



Issue 40

Autumn  
2011

Provincial Grand Lodge for Shropshire

# NEWSLETTER

## From the desk of the Provincial Grand Master



**It is with great pride that I now address you all, through the means of this Newsletter, as your Provincial Grand Master and Grand Superintendent.**

The arrangements for the planning of the Investitures had been undertaken over several months and finally came to fruition on the 9<sup>th</sup> July at Harper Adams University College, Newport. It was our great delight to welcome, for his

first visit to Shropshire, VW Bro Nigel Brown, Grand Secretary, who arrived on the evening of Friday 8<sup>th</sup> July with the London team headed by VW Bro Oliver Lodge, Grand Director of Ceremonies. I should mention that it had been the intention of the Deputy Grand Master, RW Bro Jonathan Spence, to attend and act as the Installing Officer, but due to a family emergency, he was obliged to withdraw in the preceding week.

For those of you who were able to attend, I hope you will agree, that the day went extremely well, and for me, once it had started, it passed so quickly. It is usually the case that when the arrangements for any event go smoothly with everyone enjoying themselves, it means that all the pre-planning and sheer hard work has paid off: and so it was for us. I am pleased to inform you that the members of the London team were appreciative of the Shropshire hospitality and were most impressed by our Provincial team who can all take credit and pride from the success of the day. I thank everyone who gave of their time in contributing to what was a great day for me, and for our Province.

I express my gratitude to our Past PrGM, RW Bro James Hodgson for his dedication and fine example shown in leading our Province for the previous 9 years. He has now passed the baton to me and I pledge to use my best endeavours to discharge the great trust reposed in me and to promote, protect and enhance the best interests of the Province of Shropshire.

I have previously said and now reiterate, that James has taught me several useful lessons during our years together, but there was one invaluable lesson he gave to me, that of how to delegate to your Deputy! I shall take that lesson to heart, - and in this respect am fortunate to have very able and well respected Deputies, with W Bro Roger Pemberton in the Craft, and E Comp John Williamson in the Royal Arch. I look forward to working with both of them and sharing our enjoyment of Masonry together.

The new Masonic season will soon be upon us and so this is an opportune time for me to give notice of a new incentive for Lodge visiting that will be introduced shortly. It will involve the "Travelling Ashlar" which may be "claimed" from the Lodge in possession by four or more visiting Brethren from another Lodge. Details of the Rules and the inaugural meeting of the first Lodge in possession will be circulated to all Lodge Secretaries and will be posted on our Provincial website. I am indebted to W Bro Keith Arcott of Cae Glas Lodge No: 8572 who has devised this cunning plan (!) which should encourage inter-Lodge visiting and generate much enjoyment at the Festive Board.

Brethren, may you enjoy the remainder of the summer, may England triumph against India in the cricket and may nothing but happiness come through your door.

Peter A Taylor  
Provincial Grand Master



**Wor. Bro. Roger Brentnal  
Pemberton PAGDC**

**The Deputy  
Provincial Grand Master**



**Ex. Comp. John Francis  
Williamson PGSwdB**

**The Deputy  
Grand Superintendent**

# The Wrekin Lodge No. 2883 ~ Shropshire's London outpost

**Many Shropshire brethren are aware of the Wrekin Lodge through personal experience having visited the Lodge in London or when we visit one of the Masonic centres in the Province.**

Many, however, are only aware of the Lodge through a perusal of the Provincial Year Book where the Lodge appears after the Provincial Lodges and before the Province's other London affiliate, the Old Salopian Lodge No. 4790.

The Lodge traces its foundation to the existence of the Shropshire Society in London which was founded in 1899. Several members, being Freemasons, discussed the possibility of founding a Lodge of Shropshire Freemasons and Masons having Shropshire connections.

In the early part of 1901, Bro. A. Middleton Rickards, called a meeting of these Brethren and they were asked to give their support to the proposal. Accordingly on 21<sup>st</sup> May 1901, it was decided to found a Shropshire Lodge in London. The Petition, signed by twenty Shropshire Masons, was submitted on 16<sup>th</sup> October 1901.

The Shropshire Society is thus a Victorian institution whilst the Wrekin Lodge is Edwardian. The Lodge's Warrant is dated 13<sup>th</sup> November, 1901 and was consecrated on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 1902. The first Master was R. W. Bro. The Lord Barnard P.G.W., Prov.G.M., Durham. His grandson, the 11<sup>th</sup> Baron, attended the Lodge's Centenary Meeting.

