



Vivary News

No 13

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VIVARY LODGE No. 8654

Province of Somerset English Constitution

In Memoriam

On the 23rd of December our Lodge sadly, lost W Bro Ivor Roberts who was the third initiate into our Lodge after its consecration. He went on to serve as the WM and for many years as the DC in Vivary. He was also a founder member and Past WM of the Somerset Farmers Lodge and a Past WM of Queens College – his old school. His contribution to Freemasonry had been recognised with Grand Lodge Honours as a PAGDC.

Ivor, latterly assisted by his two sons, was an extremely successful farmer at Bradford on Tone and it was in the village Church of St Giles that his funeral was held. A packed congregation paid their respects and contributed with a resounding rendering of “We plough the field and scatter”. Six grandsons acted as bearers for the coffin and a guard of honour of Freemasons, who saluted with the sign of reverence, lined the path from the church.

The words that one should “Live respected and die regretted” were most appropriate for W Bro Ivor. It is a great loss for the Lodge but even more so for his wife Gill and his family.

A Warm Welcome

Our lodge welcomed Gary Rogers, as an initiate at our January meeting in a ceremony conducted by Past Masters with W Bro John Brown in the chair.

Gary is from Kent and although having no Masonic family connections was interested in the history and traditions of Freemasonry, made enquiries and asked to join our Lodge. He now lives in Taunton with his partner Hannah and is employed as a crane supervisor at Hinkley Point.

Gary was welcomed with due ceremony at the Festive board and all agreed, that having given an excellent response to his toast and being six foot six inches tall. he will, in all respects, be a big asset to the Lodge

Congratulations

At our November meeting congratulation were given to two members recently celebrating significant wedding anniversaries. W Bro Redvers Webber and his wife Diana, married in 1953, the year of the coronation and conquest of Everest, celebrated 65 years - a Blue Sapphire Anniversary.

W Bro Ray Hall and Marion were married 60 years ago in 1958 the year the first motorway was opened and the first woman Peer was appointed, celebrated their Diamond Wedding.

At the meeting the Lodge gave best wishes for many more happy years to both couples.

Taunton Masonic Hall Events

Burns Night

All Taunton Lodges combined, via the Liaison Committee and held a celebration of that well-known Freemason W Bro Robbie Burns in January. Those attending were welcomed by the sound of the bagpipes followed by a “Prosecco” reception.



The Haggis was piped in, appropriately addressed and ‘slaughtered’ by Jack Leeming whilst tots of amber nectar were served. A traditional menu of Scotch broth, Haggis and roast beef, neeps and tatties, followed by raspberry cranachan trifle was then served.

The Toast to the Immortal Memory of Burns was given by Mike Marshall ably assisted with readings by Ed Richings and Richard Wilson. That to the Lassies by Geoff Dolling

The Haggis is piped in and then addressed by Jack Leeming

All then contributed to an exceptional evening by joining in singing traditional Scottish songs, including Burns composition “My love is like a red, red rose” and concluding with Auld Lang Syne



Bros Wilson, Marshall and Richings display their tartan before the feast.

St Georges Luncheon

There will again be a St George’s Luncheon on Sunday 28th April, organised by the Liaison Committee. As the numbers are limited to 64, and all nine craft lodges are involved, early reservations are recommended. Further details will be supplied but provisional bookings can be made with Peter or Mike.

Vivary Events

Christmas Meeting

Members welcomed their wives, partners and guests to join them for the Festive Board at their December meeting. The hall had superb festive decorations and round tables added to the ambience of the evening.

After dining extremely well all participated in carol singing with Alwyn and Jan tinkling the ivories. Mike Marshall deputised for Adrian, who was down under, and found ‘conducting’ the Twelve Days of Christmas an exhausting experience.

Lodge Luncheon

A luncheon has been booked for members and guests at Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club on Sunday the 17th February (reservations had to be in by the 1st Feb). All are confident that it will provide an event where members and wives can enjoy good company in relaxed surroundings and, hopefully, the favourable weather to enjoy the view.

Quiz Night

Adrian and Anne will again be holding a quiz in the Masonic Hall on Saturday 30th March with a 7.30 start. Teams with a maximum of 6 persons should be booked in with the organisers on 01823 617571 or adrian.halliwell@talktalk.net as early as possible because numbers are limited

This year the charity to be supported by the quiz and a raffle is Christmas Sparkle. A charity working with local charities, schools etc. to support families in need and give a Christmas gift to local disadvantaged children.

Cream Tea and Garden Party

The lodge has accepted an invitation from W Bro Henry Besley and his wife Dianne to host a Cream Tea at Langaller Farmhouse during the summer. The date and details are to be confirmed but it is suggested members check the rules, and etiquette for croquet.

Provincial Events

Provincial AGM

On Thursday the 4th April the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset will hold its Annual General Meeting at the Webbington Hotel, Loxton. It will be particularly significant this year as there will be the Installation of W Bro David Medlock as the new PGM. All members are invited to the meeting, to be seated by 10.15 and luncheon (for those wishing to stay) is at 2 pm. Full details are on www.somersetfreemasons.org

Somerset Masonic Friendship Association (SMFA)

The Somerset Masonic Friendship Association's (SMFA) primary aim is to bring together people who have, or have had, something special in common – the companionship of Freemasonry. You may be an elderly mason, a masonic widow or widower or a relative of someone involved with masonry – it doesn't matter, you are welcome to join. The association organises social functions throughout the year, arranges visits to places of interest, and offers support to existing groups such as the Somerset Masonic Widows Association (SMWA) as well as individual members. It's a great opportunity to meet new people and get out and about.

The local branch holds a coffee morning on the first Weds of the month i.e. 6th Feb and March, at the Masonic Hall and would welcome new members. Further information can be obtained from W Bro John Trowbridge on 01823 412044.

Plants for Teddy Bears

In addition to Provincial and Holy Royal Arch duties W Bro Adrian finds time to assist Anne in a larger than average garden. Between them they take cuttings to propagate and use their two glasshouses to raise plants in the Spring. Some are used in their own garden, but a substantial surplus is sold at the end of their drive with funds going to TLC. In addition to raising approximately £700 over the past three years, by publicising TLC, it also serves to remind buyers that Freemasons support many worthy charities

(With thanks to Adrian for checking and correcting copy)

*Contributions for future editions will be welcome by the Lodge Information Officer - peter.light@yahoo.co.uk
Back numbers of Vivary News can be viewed on Vivary Lodge web page on the Provincial web site www.somersetfreemasons.org. If any recipient does not wish to be included in the (e)mailing list for Vivary News then please contact the LIO.*