

**In Memoriam**

**W Bro Simon Cassling** *PPrAGDC*

12 November 1963 – 16 March 2023

W Bro Simon lived respected and died regretted.

**In Memoriam**

**W Bro Peter Ball** *PPrSGW*

27 December 1935 – 12 April 2023

W Bro Peter lived respected and died regretted.

**In Memoriam**

**Bro William John Vallance**

17 June 1938 – 10 December 2024

Bro John lived respected and died regretted

## Tempus fugit



I've "borrowed" this box from the previous issue, which was a couple of years ago now. Tempus has well and truly Fugit since then, with only partial Newsletter coverage to December 2022 for W Bro Richard's year in office and no Newsletter content covering W Bro Mike Marshall's year. I am hopeful that the work necessary for future issues is already underway, so that future issues will be more frequent and, hopefully, more detailed.

**W Bro Alan Clayton – Lodge Secretary**



## From the East –

by W Bro Mike Marshall, Worshipful Master



To occupy the Chair of King Solomon is the culmination of the progression through the offices of a Lodge. But what does it feel like to sit in King Solomon's Chair? Daunting? Exciting? Privileged? Well it encapsulates all of those feelings because it's the ultimate goal of all Master Masons and represents their work, their dedication and their input into the life and well-being of the Lodge. It has also made me realise the importance of serving in each of the Progressive Offices along the way in the understanding of the Worshipful Master's role and place in the Lodge.

Highlights of my year are many but here are a few that stand out in my memory:

- Being voted Master Elect by the Brethren of Vivary which gave me a determination to live up to their trust.
- My Installation as Worshipful Master in October last year, an unforgettable and moving occasion.
- Working with and heading up a new team of officers.
- Representing Vivary at the meetings of other Lodges.
- The wonderful experience of being able to initiate a new member into Freemasonry.
- Passing two of Vivary's Entered Apprentices to the next degree.

For me the season started out with many visits to other Lodges and Chapters renewing acquaintances and making new ones among fellow Masons that I met. Unfortunately a spell in hospital meant that for the first time I missed Vivary's December meeting when wives, partners and friends join us for a convivial and merry evening at our Christmas Festive Board. March and April saw me back in hospital but the many visits and phone calls from the Brethren of not only Vivary Lodge but also from those of other Lodges, (not to mention their sending me photos of all the roast potatoes that I was missing at Festive Boards), helped boost my spirits and supported both myself and my family through this difficult period serving to bring home to me what freemasonry means.



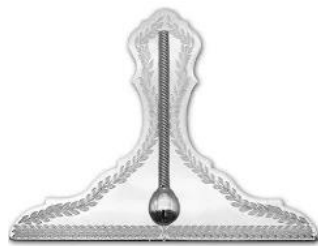
As Worshipful Master I chose “Love Musgrove” as my Charity for the year (unaware at the time that I would be spending so much time there!) and the Lodge donated £1000. To raise further money the Lodge held a quiz night at Taunton Masonic Hall which was so well attended you couldn’t get any more people in the room. The event was organised by our Junior Warden, Ed



Richings, and our Director of Ceremonies, Adrian Halliwell with special thanks to Anne Halliwell who provided the questions and kept the Question Master under control and to all who provided raffle prizes. The evening raised £1000 and Province provided another £500, while a further £420 was raised from a raffle held at our White Table event, a wonderful effort by all.



It has been an honour to serve as the Worshipful Master of Vivary Lodge and I now look forward to installing our new Master Elect, Bro Matt Landy, this October and supporting him fully in my new role as Immediate Past Master.



## From the West

– by Bro Matt Landy, Senior Warden

Life as Senior Warden . . .

It always seems to happen to everyone else, and until you are sitting in that particular chair, you never seem to appreciate what is upon you.

You have to learn your ritual, just as you must in all other offices. However, it becomes apparent quite quickly that this is not the only task.

From the first time you sit in that chair, you realise that you have to make your observation skills do a bit of overtime. You have to start thinking straight away about who will be your officers for the next year.

Despite not selecting who might perform any smaller parts of ritual this year, you have to think ahead and see the quality of who does what, then think how you can expand their knowledge as well as putting confidence into and asking those who have not yet done any ritual to be more confident.

We are extremely lucky in Vivary Lodge that we have many 'senior' brothers with many years of experience and ritual leadership. Watching their expertise is inspiring and we must all aspire to their brilliance. Long passages of ritual take time and capacity to stick, but we must all understand that those following us are the future and we must become the ones that they aspire to.

