

the then owner of Nightingale Cottage to extend his garden. This leased land, which cannot be built on, is now the hotel car park.

In 1863 the Cottage was acquired by the Richmond Hill Hotel Company who completed their new hotel on the site in 1865, the same year that a new wing to the Star and Garter above it on the hill was completed. In 1922, when the old Star and Garter was demolished to be replaced by the Royal Star and Garter Home for disabled servicemen, the Hotel, which in the meantime had had several changes of name, took on the title of the New Star and Garter Hotel.

One might have gained the impression that W.Bro. Firmston devoted the whole of his labours to Freemasonry. Such, however, is not the case. He ran a coal merchant's business, and one of our members has a recollection of reporting to his office to register for a coal allowance during the Second War. Another remembers being reprimanded for wearing dark brown socks at his Initiation, at which time W.Bro. Firmston was the D.C.; clearly this man took his masonry very seriously, and missed very little.

The second year continued at much the same formidable pace. April saw two candidates Raised by the WM, two Passed by the DC and two Initiated by the WM. A further emergency meeting was held in May when again two candidates were Raised and Initiated by the WM and two were Passed by the IPM. October saw the WM Pass two and Initiate two candidates after the SW had Raised two. It also saw the first joining member admitted.

November, December, [*emergency*] and January meetings all involved two brethren being Raised, two Passed and two candidates Initiated. At the December meeting a dining fee of 5 shillings was charged, not bad when one considers that the meals at that time were of five courses and included wines, spirits, cigars and cigarettes.

In March 1925, W.Bro. A. Moore was installed as the third Worshipful Master of Petersham, this being the only item of business on the agenda. The first mention of a Ladies Social evening occurs. April saw him begin his year in an impressive manner by Raising, Passing and Initiating two candidates and by presenting six Grand Lodge certificates. A note on the summons records that a Ladies Social Evening shall take place on Saturday 2nd May, tickets 18/6 each, excluding wine.

In October two candidates were Raised and two Initiated. A Notice of Motion appears to the effect that 'The WM be entitled to invite two guests to regular meetings at the expense of the Lodge, and that the sum of £10. 10s. 0d be available, also from the funds, annually for the purpose of providing entertainment'.

In November two candidates were Passed and two were Initiated, one of whom, Mr Roy Frank Carter, was a Lewis. The summons reads, 'Special dispensation for Mr Roy Frank Carter, who will not attain the age of 21 years until 7th December 1925, is desirous [*with consent of his father*] of being Initiated into Freemasonry, [*he being a Lewis*]'. The Charge after Initiation was given by the SW, Bro. A. Allum, 'In a very efficient manner'. At this meeting it was proposed that the Petersham Lodge should become a Founding Lodge of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home, and that the donation of £105. 0s. 0d be paid in 5 years at £21. 0s. 0d per year.

December again saw an Emergency Meeting being held, this time to Raise and to Pass two candidates, and Bro. A. Allum was again in action, this time explaining the Tracing Board 'in a very able manner'. January saw two Candidates Passed and two Initiated, with Bro. A. Allum

giving the Charge after Initiation and the IPM giving the Lecture on the First Degree Tracing Board.

At a further Emergency Meeting in February 1926, two candidates were Raised and two were Passed.

The masonic year concluded with the Installation, on March 13th 1926, of Bro. Alfred Allum, the first Master of Petersham not to have already served the office of Master in another Lodge.

In the three years since its inception the Lodge had grown from a membership of 19 - the founders, excluding Bro. C. W. Watson - to a total of 49, a quite remarkable growth rate.

W.Bro. A. Allum's year followed the pattern we are familiar with, 5 regular meetings. No new candidates were Initiated during his year but by special dispensation, in October, three candidates were Passed at the same meeting, two by the WM and one by the IPM. A Charity Box, which had been made by his brother, Bro. Robert Scott of the Shurner Lodge No 2374, was presented to the Lodge by Bro. J. Scott. A letter of condolence was sent to the widow of Bro. H. Ilett, Petershams 14th Initiate, who died 4th August '26, having been initiated on 31st May '24, Passed on 11th October '24 and Raised on 8th November '24.