Since its consecration the Lodge has met in many venues indeed in 1980 the Wrekin met in three different places, including Oswestry. Since 1982 we have met at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street.

The visit to Oswestry was the third by the Lodge to the Province and followed a meeting in Shrewsbury in 1977 on the occasion of our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Since 1979 the Wrekin has held its September meeting, by dispensation in the Province when we are privileged to receive the support of the Provincial Grand Master or the Deputy PGM together with many Shropshire Masons.

This support is also manifested at the Installation Meetings in February when the members of the Provincial Grand Lodge take a significant part in the ceremony.

We are strongly affiliated to the Province but as a London Lodge we are part of the Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London. Previously all London Lodges were supervised by the Grand Secretary, reporting to the Grand Master, through an office called London Management. Following the consecration of Metropolitan Grand Lodge at the Albert Hall in 2003 the Wrekin Lodge now answers to the Metropolitan Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Russell Race.

Met. GL has a similar structure to the Provincial Grand Lodge (except somewhat larger). There is also an additional management structure with Metropolitan Grand Inspectors in charge of the direct supervision of Lodges and Chapters through teams of Visiting Officers.

Another significant difference between the Provinces and London is in the composition of officers and the London honours system.

Unlike the Provinces there is no system of past ranks instead meritorious brethren may be appointed to London Grand Rank and subsequently promoted to Senior London Grand Rank. If they have received appointment to active Metropolitan Grand Rank they will revert to LGR or SLGR when their time in office is over. London Rank was introduced in 1907 (it was subsequently changed in 1939 to London Grand Rank) whilst SLGR was instituted in 1979.

The Wrekin Lodge has served Freemasonry for almost 110 years and endeavours to provide a home in London for Freemasons with Shropshire connections and their friends.

We hope that any Brother, living in or near London, wishing to develop their Masonic knowledge and friendships would consider us as a Lodge to be joined. Whilst Brethren who have sons living or working in or near London who are considering Freemasonry would also think of the Wrekin Lodge where the toast is always to 'All friends round the Wrekin'.

## **A new charitable venture by Freemasons in Shropshire was launched in August at Dearnford Lake, Whitchurch.**

Sixteen disadvantaged young people enjoyed a day's fishing with the help and support of enthusiasts from the Masonic Fishing Charity. Although the organisation has been in existence for some years and is now operating in 24 counties throughout the U.K., this is the first meeting to be held in Shropshire. The driving force behind the initiative is Freemason Peter Robinson of St Alkmund Lodge 2311, who has recently moved into the area from Cheshire.

**A fuller report is available on request to the editor due to lack of space in this edition!**

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## Nothing “fishy” going on!

At the February meeting of St. Alkmund Lodge W. Bro. Peter Robinson, P.Pr.G.Swd.B. (Cheshire) a member of the Lodge, announced that the SMCA has generously put in place funding to support the Shropshire Fishing Club which hosts disabled children in this outdoor activity.

Shropshire masons are welcome to attend and support. Contact Peter Robinson, email: peterrobinson-feeds@hotmail.co.uk for further information.

## Visit to Queeselet Chapter No. 6887



**Four Provincial 3<sup>rd</sup> Grand Principals met at Queeselet Chapter in Yenton Assdembly Rooms, Erdington at the end of February representing Shropshire, Worcestershire, Warwickshire and Staffordshire.**

Many thanks were extended to their host, Robin Stubbs PrGJ (Staffordshire) . Sadly, commiserations were due to Paul Diggins PrGJ (Hereford and Gloucester) for being unable to join them due to ill health.

They enjoyed an excellent meeting at MEGS David Hampson’s mother Chapter at which he was surprised to discover an attendance of eighty instead of the usual 20.

It was of course his Chapter’s farewell to their retiring MEGS and David was delighted to receive from John Winter his designated successor, a cheque for £2,050 written out in favour of Leicester Tigers Rugby Club and to pay for a double season ticket for him for the next three years.

### **Audley Lodge: 50 year Certificate**

On 22nd February W. Bro William Lewis Gough received from the R.W.Bro James McA. Hodgson, the Provincial Grand Master, his certificate for 50 years in Masonry. W.Bro Gough was initiated into Audley Lodge in February 1961, passed in October 1961 and raised April 1963. He farmed at Sutton taking on the responsibility for the farm at the age of 14 from his father and on retirement moved to the Newport area. **The presentation of the certificate was made more especial as it was W.Bro Gough's 87th Birthday that same day!**

## Charitable Donation by Salopian Lodge of Charity

The sum of £250 has been donated by the Salopian Lodge of Charity 117 to the Heart Assessment Team who work out of the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital.



