it was created.

The Byron Charity was set up on the 21st of February 1571 by John Byron, son of Sir John Byron of the great beard, the second owner of Newstead Abbey having inherited it following the death of his brother. John Byron (junior 1562-1623) in turn inherited the estate of Newstead Abbey after the death of his father. He was probably living at Bulwell Wood Hall at that time and made a gift to a near neighbour and friend Lancelot Rolleston and twelve other acquaintances.

The gift comprised 16 acres of land at Broom Hill close Hucknall (then part of the Newstead estate) to hold by them and their heirs for ever. This piece of land was measured more accurately in 1871 and found to be 21 acres, 1 rood, and seven perches. (In old imperial measure there 4 roods in one acre and in turn 1 rood contains 40 perches. The land was to be let annually to the persons who could not afford to pay for it, the proceeds of which was to be divided three ways. To the poor people of the parish. Repairs to and beautifying the parish Church and remainder to be spent within the town for whatever purpose.

John Byron (junior) was created Knight of the Bath at the coronation of James V1 of

*Fourteen*

Scotland James the 1st of England and went to live at Newstead Abbey following the death of his father.

In 1637 a fresh deed was drawn up by the trustees who stated that 16 acres of land were in the tenure of Sir John Byron K.B., and it was provided that the tenancy of the land should go to the highest bidder. This deed set forth the manner of distributing the charity money and the election of trustees by co-option. By 1700 Joseph Heath was the tenant on the land at a yearly rate of £6.13s. 4d.

On January 24th 1877 a meeting of the trustee unanimously agreed that for the future £8.00 per annum was to be paid to George Green – the parish clerk – for his management of the Sunday school. (Sunday school was held in the porch of St Mary Magdalene Church Hucknall) It was the forerunner of the Church of England National School in Hucknall. It's interesting to note that the chair of the current trustees and the chair of School governors is a direct descendant of George Green

In more recent times the land at Broomhill was sold off for housing. The proceeds being invested on Government stocks by the trustees for continued support of the local community of Hucknall.

## **What has this to do with Masonry? you may ask**

Nothing but - The 5th Lord Byron 1722-1798. (Or the wicked Lord as he was known) was Grand Master of the Premier Lodge of England (Moderns) from April 1747 to 1752.

Lord Byron (the poet) inherited his title when he died; he became the 6th Baron Byron.

Although Byron was not a Mason, he was very aware of Masonry and mentions it twice in his greatest work Don Juan.

Colonel Thomas Wildman 1787-1859 a British Army officer during the Napoleonic Wars, and friend of Byron the Poet (he went to Harrow with him) purchased Newstead Abbey in 1817 for 94.5k

Thomas Wildman was a Nottinghamshire Mason and Provincial Grand Master of Nottinghamshire for 36 years from 1823 to 1859.

Wildman's close friend was Prince Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex (January 1773 – April 1843) the 6th son of George 3rd. Augustus Frederick became Grand Master of the Premier Grand Lodge of England, in 1813 and in December of that year his brother, Prince Edward Augustus, Duke of Kent and Strathearn, became Grand Master of the Ancient Grand Lodge of England.

On 27 December 1813 the United Grand Lodge of England was constituted at Freemasons' Hall, London with Prince Augustus Frederick as Grand Master. On the 27 December 1813, the two English Grand Lodges came together to form the United Grand Lodge of England, constituted at Freemasons' Hall, London with Prince Augustus Frederick the Duke of Sussex as Grand Master. The Duke was a regular visitor to Newstead Abbey. On the West front on the far right corner is the Sussex Tower named after the Duke of Sussex. Even today both inside and outside the Abbey can be found Masonic symbols which were created by Thomas Wildman.

*Ken Purslow, Byron Lodge 4014 & Magnus Lodge 3441.*

# Bernie Bosson remembered

At the end of 2022, Trent Lodge of Mark Master Masons 1526 unanimously passed a proposition to donate £500 to the Newark Dementia Carers Group, in memory of W.Bro. Patrick Bernard Bosson, (Bernie). At that time our Lodge Treasurer had no access to either the Lodge Charity or General account. This was due to the passing of our long time Treasurer, W.Bro. Adrian Shaw. The Lodge had no current members who were signatories to any of the accounts. It has taken from December 2022 until May 2023 to organise new signatories and gain access to our accounts at NatWest Bank PLC.

On Friday 16th June 2023, our Worshipful Master at the time of the agreed donation, W.Bro. Jim Barrie and the Trent Mark current Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Geoff Quince, jointly presented the donation of £500 to the Chairman of the Newark Dementia Carers Group, Mr Ken Daubney. The presentation was made at the home of Mr Daubney, due to his recent back surgery from



*W.Bro Jim Barrie presents the cheque*



Pictured left to right: Carers Group treasurer Mr Mike Seymour, W.Bro. Jim Barrie, and Bro Geoff Quince. Seated Miss Christine Davison deputy chairman of the Carers Group, Miss Jenny Bosson daughter of the late Bernie and Mr Ken Daubney chairman of the Carers Group

which he is recovering.

The Newark Carers group use the money raised to provide care and attention for those local people suffering from Dementia and assistance to their loved ones. They organise outings to coastal areas and similar interesting attractions, they organise entertainment within the care homes, and generally support the families of those living in a distant world to which we only have occasional and fleeting access.

Not able to be at the presentation was Jenny Bosson's Mother, May Bosson and of course the wife of Bernie who has Dementia, and is

currently residing in a home in Farndon, hopefully she will be just one of those helped by this donation.

The Trent Lodge 1526 donation can now be added the earlier, similar donation of £500 from Bernie's Craft Lodge, Newton Lodge 1661 presented in December 2022.

Newark Dementia Carers Group helps to combat the social isolation of carers, by creating friendships and enabling people to share their experiences with others in a similar situation.

For more details  
Telephone: 01636702577

# Work in progress



The bar refurbishment, now complete apart from decorating, will give the room an entirely new look and completes this section of the building works which now includes a men's toilet adjacent to it.





# Charity committee work

Two pictures from the Dementia Carers Group taken at Kelham House in June. Pictured below WBro Kevin Hyland (Chairman of the Provincial Grand Lodge Case and Finance Committee) presented a cheque for £5,000 from Provincial Grand Lodge to Mrs Christine Davison Vice Chairman of the Newark Dementia Carers Group. On the second picture,



left to right is WBro Kevin Hyland of Castle Lodge 3219, Mrs Elaine Ellison, Jenny Bosson, Mrs Penny Maheson (President of Newark Dementia Carers Group) WBro John Lawrence (Newton Lodge 1661), WBro Bill Ashley (Newton Lodge 1661), and WBro Ken Purslow (Magnus Lodge 3441).

There are only seven elected members of the Provincial Grand Lodge Case and Finance Com-

mittee of which WBro Ken Purslow of Magnus Lodge is also a member. They meet regularly to discuss all applications for funding to Provincial Grand Lodge. Once this committee agrees, then their recommendation goes before the full Provincial Charity Committee for final approval (all Lodges throughout the province nominate a brother to serve on that main committee).

## A miscellany of facts ....



India once withdrew from the football cup finals because they were not allowed to play in their bare feet.

