



## PGL Meeting in May 2006



The above picture, taken at the Luncheon following Provincial Grand Lodge, captures the whole essence of the day, with the Assistant Grand Master RW Bro David Kenneth Williamson, clearly enjoying the occasion with the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Richard John Anderson.

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## Middlesbrough Freemasons on Show



On a very hot and humid day members of the Freemasonry in the Community Committee for the Middlesbrough Lodges spent Saturday 22nd July 2006 at the Cleveland Show, Stewart Park, Middlesbrough, promoting Freemasonry. The heat of the day meant that the 'normally expected' dress code was relaxed. Some Brethren did, however, ensure Masonic tradition was followed by rolling up their trousers (wearing shorts really) to reveal their legs!

Members of the public at the show, of which there were an estimated 8,000, were able to study photographs, read display boards, collect information packs and talk to members of the Middlesbrough Lodges as they passed the stand. Anyone with a greater interest entered the

marquee to view the display boards inside. Interest exceeded the expectation of the organisers and some members of the public requested further information. Committee members will pursue their requests.

In addition to the display boards about Freemasonry in Middlesbrough there were display boards about Freemasonry on a Provincial, National and International perspective. The Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys provided their own display.

Contributions from all bar one of the Middlesbrough Lodges and a cheque from the Provincial Grand Master's Discretionary Fund financed the cost of the day.

At one point in the day there was concern that the number of people in the marquee was about to exceed the marquee's physical capacity. Initially those Brethren at the back of the marquee thought this was all due to the presence of the Provincial Grand Master and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who were in attendance at the time. Comments from those at the front of the marquee however revealed that the overwhelming sudden interest

was as a result of a very heavy thunderstorm not the presence of our rulers. The support of the rulers in attending was however greatly appreciated by the organisers.

In addition to Middlesbrough residents there were visitors from other parts of the United Kingdom, South Africa and Australia. Numerous visitors said how impressed they had been with the display and what a great idea it was.

The unanimous view of all the Brethren who had worked on the initiative, and been present on the stand, was that it had been a very successful day and one worthy of being repeated, which hopefully it will be.

Special thanks go to Bro Bob Harvey who took the photographs and produced the display boards about Freemasonry in Middlesbrough.



# 'D' Day Invasion - A Personal Recollection

*The ship on which I was serving at the time, an Anglo Belgian Flower Class Corvette, led a column of merchant ships that arrived at the beachhead at dawn on the first day.*

When I first joined the ship, as a Coder, she was part of the famous Liverpool Escort Force operating on convoy duty across the North Atlantic to St. Johns, Newfoundland. It is probably only the British who could have taken a collection of Belgian Nationals - Merchant Navy, Flemish Fishermen and even some of their Countrymen who had at one time served in the French Foreign Legion - speaking a diversity of languages of French, German and Flemish - and called the ship allocated to them HMS Buttercup. The truth is indeed sometimes stranger than fiction.

Following a training period on the west coast of Scotland, we joined the vast armada of assault ships at anchor in the Thames Estuary. As might be imagined, a considerable air of expectancy prevailed at that time linked with exceptionally severe security regulations. No shore leave was

allowed. The crew was subsequently briefed as to our small part in the operation.

We set out on the afternoon of the day before the invasion on a route which kept close to our side of the Channel. It was just beginning to get dark when we passed the harbour wall at Dover. Somewhere off the Isle of Wight we turned for the French Coast, followed by the merchant ships. The sea was exceptionally calm with a beautiful sunset. Before long, we were overtaken by a number of heavily laden tank landing craft and other assault ships. I can distinctly remember the very tense atmosphere as they passed us.

It was equally significant that my ship had been chosen from its multi-national flotilla to be the lead ship on the operation. About 90% of the crew were Belgian Nationals many of whom had wives and families living in enemy occupied territory. They were very pleased to be one of the first "on the scene" of the invasion.

