



## Lord Mayor hosts the Grand Master at a Guildhall Lodge banquet

The Lord Mayor of London, VVBro Michael Savory PGSwdB, was keen that Freemasonry should figure in his mayoral year, not least because he was installed last March as WM of Guildhall Lodge for their centenary year (to be celebrated in January 2006).

He hosted a dinner for members of his mother Lodge, Prince of Wales's Lodge No.259, and members of his Board of Grand Stewards at Mansion House earlier in the year, but the highlight was to be a banquet at the City's historic Guildhall, held in support of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund and the Lord Mayor's Appeal for SSAFA – Forces Help.

He set up a small committee to arrange a couple of functions, chaired by VVBro Jervis Kay PGSwdB, a PM of his mother Lodge. WBro Simon Duckworth acted as Secretary, having served as a Grand Steward in 1995 (St George's and Cornerstone Lodge No.5) but also as a member of Guildhall Lodge.

The other committee members were the secretaries of PoW's Lodge and Guildhall Lodge, WBros Edward Harford PAGDC and Gerald Pulman PAGDC respectively.

Nearly 500 brethren attended the banquet in June. The Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Kent, was the principal guest, supported by the Pro Grand Master, Lord Northampton, the Deputy Grand Master, Peter Lowndes, two Past Deputy GMs, Iain Ross Bryce and Lord Cadogan, and the Assistant Grand Master, David Williamson.

The brethren attending represented all 19 of the 'Red Apron Lodges' together with Livery and Ward Lodges, professional City Lodges and other Lodges that meet within the Square Mile. They ranged from the Grand Master to a 23-year-old Entered Apprentice.

The evening began with a beautifully presented 'Sunset Ceremony' performed by the Band of the Royal Hospital School,



Above, the Lord Mayor greets the Grand Master, his principal guest at the City banquet

# City stages a unique fund-raising event

Holbrook, which was originally founded at Greenwich. This took place in Guildhall Yard in glorious summer sunshine. This was followed by a Champagne reception where the 'Rulers' circulated amongst the attending brethren.

The stunning banquet began with fanfares from the State Trumpeters (Blues and Royals), and throughout dinner the regimental band provided welcome accompanying music.

The Lord Mayor and the Grand Master spoke, and in the course of dinner it was announced that two cheques, for £5,000 each, had been presented to the President of the

NMSF, VVBro Captain Norman Lloyd-Edwards; one on behalf of the dinner by the Committee Chairman, and the other on behalf of Sir Isaac Newton University Lodge No.859 at Cambridge by the Committee Secretary, to match the dinner's contribution and mark their own 859th meeting.

During the evening a further £12,000 was raised for the Lord Mayor's Appeal.

An evening of immaculate ceremony and hospitality was shared with a wide range of City masons. These included four former Lord Mayors of London, along with Aldermen, Common Councillmen, Past Sheriffs of the City and reigning Masters of City Livery Companies.



Above, the Pro Grand Master and the Lord Mayor join members of the City Livery Lodge for the sunset ceremony in Guildhall Yard. Right, one of the Lord Mayor's attendants adds to the pageantry. Pictures: Dennis Ramsey



# Anglo-American's special relationship

Anglo-American Lodge No.2191 is making plans to celebrate the 10th anniversary of its link with a lodge in Wisconsin, USA.

Anglo-American, which meets at Freemasons' Hall, describes itself as the premier lodge of union between Great Britain and the USA.

It was consecrated in 1887, and the founders' petition to the Grand Master said they intended to form the lodge "with a view to drawing together the bonds of masonic union existing between the two countries, and to enable brethren of the two nationalities and of the Dominion of Canada to meet together for all masonic work under the Grand Lodge of England".

The most recent demonstration of the founders' ideals came in 1996 when the lodge was twinned with Wisconsin's Madison Lodge

No.5, after an approach by Madison's WM, WBro Lamont Colucci.

Since then, says Anglo-American's current WM, WBro Bruce McKenzie-Boyle SLGR, the relationship has been allowed to stagnate, but he has now met WBro Colucci in London to begin revitalising the arrangement.

He explains, "We hope to start by celebrating the 10 years of twinning with Madison Lodge as part of our plan to strengthen our North American heritage and connections.