Pandas are the only bears which don't hibernate - their bamboo diet is not sufficiently fattening.

It is estimated that at any on time 0.7% of the world's population are drunk.

95% weight of a cucumber is water.

On average, right handed people live five years longer than their left handed counterparts.

A person breathes seven quarts of air every minute..

Human thigh bones are stronger than concrete.

The very first text message was sent in 1992.



# FREEMASONRY IN FIJI



Freemasonry in Fiji has a rich history since its establishment in the 1800s.

History of Freemasonry in Fiji shows how it enriched and changed the lives of many with its support.

According to the information written in the book titled *The Lodge of Fiji 1882-1982* and written by Leonard. G. Usher, Freemasonry in Fiji began in 1871 when at noon on December 27th, a Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons in Polynesia was opened at Levuka, then the seat of a government headed by Ratu Seru Cakobau.

“Ratu Cakobau”, on whom the title of King of Fiji had been conferred by the European settlers responsible for



forming his government, had been advised that Freemasonry was a dangerous secret society, but enquiry among some of his ministers, already mem-

bers of overseas lodges, convinced him otherwise”.

He therefore signed a document authorising Lodge Polynesia to meet ‘Under Royal Patronage and by Permission’.

That settled matters so far as State authority was concerned, but for reasons which Lodge Polynesia historians have not been able to fully explain, Masonic authority for the lodge’s foundation was far less soundly based.

It appeared that the founding brethren who were men of high integrity and some of them with considerable Masonic experience, were under the impression that a particular lodge in Sydney, Australia, had some sort of

District Grand Lodge authority to grant a charter for a new lodge.

It took a little time before the realisation of irregularity dawned on the brethren concerned, and before an exchange of letters, taking months to travel to and from halfway around the world by sailing ship, resulting in the granting of a charter to Lodge Polynesia, No. 562 in the register of the Grand Lodge of Scotland.

“The date of the charter was February 1st 1875.

In 1875, a sailing captain named Alexander Barrack, although not listed as being among the founding brethren it is recorded s establishing Freemasons in Levuka and, 38 years later,



built the Masonic Lodge in a classic Greek style. But not everyone in Levuka was crazy about the Freemasons. Many of the local Fijians thought there was just something a bit odd about Freemasons

Suva was proclaimed the capital in 1877 and work began on the construction of roads and government buildings in preparation for the official move from Levuka in 1882.

By this time, the new capital already had a Masonic Lodge in the making.

On July 12th 1881, the United Grand Lodge of England had issued a warrant for the establishment of the Lodge of Fiji, No. 1931 at “Suva Na Viti Levu in the Colony of Fiji”.



## FREEMASONRY IN FIJI

The founding members were Charles Devenport Cuthbert, Thomas Golding Kennan, Charles Stephen Thomas,



Philip Samuel Solomon, Thomas Brock and Joseph Hoskins.

The warrant was signed and sealed by the Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Prince



Albert Edward, Prince of Wales, later King Edward VII.

The new lodge met for the first time on May 2nd 1882 and a chartered ship brought a party of Lodge Polynesia brethren from Levuka for the occasion.

When proceedings began, W. Bro.

George Smith of Lodge Polynesia was in the chair and the sitting Master of Polynesia, W.Bro.F.H Duffy, read the warrant of the new lodge.



Two more Past Masters of Lodge Polynesia, W. Bros George Moore and P.S. Solomon, and W.Bro. J.C Doull, of Lodge 421 I.C then assisted in the

installation of W.Bro. C.D. Cuthbert, of Lodge 439 I.C. as the first Master of the Lodge of Fiji.

“Bro. T.G. Kennan of Lodge 428 was invested as Senior Warden, Bro. C.S. Thomas, of Lodge 517 as Junior Warden, Bro. George Leslie, of Lodge 32 as Senior Deacon and Bro. G. Stevenson as Junior Deacon. W. Bro. J.C. Doull was appointed Tyler, with an allowance of one pound a month.

The attendance register records the names of six other brethren of Lodge Polynesia, including that of Thomas Bonyng, first headmaster of then two years old Levuka Public School.

In all, twenty brethren attended that first meeting, representing eleven different lodges of the English, Scottish and Irish constitutions.”

Highlighted that at the initial meeting in addition to the warrant from Grand Lodge, were two dispensations, now framed and hanging in a lodge ante-room, were read.

One reduced to seven days the obligatory lapse of time between the conferment of successive degrees on a candidate.

The second permitted the wearing of Masonic clothing at Divine Service, at the funeral of a brother, who had expressed a wish for Masonic burial and at the laying of the foundation stone of a public building erected for pious or charitable purposes.

The brethren interpreted this dispensation somewhat liberally and that night appeared in full regalia at a ball to celebrate the birth of a new lodge.

The first dispensation was obviously designed to help the lodge to build up its numerical strength. At the inaugural meeting on May 2nd 1882, five names of candidates for initiation were mentioned and nine joining members were proposed.

In the next few months, emergency meetings were held frequently for the degree working only. There were three initiations on May 15th and on July 10th



## FREEMASONRY IN FIJI

three brethren were raised as Master Masons. On this occasion, the lodge was opened at 8pm and closed at 11.45pm.

Initiates and joining members increased the membership of the lodge by 16 in the first four months. In 1883, the number grew by 14 and in 1884 by 15. In its first three years the lodge conferred 113 degrees.

At regular meetings in the first year, a good deal of time was spent on discussing the by-laws of the lodge, but urgency was reduced by a decision at the first meeting to adopt for the time being the by-laws of Lodge St John 1030, These were gradually modified to suit the needs of the Lodge of Fiji.



*Two senior Fijian freemasons in front of pictures relating to the country's masonic history*

The initiation fee was ten guineas (\$21.00 in decimal currency). Resident members paid six shillings a month and country members nine shillings a quarter. From these subscriptions, one shilling a month for each member went to Grand Lodge in London.

The balloting requirement in the by-laws aroused considerable discussion. At first, three objections were required for exclusion, but in November 1882, this was reduced to two. It later became one.

In the early years of the lodge, the question of whether St John's Day should be celebrated by a Masonic Ball came up for annual discussion, the main point of debate being whether or not the lodge should contribute to the cost of such a ball.

In 1886, by a majority, a contribution of £35 was approved but the authorising resolution made it clear to the organisers that the lodge disclaimed responsibility for any expenditure beyond this amount.

*Suma, the capital of Fiji*

In 1888, the St John's Day Ball was



merged with the celebration, on July 21st, of the inauguration of Rewa Lodge of Viti 2238 E.C.

At various times over the last 130 years there were five Lodges in Fiji. Of these five, the one that was located in Navua had been deregistered and the other one, that is, Rewa Lodge of Viti was in the process of being deregistered, because of falling membership. The remaining three, by order of their commencement dates are, Lodge of Polynesia, Lodge of Fiji and Lodge Lautoka

### Satanic

In fact, the word in town was that Freemasons were satanic and held strange rituals inside the Lodge (which would be true if you considered drinking copious amounts of gin with a bunch of other men while playing croquet to be a strange ritual). There were stories of secret tunnels ran beneath the Masonic Lodge to the Royal Hotel or to Nasova House, near the Cession Monument, south of town.

