



VIVARY LODGE NO 8654
Province of Somerset English Constitution

VIVARY NEWS

NO 23

DEC 2022

In Memoriam

W Bro Fred G Samuel PPrGSuptWks 5th February 1943 – 11th August 2022

W Bro Fred was born in Birmingham and started his working life in a butchers/fruit shop. He later joined the Police as a Special Constable, alongside his then work in a factory. Fred moved to Somerset and worked for Lords fruit and veg shop, eventually becoming their buyer. He was married and had 2 daughters but divorced and later married Sue in 2000. Fred had a massive stroke in 2015, which robbed him of his speech, some mobility and memory. He had a fall in June 2020 and after a spell in Musgrove, moved to Camelot Nursing home where he sadly passed to Grand Lodge above. Fred was initiated into Vivary Lodge on 16th November 1990 and progressed through the offices, becoming WM in 2001. He took up the role as Almoner in 2010, a role he was very adept at and in all gave 32 years of service to Freemasonry before resigning in 2017 through ill health. He was promoted to PPrGSuptWks in 2015.

W Bro Fred lived respected and died regretted.

(A precis from W Bro Adrian Halliwell's eulogy in Vivary Lodge on Fri 21st Oct 2022)

In Memoriam

Bro Robert H Town 19th May 1939 – 30th July 2022

Bro Bob was born in Bingley, West Yorkshire as the youngest of 3 sons but his middle brother sadly died of measles aged 3, some 2 years before Bob was born. After education at Keighley Boys' Grammar School he started work at a drawing office in Leeds. Bob married Joan on 23rd July 1960 and they celebrated their 62nd anniversary the week before he passed to Grand Lodge above. Bob and Joan had 3 daughters Madelyn, Paula and Deborah and they moved to Somerset in 1975, where Bob was now working on the planning for the North Devon link road as a civil engineer. Bob eventually moved into town planning, then a planning officer and ending up as a planning inspector. Bob was a keen cricket player then watcher, enjoyed playing golf and supporting Yeovil Town FC with Joan and they both also were active members of Taunton Wine Circle along with Alwyn Clegg and the late Peter Light and Brian Whiteside and wives. Bob was initiated into Vivary Lodge on 16th November 2007, reached the JW Chair and then became Almoner for several years.

Bro Bob lived respected and died regretted.

(A precis from W Bro Alwyn Clegg's eulogy in Vivary Lodge on Fri 21st Oct 2022)

In Memoriam

Bro Michael J Salway PPrGSwdB 15th March 1950 – 30th October 2022

Bro Mike was initiated into Vivary Lodge on 19th April 1984 and took an active part in Craft Masonry as well as several Side Degrees; he held the office of Tyler (or equivalent) in all of them. Mike trained as an engineer with British Telecom and then set up his own business repairing TVs and electronic equipment, when he left BT on rationalisation. He was a very practical and hard-working person who could repair almost anything he put his hand to, always willing to help someone in need of help. Married to Jenny, Mike was a husband, father, grandfather and great grandfather to his family that he so adored, passing on his technical skills and knowledge to his daughter Louise and his grandchildren when fixing broken things they brought to him. Mike also loved his wine and was frequently found serving behind the Masonic Hall bar with a friendly smile and a joke or two. Mike gave 38 years of service to Freemasonry and was given Provincial honours in 2012 as PPrGStB, then promoted to PPrGSwdB in 2020. His illness and passing to Grand Lodge above has left a huge void in the lives of those fortunate to have known him.

Bro Mike lived respected and died regretted.

(A precis from W Bro Peter Ball's Masonic Tribute to Mike at his funeral service on Fri 25th Nov 2022)

Let's just leaf it there....

The Autumnal Equinox occurs when the sun is directly above the equator, when the day and night are of equal length and it signifies the start of Autumn - that was the 23rd of September this year, so my diary dutifully advises me (I'm not sure how 2022 has gone so fast, to be honest). I've watched the tree foliage turn a golden brown and have spent several sessions in the back garden, sweeping up the seemingly never-ending pile of leaves (before they turn into mush). Soon the trees are bare and the leaves are bagged up with the change in seasons complete. Autumn signifies a change in Vivary Lodge, when many officers move roles and contemplate the various challenges ahead; our new WM W Bro Richard and his Wardens give us their thoughts in this issue of Vivary News.