*In the photograph David Griffiths, WM Salopian Lodge of Charity is on the left presenting the cheque to Karen Robinson, Heart Assessment Team Manager for Shrewsbury and Telford. On the right is Brother Wynne Evans.*

The Heart Assessment Team provides a comprehensive service to the people of Shropshire who are diagnosed with a cardiac condition. They offer support, education and advice to patients and their families. Patients are initially seen on the wards as an inpatient and then given a contact number as a support and advice line for when they are discharged. The Team run an education programme over 7 weeks which involves the multidisciplinary team covering topics such as what is a Heart Attack, diet, medication, and stress management.

They also offer a 12 session supervised exercise programme that the patient can attend and many comment that they get great benefit from this as it helps them recover both physically and mentally from their cardiac event.

The donation which was proposed by Bro. Wynne Evans and seconded by Wor. Bro. Bill Parton is to be spent on educational literature.

The grant was made possible with the proceeds from the raffle at the Festive Board following the January meeting.



**The 50 year Certificate presentation at Audley Lodge**

## Lodge House Transformation

**On the day that W Bro, Derrick Cooper was elected Chairman of the Church Stretton Masonic Hall Committee the Lodge House became vacant.**

Its condition demanded immediate attention, a matter which had been agreed by the management committee some 2 years previously. Little improvement had been made to the property since the Masons bought it in 1974. It is situated adjacent to and over parts of the Lodge room. Letting it again without improvement would be unrealistic and as this had already been budgeted for it also gave the ideal opportunity to undertake much needed repairs and refurbishment.



Volunteers to help with this restoration project included W. Bros. David Kettle, Stephen Butler, David Chapman, Colin Waring, Tony Madeley, and Bros. Michael Hall and Arthur Livingstone.

The first job was to remove the top section of the chimney that stands in the entrance hall of the Lodge. It was also an ideal opportunity to generate additional space and make the layout of the house more attractive to potential clients.

This fundamental change in the layout of the house, meant that a new kitchen replaced a store and wash room on the ground floor. The old kitchen and pantry were removed to provide a first floor lounge and the bathroom was tiled and a shower cabinet added.

Work done by these volunteers was completed on 17th March and has saved both Lodges (that are trustees for the Lodge room and House) thousands of pounds and the Lodge House is now finished, for a total cost of nearly £5,000 thanks to the tremendous work by everyone involved.

It was an enormous job to transform the property into a comfortable home. The new tenant moved in on March 18th.

A very worthwhile result!

## A Shropshire Chapter and Chile

by Ex. Comp. Mike Parry, PPrGSN

**Earlier this year a message was circulated from Ex. Comp. Nick Bosanquet, PDepGDC, asking for assistance in acquiring regalia and other paraphernalia to erect a new Royal Arch Chapter in Chile.**

In 2010, Fitz Alan Chapter 1432 had purchased new banners and ensigns and therefore was able to offer its old banners and ensigns to assist the new Chapter. Ex. Comp. Bosanquet was delighted with the offer, and I duly delivered them to him when on holiday in Poole, close to his home. They were safely delivered to Chile by airfreight and the Chapter was formed on May 16, 2011.

Although Ex. Comp. Bosanquet is a member of Lodges and Chapters in the U.K., and is a Past Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in both the United Grand Lodge of England and the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, his Mother Lodge, under the jurisdiction of the United Grand Lodge of England, is in Chile, being Harmony Lodge No. 1411. The Grand Lodge of Chile and most lodges in the country practice the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite which does not recognize the Royal Arch as practiced in the Emulation working.

Although it has long been the wish of the brethren of Harmony Lodge to form a Royal Arch Chapter in Chile, not wishing to offend their Chilean brethren, they have deferred making the move. Recently, however, the Chilean Grand Lodge has permitted the few Emulation lodges under its jurisdiction to form Royal Arch Chapters.

Accordingly, the brethren of Harmony Lodge moved quickly to acquire a Chapter. Wandle Chapter 2699, a London Chapter, was failing so the brethren of Harmony Lodge "took it over" and it was under this name that the Chapter in Chile was opened on May 16, 2011. It is anticipated that at the next Convocation of the Supreme Grand Chapter, in November, formal clearance will be given to change the name and number to Harmony Chapter 1411.