On arriving at the beachhead at dawn there was much evidence of the heavy casualties suffered by the assault wave. There was considerable noise of the battle ashore, with British warships

close at hand taking part in frequent bombardment of targets inland. We eventually took up station on the outer fringe of the armada. Our duty was to protect the merchant fleet from naval and air attacks.

In the period that followed, our duties included going on patrol to seek out and to destroy with rifle and machine gun fire floating mines laid by 'E' boats under cover of darkness. It could be quite an adventurous exercise in the persistent rough weather which developed in the days following the invasion.

The National Day of Belgium was celebrated while at the beachhead. The national emblem of Belgium was hoisted to the masthead. Messages of congratulations were received from other ships of the fleet, and an extra tot of rum was the order of the day. Eventually the crew were allowed ashore for a short visit. I was able to join them. The evidence of battle was all too obvious on the assault beaches and coastal areas. The ship eventually returned to base at Devonport and was allocated other duties, and I left it to join a Destroyer bound for the Far East.

*John Atwood*

## Family Affair.

The last three Initiates of the Ashbrooke Lodge No 9619 have been from the same family. Brother Colin Geoffrey Saysell was Initiated on 7th November 2003 followed by his father, Brother Malcolm Henry Saysell who was Initiated on 5th November 2004 and on 4th November 2005 Colin's younger brother David Malcolm Saysell was Initiated. It is hoped that at some future date the Ashbrooke Lodge will have the unique situation of having a father and two sons as the Master and two Wardens from the same family.

The attached photograph

shows Brother David Malcolm Saysell being presented with his Grand Lodge Certificate by W Brother Bruce Bardsley Hogg, with father and elder brother Colin looking on. Also in the picture is W Brother Peter Bell, Worshipful Master of the Ashbrooke Lodge.

*Brian Dove*

*Secretary, Ashbrooke Lodge*



## STOP PRESS

The Provincial Grand Master wishes it to be known that the collection taken for Prov G Charity, at PGL on the 20th May 2006, raised the incredible all time record amount of £4660.00 (not £3735.00 as announced at the Lunch).

W Bro Frederick David Dennis PPJGW (seated - from St Nicholas Lodge 2586) receiving his Certificate of Appreciation of 60 years service to Freemasonry, from W Bro Phillip Harrison PAGDC.





# Tickton Pre-School

Tickton Pre-School children in happy mood after Sarah Lewis-Palmer received a cheque for £600-00 from Les Jones, to help them buy much-needed equipment, including play rugs and a computer table. The ladies are volunteers who run the Pre-school for children from two and a half years until they leave to attend Tickton Primary School. The school which meets in Tickton Village Hall, each morning and two afternoons weekly in term time, received a very good report from their last Ofsted inspection. Each helper must obtain GNVQ grades and their tuition is paid for by the Pre-School who receive grants. They also raise funds from a variety of activities to help them maintain this essential village need to nurture and develop the adults of the future.

Les Jones is also the Community Liaison Officer of Wyke Masonic Lodge which meets at Tickton Grange. He received a sympathetic hearing from his Provincial Grand Charity who agreed to donate the money for equipment. The Lodge was formed in 1999 and has made donations to Tickton Junior FC, Tickton Junior Tennis Club, Tickton Primary School, and the Cubs and Brownies over the years. It will continue its efforts in the future. The Lodge is a community within the community and feels it must play its part, by supporting important local initiatives. Sarah and her team and Les and his team hope this publicity will bring more support to the Pre-school, thereby helping it to maintain its rightful place at the heart of Tickton village life.

## Smiffy 06



The Saltburn sister lodges of Handyside 1618, Huntcliffe 4539 and Hazelgrove 6542 make up Smiffy 06 (Saltburn Masonic Initiative for Financial Year 2006). Smiffy 06 were responsible for arranging and organising numerous fundraising events throughout the festive period, raising a magnificent £21,383.62.