In 2000 there was a coup in Fiji and the villagers of Lovoni, still a little peeved from what had happened to them in 1871, marched into town with torches and machetes yelling, "Out with the devil!" and burned down the Masonic Lodge. Needless to say, they found no signs of satanic rites in





## FREEMASONRY IN FIJI

side the building. Nor did they find any trace of the tunnels said to run under town. Just some Masonic symbols representing equality and mortality as well as some charred croquet mallets.

In Levuka, where the Freemasons had their headquarters until the lodge was burned down there was the mysterious death of Mr. Erasito which has never been explained or the perpetra-



tors brought to justice. Erasito was found completely naked behind Levuka Public School with puncture wounds to his body, after a gathering of prominent Freemasons from across Fiji and overseas.

The Police files have also disappeared when an attempt to unravel the mystery took place.

I am sure Mr. Erasito is in no way connected to Freemasons, as Freemasons, it was said, have the reputation of being honest, law abiding people who treat all people with respect and equality. Freemasons do not kill, people, animals or anything else for that matter, except maybe to do justice to a good bottle of scotch now and again the report concluded.

It was reminded that Freemasons are required to have a belief in God in order to join in the first place so Satanic rituals are nothing but unfounded lies and rumours that only the ignorant or weak minded would believe.

Today the Levuka's masonic lodge is a mere shadow of its past, Located next to Queen Victoria Hall, the prem-



ises of the Levuka Town Council, it is now used as a plant nursery.

But then, in 2009, Freemasonry on the island made headlines but for all the wrong reasons.

Eight Australians spent a night in a Fiji prison cell after police, alerted by frightened residents suspecting sorcery, raided the Freemasons meeting.

The Australians were among 14 people arrested and then released in Fiji on charges of sorcery after conducting a meeting of the Freemasons.

It is understood Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama granted the men an official pardon after the group contacted the Fiji Attorney-General's office, the paper reported.

After 24 hours an officer came in and said, "We have been ordered by the prime minister's department to release you, however, the matter will still remain under investigation". It was understood locals contacted police after becoming concerned about the group's unusual equipment, which is believed to have included a sword, mace and Bible. A New Zealand man, among the group, blamed "dopey village people" for the raid.

Today, masons in Fiji, through their lodges in Suva, Levuka and Lautoka, take part in a variety of charity events and community projects to support underprivileged members of the community.

Over the past five years, they have been involved in education, health, humanitarian assistance and social justice, among others.

*In writing this article the editor acknowledges the information and contents available in both historical documents and by leading authorities on Freemasonry in Fiji.*

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## FAMOUS FREEMASONS

# William "Count" Basie

1904 to 1984

Count Basie, born on 1st August 1904, was one of the American jazz greats of the early - to mid- 20th century and was a household name, throughout the United States and well beyond. What's not as well known is that many of these male musicians and their artistic contemporaries were also Prince Hall Masons, devoted to each other and united by their craft and a strong sense of fellowship

Medina Lodge No. 19, a Prince Hall lodge in New York City, is known for nourishing deep friendships between such artists and musicians and Count Basie was one of its members.

Although Prince Hall musicians did not often speak publicly of their Masonic friendships, a sense of kinship is evident when viewing photos and videos of the era of brothers performing together. Brothers also nodded to their Masonic friendships subtle ways, such as Duke Ellington – a member of Social Lodge No. 1 in Washington, D.C. and a 32 Scottish Rite Prince Hall Mason. Their close-knit friendships were also clearly evident to the non-Masons who frequently interacted with brothers, such as Louis Armstrong, who reminisces in his own autobiography about performing at Masonic funerals.

William James "Count" Basie was born to Lillian and Harvey Lee Basie in Red Bank, New Jersey. His fa-



ther worked as a coachman and caretaker for a wealthy judge. After automobiles replaced horses, his father became a groundskeeper and handyman for several wealthy families in the area. Both of his parents had some type of musical background. His father played the mellophone, and his mother played the piano.

The best music pupil at school and though a natural at the piano, Basie preferred drums. Around 1920, Basie went to Harlem, a hotbed of jazz and in 1925 gained his first steady job at Leroy's, a place known for its piano players and its "cutting contests". It catered to "uptown celebrities", and typically the band winged every number without sheet music using "head arrangements.

Fast forward to the end of 1936 when Basie having formed his own band billed as Count Basie and His Barons of Rhythm, moved from Kansas City to Chicago, where they honed their repertoire at a long engagement at the Grand Ter-

race Cafe. Right from the start, Basie's band was known for its rhythm section. Another Basie innovation was the use of two tenor saxophone players; at the time, most bands had just one. He went on to be one of the most famous bands in the USA and probably the world, playing with such names as Frank Sinatra, Bing Crosby Sarah Vaughan, Tony Bennett and Sammy Davis Jr. One of Basie's biggest regrets was never recording with Louis Armstrong, though they shared the same bill several times.

Throughout his long career Count Basie introduced several generations of listeners to the Big Band sound and left an influential catalogue. Basie is remembered by many who worked for him as being considerate of musicians and their opinions, modest, relaxed, fun-loving, dryly witty, and always enthusiastic about his music. In his autobiography, he wrote, "I think the band can really swing when it swings easy, when it can just play along like you are cutting butter."

Count Basie died of pancreatic cancer in Hollywood, Florida on 26th April 1984 at the age of 79. Many of his Masonic friends attended his funeral.

*In writing this article the editor acknowledges the information and contents available in both historical documents and other sources of information.*

*Twenty-three*

## FAMOUS FREEMASONS

# Peter Sellers

1925 to 1980

Peter Sellers CBE was initiated as a Freemason in the same Lodge as his father, Chelsea Lodge No. 3098 in London on 16th July 1948, where he completed his Second Degree on 21st January 1949 and his Third Degree on 16th November 1951.

Chelsea Lodge had been established in 1905 for Freemasons in the entertainment industry. Sellers' father William had been a variety performer.

Sellers was born on 8th September 1925 in Southsea, a suburb of Portsmouth. His parents were Yorkshire-born William "Bill" Sellers and Agnes Doreen "Peg" (née Marks). Both were variety entertainers; Peg was in the Ray Sisters troupe. Although he was christened Richard Henry, his parents called him Peter, after his elder brother, who was stillborn. Sellers had no other siblings. Peg Sellers was related to the pugilist Daniel Mendoza (1764–1836), whom Sellers greatly revered and whose engraving later hung in his office. At one time Sellers planned to use Mendoza's image for his production company's logo.

Sellers maintained a very close relationship with his mother, which his friend Spike Milligan later considered unhealthy for a grown man. Sellers's agent, Dennis Selinger, recalled his first meeting with Peg and Peter Sellers, noting that "Sellers was an immensely shy young man.

### Stage debut

Sellers made his stage debut at the Kings Theatre, Southsea, when he was two weeks old. He began accompanying his parents in a variety act that toured the provincial theatres. Accompanying his family on the variety show circuit, Sellers learned stagecraft, but received conflicting encouragement from his parents and developed mixed feelings about show business. His father doubted Sellers's abilities in the entertainment field, even suggesting that his son's talents were only enough to become a road sweeper.