"Our plans are tentative at this time, but the idea of a special meeting in London in April has been suggested. If a delegation of Freemasons from Wisconsin were able to come over for that, it would make it a special event.

"Because of the lodge's history, we feel we should be the first port of call for American

masons visiting London, and of course, a natural home for any American masons who are staying or residing here for any length of time."

An example of this came in September this year when the lodge raised Bro Tim Bush, an American IT specialist working in London.

Tim has joined other Anglo-American members to begin planning the anniversary celebration.

Madison's WBro Colucci comments, "I think it is a wonderful idea to restart our special relationship, especially in light of recent international events where the UK and the USA are on the front lines together."

For information about Anglo-American Lodge or the twinning celebration, please contact WBro McKenzie-Boyle on 01344 772255 or via email, [bruce.mckenzie-boyle@bt.com](mailto:bruce.mckenzie-boyle@bt.com)

## Ceremony marks 100th birthday

WBro Basil Ebenezar SLGR has been presented with a 63-year Long Service certificate to mark his 100th birthday.

The ceremony took place at a meeting of St Olaves Lodge No.2764, of which Basil is a joining member. The certificate was presented by VWBro Keith Hodgson, chairman of the Albert Group.

Basil (left) was born in Northern India and initiated into the Lodge of Friendship and Harmony No.1270 (EC) on 18th December 1943. He joined the associated Royal Arch chapter in 1947 and was advanced as a Mark Mason in 1949.

By the time he left India in 1960 he was District Grand Chaplain, and having settled in the UK he is now a member of 15 orders and a Grand Officer in ten of them.

## 50-year celebration for a safe Haven

WBro Michael Young LGR has celebrated 50 years as a Mason and as a member of Haven Lodge No.2022. He was presented with a Long

Service certificate by RWBro Russell Race, the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, at Haven's recent meeting at Mark Masons Hall.

Michael (left) is a retired vet and practised for most of his career in Ealing. He was initiated in 1955 at the age of 29, when Haven Lodge still met at Ealing Town Hall.

He delayed becoming WM until Haven's centenary year of 1984, and was Master again in 1993.

On the first occasion he initiated his son Nigel, and on the second he installed him as his successor.



## Masters' lodge is our first consecration

Metropolitan Grand Master Lord Millett and his deputy, RWBro Russell Race PJGW, are pictured (above) either side of WBro Ronald Palmer PAGDC, the first Master of the newly consecrated North London Installed Masters Lodge No.9784.

The consecration last October at Freemasons' Hall was the first to be conducted under the auspices of the new Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London.

The consecrating team was directed by the MetGDC, VWBro Guy Elwood PGSwdB, and it included the MetSGW WBro Michael Ward SLGR, the MetJGW WBro Graham Roper PAGDC and the MetGChap WBro William Marston AGChap. Also attending was RWBro Rex Thorne, the Past MetGM.

The new WM, who had presented the lodge with its Volume of the Sacred Law, invested

WBro Gary Mandell LGR as Acting IPM, and WBro Stephen Strong and WBro Roger Leigh LGR respectively as his Senior and Junior Wardens.

North London Installed Masters Lodge has 54 founders and will meet at Southgate Masonic Centre on the fourth Mondays in January and June.

Other senior officers who were invested at the consecration are: WBro Jack Matthews SLGR (Chaplain), WBro Laurence Gold (Treasurer), WBro Stephen Miller SLGR (Secretary), WBro Steven Gee (DC), WBro Ivan Kovler LGR (Almoner) and WBro Robert Lee PGStdB (Charity Steward).

● A new lodge for Metropolitan Grand Stewards was consecrated on 11 October 2005. A report and pictures will be included in the Spring 2006 edition of the London Column.

## Distinguished royal history

Britannic Lodge No.33 celebrated its 275th anniversary in the presence of the Pro Grand Master, on 21st July at Freemasons' Hall.

Britannic has a long and distinguished history, and claims two Kings of England, three Kings of Hanover and five Royal Dukes among its past members.

So the celebratory meeting featured a lecture by Past Grand Librarian VVBro John Hamill, entitled 'Freemasonry and the Royal Connection'.

The festive board was held on board the RS Millennium II with post-dinner entertainment provided by Chelsea Lodge.

## Birthday banner

The Bishop of Barking Lodge No.3050 has celebrated its centenary with a banner dedication in front of 70 brethren at the Churchill Rooms, Ilford.