In *Get to Know your Lodge Light Blues*, we catch up with Bro Matt Potter and find out how he keeps himself busy.

Sincere, Fraternal and Festive Greetings to you all!

Bro Ed Richings – Vivary Lodge Communications Officer

From the East – by W Bro Richard Wilson, Worshipful Master



My masonic journey began in January 2013 when I was invited to a gentlemen's evening. In January 2014 I was initiated, and I have now finally reached the Chair of King Solomon. It was great to see so many brethren attend my installation, and I must thank Bro Mike Marshall for his huge effort in arranging the festive board.

There were so many brethren attending I'm not sure I got to thank everyone - I was overwhelmed by the numbers. I would also like to thank W Bro Ian Rudge for installing me in the Chair of King Solomon, I'm sure over the season I will need his help and I can't think of a better Brother to have by my side.

A big thank you to the brethren of Vivary and Richard Huish for keeping W Bro Simon Cassling's visit a secret. I must admit a knock at the door so late in the ceremony was a surprise; it was great to see my Proposer and Secunder both at the meeting. I know how hard this was for Simon to drive all the way from Belgium; I spoke to him on the Sunday and thanked him for all he has done for me, and I must add that W Bro Simon is an inspiration to us all.

When printing off the dining plan I caught a glimpse of the name W Bro B Russells, but I had no idea who it was and as Bro Mike Marshall had invited pretty much everyone from the Somerset Province, I just assumed it was someone he knew or a spelling mistake!



The view from the East



W Bro Simon Cassling greets W Bro Richard

The picture above is from when I sneaked into the hall and did a little bit of rehearsing on my own; as you can see the hall was empty and it was very lonely in the big chair. A big thank to Karen for the cakes and scones and to Lilian & Sarah for helping out on the day.

At present all our Lodge officers are filled by 'light blue' brethren which I hope to support and help them through their progression.

I look forward to the season and I hope I can continue with the Vivary Lodge high standards and traditions.

Vivary Installation Report – by Bro Ed Richings, LCO



Vivary's October 2022 Installation meeting was a memorable occasion for all the many members and visitors present and a huge surprise lay in store for our new Worshipful Master Richard. As Richard has mentioned, he had clocked the unknown W Bro B Russells on the dining plan but didn't recognise the name. So, the knocks on the temple door very late on in the ceremony soon revealed said B Russells to be none other than W Bro Simon Cassling, Richard's proposer into Freemasonry.

It was fantastic to see Simon return to Vivary, having travelled so far from Belgium, with his ongoing battle with illness to contend with. Simon gave an excellent toast to the Worshipful Master at the bumper Festive Board and then presented Richard with a personalised 'booster' cushion. There was plenty of wine drunk, epic portions of food consumed, the traditional songs were sung and a superb evening was had by all those present.

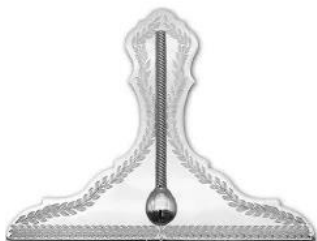


W Bro Richard hits the high notes!



Simon presents the cushion

From the West – by Bro Mike Marshall, Senior Warden



Looking back to the last Vivary Newsletter I see that I was looking forward to relaxing in the garden, but although the summer months constituted Vivary's 'close season' my masonic life continued.

In July along with my wife I attended the Party in the Park organised to celebrate the finish of Somerset's 2020 Festival to the Grand Charity. Originally scheduled for June 2020 as a Celebration Lunch at Ashton Court it had to be cancelled due to the Covid Pandemic and was rescheduled for July 2021 as an evening Party in a Park event at Taunton School only to be postponed for a further year. However, this summer it finally happened and over 420 people enjoyed an evening of good company, good food and great musical entertainment provided by the legendary 'Wurzels' and I must admit to joining in with the singing. Luckily, so did everyone else so my out of tune voice mercifully went unnoticed. The whole evening was finished off with a Laser and Firework display.