While at St Aloysius College, Sellers began to develop his improvisational skills. He and his closest friend at the time, Bryan Connon,



shows. Connon remembers that "Peter got endless pleasure imitating the people in Monday Night at Eight. He had a gift for improvising dialogue and sketches, too. I'd be the 'straight man', the 'feed', ... I'd cue Peter and he'd do all the radio personalities and chuck in a few voices of his own invention as well."

### Evacuated

With the outbreak of the Second World War, St. Aloysius College was evacuated to Cambridgeshire. Because his mother did not allow Sellers to go, his formal education ended at fourteen. Early in 1940, the family moved to the north Devon town of Ilfracombe, where Sellers's maternal uncle managed the Victoria Palace Theatre; Sellers got his first job at the theatre, aged fifteen, starting as a caretaker. He was steadily promoted, becoming a box office clerk, usher, assistant stage manager and lighting operator. He was also offered some small acting parts. Working backstage gave him a chance to study actors such as Paul Scofield.

In September 1943, he joined the Royal Air Force, although it is unclear whether he volunteered or was conscripted. Sellers wanted to become a pilot, but his poor eyesight restricted him to ground staff duties. He found these duties dull, so auditioned for Squadron Leader Ralph Reader's RAF Gang Show entertainment troupe:

He first worked as a drummer and toured around England as a member of the Entertainments National Service Association (ENSA). He developed his mimicry and improvisational skills during a spell in Ralph Reader's wartime Gang Show entertainment troupe, which toured Britain and the Far East. After the war, Sellers made his radio debut in ShowTime, and eventually became a regular performer on various BBC radio shows. During the early 1950s, Sellers, along with Spike Milligan, Harry Secombe and Michael Ben-



# Peter Sellers

tine, took part in the successful radio series The Goon Show, which ended in 1960.

Sellers began his film career during the 1950s. Although the bulk of his work was comedic, often parodying characters of authority such as military officers or policemen, he also performed in other genres and roles.

## With Sophia Loren

In 1960, Sellers portrayed an Indian doctor, Dr Ahmed el Kabir, in Anthony Asquith's romantic comedy "The Millionairess", a film based on a George Bernard Shaw play. Sellers was not interested in the role until he learned that Sophia Loren would be his co-star.

He played various roles in the period between 1978 and his demise and in the course of his life he was married three times, firstly to Brit Eckland in 1964, then to Miranda Quarry in 1970 and finally in 1977 to Lynne Frederick who survived him..

## Finally

On 21st July 1980, Sellers arrived in London from Geneva. He checked into the Dorchester hotel, before visiting Golders Green Crematorium for the first time to see the location of his parents' ashes. He had plans to attend a reunion dinner with his Goon Show partners Milligan and Secombe, scheduled for the evening of 22nd July. On the day of the dinner, Sellers took lunch in his hotel suite and shortly afterwards collapsed from a heart attack. He was taken to the Middlesex Hospital, London, and died just after midnight on 24th July 1980, aged 54.

A private funeral service was held at Golders Green Crematorium on 26 July, conducted by Sellers's old friend, Canon John Hester. A memorial service was held at St Martin-in-the-Fields on 8th September 1980 on what would have been Sellers's 55th birthday. Close friend Lord Snowdon read the twenty-third Psalm, Harry Secombe sang "Bread of Heaven" and the eulogy was read by David Niven.

## Genius

Fellow actor Richard Attenborough said that Sellers "had the genius comparable to Chaplin", Sellers as "a man of enormous gifts; and

*In writing this article the editor acknowledges the information and contents available in both historical documents and other sources of information.*

# GONE FISHING



Thanks to the admirable efforts of WBro Bruce Routledge we had a super day's fishing in excellent company as well as some good weather. We fished at Hayton Lakes Complex, Retford. Two prizes were awarded and alas Nottinghamshire were runners up!

The winner from Lincolnshire caught some superb fish predominantly Carp up to eight pounds in weight whilst the runner up prize went to WBro Peter Hart, representing Nottinghamshire, for the most species caught - thanks to some sound advice from WBro John Edis. It is hoped that this event will take place again next year.

Taking part were: Steve Hallberg (PGM Lincs), Neil Charlesworth - Lincs, Dave Smith - Lincs, Denis Fanthorpe - Lincs, Les Darby - Lincs, John Edis - Notts, Andy Logan, Notts, Bruce Routledge - Notts and Peter Hart - Notts

## Fish facts...

There are over 30,000 species of fish. ...

Infantfish are the smallest fish in the world, reaching only 8 mm long.

Whale sharks are the biggest fish in the world at 16 meters long.

Neotropical fish alone make up 10% of all vertebrates on Earth.

Neotropical fish include an estimated 5,600 species in its category.

Today, 1,173 fish species around the world face extinction from various factors.

Some fishes lay their eggs on land instead of in the water

# TRAVEL TALK by The Editor ...

It would seem the recent day out in Lincoln was popular with readers so here's another one - a little further afield.

A day out in York, a city easy to get to. You can take the A1 then on to the A64 straight into York - 74 miles that would take you around one and a half hours. Or you can take the LNER East Coast Main Line with a service direct to the city. A forty minutes journey with ticket prices as low as just over £10 depending on days and times.

York is a vibrant festival city with Roman roots and a Viking past, offering an adventure for everyone. A city where ancient walls surround incredible local businesses, attractions, shops, accommodation and eateries, with exciting events every day and inspiring festivals every month of the year.

It is unlike any other English city. There's thirty world-class museums you can explore, one of the best racecourses in the country and a thriving cultural scene.

## **The bloody tour of York**

Skip the standard group tours and enjoy an alternative history of York during this award-winning, immersive guided tour of the city. Pass by top attractions—such as the Shambles and Jorvik Viking Centre—as you listen to your guide tell tales of witches, queens, and murderers that you wouldn't hear on most other tours.

But for more in-depth experiences here are a few examples.

## **The York Dungeon**

Get ready to journey back through 2,000 Years of York's darkest history as you see, hear and (ahem) smell the city's murky past! But beware, as DICK'S BACK! That's right peasants, hold on to your valuables! The York Dungeon is rife with rumours of highwaymen prowling the area...and the most vicious one of all is said to have returned.

## **National Rail Museum**



Escape the day-to-day rush and tumble and visit the National Railway Museum for a journey through time. Get up close to icons of the rails including Mallard, the world's fastest steam locomotive. Discover how high-speed rail travel began and journey back in time to experience the working life of a station. Explore over 200 years of history and find out how railways shaped our world.

## **The Jorvik Centre**

Discover the Original Viking Encounter at JORVIK Viking Centre! Experience the Viking Age by pre-booking your visit.

With its world-famous ride

taking visitors around the sights, sounds and smells of Viking-age York, and state-of-the-art galleries showcasing a unique collection of 1,000 year old artefacts. Discover York's fascinating Viking legacy. One of the largest Viking hoards ever discovered in the UK has been loaned to JORVIK Viking Centre by Lancashire County Museum Service. Discovered in a lead container in Lancashire, the Silverdale Hoard is comprised of over 200 pieces of silver rings, hacksilver and coins of Anglo-Saxon, Viking and Arabic origin.