After an oration by WBro the Rev Calcott-James, the brethren were treated to the original 1904 menu at the festive board and music by harpist Marie Beattie.

During the meeting, the WM, WBro George Osborne SGD presented the Chairman of Harewood Group, VVBro David Jeffery with a £2000 cheque for the RMBI, along with £650 each for Moorfields Eye Hospital and the Children's Country Holidays Fund.

## An electric talk

The 90-year history of Kelvin Lodge No.3736 was outlined at its anniversary meeting by the lodge's secretary, WBro Fred Tufnell LGR.

William Thompson was born in 1824 and became Lord Kelvin for his work in the field of electricity and magnetism. A lodge bearing his name was sponsored by Electric Lodge No.2087 in 1914.

Kelvin Lodge itself has sired two daughter lodges, Whitefriars No.5097 in 1929 and Boston Manor No.7151 in 1952. Representatives from both attended Kelvin's 90th anniversary meeting where WBro Ray Kahn was installed as WM.

## Merging lodges

The first amalgamation ceremony under the Metropolitan Grand Lodge was conducted by VVBro David Taylor PG Supt Wks, chairman of Sussex Group.

The amalgamating lodges were Falcon Lodge No.8062 who received the members of Jonathan Lodge No.7088.

The ceremony was specially written by WBro Keith Hodgson PDepGSuptWks. WBro David Wilkinson PAGDC, the Group Director of Ceremonies, escorted the Group Chairman and acted as DC for the evening.

Several founders of both lodges were among the 80 brethren present for the ceremony which lasted just over the hour followed by a banquet.



# Classic cars and cricket teams put on a show

The stunning entrants for this summer's Masonic Classic Car Run, included (above) a 1933 Aston Martin with owner Tony Liddington of Old Bedford Modernia Lodge No.5268, pictured here showing off its gleaming engine to three wide-eyed young visitors, Sam, Jason and Harry.

The rally finished at the Royal Masonic School for Girls on a gloriously sunny Saturday in early September, with a jazz quartet and refreshments welcoming the drivers, and Dep Met Grand Master RWBro Russell Race wielding the chequered flag.

From the finishing line, a short stroll through the school's spectacular grounds brought visitors to the pavilion and pitch which the Metropolitan cricket club gratefully views as its home. Picnickers arranged themselves under the trees to enjoy a friendly match between Metropolitan A&B sides.

For other visitors, the Metropolitan Grand Stewards conducted tours around the school buildings.

Next year's event takes place in July – please see our coupon on the back page to request details when the arrangements have been completed.



Above, a group from Sir Thomas White Lodge No.1820 and their ladies enjoy a picnic at the Metropolitan cricket club's spectacular ground. Pictures: Dennis Ramsey

## Warning follows forgery attempt

Lodge secretaries and treasurers have been warned to be careful in disposing of redundant documents and correspondence, following a recent attempt by fraudsters to forge a lodge's authorised signatures on a bank transfer.

The Secretary in question was contacted by the lodge's bank. The bank had received an order, which appeared to be signed by the Secretary and Treasurer, to transfer £6,500 to the bank account of a design group.

The bank was querying the order because there were insufficient funds in the lodge's account to cover it. The Secretary was able to demonstrate that the signatures were poor forgeries, and the matter was handed over to the police.

Another recent example of attempted fraud involves an email claiming to be from a masonic group offering a share in charity money.

Depending on whether the email is from Germany or Brazil, it purports to be from the Freemasons of Winchester or Bournemouth, announcing that they are about to distribute their annual charity grants totalling 'US\$2.5 million'.

Unsurprisingly, the recipient of the email is told he has been selected to receive a grant.

Neither group exists nor do any of the persons named in the email, including the firm of London solicitors. The email is simply a scam to gain access to bank accounts.

## Thanksgiving at the RAF's church

Metropolitan Grand Lodge's service of celebration and thanksgiving took place on 26 May at St Clement Danes Church in the Strand.

The service included a reading by the Metropolitan Grand Master, Lord Millett, and the sermon was given by the Met Grand Chaplain, the Rev William Marston.

The church is steeped in London history as well as being of great significance to the RAF.

According to tradition, the original church was built in the 9th Century by Danes residing in London who, having married English wives, were permitted to live between Westminster and Ludgate.

