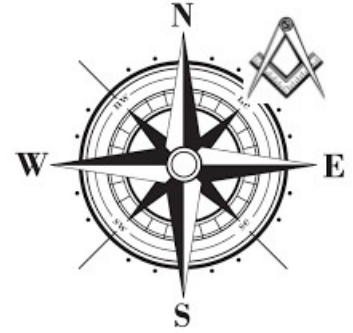


North East Corner

No 4

December 2018



A Newsletter for Bath Freemasons



News of a rather special meeting of the Royal Ark Mariners

It would be fair to say that there are normally three highlights to a Masonic year.

First the Installation of a new Commander. (Master)

Secondly the Elevation (Installation) of a candidate into the Order.

Thirdly a visit from the Provincial Grand Master.

At the recent meeting (8th November) of Bath Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners, two of the three were achieved. W Bro Frank Silver installed, in an exemplary manner, W Bro Richard Thurston as Commander of the Lodge. This was in the presence of the PrGM RW Bro John Morgan and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W Bro Phil Voisey.

However, the Lodge added a new highlight that evening.

RW Bro John Morgan presented W Bro Denis Calderley with certificates and a lapel pin to celebrate 50 years as a subscribing member of the Lodge. Denis was also presented with a commemorative wine goblet from the Lodge for not only his service to the Lodge as a member but also for more than 30 years as its organist.



W.Bro. Richard Cooper

Scribe

Who said great ritual is hard to find these days?

Well W Bro David Hogg from St Alphege Lodge wanted you to know about what was clearly a great evening. He wrote: -

St Alphege Lodge enjoyed a memorable evening in November with a reciprocal fraternal visit from McCammon Crozier Memorial Lodge 497 of Provincial Grand Lodge of Down (Northern Ireland) and a delegation from London Guyana and the West Indies Lodges.

They were treated to a magnificent demonstration of the Third Degree Walking Charge, by W Bro John Townsend with Bro Paul Russell assisting as the new initiate. The Charge was delivered with precision and tremendous feeling which was greatly appreciated by the Lodge members and visiting brethren. On completion, the brethren broke into spontaneous applause for a job well done.

W Bro Alex Rhys then gave an exemplary delivery of the Extended Tracing Board lecture. This was also delivered with great accuracy, precision and without hesitation or prompting of any kind. The Lodge Brethren and visitors also really enjoyed this presentation and signified this with another bout of spontaneous applause on completion.

The stars were certainly out that night!

Thank you David!

So how did the Birthday Party go?

We are all aware that we are coming to the end of a momentous year for the Province – the 250th Anniversary of its foundation!

At the Annual Meeting the two lodges which were in existence in 1768 (and which are still around), namely the Royal Cumberland Lodge 41 and the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship No 135, were privileged that the meeting was held under their banners.

On 24th June a large group of masons, headed by the Provincial Grand Master and his team, processed from the Masonic Hall in Bridgwater to St Mary's Church where they were greeted by the Church leaders and other dignitaries. A service of thanksgiving and commemoration followed attended by over 300 masons and friends.

This unusual public display came to Bath on 30th September and again a sizeable procession moved from Orchard Street to the Friends Meeting House in York Street, a building of great importance to Bath Masons as it was the temple prior to the present building being acquired. Over a hundred heard a talk by W Bro Malcolm Toogood about the masonic history of that time, followed by presentations to the Meeting House, then a return to base for another cream tea.

November 1st saw an unusual Lodge meeting in Bath with the full Provincial team attending and dedicating the three new tracing boards that adorn our lovely temple. Particularly important was that the Escort for the Boards involved three Bath Lodges. This moving ceremony was seen by a capacity number of masons. It was followed by an excellent lecture on "Masonry and the Royal Family" by VW Dr Paul Calderwood, the Secretary of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge. What an evening?

On a more sombre note some three days later a huge gathering of masons and friends gathered at Wells Cathedral to commemorate the ending of the First World War and in particular those masons who gave their lives in that conflict. A moving service and a really warm welcome from the Cathedral with a sermon by the Dean who seemed to truly understand what we are about and what we have given in times past.

So a great year comes to an end. Now for the next 250 years!