## **York Minster**

Discover one of the world's most magnificent cathedrals, a masterpiece in stained glass and stone and a sacred space which has been at the centre of Christianity in the north of England since the 7th century. The Minster was built for the glory of God and this is reflected in every aspect of this ancient building, from the exquisite handcrafted stone through to the unrivalled collection of medieval stained



glass. Marvel at the Great East Window, the

## TRAVEL TALK

largest single expanse of medieval stained glass in the country, take a guided tour filled with stories from the building's 800-year history or visit the Undercroft Museum to explore the remains of a Roman barracks and the cathedral's links to Viking York.

### River cruising

Step on-board for a 45 minute river cruise. You will have a great view to uncover the history of this ancient city and the immense impact the River Ouse has had on its development. From the impact of flooding over the centuries to its prosperity as an inland port, bringing precious goods from across the globe into York, including the humble cocoa bean, that super-charged York's world-famous chocolate industry.

No trip to York is complete without visiting The Shambles, in the city centre with a long and interesting past. Dating back to Medieval times it was once the street of the butcher shops and evidence is still there in some of the shop fronts. The Shambles is Europe's most visited street, attracting tourists and shoppers from all over the world.

For a more up to date shopping experience Parliament Street and the streets around it are the main hubs. The broad, mostly pedestrianised street is lined with stores and cafés. High Street multiples vie with private traders to offer top names

and individual choices in just about everything you may need from fashions to furniture and much more.

### Walk the walls



York's City Walls are FREE. They are open to walk on from about 8.00am to dusk daily (except in conditions when repairs/maintenance, snow or ice may make them dangerous). The well-preserved walls are 2.6 miles long around the ancient City centre but give yourself around two hours to complete the route to give you some time to stop and admire or photograph the stunning views.

### Ghosts galore

The city boasts a good many ghosts and York Castle Museum is home to one of the most infamous York ghost stories. In 1953, the museum caretaker, a Mr Jonas claimed to see a little man whom he described as being dressed in Edwardian clothing pacing the floor. Assuming the man had somehow got locked inside he approached him and laid a hand on his shoulder at which point he promptly disappeared!

There are several tales of ghosts in York Minster, one of the most haunted places in the city. One is said to be a young man believed to be Dean Gale who died in 1702 aged 26. His ghostly

apparition has been reported sitting in the pews and listening to the sermons.

One of the most notoriously haunted pubs in York is the Ye Olde Starre Inne. Dating back to around 1444 the cellars are the focal point for the hauntings here, as many people have reported hearing the screams of Royalist soldiers. The cellars were a makeshift hospitals for soldiers during the English Civil War.

35 Stonegate has been known as York's most haunted building. It is a building that is soaked in history, and is said to have at least 14 different ghosts. One of the most documented spirits of 35 Stonegate is known simply as Tom, and he seems to occupy the second floor.

At the half timbered Black Swan one of the most



common sightings here is of a 'workman' in a bowler hat from the late 19th century who stands at the bar, tutting and fidgiting as if waiting for someone's arrival. As well as waiting at the bar, he's seen walking abruptly from room to room, and his presence often fades before your eyes.

Scary, isn't it?

# **Brian Rollitt Memorial Quiz Night**

**The Avenue, Friday 27th October 2023 – 6.30pm for 7pm**

Join us for our regular October Quiz, organised for many years by Brian Rollitt and now by Quiz Master Extraordinaire Chris Ward.

The questions will be challenging, many of us will be intellectually challenged, But.....**additionally**

the bar will be open, the company will be first class and the food will be filling!

**Nicholson's Steak Pie, Mash, Peas, Gravy & Mint Sauce  
Seasonal Dessert**

**Come along and have a go!**

- Sign up by contacting Chris Ward at [kryssy48@gmail.com](mailto:kryssy48@gmail.com) or mobile 07904841999.
- Max 8 to a Team or come on your own! (We will create Teams based on confirmed bookings).
- Proceeds to the W&M Committee (Hall Refurbishment).
- Pre-payment required as meals will need to be pre-ordered – by 17.10.23 please!
- Payment by BACS: The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee  
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# Knights Templars at East Markham



A small settlement is recorded at Low Marnham in Domesday without mention of a church or priest. A church appears to have been present by the late-twelfth century, when John de Lacy, constable of Chester, granted the church to the Knights Templar – de Lacy died in 1190/1 whilst crusading with Richard I in the Holy Land. Hitherto de Lacy's grant, the church of Marnham was a rectory belonging to the patronage of the Fitzwilliams.

In 1230 archbishop Walter Gray confirmed the Templar's rights in the church of Marnham and also Sibthorpe church in the same context, and this may be a lost church at Sibthorpe only six miles distant near East Markham. .

In the early 13th century the rector of Marnham, Elyas, along with the consent of Thomas, son of William, the patron, entered into an arrangement by which Knights Templar Robert de Laxinton was to have the corn and hay tithes of the villages of South-Marnham, Grassthorpe Skegby and of the whole demesne of Marnham, with all the meadows, and services due from the tenants in cutting and leading the corn, and mowing and winning the hay. This arrangement was confirmed by archbishop Gray in October 1227.

Robert de Lexington was granted a licence for a private chapel or oratory in his manor house at Marnham.

In 1291 Marnham church was

valued at £30 for the purposes of ecclesiastical taxation under Pope Nicholas IV, and a vicarage there valued at £8. Apparently the vicar of Marnham sought to evade this tax, and the Prior of Thurgarton was ordered by John le Romeyn, archbishop of York in 1293 not to compel the vicar to contribute. This had not been the first controversial incident as in the same year as the tax was imposed, 1291, the archbishop requested that the rector, Master William de la Marche, desist from oppressing his vicar by bringing an action against him. The reason for this was that the military orders were exempt from such payments.

In 1300 pope Boniface VIII gave a grant to the master and brethren of the Knights Templar to appropriate the church of Marnham in order to recoup themselves for the losses suffered from the Saracens Their patronage was to take effect on the death or resignation of the rector; perpetual vicars were to be appointed. As the church had been in the hands of Templars for over 100 years was assumed to be a confirmatory grant or a renewal.

In October 1308 the king issued a writ to the archdeacon not to make any demand on the church, held by the master and brethren of the Templars. William de Bevercote, the king's clerk, was appointed in April 1312 to: 'collect all fruits and obventions [periodic income] of the Templars' church of Marnham... and... of all

houses and lands pertaining thereto, from Michaelmas last, so that he render thereto £43 yearly and cause the church to be decently served'; the income for the king's use.

The vicarage was valued at 12 marks (£8) in 1320 when it was vacant following the resignation of master William the previous year.

In 1327, archbishop William Melton reported to the King Edward III that Marnham had been appropriated to the Templars and after their dissolution the church was occupied by many temporal lords until the Hospitallers entered by papal grant and licence of Edward II about eight years previously. The demand for a biennial tenth on the clergy, imposed by Pope John XXII, was suspended by the king and the archbishop subsequently released the sequestration (the Hospitallers were exempt from payment as had been the Templars).

Prior Philip de Larking, writing in 1338, described the church of Marnham as being appropriated to the Knights Hospitaller and valued at 30 marks.