The church was rebuilt in its present form by Sir Christopher Wren in 1682 and its steeple was added in 1719.

St Clement Danes was destroyed by enemy action on 10 May 1941, but the walls and steeple remained standing. After the war, the RAF launched a restoration appeal and on 19 October 1958 the church was re-consecrated as the Central Church of the Royal Air Force.

## New clinic equipped

West Twyford Coronation Lodge No.5674 has donated a spirometer to the Mill Hill surgery in Acton, enabling the staff to deal with patients immediately rather than refer them to the local hospital's waiting list.

A spirometer is an instrument which diagnoses lung function problems, enabling a doctor to deal with a variety of problems, from pneumonia to smoker's cough.

Following its installation, the surgery has instituted a spirometer clinic which has kept the equipment in constant use. It is expected that 60-70 patients will use the service every month.

*A series of special occasions for grandfathers, fathers, uncles, sons and, of course, brothers...*

## Initiation brings renaissance for London Mayors

The third generation of the Jaque family is now progressing in London Mayors Lodge No.3560. WBro Colin Jaque PAGReg initiated his son, and the Charge was given by 91-year-old grandfather WBro Sidney Jaque PAGDC (pictured right, standing third from the left).

The initiation symbolises something of a renaissance for the lodge, as its intake of Mayors had ceased when the Government placed restrictions on those in public service joining the Craft.

So treasurer Colin Jaque, along with David Parlons SLGR and Victor Salem PAGPurs, set about encouraging new initiates and members.

Victor reports, "Our numbers are now growing and Secretary Malcolm Hall PAGDC has been approached by the London Mayors Association where there is renewed interest."

"So much is owed to Grand Lodge for their strong action in enforcing human rights law, which is having the desired effect and is getting through to Government Ministries."



## A brace of lewises at Adelphi Lodge

There cannot be many lodges where two lewises have been initiated and then advanced by their fathers in the same year.

Adelphi Lodge No.1670 saw WBro Terry Dodd initiate his son Michael, and he was passed at the following meeting when Grant Z Szirtes was initiated by his own father, WBro Peter Z Szirtes SLGR, the lodge's secretary.

Terry was then installed as WM and at Adelphi's next meeting raised his son Michael, before Peter took the Chair and passed his son Grant.

The four are pictured below, L-R, WBro Peter Z Szirtes (Secretary), Bro Grant Z Szirtes (Steward), Bro Michael Cunningham (Inner Guard) and WBro Terry Dodd (WM).



# Keeping it in the family



## An historic installation

This year's Installation meeting for East Sheen Lodge No.4173 was an historic occasion. The incoming WM, Terry Coker, was installed by his brother Ken, acting on behalf of his father David (pictured left).

Ken was initiated into the lodge in April 1993. He proposed his father who was initiated in November 1997, and Terry was initiated in November 1998. David was determined that a Coker should install his son in the chair but, being a bit shaky on his legs, felt that it was fitting to avoid all the perambulations by entrusting the work to his son. The plan was fully supported by the lodge members and was enjoyed by many visiting friends.

## Progress for three Shirman generations

Fathers, sons and cousins are familiar features of the membership list of the Lodge of Further Progress No.8380. But a recent ceremony provided them all with a special interest.

Bro Michael Shirman was initiated by his father, WBro Ed Shirman PGStB, who had been the lodge's first initiate. The Charge was then given by Michael's uncle, WBro Vic Shirman PJGD.

The high spot of the evening was the work of the Junior Deacon, WBro Josh Shirman PAGDC, Michael's grandfather. They are all pictured above left.

Josh had previously initiated, passed and raised all three of his sons. The three senior Shirmans are all PMs of Further Progress and have clocked up 123 years of membership between them.

## Lasting legacy from Hywel's tragic death

The 25th anniversary meeting of the Royal Signals Regiment lodge, Certa Cito No.8925, in June was made special by a lecture on the lodge's history by WBro Hywel Thomas, one of its founder members.

But tragically, Hywel died a month later at the age of 62 while on a business trip. A memorial service has now been held at RMA Sandhurst, where Hywel had been an instructor during his military career.

Part of his legacy is a book that was published to commemorate the anniversary of Certa Cito Lodge, which was formed in 1980 for members of the family of Royal Signals.