Fitz Alan Chapter is proud to have assisted in its formation. Ex. Comp. Nick has written, "Yours was the single most important gift that we received. You have been singled out in our Minutes for your donation, as a permanent record of your generosity." It is good to know that our banners and ensigns, which can be seen in the photographs, serve such a useful purpose, and that Shropshire masons have been able to assist our Chilean companions.

## Grange School and Teddies for Loving Care

On Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> April the Grange Senior School held a 'Wedding Street Party' in celebration of Prince William and Kate Middleton's wedding the following day.

As part of those celebrations the children released balloons with address labels attached to see how far they would travel. The furthest managed as far as Carmarthen and belonged to Thomas Clorley.

This was all in aid of charity and raised £270. The charity chosen by the school was the Freemason's Charity Project Teddies for Loving Care (TLC). Originally the Appeal was started in Essex in March 2001, with A&E units since September 2001. The appeal has spread nationwide over the last 10 years.

The TLC appeal has one objective to provide teddies to A&E units for the medical staff to give, at their discretion, to children who are in severe distress, where the staff feel that a teddy to cuddle will help alleviate that distress, that will assist them in their urgent work. Although nationwide the project was only launched in Shropshire in January 2010.

TLC not only provides teddies to the RSH and PRH but also to Whitchurch, Oswestry, Bridgnorth, Ludlow, Market Drayton and the West Midlands Air Ambulance.

To date TLC has donated 3,000 teddies for the above hospitals. Elaine Jones from the Grange School who organised the event said she "Was pleased that the school was able to contribute to a local charity and that it had been chosen by the children for other children. This just shows how young children wish to be involved in the wider community and look out for those less fortunate". Allan Caswell from the appeal said, "It's great that children are getting involved in such a worthy cause. It's also wonderful to see children giving something back to children locally and showing Freemasonry at work within the community".



Bro. Martyn Davies-Friend, Wor. Bro. Allan Caswell, Elaine Jones, Thomas Clorley ( and several un-named guests!)

## KNIGHTS TEMPLAR BIENNIAL CHURCH SERVICE

The biennial Service of Festal Evensong for the Knights Templar Order of Staffordshire and Shropshire was held in the Royal Wolverhampton School Chapel on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2011, by the kind permission of the School Governors. Yet again the sun shone on the event and everyone took advantage of the facilities offered at the School.

Reception drinks had been arranged in the Victoria Hall where the ladies, guests and knights were greeted by Senior Members of the Order.

The Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Gary Read accompanied by the Provincial Sub-Prior, E.Kt. Richard Glover, P.Gt.Std.B.(B) and the Past Provincial Prior, R.E.Kt. Ian Moxon K.C.T. entered the School Chapel in procession at 3.25p.m. They entered under an Arch of Steel provided by the Provincial Prior's Bodyguard. The service was conducted by the Provincial Prelate, E.Kt. Reverend Stephen Cooke and the organ was played to great effect by the new Provincial Organist, Bro. Kt. Dudley Ray. The Service was attended by 160 knights, ladies and guests and new Service Booklets were used specially printed for the event.

The lessons were read by the Provincial Prior and the Provincial Sub-Prior. E.Kt. Reverend Stephen Cooke gave his address on the theme of taking Christianity into the Community and enlarging on the reading given by the Provincial Sub-Prior from St.Paul's Epistle to the Ephesians Chapter 6 vv 10-17.

A collection was taken and this, together with part of the collection from the Provincial Priory Annual Meeting in June, amounted to the sum of £750.00. This was donated to the Orphans Fund of the Royal Wolverhampton School.

**The Preceptory of St Chad no 193 will hold their Centenary Meeting on Saturday 12th January 2012 at Crewe Street, Shrewsbury.**



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**Medical** The Fund will consider applications for a wide variety of medical treatments from hip replacement to cardiac surgery, from digital hearing aids to drug treatment for cancer or degenerative diseases, from stomach banding to macular degeneration.

**Dental** Applications are welcome where NHS treatment is unavailable or where costs are in excess of NHS charging rates. Financial help is provided in support of dental treatment that is clinically necessary, in the most cost-effective and efficient manner. Grants are not available where the proposed treatment is purely cosmetic or where an applicant simply prefers to receive private treatment.