A Kaleidoscope Of Wine!

August 2022 saw the return of the Taunton Flower Show and with it the Somerset Provincial Gazebo manned by masons from our own Masonic Hall and I was pleased to produce a picture quiz based on famous masons for visitors to the Show. I was suitably attired in my blue Taunton Masonic Centre polo shirt, which unbelievably hadn't 'shrunk in the wardrobe' since the last Flower Show two years previously!

I helped on the Masonic Stand on both days of the show meeting and talked to many people who were pleased to learn more about Freemasonry. And to demonstrate that I could multi- task, despite comments to the contrary, I split my time there helping with the wine tasting competition at the Wine Show tent. I entered the Wine Classes at the Flower Show for the first time and exceeded all my expectations by achieving three Firsts, two Seconds and a Third. Of course, as the bottles had been opened I had no option but to finish them off over the ensuing weeks!

Before Vivary's first meeting of this Masonic season I was pleased in September, as Third Principal of the Royal Arch Chapter of St George No.3158, to take part in the Exaltation of fellow Vivary Brother Andy Hayes, as he continued on his Masonic journey: the Royal Arch being considered to be the culmination of 'pure ancient masonry'.

Well, it's the start of the new Masonic season and for me a new office as Senior Warden, a new chair in the Lodge, new duties and new words to learn; looks like it's going to be another great year to look forward to at Vivary Lodge.



E Comp Mike Marshall (R), Third Principal with new Comp Andy Hayes (L)

Charity News – by Bro Ed Richings, LCO



W Bro Richard presents the cheque to W Bro Charlie Barker, SMFA Prov Co-ord.

Vivary Lodge was pleased to donate £75 to the Taunton branch of the Somerset Masonic Friendship Association (SMFA) at our November meeting. W Bro Charlie Barker, Prov SMFA Co-ordinator, was in attendance to receive the cheque from W Bro Richard.

The Taunton branch of the SMFA is especially active, with social activities including coffee mornings at Taunton Masonic Hall, trips out and an annual Christmas lunch for its members. The branch, like all SMFA branches, aims to be self-sufficient but support from local Masonic units is always very much appreciated, as it helps them to keep down the costs to members.

From the South – by Bro Matt Landy, Junior Warden



I thank very much our Worshipful Master Richard for considering me for the role within Vivary as Junior Warden. Each role within the lodge has its own challenges and I am taking over these reins from the very capable hands of Bro Mike. I am discovering that the responsibilities with this office are greater than I ever considered but is my responsibility to step up to the mark and take them on.

Learning new ritual will always exercise the grey matter, which is a very important thing in your own life as well as Lodge. I urge the newer members of Vivary to practice their ritual, no matter how small a piece it may be and enjoy the part in any ceremony you are invited to participate in. Every other Brother is a mentor and I am confident that all members of Vivary only wish you to do well. I assure you all that I will do my absolute best to discharge my duties and keep you all happy.

Get to Know Your Lodge Light Blues – Bro Matt Potter



Matt's favourite post gym workout recovery venue is a secret.

Matt Potter was initiated into Vivary Lodge in November 2017 and was raised by the Vivary Past Masters in January 2022. He currently lives in Taunton and is the CEO of The Mortgage Centre UK and was an estate agent for 4 years before his current position. The Mortgage Centre UK deal with all types of mortgages from First Time buyers and 'Buy to Lets' to customers looking to remortgage.

Matt is married to wife Jen and they and have two children, who are very competitive and into football; their youngest plays at a very high club level and takes up vast amounts of Matt's time he advises.

He works as a Financial Adviser and hopes to achieve his Chartered status within the next two years.

Matt's main hobby is the gym which he visits 5 days of 7, most weeks!

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/>.

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