The book traces the spread of Freemasonry around the world by soldiers and sailors using 'travelling warrants' as their authority to establish several hundred new lodges on behalf of the Grand Lodges of England, Scotland and Ireland.

Certa Cito Lodge No.8925 is a founder-member of the Circuit of Service Lodges, which is now in its 14th year and has 15 member lodges. Certa Cito's name is taken from the Latin for 'swift and sure'.

The lodge's anniversary meeting, in Temple No.10 at Freemasons' Hall, welcomed masons who have a military background, or who are interested in the part that the Military has played in the history of the Craft.

Shortly before his untimely death, Hywel sent the following information to The London Column.

The Military have played a considerable part in the development of Freemasonry, both at home and abroad, since a Master Gunner to King Charles I was admitted to a lodge in Edinburgh in 1634.

In 1641, the same lodge admitted a General and a Quartermaster and five years later, at Warrington, a Royalist Captain and a Parliamentarian were also made masons.

Hywel's book includes details of the masonic and military service of the 200 members of Certa Cito over the last 25 years. They all served in the Corps and included famous personalities such as Major Victor King, who served 55 years with the Colours, enlisting as a boy Sapper and becoming the first Foreman of Signals.

Other examples include Brigadier Claude Fairweather, who served with the Chindits in Burma and commanded 2 Divisional Signal Regt, the First Master of the Lodge who remained an active member well into his 90s; Bill Hart, who was the senior RSM in the Corps immediately after WW2; and Col Geoffrey Dicker, Colonel Commandant.

The book, which contains many references to other publications that chronicle the role of the Military in the Craft, aims to stimulate interest in Freemasonry in general and in Certa Cito in particular, from current and future members of the serving and retired Corps.

Proceeds from the sale of the book, which was launched at the 25th anniversary meeting will be donated to the Royal Signals Benevolent Fund. Further details from the lodge's secretary, Col John Eversfield on 01753 662667.



# Well done, London, for your RMBI support

At our last annual general meeting, the Metropolitan Grand Master, RWBro Lord Millett, informed us that the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution had asked if London Freemasons may consider making a special effort of support for the charity.

There are a growing number of petitioners, both Freemasons and their dependants, of which there are currently nearly 250 London petitioners resident in masonic homes, for whom the cost in real terms alone to the RMBI is around £900,000 per annum.

This appeal has the joint support of all the

## says the Met Grand Charity Steward

Masonic Charity Presidents.

London, in true masonic spirit, picked up the challenge and, by a concerted effort from lodges and chapters, a sum of just over £500,000 has been raised to date and the total is still rising! A very commendable achievement from everyone, and it is hoped that by the next AGM this figure will have risen to at least £750,000.

Due to the general longevity of life nowadays, the demands on the RMBI for that especial

security, comfort and support required to maintain the dignity of many in their later years of life will continue to grow.

The need for London, therefore, to maintain its continued support of the RMBI is paramount, and I am sure that on your behalf the RMBI can rely on London's continued commitment.

The RMBI has asked that I convey their appreciation to you all, and Lord Millett expresses his sincere thanks for your most generous response thus far.

**WBro Bob Corp-Reader OBE, PJGD  
Met Grand Charity Steward.**

## CHARITY UPDATE

### Grant to help bombing victims

The Grand Charity swung into action after the four bomb explosions in London on 7th July.

The following week, an emergency grant of £50,000 was approved to assist the victims, after the Mayor of London had established the London Bombings Relief Charitable Fund, in association with the British Red Cross to raise money for the victims and their families.

The Grand Charity's donation was placed in the care of trustees appointed by the Greater London Authority. It was aimed at relieving disability or physical and mental sickness caused by the attacks and to help with financial needs.

### Niger famine relief

The Grand Charity made an emergency grant of £10,000 to Save the Children to support the charity's work in Niger.

A massive humanitarian crisis in the Sahel region of West Africa resulted from a poor harvest caused by drought conditions and the worst locust infestation in 20 years. In Niger, the world's second poorest country, the United Nations estimated around 2.5 million people had been hit, including 800,000 children.

Save the Children launched an emergency response to provide food, water and healthcare for about 43,000 children under five years old in the Maradi and Zinder regions of Niger.

The Grand Charity's £10,000 donation was intended to provide food for 250 severely malnourished children for 30 days, the average time spent in the feeding programme, and water-purification tablets for 10,000 children.