**Respite** If you look after someone who needs support because of a physical or learning disability, mental illness or whose health is impaired by sickness or old age, and who, without help, would not be able to cope with the demands of basic living, then you are a carer. It is important that, as a carer, you take time off for yourself. Grants are available from the MSF to support carers. Funding is available towards the cost of short periods of residential care or to provide regular short breaks at home.

**Mobility** The Fund is also able to provide grants for the supply and maintenance of mobility equipment, specialist equipment or home adaptations in response to a specific medical need.

For further information about any of the above please contact the Fund or your Lodge, or Provincial Grand Almoner.

## Midland's Air Ambulance



A presentation of £4,000 to the Midlands Air Ambulance in June was part of a nationwide initiative by the Freemasons' Grand Charity that will see air ambulance and related rescue services receive at least £192,000 this year. The donations bring the total given nationally to these vital services since 2007 to around £1m.

The Midlands Air Ambulance has additionally received a steady flow of significant donations from local Masonic sources, and only in May the "Teddies for Loving Care" charity, which already operates in A&E and Minor Injuries Units up and down the county, was extended to include the Air Ambulance. "TLC" has given out over 3,000 cuddly teddies to distressed children in its first year in Shropshire.

### Welcome addition to Newsletter team

Bro Neil Bevan of Cae Glass Lodge No. 8572 has been appointed Assistant Editor and is working closely with Wor. Bro. Chris Morris with special responsibility for the invaluable support adverts. He can be contacted on (01691) 682259. Articles for future editions should be sent by e-mail to Chris Morris: [sales@simplyoverseas.com](mailto:sales@simplyoverseas.com) or telephone (01694) 724492

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# Golf AGM



## Annual Meetings of Provincial Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Lodge



The 2011 meetings of Provincial Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Lodge were held at Harper Adams University College on Saturday, 9<sup>th</sup> April.

The event was held under the banner of Salopian Lodge number 262, and the spring sun shone gloriously on the day. While the appointments and promotions proceeded as usual, pleasure was tinged, inevitably, with sadness that this would be the last Provincial meeting at which Shropshire's MEGS and Provincial Grand Master RWBro James McAllister Hodgson would preside.

There were many standing ovations throughout the day as the Province demonstrated its affection and respect for the worthy Mason who has led it for the last nine years. RWBro Hodgson recalled some of the highlights of his tenure, including especially the 125<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Province of Shropshire and the Bicentenary of Salopian Lodge of Charity in 2010.

It was also the occasion to say farewell to Provincial Scribe Ezra and Secretary WBro Roger Wedlake, and to recognise the work he has done in bringing Shropshire's Masonry firmly into the computer age. As he moved on to the position of PrGRegistrar, so Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies Melvin Gough passed his wand to WBro John Norman and undertook a far from inactive retirement as PrSGW. With Royal Arch DC WBro Tony Clayton as the new PrJGW, the DC team must be looking forward to an easy year of it on the Installation circuit!

The meetings were well attended by the Brethren, including many distinguished guests. All present were most impressed by the meal and excellent new facilities at Harper Adams, which will again be the venue for the July meeting at which the Province will look very much towards the future with the appointment of VWBro Peter Taylor to the helm. For the moment, however, this was RWBro Hodgson's day. Unsurprisingly, his final words were an invocation on the Brethren of Shropshire to continue to enjoy their Masonry!

## Farewell Luncheon for retiring Provincial Grand Master

Over two hundred Brethren and ladies attended a special farewell luncheon in honour of RW Bro James McAllister Hodgson at the Lord Hill Hotel, Shrewsbury on Sunday, 26<sup>th</sup> June.



Every Lodge in the Province was represented and among the distinguished guests were the Provincial Grand Masters of Hereford, Norfolk and East Lancashire and the Most Excellent Grand Superintendents of Staffordshire, Warwickshire, Gloucester &

Herefordshire and Derbyshire.

At the luncheon the Provincial Grand Master, who was to retire on July 3<sup>rd</sup>, was presented with a beautiful hand crafted Dartington Crystal claret jug engraved with the Shropshire Masonic device of Loggerheads and Square and Compasses and a cheque of £1700. Handing over the cheque, the Provincial Grand Master Designate, VW Bro Peter Allan Taylor thanked James Hodgson for the great contribution he had made to Shropshire Masonry during the nine and a half years of his office. The 'youngest' Master Mason on the day, Bro Colin Philpott presented Mrs Julie Hodgson with a splendid bouquet of flowers as a token of appreciation for her unstinting support for her husband during his many years in several important offices in the Province.