Much of the money came from a competition run by Smiffy 06 for a Mercedes Smart car in which most lodges in the province were invited to participate. Their part in the competition was accredited by the RMTGB and was reflected in the contributions made by them. This competition and many other functions held by the Smiffy 06 Committee helped make the whole initiative a huge success in raising Festival funds within the whole of the province.

Celebrating success, as the Provincial Grand Master The Right Worshipful Brother Richard John Anderson receives a cheque for £21,383.62 on behalf of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. The cheque was presented to the Provincial Grand Master by Smiffy 06 Treasurer Worshipful Brother Keith Roberts, the Worshipful Master of Handyside Lodge 1618 in Saltburn-by-the-Sea.

## De Brus Lodge No. 4244

W Bro John Huthwaite receiving his Certificate of Appreciation for 50 years Service to Freemasonry, presented by W Bro Alan Brundall PSGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master. W Bro John's late father Jack Huthwaite was Master of the Lodge in 1938, the year that John attended Coatham School, where the Headmaster Rev. Littler was also a PM of the Lodge. During John's time in the Army he played the trumpet and earned the nickname "Hot Lips Huthwaite". In 1970 John took over as Treasurer of the Lodge, from his late father, a position he held for some 21 years.



Dennis Slights was recently installed into the first Chair at Agricola Chapter. Their organist, a local music teacher, produced a specially written piece of music for his installation entitled "A Slight Deviation".

# £2,325,736.00 - Didn't we do well!

The President of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys opening words in his address at the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting were "What a magnificent result!" He then followed on to say that our Provincial Grand Master deserved an Oscar for Best Actor for kidding everybody that he did not really know the result until he had opened the envelope. He continued by saying "It was a marvellous tribute to the Provincial Grand Master and all the members of the Province who had responded to his leadership of the Festival."

An objective of Two Million Pounds was set by the late Provincial Grand Master His Honour Gerry Coles QC, and he had no doubts about the willingness and ability of the Brethren of his Province to respond. RW Bro Richard John Anderson was installed as Provincial Grand Master in February 2003, and inherited the task posed by his predecessor. The success he was to achieve was vested in the Masters of Lodges and their appointment of a Charity Steward or Fund Raising Member, to coordinate the effort, their ingenuity and commitment was simply magnificent.

The Provincial Grand Master never flinched from the opportunity to attend a Lodge in his Province, to collect a cheque on behalf of the Festival, and he has travelled many miles throughout his Province in the help to achieve the magnificent total reached. He has guided the progress of the Festival with wisdom and kindness, in his own quiet, friendly and encouraging style.



Our Newsletter competition 'Caption please'



I see the roof's held the rainwater pretty well



Three Big Brothers



The Masons new Casino at York

The Assistant Grand Master stated that "He was sure that our PGM was a very proud man and hoped that the events of today would live long in his memory."

## Celebration Dinner

Saturday 1st July 2006 was the day of the Celebration Dinner held at York Racecourse to mark the Festival 2006 fund raising appeal. Entertainment was provided by the Casablanca Boys, previous to which everybody was entertained by Angelina Warburton and Demelza Strafford.

It was appropriate that these two young ladies were present on such an occasion as this, for both are supported by the Talent Aid scheme of the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys. The Trust sets aside an annual sum specifically to support talented children and young people. It is called "Talent Aid - support for the gifted children of Freemasons". Angelina was able to purchase a beautiful Swanson harp, which she played at the Celebration Dinner; and Demelza, a promising young Dramatic Soprano, was assisted in her studies at the Guildhall School of Music and Drama with the aid of a grant under the Talent Aid Scheme.



Two steps to Heaven (start with the left foot)



Yes, the drape is back in



Harpist Angelina Warburton



Principle soloist Demelza Strafford



Tonight the balloons supply the hot air



Two happy winners at York



I have to hide the tie



On course for a good night



Yes, it's a racing certainty



Can I just see your meal ticket Sir



...and England will win the World Cup



I knocked three times but they still wouldn't let me in



...and the Chief Constable asked me about the merger



Am I the Archbishop of Canterbury? Certainly not!