### Pioneering research

Nearly half of the £2.68m grants by the Grand Charity last year is helping to fund medical research projects.

The largest of these is a £1m grant to the Institute of Cancer Research, to help scientists combat testicular and prostate cancers.

The money is being paid in ten annual instalments of £100,000 to fund The Grand Charity of Freemasons' Chair of Molecular Biology.

Prostate cancer is the most common cancer to affect men in the UK. Each year 27,000 cases are diagnosed, and the disease kills 10,000 a year.

In June 2004, scientists at the ICR announced a major advance in understanding the genetic basis of prostate cancer. The ground-breaking discovery of the overactive E2F3 gene in prostate tumours will allow doctors for the first time to predict how aggressive the cancer will be.



### Princess says thanks for your help

Princess Alexandra, patron of the Children's Country Holidays Fund, hosted a reception in May to thank the charity's major donors. London Freemasons were represented by the Deputy Metropolitan Grand Master, RWBro Russell Race, and Metropolitan officers including WBro Bob Corp-Reader and WBro Graham Roper (pictured above with Her Royal Highness).

Masonic contributions to the fund have now passed an amazing £122,000, enabling the charity to send 350 children on activity holidays. The fund's information officer Alisa Hamzic comments, "I'm sure lodge members will be happy to hear how they have helped to put smiles on so many faces this summer. These donations have made a tremendous difference to London children."

## £50k hospice donation

Fund-raising methods by the members of Newham Lodge No.8627 include collecting at Underground stations, and the lodge's efforts over the last three years have raised a total of £53,000 for the Richard House Hospice as well as donations to masonic charities.

WBro Keith Isaacs, Newham's secretary, comments, "The moneys have been raised in various ways, from social events at which auctions are held, to raffles, to collections on the Underground.

"We are amazed at the response we have from the Underground collections in particular. The Richard House Trust really does strike a chord with the public."

Richard House's chief executive, Peter Ellis, is pictured (far right) receiving Newham Lodge's latest cheque at a recent meeting. With him are the lodge's DC, WBro John Smith (left) and treasurer Bro Chris Healy Snr LR.

● Hanwell Lodge No.4676 has recently distributed £7500 to local charities. The charities' representatives visited the West London Masonic Centre to receive their cheques prior to a recent lodge meeting.

Also attending the event was the MP for Ealing North, Steve Pound, who although not a Mason, is a local resident and on the board of some of the charities.

● The South Bucks Hospice, a charity which



helps those with life-threatening illnesses and has one of the largest Lymphoedema clinics in the south of England, has received a donation from the Master's List of Gallery Lodge No.1928, a lodge in London's Strathearn Group.

The £500 donation was made at the discretion of the outgoing WM, WBro John Farrar PPSGD (Sussex).

# Corinthians play the role of godparents

Members of the Corinthian Lodge No.1382 are providing regular support for two children in Uganda. The Lodge raises the funds from its raffle at the annual Ladies Festival and from other donations.

Their initiative began about seven years ago after WBro Malcolm Maycock heard about the scheme for needy children.

The World Vision charity provides support for children in some of the poorer countries in the world. Each donor in effect sponsors a child, the aim being to ensure that they have a 'godparent' who helps to finance their upbringing. Participation in the scheme costs about £18 per child per month.

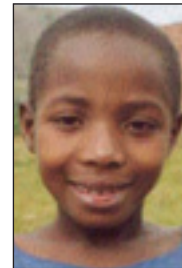
Regular contact with the children is encouraged, particularly at times such as Christmas and birthdays. As a safeguard, correspondence with sponsored children is through World Vision and its local representatives.

Malcolm receives updates on the progress of the children sponsored by Corinthian Lodge, including school reports. The information from their letters is passed on to Lodge members through the Corinthian newsletter.

The cost of Christmas and birthday presents is kept to a reasonable minimum so that the children do not become objects of envy in their village.

Presents tend to be crayons, coloured pencils and things which can be shared by a number of children. Gifts such as inexpensive clothes are also appreciated.

Further information on this imaginative scheme from Mrs Sharon McLeod, Supporter Services, World Vision UK, 599 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3PG (tel: 01908 841010).



*Pictured, two 'god-children' sponsored by Corinthian Lodge*



## It's a heavy burden to bear

You produce an excellent publication, but I beg you to reconsider your distribution methods in the light of the current situation faced by London lodges.