The RW Provincial Grand Master thanked the Brethren and Companions of Shropshire for helping to make his period of office so pleasantly memorable. He and Julie were looking forward to a holiday cruise to the Arctic Circle, leaving on July 9<sup>th</sup>, the very day on which the Grand Secretary, VW Bro Nigel Brown would be installing VW Bro Peter Taylor as the new RW Provincial Grand Master in and over the Masonic Province of Shropshire.

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## 50 Years in Freemasonry

It was a chilly, overcast Friday afternoon as the coach wended its way through Wellington, Wem and Whitchurch to collect 27 Shropshire Masons en route to Abercromby Lodge No 3699.

We were all travelling to support Dudley Yorke-Summerskill celebrating his "50 Years in Freemasonry". Abercromby Lodge meets in the Liverpool Masonic Hall - a splendid building very close to the Roman Catholic Metropolitan Cathedral in the centre of the city - with 7 separate Temples.

It was particularly gratifying, and a tribute to Dudley, to see that the Temple was almost full.

Abercromby Lodge made us very welcome and, as we all know from visiting Lodges outside Shropshire, it is fascinating to see and hear how other Lodges do things. The Province of West Lancashire (the largest Masonic Province under the UGLE) and Abercromby Lodge in particular didn't disappoint us - there was no incoming procession, the WM and Warden's knocks were different and despite having an organist, "So Mote It Be" was said rather than sung. The really tricky bit was interpreting the WM's strong Scouse accent!

The centrepiece of the Meeting was, of course, the presentation of the 50 Year Certificate to Dudley. An excellent, informative and amusing resume of Dudley's personal and Masonic life was given by V W Bro Stanley Oldfield, one of the eight Assistant Provincial Grand Masters. We learned of Dudley's early days in Liverpool, his evacuation to North Wales, return to Liverpool and finally his move to Wem. Similarly we know of his life as a Scout, his working life, his marriage to Flora and about his children. All this was given by the Asst PGM without any reference to notes - a genuine tour-de-force! Dudley was initiated into Abercromby Lodge on 3<sup>rd</sup> February 1961 and the wording on the Certificate was read by the Chairman of the Wellington Group - W Bro John Roberts.

All those in the Temple warmly applauded the presentation and Dudley was asked to reply, but he was so overcome by emotion that he was unable to do so. A rare event, a speechless Yorke-Summerskill! However, he was able to make the presentation of a new Tyler's Sword to replace the one that he had bought for five shillings many years ago.

Dudley very kindly provided all the wine and whisky at an excellent Festive Board and as we got to the Toasts, it was clear that he was going to (temporarily) introduce "Shropshire Workings". Normally Abercromby Lodge do not give Honours or sing Worthy Mason He/Prosper The Art but, led by Dudley, we were soon in full voice and carried the floor. The Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies admitted that matters had completely got out of his concern. Quite how we managed to get in two choruses of "Ging Gang Goolie" honouring Dudley's time as a Scout District Commissioner is beyond me!

Thus the Festive Board became a happy and relaxed occasion. Dudley received further gifts and gave an emotional response to his Toast. Abercromby Lodge were generous and friendly hosts and then we were soon boarding our coach for the journey home.

## Charitable Art

Bro John Higginbotham from the Vale of Uscon, Lodge number 8935, brings a little Craftsmanship to the Lodge meetings. As an artist, he is known World wide as John Silver and is famed for his canine and sporting art paintings.

Recently he decided to try his hand at painting his good friend and Lodge member, W. Bro Paul Harrison. When he brought the finished painting to the Lodge, for the other members to view, he was soon commissioned to do another!



As he enjoys painting these portraits so much, he is seriously thinking of doing more. So if any Brother wishes to see himself (or members of his family) immortalized forever in oils, he will be only too pleased to discuss it with you.

Prices start from £650 for a 20 x 16 inch canvas (unframed) and 10% of this will be donated to a chosen charity of the sitter. Or John will personally donate 10% from each commission to either Hope House or Teddies for loving care charity appeal.

He can be contacted through the usual channels, or his email address at: [sales@johnsilverfinearts.com](mailto:sales@johnsilverfinearts.com)

Websites: [www.johnsilverfinearts.com](http://www.johnsilverfinearts.com) and [www.johnsilverfinearts.co.uk](http://www.johnsilverfinearts.co.uk)

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