...and the blind wine tasting result is 'Tesco's vin du pays'



Yes, Foxglove in the 2.30. Keep it to yourself.



Go on take it, thrift shops are useful



It's a 40 to 1 chance



Sorry your table's near the kitchen

# Visit to Grand Lodge in London

The Annual Visit by the members of this Province to United Grand Lodge again was a "full house". The Brethren were met in the Inner Porch of Grand Lodge by the PGM, his Deputy and Assistant Provincial Grand Master John Trout.

Lunch again was held at the Freemasons Arms, and after Lunch was over the PGM addressed the assembled Brethren of his Province and introduced them to two special guests, Les Hutchinson, Secretary to the Council of the Trust, and Keith Hulks the Festival Manager and presented them both with a pair of Provincial cuff-links. Everyone who attended expressed the desire to return next year, at what has now become an Annual Event for this Province.



Locked out again



It needs a good accountant to sort it out



The lads say that the Blue Nun's too sweet



....go on, fish and chips are a delicacy in London!



Two big City lads



Who's that bloke next to John?



and interest rates to rise



A double latté please

# TOTAL REACHES £50,000 GIVEN TO CHARITIES



*Newsletter competition caption please.*

The fifth Annual Charity Presentation Evening, which is organised by the Freemasonry in the Community Committee for Middlesbrough Lodges, was held at the Masonic Hall, Middlesbrough on Thursday 18th May 2006. Cheques in excess of £10,000 were given to Charity Representatives. In addition to the cheques a large cuddly toy of 'Scooby Doo' and a smaller cuddly toy were presented to Zöe's Place Children's Hospice. Over £50,000 has now been donated to Local Charities by Middlesbrough Freemasons at these events in the last five years.

Those who attended the evening were: Charity Representatives from 21 different Charities, Freemasons from the

***With dogged determination you can make it to the top***



eleven Middlesbrough Lodges together with their wives, Members of the Zetland Ladies Club, the Provincial Grand Master Richard John Anderson and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master John Ridgewell Trout together with their wives.

Each Lodge chooses their own Charities and amongst those to benefit were the Great North Air Ambulance, Macmillan Nurses, The Support Association for the relatives of the victims of Murder and Manslaughter, the Sea Cadets and the Butterwick Hospice, to name but a few. (During the last five years 67 charities have received donations, all bar two of the charities having no Masonic connection.)

The evening was compered by W Bro Ben Doree from the Acklam Lodge who, together with his wife Sally, had organised the evening. Photographs of the evening were taken by Bro Bob Harvey of North York Lodge and are given to the Charity Representatives who are encouraged to publish them in their own 'in house' magazines.

The format of the evening was the same as in previous years: drinks on arrival, a meal, a presentation by a chosen Charity, the presentation of cheques and this year the cuddly toys to the Charity Representatives. The evening was closed by the Provincial Grand Master who congratulated the Middlesbrough Lodges on the success of the evening. The PGM stated that he wished the whole atmosphere of the evening could have been bottled and released in other

*I sought my soul,  
but my soul I could  
not see.*

*I sought my God,  
but my God  
eluded me.*

*I sought my  
brother, and I  
found all three.*

*Anon*



*A new Stuart McFarlane joke. Never!*

Masonic Centres as a means of establishing greater contact with the local community.

Following the end of the formal part of the evening the Meeting Room was opened and those in attendance were free to have a look around and ask questions of the Brethren in attendance.

The evening was once again a tremendous success. Whilst it is difficult to quantify how the image of Freemasonry is improved by such an evening it certainly is as evidenced by the comments made by the representatives of the Charities who were in attendance. The event was reported upon in Middlesbrough's local evening newspaper 'The Evening Gazette' under the heading 'Masons donate Charity Fortune'.

