



News Digest – April 2010

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1. In Memoriam: the late Lord Cornwallis



The Most Worshipful Brother, Fiennes Neil Wykeham Stanley Cornwallis, Lord Cornwallis (29 June 1921 - 6 March 2010) will be mourned by his family, friends, freemasons in general and by the Brethren of The Douglas Lodge No. 1725 in particular.

Initiated into the Lodge, aged 33, in November 1954, he became its 85th master in 1961. The following year in 1962, he became Provincial Senior Grand Warden and of course was destined to go on to become Deputy Grand Master in 1976 and ProGrand Master in 1982, until he was succeeded by Right Worshipful Lord Farnham in 1991. Sadly, his passing to the Grand Lodge above marks the end of a long

association of the Cornwallis family with The Douglas Lodge. Indeed, until now, there has been a Cornwallis in the Lodge for all but 12 years of its history.

The Lodge having been consecrated in 1877, his grandfather Fiennes Stanley Wykeham Cornwallis MP was initiated in 1889, became its 18th Master in 1894, was Provincial Grand Master of Kent 1905 - 1935 and Deputy Grand Master in 1926. He later became the first Lord Cornwallis, this being the second creation of the title. His uncle Fiennes Wickham Mann Cornwallis, initiated into the Lodge in 1919, was murdered by Sinn Fein in 1921 and consequently on the death of the first Lord Cornwallis in 1935, his father, the younger son, Wykeham Stanley Cornwallis inherited the title. His father was initiated into the Lodge in January 1925 and became its 52nd Master only 3 years later in 1928 and further promotion was equally rapid as he went on to become Provincial Grand Master of Kent in 1936, an office he held for 45 years until 1981 the year before his death in 1982.

In the circumstances, Worshipful Brother Francis Wright, secretary of the Lodge 1893-1922 was only partially right when he said "The members of the Douglas Lodge have never made "History" with upheavals and disturbances, but have pursued their quiet uneventful way in love and unity.

The late Lord Cornwallis attended Douglas Lodge as much he could, given his High Office, one notable occasion being when only he, the Tyler and a guest managed to make it through a

winter blizzard to the Ancient College Gateway, Maidstone. Not even his then exalted rank of ProGrand Master could make that meeting "perfect"! In 1975, he was there to celebrate his father's 50 years in Freemasonry, his father also enjoying his 39th year as Provincial Grand Master.

He, as newly appointed Deputy Grand Master, was not only there in 1977 when his father, still Provincial Grand Master, became Master (the 101st) the second time for the Lodge's centenary year, but the then Worshipful Master graciously vacated the Chair of King Solomon to allow the son to install the father. How often does that happen, especially when the son is a RW DGM installing his father, a RW PGM?

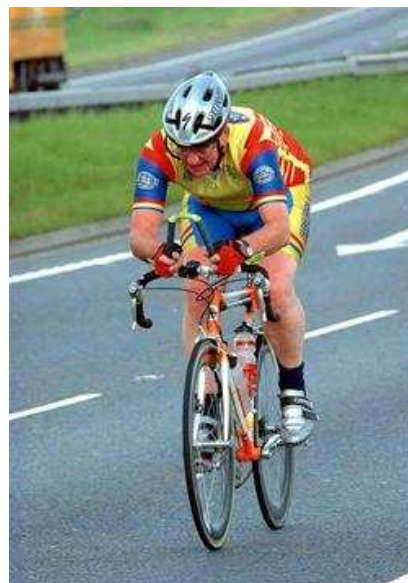
Our Ancient Institution has lost a great Mason and The Douglas Lodge has lost a good Brother!

2. David Hutchins of Portcullis Lodge rides his bike for charity

David Hutchins is currently training hard for an epic cycling challenge he is undertaking on 25th June 2010 riding from London to Geneva. David of Portcullis Lodge No. 2038 has a target of £3000 which he is hoping to raise for the benefit of Children's Hospice South West.

David comments: "Unlike Hospices for adults which do receive at least some funding from the Government, Children's Hospices receive very little indeed. Therefore they rely entirely on the goodwill of us all in order to do the work that they do."

You can help by making a donation via David's "Just Giving" webpage: <http://www.justgiving.co.uk/David-Hutchins>



3. British Red Cross offer thanks for Masonic support



To all of the Somerset Freemasons,

I'm writing to thank you all for the extremely generous gift of £5,000 to our Haiti Earthquake appeal. The British Red Cross

is working with the Haitian Red Cross and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent movement to support the survivors of the Haitian Earthquake.

We are providing support in a number of ways for example sanitation, clean water, shelters, family kits and psychological support. Amongst other things the Red Cross has provided more than 1,300 latrines across camps close to the epicentre of the quake. We have also supported an effort by a number of international aid charities to provide shelter to more than half of the survivors of the quake who found themselves homeless after the disaster in preparation for the approaching rainy season.

Thank-you again; your donation will help save lives and change lives.
Yours faithfully,

Becky Fry
Fundraiser