



VIVARY LODGE NO 8654
Province of Somerset English Constitution

VIVARY NEWS

NO 21

NOVEMBER 2021

In Memoriam

W Bro Barry Keith Woodside PJGD

18 February 1948 - 6 August 2021

All who knew W Bro Barry were shocked and saddened to hear of his untimely passing to the Grand Lodge above on 6th Aug 2021 and express their sincere condolences to his widow Peggy and family for their loss. His funeral service in his birth county of Cornwall was held on 14th September in Truro, with a memorial service being held in Taunton on 13th October. Vivary Lodge brethren were present at both services and heard the fitting tributes to, and memories of a family man, Grand Officer and Holy Royal Arch Most Excellent Grand Superintendent who lived such a distinguished and varied life. He contributed so much to all the various Masonic degrees he was a member of and his limitless advice and guidance as DC of Vivary Lodge will never be forgotten, particularly by the more junior *light-blue* brethren within the Lodge.

A fitting eulogy was read out by W Bro John Rudge at our October meeting and W Bro Jimmy Durant ably summed up sentiments towards Barry during the Festive Board:

“We owe him a debt greater than he would ever claim, or we shall ever know”.

W Bro Barry lived respected and died regretted.

Getting back to a new normal

This bumper edition of Vivary News is pleased to report the resumption of our regular Lodge activities and the installation of our new Worshipful Master W Bro Ian Rudge into the Chair of King Solomon for the ensuing Vivary Lodge season.

Some of our newly promoted Lodge Officers also share their reflections on ‘moving on up’ after an extended period in office.

To kick off a series of *Get to Know your Lodge Light Blues*, we catch up with our newly appointed Lodge Almoner Bro Ian ‘Tommy’ Tucker and learn about his seafaring past.

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings and happy reading.

Bro Ed Richings – Vivary Lodge Communications Officer

From the East - W Bro Ian Rudge, Worshipful Master

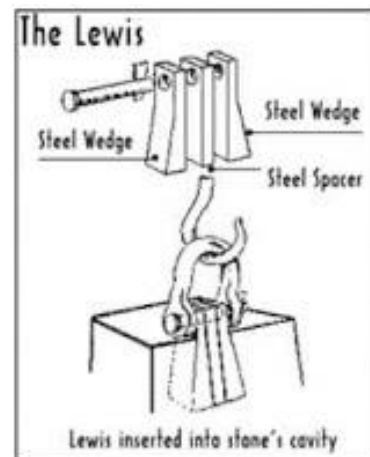


Well we have finally returned to the Masonic hall after our enforced absence caused by the coronavirus pandemic. This period really shone a light on one of our grand principles – brotherly love. As a lodge we adapted well and I believe our community is far stronger for it. The commitment of our members to support and care for our fellow brethren, their families, and the wider community through charity has been great to be a part of - all under the reliable leadership of W Bro John Rudge.

It is with pride I thank W Bro John for installing me into the chair of King Solomon last month. As the first 'Lewis' of Vivary Lodge I can tell you it was an incredibly special occasion for me. For those who don't know, a Lewis is the son of a Freemason and in operative stonemasonry, a Lewis is a metal clamp and shackle that is wedged into a cavity within a stone to enable the lifting or lowering of that stone. Although it is not a working tool in Masonic ritual, it can be seen as a symbol of strength which a son is to his father.

I am now focused on the year ahead with plenty of objectives: adapting to the new normal, enjoying our company and those of our visitors in person, to visit myself, and to support our brethren throughout their progression.

We have a busy masonic calendar and I will be doing my best to master my ritual.



Dust off your ritual books! – Bro Ed Richings

Following the relaxing of the Government coronavirus restrictions and heeding guidance from United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE) and Provincial Grand Lodge, meetings were finally able to recommence in August 2021 after an 18-month hiatus: starting with 2 emergency meetings after dispensation from Provincial Grand Lodge. Our last regular meeting really was held way back in February 2020 and I think we have all forgotten quite a bit of the masonic ritual and floor-work that we would otherwise routinely perform, with often just a quick check of the 'little blue book'.



Fish & chips at the Festive Board.