Clearly the church had passed from the Templars to the Hospitallers as indicated by archbishop Melton eleven years previously.

*In writing this article the editor acknowledges the information and contents available in both historical documents and other sources of information.*

# "Come Dine With Us" Freemasons of Newark Dining Club

The Chequers Inn, Elston  
Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> November 2023

6.30pm for 7.00pm

**£27.50 pp (3 Courses)\***

**£22.50 pp (2 Courses)\***

(Starter & Main or Main & Dessert)



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Any profits generated will go to  
The Newark Masonic Hall Ways  
& Means Committee

We have secured a saving against the regular menu prices (have a look at the website) and hope you can join us for this most sociable of occasions!

\*A 10% Service Charge is payable on the night. The restaurant does not normally open on a Tuesday but is opening for us specifically & is exclusively for our use, dependent on numbers. Situated on 1st floor.

Please choose your selections from the attached Menu & email your orders to [paul92.simpson@outlook.com](mailto:paul92.simpson@outlook.com) together with the names of your party.

Please book & pay by 05.11.23 so we can confirm details with the restaurant. Payment should be made by BACs to:

**The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee**

Sort Code: 05 06 41. Account No: 29611983. Ref: CDWU (your surname)

THREE COURSE £27.50  
TWO COURSE £22.50

## STARTERS

- PARSNIP SOUP with home made bread (GRF, VE, V, DF)
- POLPETTI ARRABBIATA (GFR) Home made beef meatballs served in chilli tomato sauce, topped with rocket, parmesan shavings and slice of bread
- GAMBERONI PICCANTE (GRF) large prawns cooked with Veloute sauce, garlic, chilli, parsley and white wine

## MAINS

- SEA BASS (GF) pan fried sea bass with Mediterranean vegetables
- PORK BELLY (GFR) served with mash, carrots and cider gravy
- BEEF OR VEGETABLE LASAGNE served with garlic bread and side salad

## DESSERTS

- Tiramisu (v)
- Fruit Panna Cotta (V, GF)  
or Baileys caramel cheesecake (V)

THE  
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INN

# Quotations to get you thinking

Life is about making an impact, not making an income. *Kevin Kruse*

Whatever the mind of man can conceive and believe, it can achieve. *Napoleon*

Strive not to be a success, but rather to be of value. *Albert Einstein*

I attribute my success to this: I never gave or took any excuse. *Florence Nightingale*

We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give. *Winston Churchill*

The most difficult thing is the decision to act, the rest is merely tenacity. *Amelia Earhart*

Definiteness of purpose is the starting point of all achievement. *W. Clement Stone*

Life isn't about getting and having, it's about giving and being. *Kevin Kruse*

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans. *John Lennon*

The mind is everything. What you think you become. *Buddha*

The best time to plant a tree was 20 years ago. The second best time is now. *Chinese Proverb*

An unexamined life is not worth living. *Socrates*

Eighty percent of success is showing up. *Woody Allen*

Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose. *Lyndon B. Johnson*

No act of kindness, no matter how small, is ever wasted. *Aesop*

Your time is limited, so don't waste it living someone else's life. *Steve Jobs*

Every child is an artist. The problem is how to remain an artist once they grow up. *Pablo Picasso*

You can never cross the ocean until you have the courage to lose sight of the shore. *Christopher Columbus*

I've learned that people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel. *Maya Angelou*

Whether you think you can or you think you can't, you're right. *Henry Ford*

The two most important days in your life are the day you are born and the day you find out why. *Mark Twain*

The best revenge is massive success. *Frank Sinatra*

People often say that motivation doesn't last. Well, neither does bathing. That's why we recommend it daily. *Zig Ziglar*

Life is really simple, but we insist on making it complicated. *Confucius*

Start by doing what's necessary; then do what's possible; and suddenly you are doing the impossible. *Francis of Assisi*

Attitude is a little thing that makes a big difference. *Winston Churchill*

As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them. *John F. Kennedy*

Believe you can and you're half-way there *Theodore Roosevelt*

In order to carry a positive action we must develop a positive vision. *Dalai Lama*

## “A Stitch In Time”

- . Dressmaking
- . Clothing alterations
- . Regalia alterations
- . Horse rug repairs



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## SATURDAY SOCIAL

The Ways & Means Committee invites all Newark Masons, partners, friends & family to join them for the Saturday Socials at The Newark Masonic Hall.

The bar is now open from Midday to 3pm on the last Saturday of the month every month to provide the opportunity to hopefully catch up with friends you haven't seen for a while and they hope you may drop in and say hello

*See you there!*







# The Ladies' Luncheon Club



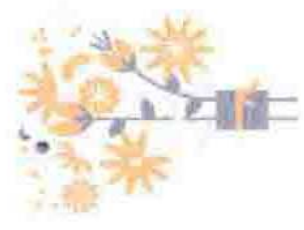
## Programme 2023/24

- Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October – CVS – Andrew Oxnard
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November – Dogs Trust – Ella Tonge
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> December – Weston Choir
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January – Headway – Paul Simpson
- Friday 9<sup>th</sup> February – YMCA – Becky Dobb
- Friday 8<sup>th</sup> March – Lord Byron – Ken Purslow
- Friday 12<sup>th</sup> April – Pilots & Petticoats – David Skillen
- Friday 10<sup>th</sup> May – Newark Operatic Society – Rita Crowe

Associate Membership now available for ladies without a Masonic connection via personal recommendation

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 Please contact Club Secretary Linda Simpson on 07942 861952 for more information.

# Looking back in Password

*We look back at some of the happenings in Newark Freemasonry ten years ago.*

*This page recalls items from the Password of Autumn 2013.*

In this edition Hall Company chairman talked about the new "heating system and some redecoration" with a special thank you to W Bro John Edis for "overseeing the work together with others too many to name".

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WBro Adrian Crampton told us about Masonic jewels and drew attention to the Newton Lodge Senior Deacon's wand which is topped by a male figure rather than the usual dove bearing an olive branch.

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The editor wrote about Winston Churchill's mammoth trench digging device called "Nellie" which was trialed in Clumber Park but never used during World War Two. The prototype constructed by Ruston Bucyrus in Lincoln, close to where the original First World War tanks were designed and built.

□□□□

WBro Bryan Spilsbury won the Newark Mason's golf competition with a score of 39 points although it was noted that the attendance was the lowest for some 25 years!

□□□□

Famous Freemasons featured the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent installed in 1957. A role which was occupied by his father up to 1942 when he was killed in an air accident.

*Thirty-four*

International Freemasonry looked at the Craft in Egypt which originated around 1798 and attributed to French masons in Napolian's conquering army but speculated on whether Napolian himself was a Mason.

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Newark Freemasons were reported to be continuing their support for the Newark Food Bank which was operated by Newark churches. A receptacle in the Masonic Hall entrance was made available for food donations from brethren.

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Sayings and their origins gave readers some interesting explanations of how everyday sayings such as "big wigs", "brass monkeys" and "biting the bullet" originated.

□□□□

Password Tavel took readers to the Greek island of Skiathos and told the story of how this small attractive island was the stepping off point for the filming of Mamma Mia on a neighbouring island of Skopelos.