**Stuart McFarlane**



## White Rose House, Wheldrake

Girlguiding North Yorkshire South was a beneficiary of Provincial Grand Charity, receiving a cheque for £750.



# MAGIC IN THE AIR

*l to r: Yvonne Nicholson, Chris Nicholson, Margaret Clayton, Mike Clayton and Martin Eades receiving the £1500 cheque.*



During his year in the chair of Lennox Lodge 123, Chris Nicholson and his wife Yvonne held an evening of close-up magic at their home in Middleton Tyas near Richmond to raise funds for the Yorkshire Air Ambulance.

Nearly 100 people attended the event - with about half being from non-Masonic families, who enjoyed wine and canapés whilst being entertained by a dazzling display of close up magic by Mike Donogue. Also present on the evening was Martin Eades, Chief Executive of Yorkshire Air Ambulance who took the opportunity of the occasion to announce the prospective acquisition of a second aircraft specifically to cover North Yorkshire.

Together with a later raffle the

wonderful sum of £1500 was raised which was presented to Martin at Leeds /Bradford airport - the ambulance's current base by Chris and Yvonne together with Mike Clayton, Lennox's charity steward and his wife Margaret.

Martin showed his visitors the revolutionary Air Desk where the dispatcher has access to all the regional screens of the different ambulance authorities across Yorkshire. The Air Ambulance dispatcher can thus see in real time incidents developing and has the authority to scramble the helicopter himself without waiting for a request from the ambulance authority. This cuts the time for despatch from an average of 8 minutes down to 2 minutes - which can be vital in life and death situations! They take more than 1000 jobs a year - but miss 300 more; therefore the requirement for a second aircraft is urgent which will require further funding of £1.7 million! Martin further explained that with two aircraft they are looking to site one in North Yorkshire and one in South Yorkshire and thus will be moving from their current base at Leeds/Bradford. This will increase response times even more.

Sadly and perhaps surprisingly the Air

Ambulance doesn't qualify for Lottery funding and with all the exciting new plans and developments in train it will require substantial further investment, which no doubt Yorkshire freemasons will play their part in contributing to. Martin added, "Over the five years of its existence Y.A.A has received support from many individual Lodges throughout Yorkshire. This latest donation from the Lennox Lodge is further evidence of the growing support and awareness that saves about 1000 lives per year in our region."

Editor's note: despite his best endeavours Chris was unable to persuade Martin, an unattached mason to join Lennox! He will in fact shortly be joining the Beresford Pierce Lodge in Bedale as a joining member having been 'poached' by his old friend Les Kirby the IPM!! We all welcome Martin into the N&E fraternity.



*Chris attempting to take off!*

## GOLDEN MASONIC MEMORIES

Fred and Wendy Wardropper have been attending social and Masonic functions at the Lodge building in Trinity Lane since 1952. They were introduced to the Lodge by Wendy's father, Bill Etherington, who was a very popular member of the Constitutional Lodge and proposed W. Bro. Edgar Bielby into masonry.

They attended their first Ladies evening in November 1952 when the W.M. was Frank Johnson, later to become a Grand Lodge Officer and Secretary of Constitutional Lodge No 294 for many years. In those days the Ladies had to wear long dresses and sleeved evening gloves. There was no bar lounge, and a makeshift bar was created in a corner of the dining room or in the Past Masters room upstairs. The tables were

adorned with flower arrangements, usually made by the Master's Lady, helped by the wives of the Officers. There were also cigarettes on the table and a box of cigars handed round after the meal.

Following the usual speeches, the room had to be cleared for dancing, always to a local band, often Johnny Morgan. At this stage the more experienced brethren adjourned to the local hostelrys, Oddfellows or Telegraph, (remember there was no draught beer in the Lodge) and left the room clearing to the junior members.

