



Vivary News

No 11

April 2018

VIVARY LODGE No. 8654

Province of Somerset English Constitution

Let us Celebrate our Three Hundredth Meeting

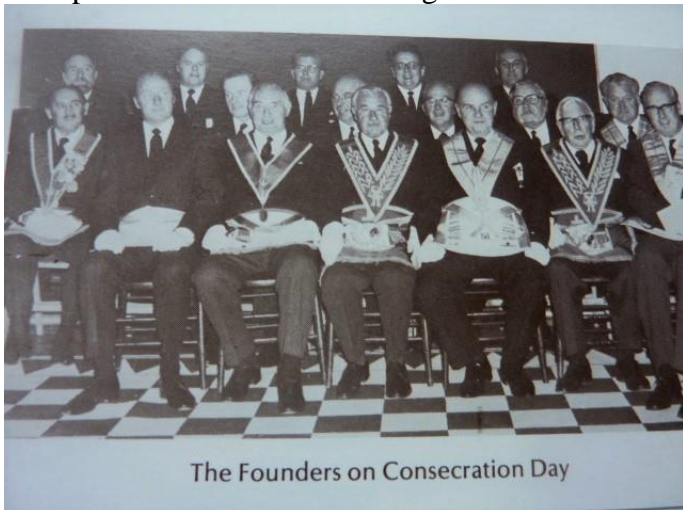
As most will know the Lodge meeting on the 20th April will be the 300th of the lodge and it is being celebrated in the presence of the PGM, Past PGMs and other distinguished guests. Our WM will be conducting the ceremony of initiating a candidate who, unusually for this era, has never been in a Masonic Hall previously. The festive board is to be based on that served at the Consecration of the Lodge on Friday 17th October 1975.

It will be an exceptional evening – it is certain that all members will make every effort to attend this special meeting.

Why, When and How was Vivary Lodge started.

Following the war, the spirit of comradeship during hardship prevailed and Freemasonry and many other organisations had record numbers of participants or active supporters. This resulted in the existing Taunton lodges being at capacity and those Freemasons moving to work at GCHQ Culmhead and other organisations were unable to join a local Lodge. It was the members of The Lodge of St George, No 3158, which petitioned for the formation of an additional lodge.

Most of the Founder Members were also members of our 'Mother Lodge' and are duly recorded on the Honours board in the Entrance Hall. The first WM was W Bro Dr Kenneth Bailey, PAGDC, who was the Medical Superintendent at Tone Vale Hospital (now Cotford St Luke). All those founder members have now been promoted to the Grand Lodge above.



The Founders on Consecration Day

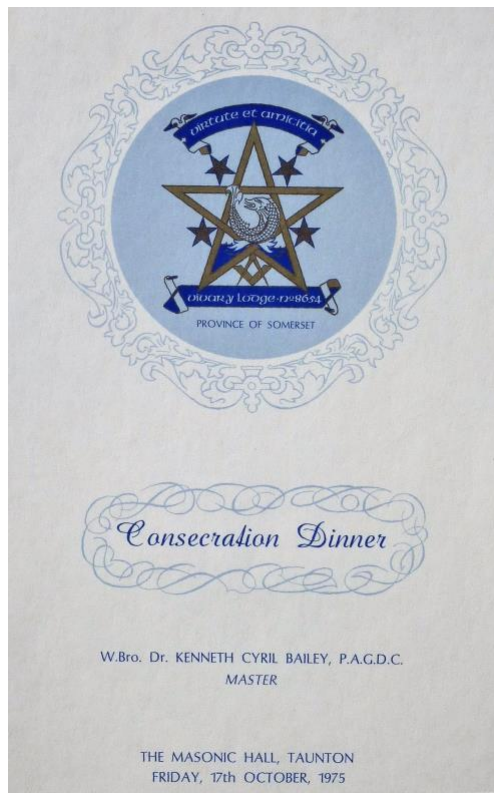
We do, though have two unofficial founder members in W Bros Redvers Webber and Les Johnson with both having attended meetings to plan the founding of Vivary Lodge.

Unfortunately, due to GCHQ requiring the help of Redvers as, following the invasion of Cyprus by Turkey he was recalled for duties to the Island, he missed some planning meetings and did not appear on the founders' list. He was present for the Consecration though as the top tenor of a quartet located in the organ loft to sing from on high.

Les Johnson was unable to attend the Consecration due to being on duty as the Chief Fire Officer and as he had only been a Freemason for less than two years was ineligible to be listed as a founder member.

The name Vivary was chosen from its location near to Vivary Park which, in turn takes its name from the Latin for Fishing, due to Taunton Priory using it as a 'fish farm' and a fish is prominent on the Lodge Banner.

The Consecration was conducted by the PGM, Col H Owen Hughes OBE, TD, assisted by the Deputy and Asst PGM with corn, wine and oil being scattered or poured as is conventional for such ceremonies. The Opening and Closing Hymns were those still in use in our Lodge.