The 2 emergency meetings allowed essential lodge business to be conducted for the forthcoming season, as well as ceremonies of passing for Bros Jon Cresswell, Andy Hayes and Neil Hitchcott. It was good to get back into the swing of things and have face to face catchups with those Vivary brethren and visitors who were able to attend. With Karen unable to provide catering for the festive board on 20th August, the brethren opted for a man v food challenge, with

the fish and chip mountain portions being adeptly and remotely organised by Bro Richard Wilson. Everyone enjoyed the good food and great company after such a long time away from the Masonic Hall.

On 15th October Vivary was honoured with the presence of W Bro Richard Winter, APM for Somerset, who was accompanied by W Bro Chris Waterhouse ProvAGDC for our Installation meeting. W Bro John Rudge installed his son W Bro Ian Rudge as Worshipful Master for the forthcoming season, with a good number of Vivary brethren and visitors able to enjoy the proceedings and the excellent festive board afterwards. Moving eulogies were read for W Bro Peter Light by his son W Bro Paul Light and to W Bro Barry Woodside by W Bro John Rudge at the commencement of the meeting with brethren paying their masonic respects thereafter.

The autumnal weather is most certainly with us, the leaves have all but dropped off the trees and we've perhaps enjoyed an extra hour in bed now the now the clocks have gone back. We can now also look forward to our busy lodge season and try to learn all the ritual and floor-work required for the variety of ceremonies we have ahead of us, but we are also right to remain cautious about the threat of coronavirus and do what we have to protect ourselves, our families and our fellow brethren and visitors.

So please do stay safe and well and hopefully we can look forward to many more merry Vivary Lodge meetings!



Vivary WM-W Bro Ian Rudge with (L-R) W Bro C Waterhouse ProvAGDC, W Bro John Rudge PPrJGW and W Bro R Winter APM

From the IPM's chair – W Bro John Rudge

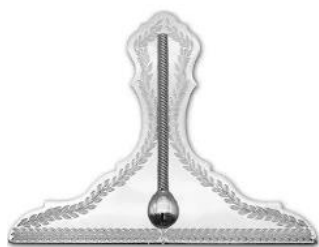


Well the Installation is over and I am now officially a 'has-been' but that does not mean that I shall, given half a chance, retire into the shadows. To install W Bro Ian was a great privilege and one that I was greatly looking forward to. Vivary has been a considerable part of my life since I was first appointed Assistant Secretary, then succeeding W Bro Bryon Turner as Secretary. To serve as Worshipful Master was a great honour, following some very worthy and distinguished brethren in that capacity, not least a friend and Brother Barry Woodside of recent memory. As a new Master could not be elected and installed due to the pandemic I served a second year which posed its own and different problems not the least of which was Zoom - but we all got there in the end – and it enabled us to maintain contacts within the Lodge.

Now Mrs Past WM reminds me (as if it was needed!) that we have another project to deal with, one which has been ongoing for the past ten months much to our chagrin – a house move to Wembdon on the outskirts of Bridgwater. From your enquiries to me about the state of play I think you are probably just as keen to see it completed as we are. However, as I write this there has been movement on the horizon in the last twenty-four hours so we live in hope that it will not take much longer even in solicitor's time scales.

As Christmas approaches, we are looking forward to spending time with Sally, and with Ian and Caroline and the children, Isaac and Lexi. Here's to our next merry meeting and season's greetings to you all.

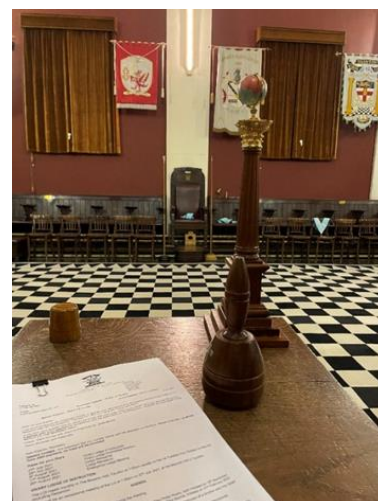
From the West – Bro Richard Wilson, Senior Warden



Can I start by saying how fantastic it was to be able to meet up in person and be part of a great ceremony at our October meeting at Taunton Masonic Hall. W Bro Ian is now Worshipful Master and as Senior Warden along with Junior Warden, Bro Mike, I feel it is part of all our roles to help carry on the rituals and traditions of the Vivary Lodge. Whilst this is an enormous responsibility, I'm sure we will have fun along the way and make this season enjoyable for everyone.

