



VIVARY LODGE NO 8654
Province of Somerset English Constitution

VIVARY NEWS

NO 22

JUNE 2022

In Memoriam

Bro. Brian Richard Whiteside

10 April 1936 - 19 February 2022

Bro. Brian passed to the Grand Lodge above on 19th February 2022, having been admitted to Musgrove Hospital a few days earlier and having had to endure significant domestic disruption and illness in his final few weeks. His funeral service was held on 17th March at Taunton Crematorium, with a good number of Vivary Lodge brethren present, along with representatives from the progressive degrees and other organisations Brian was or had been a member throughout his life. Brian had been a Senior Design Engineer with Somerset County Council, a member of Taunton Round Table, Taunton 41 Club, Taunton Probus Club Social Secretary and later its President. Brian also contributed immensely to Taunton Freemasons and Vivary Lodge in particular. W Bro. Peter Ball gave a fitting eulogy at Brian's funeral service and during Vivary's March meeting and brethren expressed their sincere condolences to his widow Marion, his son Ralph, daughter Linda and his grandchildren for their loss.

Bro. Brian lived respected and died regretted.

Tempus fugit

Latin scholars and trivia buffs will understand that 'time flies'. Rather apt for my lead-in to another bumper edition of Vivary News, one that I had envisaged would have long since hit the digital press. But as another saying goes – 'better late than never'! So, this edition is pleased to be able to round up a very busy masonic year for Vivary, with a total of 10 lodge meetings having been held and a lot of ground being made up with the Covid pandemic officially declared over.

The senior Lodge Officers share their reflections and we hear from our newest Provincial Grand Officer W Bro. Alan Clayton.

In *Get to Know your Lodge Light Blues*, we catch up with Bro Jon Cresswell and what he has been up to since joining Freemasonry.

Sincere and Fraternal Greetings, happy reading and enjoy your summer!

Bro Ed Richings – Vivary Lodge Communications Officer

From the East – by W Bro Ian Rudge, Worshipful Master



I would like to start by thanking everyone for the contribution you have made this Masonic year - I quite simply couldn't have done it without you. Last summer still felt full of uncertainty, looking forwards to the winter due to Covid. However, looking back we did extremely well to achieve a successful restart; once again being able to meet and practice our ritual in the Masonic Hall. I can't deny after a year off it felt like a lot of cobwebs needed blowing away – maybe some more than others!

We started the season early with two emergency meetings in August 2021 and extended it with another in May 2022. This was partly to catch up from Covid, but also a reflection of the strong demand for initiates we are seeing. I would like to express my thanks to you and your families for supporting these extra meetings. Hopefully this is a good sign for the future, and with five members being raised this year, I guess it must be near record numbers in one year. I thank the contribution of Unanimity & Sincerity Lodge No. 261 and The Lodge of St George No. 3158 in helping facilitate raisings of two of our candidates, and those from Vivary who were able to take part in those ceremonies. I also want to reflect on the two officers who took roles as FC's, Jon Cresswell and Tommy Tucker; you have both discharged your duties with merit – thank you.

We have been able to celebrate the 50 year masonic anniversaries of W Bro. Peter Ball and W Bro. Redvers Webber, and appreciate the example they set for future generations. W Bro. Alan Clayton was appointed Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon – congratulations. Sadly we also had to say goodbye to Bro. Brian Whiteside; it all happened very quickly, as he played a part in our November raising. I know he was grateful for the brotherly love he received from our members towards the end.

One area of my role which I particularly valued was our contribution to charity. This year, Vivary has supported a number of charities supporting the young, disadvantaged and elderly, which during these times feels more in need than usual. But the one closest to my heart was the contribution we made to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. The needs of the Ukrainian people and the knock-on effects to the global economy continue to be felt, and will be for some time yet.

For my part, I have learnt a lot this year. In amongst the traffic jams and closed Severn bridges – with solid support of W Bro. John Rudge, I have enjoyed progressing our brethren and seeing us all grow. Three years ago it felt almost impossible that my year as Worshipful Master would align with the adoption of my two children (Isaac & Lexi), but through some astounding twists of fate that is exactly what happened. It felt serendipitous that my final regular meeting aligned with the same week we received confirmation of the adoption order. Here's to calmer waters, where my family life and masonic learning balance more naturally. I will very much look forwards to supporting our Master Elect Bro Richard Wilson in his masonic year.

I wish you all a well-earned holiday this summer, enjoy spending time with your families.