W Bro Ivor Roberts was the third candidate initiated into the Lodge.

Les Johnson reports that such was the demand to join when he was the JW in the early 80s that a joint ceremony took place and two candidates were initiated together. This is the reason that the Vivary kneeling stool is double the width of that for most Lodges.

A summons for the April '84 meeting has, as item 6 "To initiate Mr Michael John Salway," that the subscription was £22 and the dining fee £2.50.

The objective of providing a home for in-coming Freemasons must have been achieved as there were 81 members in 1984 (not including honorary members): of these 45 were joining members, 22 were initiates and 15 founder members.

Many things may have changed over the years including the loss of the 'Ladies Festival' as a formal Dinner and Dance. The Vivary motto, of 'Virtute et Amicitia', which translates as 'By Virtue and Friendship', remains the same and it is hoped that this spirit will prevail during our celebrations and for many years to come.

W Bro Barry attends the Installation of Lewis*

When a father attends the initiation or installation of his son in masonry it is for him particularly a very special occasion. For W Bro Barry Woodside seeing his son installed as the Master of his lodge had additional significance as that this was in his son's lodge in Germany. A full report will appear in the next edition of Vivary News.

* *You will note in the explanation of the first degree TB that the term "Lewis denotes the son of a Mason" and that he has a duty "to his aged parents" to "assist them in time of need". (Ed. Will all initiated sons of Masons please take note).*

Congratulation to W Bro Alwyn

The last edition of Vivary News congratulated W Bro Adrian Halliwell on his promotion but unfortunately omitted to mention that our Organist, W Bro Alwyn Clegg, is to be promoted to Past Provincial Grand Junior Warden. We offer delayed congratulations and many members will be at the Provincial AGM on the 5th April to offer our support.

A Report on our Regalia

At the March meeting an extremely enjoyable lecture on the regalia we wear or use at our meetings was delivered by W Bro Willie Willmets of the Quantock Lodge.

Many interesting facts were given on the history and the significance of many items worn or used in our ceremonies. These included a record of gloves and aprons being presented to operative masons in the reign of Henry VIth – approximately 275 years before Grand Lodge was formed.

Willie said that a regular meeting was held at Wiveliscombe for those interested in advancing their Masonic knowledge. New members will be welcomed to join this group and details of future meetings can be obtained from williebw61@sky.com

A 200th Anniversary for the Chapter of Sincerity No 261

The first Chapter of the Holy Royal Arch (HRA) formed in Taunton has a Charter dated 1818, three years after the Battle of Waterloo, and was 'related' to Lodge of Unanimity and Sincerity, No 261. The Chapter of Sincerity celebrated this 200th Anniversary in February with an almost capacity attendance with The Provincial Team undertaking the Ceremony including the presentation of a Bicentenary Charter. It is certain that all Vivary members will wish to extend belated congratulations to the Chapter of Sincerity.

This Chapter is one of three meeting in Taunton. The Chapter of St George, No 3158, and Taunton Deane Chapter, No 5221, being the other two, and, as Vivary does not have a 'related' Chapter, members of our Lodge are to be found in all three and also at The Chapter of Fidelity and Sincerity, No 1966, meeting at Wellington.

W Bro Adrian Halliwell is the Lodge HRA representative and those Master Masons wishing to consider the completion of their masonic journey can obtain information on all these Chapters from him.

Sunday Luncheon at Pickeridge

Congratulations to our WM for choosing a date when it was possible to get to Taunton and Pickeridge Golf Club when snow did not make the journey hazardous.

A very sumptuous lunch was enjoyed by all with excellent service and very pleasant surroundings.



Dates for your diary

Skittles

Vivary Lodge will be holding a Skittles evening at The White Horse, Bradford on Tone, on Saturday the 14th April. Please come and bring any friends who enjoy a good skittlers' supper and an enjoyable evening.

Fun Quiz Night

On the 9th June there will be a Quiz night in the Hall when the question Master will be Bro Mike Marshall. Mike has a reputation for devising a unique set of humorous and intriguing questions for quizzes organised by many different charities. He is in regular demand in his own village of Ruishton and at numerous venues from Beaminster to Weston,

Details of the skittles evening, with starting times, reservation information etc., are on the attached flyer – that for the quiz have been attached to the April Summons. Please print off to a copy or two to hand to friends to join you at either, or both, of what promises to be two very enjoyable evenings. Booking forms accompanied the April meeting's Summons

The Provincial Gazebo at Taunton Flower Show

The combined Lodges in Taunton are planning to have a stand with the Provincial Gazebo to raise the profile of Freemasonry to the 15,000 people that visit the Taunton Flower Show to be held in Vivary Park. Helpers will be required to man the stand and explain the organisation to those interested. Details will be circulated in due course but note the dates of the 3rd and 4th of August.

This Newsletter is edited by the Peter Light, Lodge Information Officer.

With assistance from W Bros. Webber, Johnson, Roberts, Halliwell, et al.

Contributions for future editions will be welcome to peter.light@yahoo.co.uk