I have thoroughly enjoyed sitting in the Junior Warden's chair over the last 18 months, so much so I took a picture of my view. I don't find the Senior Warden's chair as comfortable, not just because it's so far from the pedestal and I struggle to reach, but the level of responsibility that comes with the Senior Warden's role, and the stark reality that in just 11 months' time I am expected to occupy an even bigger chair which is very grounding. I have a lot to learn and some very big shoes to fill.

Those of you that have visited Richard Huish Lodge will know that I am the Senior Warden and Charity Steward. The role of Charity Steward I enjoy immensely and would encourage any brethren to jump at the opportunity should they be offered this role. Whilst it can be very time consuming it is also one of the most rewarding roles. I have felt very privileged to visit many charities and present them with donations raised by the Lodge. As I have been a regular guest at the Craft meetings in Wellington, I have decided to join the Wellington Chapter and will be Exalted in November this year, and maybe in the future I will see many Companions from Vivary visiting.



The beautiful South

In May 2022 I will be taking on yet another role – Father of the Bride, my beautiful, intelligent, and funny daughter Emma will make her vows to her fiancé Josh. My day job also keeps me very busy – I have enrolled to become a Chartered Construction Manager with The Chartered Institute of Builders – an accreditation I have been working towards for many years.

Charity Steward's Report – W Bro Henry Besley, Charity Steward

Since my last Vivary News Charity report in April the Lodge has continued to support numerous charitable causes. Our own Bro Matt Potter with his wife Jen, sky-dived from 15,000ft in aid of The Brain Tumour Charity, whom they decided to support after losing a close friend from a tumour. Vivary was pleased to make a donation of £500 and presented a cheque to the charity in July. Matt said the sky dive was a real experience and thanked the Lodge for our contribution to the charity.



W Bros John Rudge and Henry Besley with Julie Norman from The Brain Tumour Charity

On the passing of HRH The Duke of Edinburgh in April 2021, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset appealed to Lodges to contribute to the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, which we did with a £250 donation. In August, W Bro Neil Hurcum of Southey Lodge No 6650, Clevedon did a 700 metre long zip-wire challenge, speeding over a flooded quarry in Wales dressed as Wonder Woman in aid of Somerset Hospices. We donated £200 which went to our local Hospice St Margaret's.

Recently our IPM W Bro John presented £700 to the Taunton Branch of the Guide Dogs for the Blind, money raised mainly from a quiz held before Lockdown.

My thanks again to the brethren who give to our Relief Chest and contribute to our funds in other ways. We are fortunate to have monies in our Relief Chest with which we can help worthy causes that we are very often asked to help. We can also consider any suggestions put forward by our brethren. Please let me know if you would like us to support a particular good cause, it will be carefully considered.

Finally, we have all been notified of the Cadogan Court Christmas Meat Draw. I am sure many of our brethren have supported or will be supporting The Friends of Cadogan Court. Who knows you may win a hamper of meat for Christmas!



Mr Dave Arney, his wife Sylvia and guide dog Isis receive the cheque for the Taunton Guide Dogs from W Bro John Rudge.

From the South – Bro Mike Marshall, Junior Warden



Although I occupied the office of Senior Deacon for two years unusually, due to the Covid pandemic, I was only actually seated in the Senior Deacon's chair in the Temple for half of that time. During that period I recall looking over the floor of the Temple towards the Junior Warden's chair and wondering not only how I would handle the responsibility that this position in the Lodge brings but also how comfortable it would be compared to the Senior Deacon's which had a nice new upholstered cushion.

I can now attest that it has no such upholstery! But more importantly its position in the South gives a completely different outlook on the Temple serving to emphasis the role of the Junior Warden as steward of the Lodge. The first regular meeting of the Lodge since February 2020 brought the feeling of comfort that life is returning to normality. The lockdowns made life everything but normal, for although Vivary Lodge members kept in contact through our weekly Zoom meetings it hardly made up for meeting in person. In the absence of Senior Deacon duties during this time I concentrated on my role as Lodge Communication Officer producing editions of the Vivary News to keep everyone up to date. Plus also compiling and sending out thirty nine weekly quizzes to Lodge members, to hopefully bring a small ray of light to an otherwise bleak time and help provide a bit of light hearted fun. M E Comp Barry Woodside, Provincial Grand Superintendent, who as member of Vivary Lodge started to get drawn into these quizzes and thought that Companions of

Somerset's Holy Royal Arch would like to join in the fun which resulted in my producing a similar number of weekly quizzes for the Companions of the Province.