Raising...our game – by Bro Ed Richings



Jon with W Bros. Ian & Ray

Five Vivary brethren were raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason in the season just ended, with some assistance from two of the other Taunton Lodges.

Firstly, our Almoner Bro. Tommy Tucker in November 2021, then Bro. Matt Potter in January 2022 with W Bro. William Allen in the Chair for the Past Masters meeting.



**Neil with his cousin
Peter Russell**

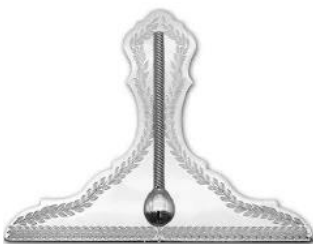


Andy Hayes (front middle) with Alec James WM No.261 (rear middle), with an all-star supporting cast!

Next a trio of raisings in March 2022: Bro. Neil was raised by the Lodge of St George No. 3158 at very short notice, Bro. Andy Hayes by Unanimity & Sincerity Lodge No. 261 with Vivary brethren taking on most of the ritual.

Finally, Bro. Jon Cresswell was raised at the Vivary meeting, with his father-in-law W Bro. Ray Hackett visiting from Sussex again. Many congratulations to all our newly made Master Masons!

From the West – by Bro Richard Wilson, Senior Warden & Master Elect



What a year it has been, starting off with 2 emergency meetings in August 2021 after a year off and a backlog of candidates, and now finishing with me becoming Master Elect in May 2022. The masonic season started for me on 6th August 2021 when we passed Bro. Cresswell & Bro. Hayes, since then the season has just flown by. Vivary have had 10 meetings this season and I am sure this must be a record. We have more potential candidates on the horizon, so it looks like it could be another busy autumn.

My daughter got married in May and it was a fantastic occasion - as you can imagine many months of planning and preparation went into this event. My input mostly, for some reason, involved having

to travel to Bristol to have adjustments made to my suit, which I put down to masonic visiting and bumper festive boards.

I have also been working hard over the past 12 months to become a Chartered Builder with the Chartered Institute of building, completing my final exams & interview in February 2022.

In October 2021, I was Exalted into The Chapter of Fidelity & Sincerity No.1966 in Wellington by the Provincial Grand Chapter team. This was a great honour, and I am sure our departed W Bro. and E Comp. Barry Woodside had a part in planning it. I was made aware afterwards that Barry, as the past Most Excellent Grand Superintendent had expressed a wish that the Provincial team perform my Exaltation. This was a great night, and I would encourage any Master Mason to complete his masonic journey as, The Royal Arch is the culmination of “pure ancient masonry.”



Comp. Richard having been exalted into The Chapter of Fidelity & Sincerity No. 1966, Wellington, with members of the Provincial Grand Chapter team.

Well as the summer approaches I am off to start reading the little blue book and plan my Installation in October. Hopefully, I will catch up with some of you during the summer.

Charity Steward’s Report – by W Bro Henry Besley

Since my last Vivary News report we have donated £2050 in March to the Ukraine Crisis Appeal. In April our Worshipful Master presented a cheque for £1000 to St Margaret’s Hospice Care in Taunton and letter of thanks was later received.



The WM presenting a cheque to Mr Jonathan Guy of St Margaret's Hospice.

Before our April meeting, W Bro. Ian presented a cheque for £500 to Miss Nyah Tomlinson, a talented local water polo player, to assist with her travelling expenses to an EU Nations tournament in the Czech Republic. An interesting letter of thanks was received from her telling us about her and her team’s success in winning bronze medals – which matches the best placing England have finished in this tournament to date.

£250 was given in May to support the Somerset Masonic Cycling Association ‘Tour Des Temples’ Charity cycle ride, when around 20 riders visited every Masonic Centre in Somerset cycling 261 miles in 4 days in aid of 3 charities.



Our WM presents a cheque to Miss Nyah Tomlinson with W Bro. Henry.

We have £7055.91 in our Relief Chest which is growing every day and can be used for our charitable purposes. If anyone has any charities they would like Vivary to support please let me know and we can discuss further.

From the South – by Bro Mike Marshall, Junior Warden



Where has the time gone? We have come to the end of Vivary's annual Masonic season which began with the Installation meeting in October, when my move into the Junior Warden's chair meant taking on new duties.