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Sunday lunches were publicised and members were reminded that non-Masons were welcomed as Masons guests for these popular five course meals.

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A touch of the Turkish recalled an item by the late W Bro Stan Denner, a former editor of Password, who was an ardent Turkophile and his recipe for Malatya Kebab, which featured oven baked aubergines was repeated in his memory.

On the "Few one liners" page one quote relates "Going to church does not make you a good christian anymore than standing in a garage makes you a car" And another one said "Lght travels faster than sound - that is why some people appear bright until you hear them speak". Finally - "Borrow money from a pessimist - they don't expect to get it back".

□□□□

The editor, in his column, wrote about the epic poem by Rudyard Kipling, a fellow Mason, entitled "If" and considered it a reminder of Freemasonry in many ways, ending with "Yours is the earth and everything that's in it. And what is more - you'll be a man, my son".

□□□□

Page seven talked about Freemasonry in London and the Goose and Gridiron where the first few lodges met and continued to explain when building of the current premises at Great Queen Street was created, how the provinces developed and how its charitable processes were evolved.

□□□□

On the letters page one writer asked what comes first in relation to a forthcoming Provincial Festival or looking "nearer to home". His letter contained the phrase "Charity begins at home" with the meaning described as: "You should take care of your family and other people who live close to you before helping who are living further away or in another country. Our Masonic family lives in The Avenue - in Newark, he ended.

# about our language

Some thoughts by The Editor

Do you speak English? I asked. "Ah so" said my Far Eastern friend and it was only after a conversation with him that I realised how difficult it must be for foreigners to grasp not only the vagaries of the English language but also aspects of our culture. Take for instance the word bow which refers to a salutation when meeting someone important as opposed to bough when you chop off part of a tree. Or even bow when you refer to part of a bow and arrow. And if you think that is confusing what about rough when taking about something that is not smooth or ruff referring to a frill worn round the neck let alone the different spelling. A flat is our description of an apartment but it is also something that has an even surface or even a musical note that is off pitch.

If that is not enough try explaining grate, spelled like this has two meanings (a frame to support fire ashes or a method of shredding food. Add an "e" to it and great refers something large. So it goes on, not only with a different meaning to the same sounding word, but a different spelling too.

## A multi-use word

But there is one word in the English language that could be a noun, verb, adjective, adverb or preposition. It is "UP". This two-letter word in English has more meanings than any other two-letter word. It's easy to understand UP, meaning toward the sky or at the top of the list. But when we awaken in the morning, why do we wake

UP? At a meeting, why does a topic come UP? Why do we speak UP, and why are the officers UP for election. If there is a tie, it is a toss UP, and why is it UP to the secretary to write UP a report? We call UP our friends, brighten UP a room, polish UP the silver, warm UP the leftovers and clean UP the kitchen. We lock UP the house and fix UP the old car. People stir UP trouble, line UP for tickets, work UP an appetite, and think UP excuses.

To be dressed is one thing, but to be dressed UP is special. And this UP can be confusing. A drain must be opened UP because it is blocked UP! We open UP a store in the morning, but we close it UP at night. When it threatens to rain, we say it is clouding UP. When the sun comes out, we say it is clearing UP. When it rains, it soaks UP the earth. When it does not rain for awhile, things dry UP. We seem to be pretty mixed UP about UP! If you are UP to it, you might try building UP a list of the many ways UP is used. It will take UP a lot of your time, but if you don't give UP, you may wind UP with UP to a hundred or more.

## Eating habits

So what about our eating habits? These too can confuse someone new to the country. Breakfast is pretty well consistent throughout the country although if you are a European tackling a full English can be a daunting start to the day. The mid-day meal is luncheon in some societies but dinner time on others. School dinners for

example are a mid-day feast. Afternoon tea can pretty well be restricted to restaurants for everyday folk who seem to be split between having tea, supper or dinner at times after 5 o'clock.

## Yorkshire pud

Our "foreigner" will have been told that a roast beef dinner is always accompanied by Yorkshire pudding on the same plate yet in some areas it was, and still is, a starter served with onion gravy.

Although they will have learned that fish and chips is part of our staple diet they may also be surprised to learn that traditional fish and chips was introduced to the country by Spanish and Portuguese Jewish immigrants as early as the 16th century. Yet many Mediterranean resorts believe they are giving their Brit visitors a taste of home rather than re-inventing one of their own dishes.

And so it goes on. Learning to be British is covered in confusion, especially if you are an American even though they are supposed to speak the same language. A dame in our country is an honour given to a female whilst in the States it is just any old women. We put things in our car boot – the Yanks call it a trunk. We have biscuits, Americans have cookies and to top it all we go to the toilet and our friends go to the John but perhaps they will have to review this one in view of the present woke gender issues!



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# W Bro John Nelson

PPrGSuptWks, Hon Member - Newton Lodge 1661

WBro John Sidwell Nelson passed to the Grand Lodge above on 14th August 2023 aged 88 years.

W Bro Nelson was initiated on 28th January 1964 at the age of 29, proposed and initiated by his father W. Bro. W.N. Nelson. He moved through the offices and became master of Newton Lodge in 1977. W. Bro. John first acted as Lodge Chaplain at the Installation meeting on Thursday 4th October 2007, he remained chaplain for 12 years.

In the Province he achieved the rank of PPGSuptWks.

At the January meeting in 2014 he received his 50 year certificate.

In recognition of his contribution to Newton lodge he was made a honorary member on 26th February 2019.

Illness prevented him from attending the Lodge in his latter years but he kept in touch.

John Sidwell Nelson was born in Newark on 3rd January 1935 and spent his early years at the family home on Beacon Hill. He went to primary school in Newark followed by secondary school and agricultural college in Southwell.

On leaving education

John decided that he would take up a career in farming, working on several local farms for a year before being 'called up' for National Service.

On joining the forces he was assigned to the Army Military Police and stationed in Austria. It was at this time John learnt to ski, something he continued to enjoy for many years.

On completion of his national service John returned to Newark and decided to pursue a career in the motor trade rather than farming, initially working for a local motor company for five years before deciding to set up his own business. In 1967 John purchased Grove Garage in Balderston which he ran until 2000 when he retired.

John was a big fan of classical music with his favourite musician being Dutch violinist and composer Andre Rieu. Often heard whistling the Radetzky March, his favourite piece.

In his day he was also an active sportsman, going on frequent skiing trips and playing squash and golf. Golf would be something John would continue in his retirement being a long standing member of the Newark Golf Club

As a local businessman, John was an active member of the Newark

community. As well as being a Freemason he was also a member of several local associations including Newark Rotary Club, Newark Round Table, Forty-One Club and latterly a member of The Old Boys Luncheon Club.

Moving to Winthorpe, and as someone who always liked to be kept busy John quickly got involved with the community centre, acting as the contact for bookings, with the parish church, becoming a Parish Community Committee member and joining the local gardening club.

In the eulogy at his funeral it was said "John got on with everyone and with that little twinkle in his eye and his cheeky smile you could not but help like him. I'm sure that went along way to making him the successful businessman he was..

