

RICHARD HUISH LODGE 8518 – NEWSLETTER



WELCOME to the first newsletter of the Richard Huish Lodge.

Mainly used to communicate information that would come up under the Risings, it will also be the way of passing information to those Brethren who are not able to get to meetings so regularly. This edition has a lot in it, as we play catch up with the summer break – generally, newsletters will be shorter.

W Bro Charlie Barker, the Lodge Information Officer, will always be pleased to receive items for inclusion. Email as shown on the Summons.

LADIES LUNCH 2011



And from time to time, we can have pictures as well – so here's the first. You'll recall our Ladies' Lunch this year raised the magnificent sum of £480 for the good cause, the Conquest Riding Centre for the Disabled. W Bro Sidney French presented the cheque on a rare sunny day in May and the photo shows Bro James Holyday (a Trustee), together with our WM and "Muffin"

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MASONRY ABROAD

NORWAY: Although the event was some time ago now, Brethren should be aware of a Grand Lodge announcement during the summer.

No doubt you have all learned of the recent very sad events in Norway, and you may be aware that some of the pictures of Anders Behring Breivik, the perpetrator, have shown him wearing Masonic regalia. The Grand Secretary has asked me to advise you that, as a holding statement, you should tell any enquirers that:

"The United Grand Lodge of England has absolutely no connection this man. With the rest of the world, we are shocked and grieved by his actions, which are completely contrary to everything we believe in and stand for. Our hearts go out to those affected by this event".

FRANCE: Brethren may well be aware that there is, to say the least, "substantial disharmony" within the Grande Loge Nationale Francaise (GLNF) and consequently there are implications for Brethren wishing to visit Lodges under the GLNF and similarly there are restrictions on French members visiting Lodges within UGLE. Brethren should enquire of the Secretary for further information.

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TRAVELLING TROWEL

Province is to introduce a Travelling Trowel scheme. Such a scheme was introduced twenty years ago in the Mark and has proved both successful and popular. The aims of the Scheme are to encourage wider visiting between lodges and increase masonic links and friendships; to bring the Province closer together by fostering a spirit of mutual support and fraternity; and to encourage less experienced Masons to visit other Lodges. The intention is to create growth, harmony and enjoyment rather than to introduce a gimmick or burden on brethren. The commitment for each Lodge will be to undertake one visit roughly once in three years.

For the purposes of the scheme, every Lodge is allocated to a group. Each Lodge will receive the Trowel from a visiting Lodge and then in turn visit another Lodge to pass-on the trowel. The scheme will commence in January 2012 and will be completed in 2014 when all the trowels will be returned to PGL at the Provincial meeting. The presenting Lodge will send a deputation of as many brethren as it can muster to support their Worshipful Master who will formally present the Trowel in open lodge. The presenting Lodge will be formally greeted by the receiving Lodge and the presentation will be an item of business on the Summons.

So far as the Richard Huish Lodge is concerned, we shall receive the Trowel on Saturday 23rd November 2013 from Lodge of Brotherly Love 329 (Yeovil) and then pass it on to Cornucopia 9043 (Keynsham) on Tuesday 10th December 2013.

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FIRE PRECAUTIONS

Every meeting of any Lodge or Degree meeting in the Hall will be preceded by a reading of the newly-established Fire Precautions. Do please take note of them.

HOG ROAST

Wearing his Taunton Masonic Hall Company (TMHC) hat recently, our WM held a fund-raising hog roast at Spearcey Farm back on July 15th. Despite the summer weather, a fine time was had by all who attended (well over 100). The beer was on tap and the band - having overcome the traffic on the A303 - was well worth the wait. The magnificent sum of over £1,600 was raised to support the Hall's expenditure. On which note...

TAUNTON MASONIC HALL

Once again, work has been undertaken on the Hall during the close season.

- The toilets have been redecorated and brought to a much higher standard. A water management system has been installed so that consumption (therefore costs) will be reduced.
- The damp in the Dining Room has been cured and the wall redecorated.
- Discussions have been concluded with our Caterer, Peter Catlow, and he will be catering for us for another 3 year term.

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- The car park will soon be remarked, so that spaces are rather more in keeping with car sizes.
- We were unsuccessful in finding a tenant for Number 20, and so we will have to start that search again.

Brethren of several Lodges have played a role but Bro Chris Partridge (Unanimity & Sincerity 261) was particularly involved and should be thanked by all.

DIARY DATES

23rd September Provincial Charity Meeting, Bridgwater @ 7:15pm
16th December Province will conduct a 3rd Degree at Vivary

QUARTERLY COMMUNICATION OF GRAND LODGE

Copies of the following documents are available from the Secretary for any Brother to read:

- Summons for 8th June 2011 and 14th September 2011
- Minutes of 27th April 2011 and 8th June 2011

GRAND CHARITY

Since our last regular meeting in April, Grand Charity has:

- Approved an emergency grant of £20,000 to the British Red Cross, to assist with the emergency situation in East Africa.
- Approved an emergency grant of £50,000 to the Red Cross in Japan to aid the devastation caused by the tsunami in March.
- Made small grants totalling some £250,000 to smaller charities, also covering a range of illnesses and research, as well as support for disability-based charities.

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- Made major grants of well over £1,000,000 across the UK, covering such illnesses as diabetes, Parkinson's, cancer, distonia (a disease of the muscles) as well as support for a range of localised projects across the country that support disability or rehabilitation.

FREEMASONRY IN THE COMMUNITY

FITC in Taunton was represented by an open day at the Hall on Saturday 25th June. The Hall was open throughout from 10:00 and during the next 6 hours over 200 visitors came through the doors, viewing the Temple and the items on display in there (including regalia and all 9 Lodge banners), the museum display in the Sherry Room and the WM photos in the Dining Room. It was a significant step forward in Masonic openness and cleared a number of misconceptions but without revealing the mystique and pleasure of our ceremonies. Thanks to all from Richard Huish Lodge who took a turn at guide duty. Across the Province, 12 Centres were open with over 1,500 visitors. Most local papers carried a report and W Bro Geoffrey Dolling (Queens 6988) made the local BBC radio as well. Province is considering an annual exercise, though not always to the scale of this.



Charlie Barker

Lodge Information Officer