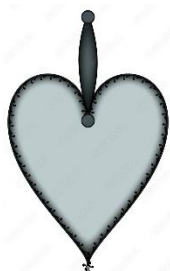
I have said before that I believe everyone is a mentor. Everyone is capable of something. Everyone has their own tiny talent and we should encourage this talent from and encourage them to do the same for those following, proving a part of the initiation ceremony that describes the importance of education. Time flies and, before you know it, the BIG chair awaits you.



## From the South by Bro Ed Richings, Junior Warden

Work expands to fill the available time, as Parkinson's law states. My time as Vivary JW seems to have flown by and by its nature the work the role of JW entails always seemed to expand - just like my waistline during the Festive Board. But the most important thing to remember I think is that 'team work makes the dream work'. Planning and executing the Festive Boards for the year, our Christmas Meal, the charity quiz night and White Table events could not happen without great team work. For all those that have helped me run these successful events last season I sincerely thank you.

My personal challenge was learning and delivering the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Charge to Brother Paul Hayman, whom I proposed into Vivary, and I would urge all Light Blues to get involved in ritual and ceremonies, as we can all play a part in them. I'm looking forward to enjoying the view from the SW's chair and the new challenges that will bring.



## Charity Steward's Report

— by W Bro Ian Rudge

Charity is a core value of Masonry and we thus encourage our members to set up either a regular donation, or ad hoc contributions as their personal circumstances allow. There are a number of existing subscriptions due for renewal and a number of our newer members I will approach over the coming months. Our current relief chest balance is: £12,106.87

Our Relief Chest offers our members the opportunity to propose charities in the local community, or wider, to donate our funds to. Having recently been to the Provincial Charity Stewards meeting at which there were some useful briefings, it is a key aim of mine to ensure we make the most of the communications opportunity to publicise our donations to increase Vivary Lodge's profile. This directly links to the opportunity to attract new members, under the banner of the Membership challenge.

Finally, Graham Puddy has notified me that Province are planning a new festival – Festival 2031. The Festival Chest is opened now, and I propose we transfer £4,000 of our funds into the account. This will give us a healthy interest rate of base rate +1.75%, and set us up for the beginning of the Festival.



## Ceremonies from 2022-23

November 2022 saw the Initiation of Bro John Brannam.

December 2022 was our normal Christmas Meeting, with our Festive Board shared with our Ladies and other non-Masonic guests.

Our January 2023 meeting included an Initiation Ceremony, for Bros Nigel Farrow and Paul Andrew Martin. That ceremony was conducted by a team of Past Masters, led by W Bro Bhuvi Bhalla.



The meeting in February 2023 was attended by R W Bro Ray Guthrie, the PGM, who witnessed the Passing of Bro David Hitchcott.

March 2023 was marked by the Lodge performing a Double Initiation Ceremony, for Bro Justin Fudge and Bro Paul Clunn, in the presence of R W Bro David Medlock, AGM.



At the April 2023 meeting, Bro Alan Hitchcott was Raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.



## Ceremonies from 2023-24



October 2023 was our Installation meeting, when W Bro Mike Marshall was placed into the Chair of King Solomon, in the presence of both Ray Guthrie, Provincial Grand Master and Richard Winter, assistant Provincial Grand Master.



November 2023 saw the Passing of Bro Justin Fudge.



December 2023, as is our custom, was an administration meeting only, to allow us to celebrate at the Festive Board with our Ladies and other Masonic Guests.



In January 2024 the ceremony was conducted by a team of Past Masters, with W Bro Alan Clayton taking the Chair, Raising Bros David Hitchcott and Simon Raw to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason. It appears that no pictures were taken that evening, because the ceremony took a little longer than we had anticipated and we didn't want to be late for dinner.





February 2024 saw the Initiation of Bro Paul Hayman. The report compiled at the time by our Lodge Communications Officer describes him as a “fantastic candidate who breezed through the ceremony and paid solemn attention to the Junior Warden Ed Richings’ outstanding 1st Degree Charge”.



At that same meeting, W Bro Richard Winter, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, presented Grand Lodge Certificates to Bros David Hitchcott and Simon Raw.



In March 2024, Bro Paul Clunn was Passed to the Second Degree. Again, I have been unable to locate any pictures taken on the evening but I do have picture of Bro Paul, at an event in July, when he was Installed as a Liveryman of the Corporation of the City of London, Livery Company Number 66 at the Mansion House, in the City of London.



Our April 2024 meeting allowed us to undertake a number of administrative functions, including the election of various individuals for next year, including Bro Matt Landy, the Senior Warden, as our Master Elect. We also combined the meeting with a Gentlemen's evening or ‘White Table’ event where 9 non-masonic guests were able to join us for drinks and a meal, with the Provincial Membership Officer Barrie Palmer (now one of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters) providing a presentation in the Temple to our guests.