He was never a person to talk much about what he had achieved.. He was always more interested in others. He cared very much for the people in the community and got involved where he could to help make it a better place."

W. Bro. John Nelson will be well remembered and sadly missed by all who knew and respected him. R.I.P.

# The Diary . . . .

**Red type denotes Installation meetings. Green type denotes social functions.**

*Dates etc are in accordance with information received*

## SEPTEMBER 2023

### Sun 3rd - Sunday Luncheon

Mon 4th - Pilgrim Precept. (practice)

Wed 6th - Vernon Bussell Chapter

Thurs 7th - RAM (practice)

### Fri 8th - Pilgrim Priory install

### Fri 8th - Ladies' Luncheon

Tues 12th - RAM Lodge

### Sat 16th - Masonic Hall Open Day

Mon 18th - Newark practice

Tues 19th - Castle Conclave (practice)

Wed 20th - Corinthian PM's

### Thurs 21st - Newark Lodge Install

Mon 25th - Fleming (practice)

Tues 26th - Castle Conclave

Wed 27th - Newton (practice)

### Thurs 28th - Fleming Mark Install

### Sat 29th - Saturday Social

## OCTOBER 2023

### Sun 1st - Sunday Luncheon

Mon 2nd - Prince Rupert RSM

Tues 3rd - Magnus Practice

Wed 4th - Corinthian L o I

### Thurs 5th - Newton Lodge Install

Mon 9th - Corinthian practice

### Tues 10th - Magnus Lodge install

Wed 11th - St John's practice

Thurs 12th - Corinthian Lodge

### Fri 13th - Provincial Grand Priory

### Fri 13th - Ladies' Luncheon

Mon 16th - Newark Lodge (practice)

Tues 17th - St John's Lodge

Wed 18th - Corinthian PM's

Thurs 19th - Newark Lodge

Mon 23rd - Alexander Chapter (practice)

Tues 24th - Newton practice

Wed 25th - Vernon Bussell (practice)

Thurs 26th - Alexander Chapter

### Fri 27th - Brian Rollitt Quiz Night

### Sat 28th - Saturday Social

## NOVEMBER 2023

Mon 30th - Rose Croix (practice)

Tues 31st - Newton Lodge

Wed 1st - Vernon Bussell Chapter

Thurs 2nd - Corinthian L of I

Fri 3rd - Rose Croix Chapter

### Sun 5th - Sunday Luncheon

Mon 6th - Corinthian Lodge (practice)

Tues 7th - Newark Festival

Thurs 9th - Corinthian Lodge

### Fri 11th - Ladies' Luncheon

### Sat 11th - St John' Ladies' Night

Mon 13th - Newark Lodge (practice)

Wed 15th - St John's (practice)

Wed 15th - Corinthian PM's

Thurs 16th - Newark Lodge

Mon 20th - Fleming Mark (practice)

Tues 21st - St John's Lodge

Wed 22nd - Newton Lodge (practice)

Thurs 23rd - Fleming Mark Lodge

Fri 24th - Prince Rupert RSM

### Sat 25th - Saturday Social

Mon 27th - Trent Mark (practice)

Tues 28th - Newton Lodge

Wed 29th - Corinthian L of I

Thurs 30th - Trent Mark Lodge

## DECEMBER 2023

### Sun 3rd - Sunday Luncheon

Tues 5th - Magnus Lodge (practice)

### Fri 8th - Ladies' Luncheon

Mon 11th - Corinthian (practice)

Tues 12th - Magnus Lodge

Thurs 14th - Corinthian Lodge

### Fri 15th - Carol Service

Sat 16th - SBSG

### Mon 25th Christmas Day

### Sat 30th - Saturday Social

|

## JANUARY 2024

Wed 3rd - St. John's Lodge (practice)

Thurs 4th Corinthian Lodge (LOI)

Thurs 8th Corinthian Lodge (practice)

### Tues 9th St. John's Lodge (Install)

Weds 10th Mark LOI

Thurs 11th Corinthian Lodge

### Fri 12th Ladies' Lunch

# The Diary . . . .

## **JANUARY 2024 continued**

Thurs 15th Newark Lodge (practice)  
Wed 18th Corinthian (PM's)  
Thurs 18th Newark Lodge  
Mon 22nd Alexander Chapter (practice)  
Tues 23rd Newton (practice)  
**Thurs 25th Alexander (Install)**  
**Sat 27th W&M Social**  
**Sunday 28th Sunday Lunch**  
Fri 29th Rose Croix (practice)  
Tues 30th Newton Lodge

## **FEBRUARY 2024**

Wed 7th Vernon Bussell  
Thurs 1st Corinthian Lodge (LOI)  
Fri 2nd Rose Croix  
Thurs 5th Corinthian Lodge (practice)  
Tues 6th Magnus Lodge (practice)  
Thurs 8th Corinthian Lodge  
**Fri 9th Ladies' Lunch**  
**Sat 10th Race Night**  
Mon 12th Newark Lodge (practice)  
Tues 13th Magnus Lodge  
Wed 14th St John's (practice)  
Thurs 15th Newark Lodge  
Fri 16th Newton Lodge practice  
Mon 19th Fleming Mark (practice)  
Tues 20th St. John's Lodge  
Wed 21st Newton (practice)  
Thurs 22nd Fleming Mark  
Sat 24th SRIA  
**Sat 24th W&M Social**  
**Sun 25th Sunday Lunch**  
Mon 26th Trent Mark (practice)  
Tues 27th Newton Lodge

## **MARCH 2024**

Fri 1st Trent Mark  
**Tues 5th Castle Conclave (install)**  
**Wed 6th NMH AGM**  
Thurs 7th Corinthian Lodge (LOI)  
**Fri 8th Ladies' Lunch**  
Mon 11th Corinthian Lodge (practice)  
Tues 12th RAM Lodge  
Thurs 8th RAM Lodge (practice)  
Thurs 14th Corinthian Lodge

## **MARCH 2024 continued**

Tues 12th RAM Lodge  
Wed 13th St. John's (practice)  
Fri 15th Pilgrim (practice)  
Mon 26th Alexander Chapter (practice)  
Tues 19th St. John's Lodge  
Wed 20th Newton Lodge (practice)  
Thurs 21st Alexander Chapter  
Fri 22nd Pilgrim Preceptory  
**Sat 22nd Sunday Lunch**  
Tues 26th Newton Lodge  
**Tues 26th PGL Mark**  
Wed 27th Vernon Bussell Ch (practice)

## **APRIL 2024**

Tues 2nd Magnus Lodge (practice)  
**Wed 3rd Vernon Bussell Ch (Install)**  
Thurs 4th Corinthian (Fest)  
**Fri 5th Good Friday**  
Tues 9th Magnus Lodge  
Wed 10th St. John's Lodge (practice)  
Thurs 11th Newark Lodge (practice)  
**Fri 12th Ladies' Lunch**  
Tue 16th St. John's Lodge  
Wed 17th Newton/St. John's (practice)  
Thurs 19th Newark Lodge  
Mon 22nd Fleming Mark (practice)  
Tues 23rd Newton/St. John's (Festival)  
Thurs 25th Fleming Mark  
**Sat 27th W&M Social**



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