In November item 6 on the agenda reads, 'To consider, approve and sign a recommendation petitioning Grand Lodge to grant a Warrant for a NEW LODGE to be named the SYENES LODGE [No. 4900].' Also at that meeting, 'In view of his services as Secretary of the Lodge W.Bro. Almond be asked to accept an Honorarium of 20 Guineas from Lodge funds.'

On 12th March 1927 Bro. Ernest M. Severn was installed as Worshipful Master and the first letter of resignation from a joining member, Bro. W. Penfold, was received. Two weeks later an Emergency Meeting was held to Initiate Mr Leonard W. Bennett aged 24 years, an architect and surveyor, who was leaving for Rangoon, Burma on 23rd March 1927. The April meeting was the first attended by a member of Syenes Lodge, W.Bro. Batey being the visitor. The October summons was the first to be black edged in respect for Bro. Frank Linegar, one of the Founders of Petersham, who had died on 26th April 1927 and to whose memory the members stood in Silent Tribute.

A letter from V. Wor. Bro. Sir Colville Smith, Grand Secretary, was read in the risings at the November meeting to declare that the 2nd and 3rd degrees would be conferred upon Bro. Leonard W. Bennett [*see para. above*] in the Pioneer Lodge No. 1305, Scottish Constitution. In January, following a double initiation, two PMs gave an address to the Brethren on the Masonic Mission to India and Ceylon of the R.W.Bro. Lord Cornwallis, Deputy GM. It was also agreed that the sum of two guineas be sent from the Benevolent Fund to the Richmond Mayor's Flood Relief Fund to 'assist the distress through the high tide of the river'. This sum was increased to £5.5s as the result of the Charity Box being circulated at the Festive Board.

At the Installation Meeting in March 1928 of Joseph W. J. Samels the Worshipful Masters of Richmond and Syenes Lodges were invited to attend. In April a Notice of Motion proposed that 'W.Bro. H. A. Darch, having been appointed a Grand Lodge Officer, the Lodge to present him with the G.L. undress clothing'.

In October the first reference to the fact that Petersham Lodge might qualify as a Hall Stone Lodge appears, a matter which was taken up at the November meeting, when a proposal that the

Petersham Lodge take steps to become a Hall Stone Lodge was fully supported by the 31 members present. At a subsequent Committee Meeting, on the 22nd November 1928, the Secretary was requested to write the Grand Secretary informing of this wish and Bro. H. King was appointed the special collector for the Lodge. In January 1929 a letter of thanks from V. Wor. Bro. Sir P. Colville Smith G.L. confirmed that Petersham could qualify to become a Hall Stone Lodge.

The Hall Stone Jewel has its origins in the need to fund the overspend which had occurred in the rebuilding of the Temple at Great Queen Street, original estimate £1,000,000. A contribution, which averaged ten Guineas per member, qualified Lodges to become Hall Stone Lodges and upon every Mason contributing that amount was conferred a Masonic Million Memorial or Hall Stone Jewel. The foundation stone was laid by the Duke of Connaught, Grand Master, in 1927 and the Masonic Peace Memorial Temple, as the building was to be known, was completed in 1933.

At a Committee Meeting, on 4th January 1929, the illness of the Master Elect Bro. Vaughan was discussed and the fact that only a further £5.5s was required to enable the Lodge to become a Founding Lodge of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home. This payment was made, which completed the total contribution of £105 subscribed over four years, and by the 12th January, the next regular meeting, a letter and certificate were shown to the effect that the Lodge was a Founding Lodge. An Emergency Meeting was called on 18th February to elect a WM for the ensuing year as the SW, Bro. Vaughan, would be unable to carry out the duties owing to his health. The JW, Bro H. King, was duly elected.