## A look back at Social Events since the last Newsletter

### Burns Night at the Masonic Hall



January's Burns Night Dinner at the Masonic Hall organised by Taunton Lodge Liaison Group proved as popular as ever being starting with a Prosecco reception and the swirl of bagpipes played by a Piper in full tartan attire.

Burns Night traditions were upheld with the piping in of the haggis followed by its “killing” with appropriate words by W Bro Jack Leeming and tots of whisky raised in celebration.

After an excellent four course meal that included "neeps" and "tatties" as well as haggis the toasts were given in which members of Vivary played their part with Bro Richard Wilson proposing the Toast to the Immortal Memory of Robert Burns. The Toast to the Lassies was given by Bro Mike Marshall whose wife Lilian responded with the Toast to the Laddies.



## **Vivary Visit to the Land Rover Heritage Collection.**

Over the summer break Richard Wilson managed to get exclusive access and a personalised tour of The Land Rover Heritage Collection.

Bro Simon from Guernsey was my guest at the last Vivary meeting and he has around 48 Land Rovers from Series 1-3, Defenders, Limited Editions, Working and Military Land Rovers, of which 35 are in a secret location in the Southwest.

Richard advertised this event on the Taunton Masonic Hall noticeboard and around 25 Brethren, family and friends turn up to have a look around.

Simon was on hand to talk us through his collection and explain the various designs and types of Land Rover many of which can only be seen in a museum.

The first two Land Rovers you can see in the pictures below are a 1949 series 1, one of the first Land Rovers in production, alongside that a 2015 Land Rover Defender, one of the last one off the production line, this is one Simon is particularly proud of as it has done less than 10 miles.



Several military vehicles were on display including a Pink SAS Series 2 which was used in the desert, also familiarly known as "the Pinkie".

There were various others on display, including a fire engine, a UN Bomb Proof vehicle, a St Johns Ambulance from Guernsey and an exceedingly rare, tracked Land Rover.

Finally, Richard thought he would bring his Land Rover along, which is a 1978 Series 3 Lightweight. This was an RAF vehicle and was based in Northern Ireland at the Strategic Air Command. The most exciting job it did was moving equipment around the airport, loading, and unloading planes hence a



tow hitch fitted on the front of the vehicle. Pictured below are Mrs Charity Steward (Sarah) and Richard in front of Richard's Land Rover, and some of the other Land Rovers in Simon's collection.

There is a website up and running which can be accessed via <https://www.lrheritagecollection.org.uk/>



## Fruit Farm visit

The life of a Lodge doesn't necessarily stop with the summer break from Masonry and it can be the perfect time for social events and on a typical English summer's evening Brethren of Vivary Lodge along with family members paid a visit to Thurloxtton Fruit Farm. Here they were welcomed by fellow Vivarian Bro Edwin Quick who has farmed this land on the foothills of the Quantocks all his life, building from a 70 acre mixed farm to the diversified 500 acres today growing wheat, linseed, peas and oilseeds on the farm and running two flocks of sheep.



But it is best known in the area for its "Pick Your Own" business which was started by Edwin back in 1973 with just one acre of strawberries and now spreads to over 25 acres with a wide range of fruit and vegetables. Managing this and all the other farm's activities is now in the hands of Edwin's son, Andrew, who gave the Brethren a tour of fruit and vegetable fields and provided a fascinating insight into the operation.

30,000 strawberry plants are now grown on trestles which makes for easier picking and are irrigated by natural spring water around 10 times a day through a computer managed system. As well as strawberries there are acres of raspberries, gooseberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, broad beans, rhubarb and peas all solely grown for the Pick Your Own market.

Activity doesn't finish here with the end of the summer and the visitors were shown a newly sown area of sunflowers though which pathways will be created for people to pick sunflowers on the way. There



is also an extensive Pumpkin patch where prior to Halloween, besides being able to pick their own pumpkins, people will be able to carve them on site in a purpose built barn and take part in a spooky walk and games. After the exercise from this invigorating walk around the fields the group headed off for the village pub for a drink to reflect on the evening's event and of course to catch up on each other's news.

And finally .....

## **Hall Manager Hayley's Zip Wire Challenge**

For those of you who don't do social media, Hayley carried out her Zip wire challenge on Sunday afternoon for Marie Curie Cancer Charity, at the Adrenaline Quarry Liskeard.



Just a few facts; the zip wire was 490mtrs long and 50mtrs high, for some of the older Brethren that's 1607ft long and around 160ft in height.

Vivary Lodge raised £234.40 which went towards Hayley's final total of just over £2000.

Hayley would like to thank everyone at Vivary Lodge for the amazing support and for our kind donation. Right Hand Photo, taken after the jump, as Hayley is smiling and looking a lot more relaxed.



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 Alan Hitchcott.

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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