



Vivary News

No 12

August 2018

VIVARY LODGE No. 8654

Province of Somerset English Constitution

Our 300th Meeting in April

The 300th meeting of our lodge was well celebrated at our April meeting. Our Worshipful Master, Mark Crawley welcomed Rt W Bro Stuart Hadler, the PGM, who was supported by a delegation of Provincial Officers including the PPGM Rt W Bro David Jenkins. They delivered the travelling trowel to the lodge with due ceremony.

During the formalities the SW, W Bro Peter Ball, was appointed Master elect but the principle item on the agenda was the initiation of Bro Ian (Tommy) Tucker. The WM and others involved in the ceremony appeared to have raised their game that evening and the conduct of the ceremony was praised by the visiting dignitaries.

The menu served at the festive board was based on that served at the Consecration of the lodge and on its 25th anniversary.



After the festive board the WM and PGM jointly cut the cake made to mark and celebrate the occasion.

Over 70 Freemasons attended the evening including a group of 12 from King Alfred's Lodge, No 3169, lead by Bro Paul Light, the SW, and now the Master Elect of that lodge. All present were given an engraved commemorative glass donated by the W. M.

W Bro Barry get promotion in HRA

W Bro Barry Woodside, a Past Master of our Lodge and the current DC, has been appointed the MEGS designate in the HRA and it is certain all members of Vivary Lodge will offer their congratulations to him on this appointment, although some explanation of this may be required for those who have not 'progressed' from their craft lodge

The Holy Royal Arch (HRA) is often referred to as the next degree of freemasonry for a Master Mason. The names of the officers are different, and whilst in the craft the senior office in the Province is known as the Provincial Grand Master (PGM); in the HRA the senior officer is referred to as "The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Somerset". Often abbreviated to MEGS. It is to this high office that W Bro Barry is to be installed on the 18th of October.

He will take over from Excellent Companion John Bennett, who has been held in high esteem by all members of HRA for the last ten years and for whom Barry was the Deputy Grand Superintendent in 2016-17.

Barry has a heritage in numerous branches of Freemasonry following his father's initiation in 1972 into a Lodge in Dar-es-salaam. He was Initiated into Breanick Lodge No 8610, in St Agnes Cornwall and Installed into the Chair of that Lodge in 1986 by his father and followed his father through all the Principal's Chairs of Trevaunance Chapter, No 4668 in Cornwall.

After moving to Taunton in 1980 he maintained his Cornish connection until joining Vivary in 1986/7, soon became Ass DC and later DC, before going into the chair in 2013.

The heritage continues, and Barry attended his son Paul's Initiation, Raising and last year his Installation into the Chair of The Star of Saxony Lodge, No 853 in Germany. Meeting in Monchengladbach this Lodge is affiliated to United Grand Lodge of Germany but does its workings in English.

In addition to offering our congratulations our members will, no doubt, be pleased to offer support whilst he has these additional duties and continues as our DC.

A Welcome to Tommy

Our initiate at our April (300th) meeting was Ian Tucker, aka Tommy Tucker.

Tommy, was born in Torquay and has been a marine engineer in the merchant navy, starting as a cadet and serving until retirement. He has served on oil tankers, cruise liners and cargo ships but in recent years with Trinity House on coastal duties. This included leading the Royal Review fleet at the Spithead Review

It was a surprise when a fellow naval cadet W Bro Bob Horne, a long-term friend and PPJGW in the Devon Province, rose to deliver part of the ritual during the initiation ceremony.



Tommy with masonic shipmate, cousin and proposer

In response to the Toast to the Initiate at the festive board Tommy thanked members for the welcome he had been given and compared the camaraderie he had experienced that night with that between shipmates.

Masons support Marching Marines

As part of the Armed Forces Day celebration in June the Royal Marines exercised their right to march through Taunton with due Ceremony. After meeting dignitaries in front of the Market House they made their way to the War Memorial in Vivary Park via the Crescent. Masons and their wives were on the steps of the Masonic Hall to show their support for all on Parade. They later provided bottles of water for the thirsty servicemen returning to coaches parked in the Crescent.