The September 2004 issue weighed 45 grams. This means that I cannot add it to the summons even on a meeting without dues envelopes without incurring extra postage which my lodge should not have to bear.

I am 60 years old and relatively fit for a secretary. Ken Livingstone wants £8.00 for the privilege of allowing me to drive to the meeting. Then there would also be £7.00 parking and the fuel to drive in and no alcohol at the festive board.

So I travel by train, but then I already have notices from Grand and Met Grand Lodges and correspondence and my regalia to manage on the tube system. Do you really think I should have to carry another 35 x 45 grams = 1.575 kgs?

Finally, why should my wife have to dust three piles of London Column newsletters, one each for my two chapters and one lodge between publication date and meetings?

The UGLE computer records meeting venues and membership numbers per lodge and chapter. A simple SQL query would surely tell you which lodges and chapters meet at each venue each month.

You could therefore distribute enough copies to each centre with a list detailing beside each day the lodges and chapters meeting and how many copies they need. The centre could hand enough copies to each Tyler/Janitor as he signs in. All he has to do then is place them beside the signing book at each meeting.

You would get more of the copies to the membership. You would not send three separate loads to one Secretary who happens also to be a Scribe E twice. You would need a van for two or three days at the most, in lieu of hefty courier charges.

The Samaritan Fund would get fewer Secretaries and Scribes E needing physiotherapy and surgery for back injuries. Everyone wins.

**Mike Piper**  
Earl of Lathom Lodge No.1922

*We are constantly reviewing ways of distributing The London Column. Our experience is that, apart from direct mail which, with 50,000-plus London brethren is economically out of the question, the best method is from a lodge secretary to his members, preferably with the lodge summons.*

*If the extra postage that you mention amounted to as much as 26p per envelope, your 35 envelopes would cost the lodge an extra £9.10 per issue, or £18.20 per annum. Is that such a huge burden for the lodge to bear to ensure that the members receive an otherwise free magazine specifically aimed at and, I believe, enjoyed by London Freemasons?*

*That said, we are actively investigating the possibility of producing The London Column on a lighter weight of paper in an attempt to address this postage/weight issue. To leave bundles of the publication for collection at meeting places will mean that the very brethren who benefit most from its news, i.e. those who for one reason or another are unable to attend their lodge meeting, will miss out unless they are posted out after all, which brings us back to where we started.*

*We have not distributed The London Column to chapters for some time as it was considered to be an exercise in duplication, inasmuch as most London chapters derive their membership from London lodges. The exceptions that prove the rule have also complained to us!*

**Editor**

## More fathers and sons...

Reading an old issue of The London Column (Oct 2003), an article on fathers and sons caught my eye. We have a similar situation, with the following list of fathers and sons who are members of the Bruce Castle Lodge No.6799.

WBro Frederick J Tate SLGR (WM), Bro Steven F Tate (SW) and Bro Nicholas J Tate (JW); WBro William J Burbidge SLGR (DC) and WBro Richard A Burbidge (Almoner & IG); WBro George T Slate SLGR and WBro Terrence P Slate; WBro Thomas R Mace LGR and Bro Andrew T Mace; WBro Douglas C Simpson and WBro Anthony D Simpson (Sec).

We also have an uncle and nephew, WBro David J Akers PAGDC (Asst Sec) and WBro Brian J Akers (Treasurer).

Our current WM, Frederick J Tate will celebrate 40 years in Freemasonry next year. He was initiated into Bruce Castle Lodge by his father in 1966 and went through the chair in 1976. This year he has gone through the chair again with his two sons occupying the Wardens' chairs.

**AD Simpson**  
Secretary  
Bruce Castle Lodge No.6799

## New record for an initiate?

To continue the debate about the oldest initiate from issues no.7&8, readers may be interested to know that Bro Antony Tremarco, a resident of Royal Hospital, Chelsea, was initiated into Carmarthenshire Lodge No.4664 in September last year at the age of 83.

Bro Antony has a fellow resident at the Royal Hospital who is due to be initiated into our lodge at the age of 85.