The Ladies evenings were always over subscribed and were limited to relatives of the member. Fred and Wendy were married on 8th September 1956 and the reception

was held at the Masonic Hall. The toast to the bride and groom was proposed by Eric Bielby. They will be holding their Golden Wedding celebration in the same venue and the toast will again be proposed by Eric Bielby, Will this be a record?

Masonically, Fred is a Past Master of the Lord Bolton Lodge, a founder and Past Master of the Beverlonian Lodge and a joining member of the Constitutional Lodge. Wendy supports the social functions of all the Beverley Lodges and is a keen member of the Beverlonian Ladies who dine out on every Lodge evening. For the last ten years Fred has run the bar for the Beverley Masonic Hall Association, which is his way of saying thank you for the many happy hours he has spent in a wonderful building. These are indeed Golden memories of friends and functions.

# Provincial Grand Lodge Golf Trophy

The Provincial Golf Competition was originally played for in May 1924 at the Filey Golf Club. The following seven lodges took part:- The Royal Lodge (Filey), St. Nicholas, Denison, Leopold and Old Globe (all Scarborough) and St Johns and the Burlington Lodges (Bridlington). The initial winners were the team from St. Johns Lodge. W Bro F. Eagle-Clarke of the Royal Lodge who was also a local solicitor in Filey arranged the competition and purchased a silver Challenge Bowl for 15 guineas which was paid for by the seven lodges mentioned above. The trophy was named the PGL Yorkshire N&E Ridings Golf Trophy.

On the 26th April 1926 The Masonic Golf Association was formed by the Royal Lodge and the President was the PGM and the Secretary W Bro F Eagle-Clarke. In 1955 it was decided

to use the competition to raise money for charity but this would appear to have been abandoned some years later, possibly due to increased costs in the form of green fees and meals. In March 1957 the 3rd Marquis of Zetland, the then PGM, agreed to the Challenge Bowl being renamed the 'Zetland Trophy' and it is still named so. The competition has been played for every year since 1924 with the exception of the second world war years of 1940 to 1946.

In 1992 W Bro J M Raylor, the then PGM, presented a trophy to the Association which was to be given to the best individual score on the day of the competition.

The latest information I can find regarding insurance covering the Zetland Trophy dates back to 1991



when it was insured through General Accident for a sum of £1500. The premium was £20 and there was an excess of £25. Perhaps my estimated valuation of £15000 was excessive but inflation, together with its historical value and engraving costs, will considerably increase the 1991 valuation. Perhaps we should have an up-to-date valuation done by say W Bro J E Tennant, a partner in Tennants of Leyburn Auctioneers.

*Philip Busfield*

## ANOTHER FANTASTIC THREE DAYS FOR YORKSHIRE FREEMASONS AT THE GREAT YORKSHIRE SHOW

A combined effort by Masons from both Yorkshire Provinces of N&E West Ridings made our third appearance at the Great Yorkshire Show an unqualified success. Bigger and better than ever, stand 218 was twice the size of previous ones, partially thanks to funding from United Grand Lodge. Special thanks must go to Chris Nicholson of Lennox Lodge for many hours of hard work with his team.

An innovation this year was a colourful display of Masonic regalia in a new display cabinet and extra display panels for the non-Masonic Charities present every day on our stand.

Each Province made daily cheque



presentations to the two charities on duty. The N&E charities benefiting were Zöe's Place Children's Hospice, the Girl Guides and the RNLI.

The now famous blue promotional plastic bags complete with emblazoned Square and Compasses and containing information on Freemasonry and local charities supported were handed out in record numbers. There were a good number of enquiries from potential new members and the visitor's book contained some very positive comments. Another tiring but, once again, an immensely satisfying week.

## ROSEDALE WALK



*Massed start of the 2006 'Tour de Rosedale'*



*On removing the keystone, they all fell down*



*Nice number in backpacks*



*Masons are not noted for their sartorial elegance*