Vivary Fun Quiz Night 9th June 2018

June the 9th was Quiz night at Taunton Masonic Hall where over 60 Masons, their friends and family. enjoyed a fun filled evening. Quiz Master Bro Mike Marshall, deputised for W Bro Adrian, and devised questions that both amused and bemused a packed room of quiz goers. Questions such as "in Devon is the clotted cream put on the scone before or after the jam?" and "does McVities put the chocolate on the front or the back of their Chocolate Digestives?"

The evening was held to raise monies not only for the WM's charity, The Royal Marines Charity but also the TLC and the titles of quiz rounds reflected this in name, i.e The Marine and Teddy bears, but not necessarily

in the content of the questions posed. That this evening was being held in the Masonic Hall was also acknowledged with one of the rounds being uniquely based on the food served at Vivary Lodge's 300th Festive Board. A further round introduced questions on the officers on the lodge, but with non-masonic questions e.g. for the Master; where in the USA is the Masters' golf tournament held?



Bro Ed refreshes the brain whilst Mike delivers the next question

At the end of the evening of close competition "The Commitments" captained by W Bro Charlie Barker were victorious and importantly the event raised £465. This sum was partially 'match funded' by a contribution of £250 from the Provincial Charity and our WM rounded the figures with a donation of £35, to make £375 for each charity.

Proud to help!

Freemasons are proud of their record for helping both brothers and their families, who are disadvantaged in one way or another, and many other worthy causes. This is only possible if members, according to their "circumstances in life", meet their obligations.

A recent meeting of the Lodge Committee discussed how our Lodge, can make its fair contribution. The Lodge Charity Steward for the next year will be farmer, W Bro Henry Besley, and we can anticipate he will be sowing the idea of regular contributions by direct debit and will hope to harvest an additional yield of a tax refund on these.

It was also considered that many members enjoy a flutter and that a raffle at most meetings (except the Installation) would yield a return and add to the fun of the evening. It was also reported that many visitors expect to contribute to our funds via a raffle; as do our members when visiting their lodges.

A Presence the Park



The Taunton Flower Show, the oldest in Europe and second oldest in the world, celebrated its 187th year in August and Taunton Freemasons had a stand, in the Provincial Gazebo, to meet the 15,000 who visited the show. Thanks, have been expressed to all, including those Vivary members who helped to erect and man the stand,

There were many visitors, including fellow masons from other regions and the PGM, but it was aimed at ensuring the public had a chance to discover more about Freemasonry. It is almost certain that a new candidate or two may come forward and that would be considered as a bonus.

The way Freemasonry communicates with the public is a difficult question and Freemason and soap magnate, Lord Lever, once said “We waste 90% of our advertising money – but do not know which 90%”.

Taunton Masonic Hall Co Notes

We are all, as individuals, members of the Taunton Masonic Hall Co and this is an update on ‘our home’.

- The lease for our new tenant in No 20 took effect from 1st May 2018 to Beaux Health & Beauty. We wish our tenants well in their business and hopefully this property will become an asset and not a liability.
- The Board aims to make a suitable cupboard available for the storage of donated regalia, and W Bro Mark Coray will manage it. Any proceeds will be either donated to charity or re-invested in the Hall.
- Mistakes in the spelling of some names on the Honours Boards will be corrected soon. Some honours boards need additional “wings”.
- Investigations regarding the complicated question of disabled access are on-going.
- The summer recess saw a conversation between the Board and Peter, our caterer, regarding the poor condition of the cooker. The purchase of a fully commercial cooker, capable of cooking more meals in a shorter time, at a cost of £10,000 or thereabouts was approved.
- The Treasurer’s report estimated a breakeven situation for the y/e 30th June 2018. He pointed out that the annual dues from lodges, etc, had been reduced and that there would be no change for 2019

George gives way to Rabbie

St George has been celebrated by a supper organised by Taunton Freemason, i.e. the Hall Liaison Committee, in the last two years and this has been a very enjoyable evening.

It has though, been decided to make a change by celebrating that Famous Freemason with ‘Burns Night’ on Saturday the 20th January. Please note the date and those qualified, either by birth or by having presentable legs, may wish to wear a kilt. Ear plugs will be available for those who are allergic to the sound of bag pipes.

*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.somersetfreemsons.org. If any recipient does not wish to be included in the (e)mailing list for Vivary News then please contact the LIO.*