Is this to be a new record?  
**WBro Terwyn Williams**  
Secretary  
Carmarthenshire Lodge No.4664



## Tom takes over at 80 years old

WBro Tom Petts was installed as WM of London School Board Lodge No.2611 last year at the age of 80, and to mark the occasion the lodge presented a £2400 cheque to the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Tom is pictured here with the lodge's IPM, WBro Clive Park LGR (right) presenting the cheque to WBro Peter Williams PAGDC, the RMBI's Head of External Affairs.



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# Rhiannon helps hospital towards its target



Moorfields Eye Hospital has celebrated an important landmark in the building of its new international children's eye centre. In a ceremony attended by many of the project's major donors, the building's foundation stone was laid by Rhiannon Willis (left), a 12-year-old patient whose sight was restored at Moorfields.

Rhiannon, from Rotherhithe, South-East London, has been a patient at the hospital since 2001, when Prof Peng Tee Khaw performed a series of complex operations to treat her glaucoma and cataract which had developed as a result of another eye condition, uveitis.

Rhiannon marked the occasion by reading a poem she wrote about her experience of losing and then regaining her sight.

WBro Bob Corp-Reader OBE attended the reception on behalf of London Freemasonry and was thanked for the magnificent efforts that are continuing to be made by masons who have so far contributed £189,000 towards the appeal target.

The new centre is expected to open in Autumn 2006 and will house the largest paediatric ophthalmic clinical, research and training centre in the world.

The aim now is to raise the £1.5m that is still needed to complete the £13.5m appeal during the remainder of the hospital's bicentennial year.

# Clerkenwell celebrates its silver anniversary

The Pro Grand Master was guest of honour at a dinner celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Central London Masonic Centre at the Old Sessions House in Clerkenwell.

The centre's own newsletter subsequently reported, "More than once during the search for a suitable home for London's Freemasons and during the adaptation and restoration of our historic building, it looked as if all was lost. Yet here we are 25 years on, and not only surviving but thriving too."

At the dinner, WBro Ken Latter, the board chairman, referred to the presence of Ken Bourne of New Concord Lodge, who had spent many years looking around London for a suitable building. Other guests included Bernard Ross, the first finance director, Graham Seabrook, Allan Barter and Ben Catt who had all given sterling service to the centre.

The Pro Grand Master referred to his family's long association with Clerkenwell dating back to 1610 and said he held the ancient title of Lord of the Manor of Clerkenwell, which he supposed would allow him to herd sheep through the area.

He paid tribute to all who had worked so hard to establish the centre and make it into such a successful venture.

Finally, he presented WBro Latter with a silver Armada plate inscribed to commemorate the centre's 25th anniversary. Ken said this would be kept on display and would be available to lodges and chapters for use as an alms plate on special occasions such as centenary meetings.

A charitable trust was set up last year, and its primary purpose is to generate funds for the maintenance of the building.

# Keeping the public aware

With the approach of Remembrance Day, Hanwell Lodge No.4676 has pointed out that any lodge or masonic centre can purchase a wreath from the Royal British Legion village at Aylesford, Kent ME20 7NX.

"It costs around £20 to order a type C wreath with a Masonic centre-board," says Barry Cole, who is the



Secretary of Hanwell Lodge, which meets at the West London Masonic Centre in Ealing.

"The purchase is, in itself, a donation and encourages other members and lodges to add to the money whilst on display behind the bar at the centre or hotel where the lodge meets.

"In addition, it helps to increase the public's awareness of the charitable works of local masonic lodges," Barry says.

# Choir meetings

The London Masonic Choir meets on the second Thursday every month at Freemasons' Hall.

All interested are welcome – just turn up or contact Vivian Venn, the choirmaster (tel: 07984 602519 or email [vivian@venn7438.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:vivian@venn7438.freeserve.co.uk))

## Forthcoming London events

If you would like information about any of these events, please tick the appropriate boxes, complete the form below and return it to: Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London, PO Box 29055, London WC2B 5UN. Details will be sent to you as they become available.

- |  |                    |
|--|--------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Festive Concert, Grand Temple, Freemasons' Hall        | 9th December 2005  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SLGR investiture & Met Grand Lodge annual meeting             | 23rd February 2006 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Royal Arch investiture & Met Grand Chapter annual convocation | 4th April 2006     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> LMCT Golf Day   | 3rd May 2006       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Thanksgiving Service  | May 2006           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cricket at Royal Masonic School for Girls                     | July 2006          |

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