



Vivary News

No 10

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VIVARY LODGE No. 8654

Province of Somerset English Constitution

All were welcomed

The Masonic Hall Liaison Committee arranged for all interested to be invited to the Hall, on the 30th September, to see our so-called secrets and to get to know more about our institution, Among those who attended were the mayor, Mrs Prior Sankey, who cut a birthday cake recording the 300th Anniversary of the founding of Grand Lodge of England. W Bro Ben Batley, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, also attended and made favourable comments concerning the organisation of the day.

A steady flow of visitors was shown around by the members who had volunteered to act as guides. The Provincial Masonic Gazebo was erected in the High Street to draw the attention of the public to the Open Day and those interested were directed to the Hall.

The members of Vivary can take pride in having done their share on that day by manning the gazebo and the Hall.

A concert in St Mary's Church also celebrated the 300th and raised money for the masonic charity and the St Mary's Church Organ Fund.



A legacy from one of our Founders

David Harrison moved from the Liverpool area as a Master Mason and attended Taunton Lodges as a guest before taking the opportunity of joining Vivary as a founder member at its Consecration in 1975 and was the WM in 1982. His work took him away from Taunton in the 1990s and he subsequently moved to Invercargill in New Zealand with his wife Liz to enjoy retirement with family members.

During all this time he remained a country member, and eventually our only surviving founder member. David was the subject of a 'pen picture' and photo in the first Vivary News (available to view on our page of the Provincial web site.) Unfortunately, he developed dementia and passed away on the 17th Feb this year with his funeral service sheet carrying the badge of his beloved Everton FC.



It was his wish though that his regalia be returned to Vivary for the benefit of the Lodge in one way or another and in October Liz travelled the 12,000 miles (19,195 kms according to Google) to fulfil this duty and to visit family members. The regalia included a past master's jewel, but the clasp marked 'founder' will be removed before it is presented to a successor.

Liz, accompanied by her sister Jenny, were very pleased to accept an invitation to visit the Hall where David had reigned supreme during his year in office. They were met by Peter and June Light and shown the honours board and his photo, with other lodge WM's, which Liz found rather moving as it reminded her that David would never be forgotten in Freemasonry



Over lunch at the Cricket Club the activities of our masonic charities were explained, and Liz thought that any funds raised by sale of regalia should be for TLC as David was very fond of children.

Christmas with family and friends

At our December meeting family and friends were invited to join us for the evening. Whilst 'business' was swiftly dealt with the guests had an informal 'cocktail party' in the sherry room before all retired to the dining room for a delicious three course dinner.

The festivities were hosted by WM, Mark Crawley ably assisted by Master of Ceremonies Adrian Halliwell. Music for the carols was provided by Jan and Alwyn Clegg, with an enthusiastic participation by all. (photo across) including a very hearty rendering of the Twelve Days of Christmas.

A raffle of prizes, donated by members raised £405 and will be shared between the Lodge widows and the RNLI, the WM's chosen charity, ensured others benefit whilst Vivary entered into the Christmas spirit.



A welcome to Ed

Ed Richings has recently become joining member of Vivary lodge and we welcomed his, and his wife Alison's, participation in our December meeting.

A few enquiries reveal we have a new member who, having been Initiated, Passed and Raised in a Bristol Lodge, had eight years of active membership in Freemasonry until 2002, when he was posted to Lincolnshire and then took a 13 year 'masonic holiday'.



Ed has had a career in Naval aviation,

since leaving Bournemouth Grammar School in 1988, and worked with Harriers for 20 years, and then Sea King helicopters and the RN historic flight, serving during this time on aircraft carriers and at RNASs. He now oversees 'Continuing Airworthiness Assurance' on the Commando Helicopter Force Merlin at Yeovilton and has risen through the ranks from a Junior Air Mechanic to a WO1

He did have a three-year period at Abbeywood, at Bristol, being involved in the procurement of the Strike Fighters to be used by the RNAS on HMS Queen Elizabeth and by the RAF.

Ed is now living with Allison at Cotford St Luke, and his hobbies include sailing a dinghy at Starcross Yacht Club, watching Formula 1 and rugby and participating in the weekly village pub quiz.

Vivary has always welcomed new members and Ed, with his experience and enthusiasm, will add to the diversity that makes Freemasonry both interesting and unique.

Promotion to Active Rank

Congratulations are to be given to W Bro Adrian Halliwell who is to be promoted to Provincial Senior Grand Warden at the Provincial meeting in April. It is an honour for both Adrian and our lodge to have a member in this high office. He will no doubt be representing the PGM on many occasions and we know he will carry out his duties efficiently and we trust enjoy his new role,

Entente Cordiale

A while ago the WM of Vivary, Alan Clayton extended an invitation for members of our Lodge to join his wife Lyn, and other family members at a party he was arranging with his neighbours in the French village where they have a second home.

We were told that when he purchased the old farmhouse from other 'Brits' they were told that the villagers were unfriendly and did not welcome them. Alan and Lyn brushed up their French, made an effort and are now fully integrated into the village of St Michael de la Roe in the Mayenne, which is about a two-hour drive from the Normandy coast.

Bros Allen, Light and Town accepted this invitation and in September, together with their wives Suzy, June and Joan respectively, they crossed the channel toured the region before rendezvousing at Chateau Clayton.



As a BBQ was to be arranged and the weather was 'British' a neighbour had offered the loan of a marquee which with other locals they assisted to erect. The hosts had arranged a sumptuous spread and son Peter Clayton was geared up as the very competent BBQ chef for the evening.

The delicious food was accompanied by a supply of beer, vin rouge and vin blanc and an international ambience without the 'B' word being mentioned too often. Guests included the Mayor, a local farmer, and his wife with some visitors practicing their French and others allowing the residents to practice their English.



The Vivary Social Scene

Our WM is something of a 'party animal' and arranged a skittles match at the White Horse in September when members and friends entered into the spirit of the evening. The Christmas meeting (see above) was also a great success.

Mark has now arranged a Sunday Luncheon, again for members, family and friends, at Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club on the 4th February. Why not issue invitations and arrange a table with your guests to make it even more enjoyable. Pickeridge GC is located above the village of Corfe and has superb views over the Taunton Vale. Details to follow but we can rely on our WM to organise a great event, fine fare and good value.

Please also note that the date of the next skittles match is on Saturday the 14th April and, as we were well catered for, this will again be at the White Horse, at Bradford on Tone. You may be the winner this time.

This Newsletter was produced by Peter Light LIO of Vivary Lodge No 8654 with assistance from W Bro Adrian Halliwell. Contributions for subsequent editions will be welcomed