Duties not only in the Temple but also duties as the ostensible Steward of the Lodge responsible for organising the refreshments after each meeting and making sure that the visitors are well looked after. Visiting is an important and enjoyable part of Freemasonry and our seven regular meetings have seen many dozens of Masons from 16 different Lodges join the brethren of Vivary at the Festive Board where old friendships were renewed and many new acquaintances made.

The organisation of the Festive Board has had its challenges this past six months having to manage last minute cancellations by diners as the Covid virus continued to disrupt life. In fact, Covid has been a thread running through many conversations at the Festive Board, but I have been impressed with the positive attitude that the brethren have had in dealing with the effect that it has had on them and on their families.



It's been good to have been able to sit down once again to dine at the Taunton Masonic Hall. Picking out my favourite meal would be impossible because of the wonderful high quality (and large portions) of the fare put in front of us by Karen and her team but I know that I would include roast potatoes as a key constituent!

As with Freemasonry, life has also been returning to something like normal after so many months and I am looking forward to the summer - Sun, Sand, Scarecrows and Sci-Fi. Scarecrows and Sci-Fi?? Yes, for many years I have helped organise the annual Scarecrow Trail around my village and I also help to put on events to promote Literacy and the Visual Arts in a fun way by using renowned Illustrators, Storyboard Artists and Writers from the world of science fiction.

I'm already looking forward to October when I will be once again moving to a different Chair in the Lodge (and the Dining room) and this time it will be the Senior Warden's. In the meantime, I am hard at work readying myself for the next Masonic year by relaxing in the garden with a well-earned beer!

Get to Know Your Lodge Light Blues – Bro. Jon Cresswell



Jon was happy with his holiday bush tucker trial.

Who has been admitting masons on proof and receiving candidates in due form (etc) this past season, you may have wondered? None other than Bro. Jon, who was initiated into masonry and joined Vivary back in November 2019.

Jon served for 17 years in the Royal Marines, where he specialised as a signaller (radio operator) and then as a Telecommunications Technician. Getting to the rank of Colour Sergeant, he passed the Admiralty Interview Board and commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Royal Navy, where he served on HMS Gloucester and HMS Richmond as the Logistics Officer. He has served operationally in Northern Ireland, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan and took part in many military exercises across the globe.

He has taken active roles in Vivary, taking on the Inner Guard role whilst still a FC and also performed the duties of the LOI Secretary during 2020. Jon has also got quite a few masonic visits under his apron, with a trip to Forget Me Not Lodge No.9035 in Wiltshire, Portcullis Lodge No.2034 in Langport, Knights of the Road Lodge No. 3673 in Brighton, as well the consecration and inaugural initiation of The Somerset Military Lodge No.10021 held at RNAS Yeovilton in May.

Jon and his wife Kathryn have grown up children Thomas and Rebecca. Jon currently works at the University of Exeter in Human Resources, which is a far cry from the exciting life he led before, he points out!

Receiving my Provincial Grand Rank - by W Bro Alan Clayton PPrJGD



I was honoured, on 7th April, at the AGM of Provincial Grand Lodge, to receive my first appointment to Provincial Rank, so that I am now Past Provincial Junior Grand Deacon. As the PGM put my collar on me, he told me that he always enjoys our meetings.

My day was made even better, because I was accompanied by both W Bros. Rudge, W Bros. Adrian Halliwell, Alwyn Clegg, Bro Mike Marshall and Bro Ed Richings and I thank them all for their company and support.

However, I was not the only one who had to stand in front of the PGM, our WM, W Bro. Ian Rudge, returned the Travelling Trowel, which we had received, informally, from the Wellington School Lodge, in February.

Coincidentally, we should receive the Trowel again next February, from the Lodge of Perpetual Friendship, No. 135 and we are required to deliver it to Tynte Lodge, No. 7994, in Bridgwater, on Thursday, 16th March 2023, which is the night before our Regular Meeting.

And finally...a ton up for Vivary



The PGM and Peter

Two members of Vivary have had cause to celebrate this season, having each achieved a milestone of 50 years in Freemasonry. W Bro. John Redvers Webber was presented with his certificate by David Maddern at a special get together at Taunton Masonic Hall and W Bro. Peter Ball received



David Maddern and Redvers

his certificate from the PGM at Vivary's January meeting.

Congratulations to both Redvers and Peter on their wonderful achievements!

Any articles or news for inclusion in future editions of the Vivary News will be most welcomed by the Lodge Communication Officer. Please submit to Bro Ed Richings via: Vivary8654LCO@gmail.com

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/.](http://www.somersetfreemasons.org/freemasonry-in-taunton/)

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