I put on a bit of weight during the lockdowns, how much? Well let's just say that the buttons on my shirt had started to look as if they were socially distancing! So a diet has begun to ensure I could fit back into my suit. But it was great to sit down after all this time after our first meeting for 18 months and enjoy Festive Board roast potatoes once again. After the trials and dark days under the threat of Covid, we all look forward to a new start. Life will never be the same and we will all need to adjust but I am sure that the camaraderie and strength of Freemasonry together with the determination of the officers of the Lodge will see Vivary become even stronger than before.



Quizzes, quizzes everywhere!

Get to Know Your Lodge Light Blues - Bro Ian 'Tommy' Tucker, Almoner

At the Vivary Installation meeting in October, I had the great honour of being appointed Almoner, taking this role over from Bro Bob Town. My name is Ian Tucker but most people know me as Tommy, after little Tommy Tucker who apparently sang for his supper. I think with my singing voice I would probably have to go hungry.



Bro Tommy with his fish supper tucker

I have been a seafarer all of my working life serving as an engineer in the Merchant Navy. My career began with an apprenticeship with Shell, followed by 3 years' service in their tanker fleet trading worldwide. This was followed by service on a cargo ship trading to Jamaica and a passenger liner regularly sailing between Southampton and ports in South Africa. After getting married and becoming a family man with two sons and a daughter, being away for months at a time wasn't conducive to family life at all. I therefore joined Trinity House, becoming a Chief Engineer serving in their support vessels around the coast. These smaller ships were involved in various tasks such as maintaining offshore aids to navigation (lighthouses, lightships, buoys etc) surveys of wrecks and sandbanks, as well as some ceremonial duties. This was an ideal job as it was two weeks on duty followed by two weeks off. My wife Sonia and I frequently say that I probably saw more of my kids than most other dads who do a normal Monday to Friday job. Both my wife and I are now happily retired with all our children grown up and married; we also have six grandchildren.

My life as a Freemason only began three years ago after being proposed by W Bro Peter Light, therefore being asked if I would like to take up the role of Almoner was to say the least a surprise. However, after thinking about it I couldn't think of a nicer job within the lodge so I readily accepted the offer. Bro Bob has performed the role conscientiously during his time in office, particularly during the recent challenging 18 months. I am looking forward to get going on this very important role, after the handover given by Bob.

Should any Brother wish to get in contact with me, particularly about health and the wellbeing of fellow members and families my details are as follows:

Bro 'Tommy' Tucker | Mobile: 07971826876 | Email: ian.tuckershose@googlemail.com

And finally – late news just in.....



**Bro Mike slates his
unplanned starter**

Vivary News has confirmed that rumours Bro Mike Marshall has turned vegetarian are in fact, a 'load of old tripe'. A saucer who was present at the October Vivary meeting 'papped' Bro Mike with a 'garnish on a slate roof tile', which soon had several brethren wondering what on earth had happened to him during lockdown, given his infamous love of roast dinners and roast potatoes, served on conventional tableware with appropriate condiments. Vivary News can now exclusively reveal that our Senior Warden Bro Richard pre-arranged a spoof salad-themed starter with caterer Karen for Bro Mike, to represent a meat-free apocalyptic salad-based dystopia. Bro Mike was subsequently revived from his state of shock with a plate of roast lamb and a hundred-weight of roast potatoes and was last reported as having made a full recovery. As the incoming dining steward, Vivary News wonders if Mike will revenge this prank with a dish best served hot or cold.....

Any articles or news for inclusion in future editions of the Vivary News will be most welcome by the Lodge Communication Officer. Please submit to Bro Ed Richings via ed.richings@yahoo.co.uk.

Back issues of Vivary News can be viewed via the links on the Vivary Lodge Information area, on the Somerset Provincial web site at: <http://www.somersetfreemasons.org/freemasonry-in-taunton/>.

If any recipient does not wish to be included in the emailing list for Vivary News then please advise the Vivary LCO accordingly by email (as above) or please contact the Vivary News Desk on 07791868023.