Bro. King was installed on March 9th 1929 but tragically died three days later and at a committee meeting on 21st March it was decided that the IPM would carry out the duties of Master in summoning the Lodge. The following meeting summons requires 'Masonic Mourning will be worn as a tribute of respect to the memory of our late Worshipful Master, W.Bro. H. King who died on March 12th 1929. Morning dress, Black tie, White gloves. Three crepe rosettes on apron, one on collar'. On this sad occasion the Brethren did not dine. The committee minute book further records that on 2nd May 1929 the SW, Bro. W. Vaughan, died.

This was clearly a bad period for Petersham and the minutes indicate that hardship was being experienced by some members and widows. Indeed, on 15th August 1929 a special emergency meeting was convened to grant the sum of 20 Guineas to a Brother in need. A further emergency meeting in September did Pass one Brother, but the main purpose was to agree a Petition to the Board of Benevolence on behalf of a Brother in need. Also the Secretary wrote a Letter of Introduction for a Brother Cole, who was about to depart on a world tour, that he could use when visiting any Lodge under the British Constitution.

The year continued with regular meetings, the main items of interest being a communication from the Board of General Purposes which indicated that any presentation to an outgoing Master from the Initiates of his year was undesirable - any presentation should come from the Lodge itself as a whole, and not a section of it. W.Bro. L.T. Yates was heartily congratulated on receiving Provincial Grand Lodge Honours. Yet another member's death was recorded, Bro. W.V. Quinney, Petersham's third initiate. The January summons was the first to show 'Founding Lodge of the Freemasons' Hospital'.

## CHAPTER 3

### THE THIRTIES

March 1930 saw Bro. William H. Skeet Installed and W. Bro Samels receive a bar to his Past Masters Jewel for occupying the chair for the second year in succession.

The year contained no special meetings, and in addition to the normal Masonic business it is recorded that the Lodge expressed a wish to be associated with other Lodges to which W.Bro. Firmston belonged in presenting him with his Grand Lodge clothing, on his being appointed as Past Grand Standard Bearer; an honour he was heartily congratulated on. On 11th October 1930, before the Lodge was opened, the WM called upon the Brethren to stand in silence as a mark of respect in memory of the Crew of the Airship R101. This craft had been on the first attempted Empire Flight to India, a flight which ended in terrible disaster on a hillside near Beauvais, France, with the loss of 46 lives.

In November, Masonic Million Memorial medals were presented to Bros Scott and Stone. In January 1931, Hearty Greetings were extended to W.Bro. Almond, a founder of the Silver River Lodge No. 876 [*Montivideo, S. America*] also one of our own founders. The cost of the tickets for that years Ladies' Night was 18/6 each.

The minutes of the Installation Meeting on 14th March 1931, at which Bro. John W. Scott assumed the chair, carefully records that a presentation to the IPM of a past masters collar and jewel was made from the whole Lodge. London Rank clothing was presented to W.Bro. A. Moore and four Masonic Million Memorial jewels to Bro's Dodge, Mills, Furse and Palmer.

In October, Bro. Scott was thanked for his presentation to the Lodge of a set of Blocks and Gavel, which were being used for the first time that night. Bro. Bennett was presented with his Masonic Million Memorial jewel and congratulated on his safe return from Persia, [but in March 1932 he was off overseas again].

The committee meetings that year discussed such topics as the 'admission of any member of the disciplinary Forces of the Crown below the rank of Sergeant'. 'Cigars at the Festive Board were to be BRITISH!!' [*Where, in Britain, cigar tobacco is grown was, however, not stated.*] 'The Secretary to order one suit for candidate as sample - cost 29/6d.'

March 1932 saw the Initiation of Mr G.E. Yates as a prelude to the Installation of W.Bro. L.T. Yates, the father of the initiate, both ceremonies being conducted by W.Bro. Firmston, PGStB. In April W.Bro. L.T. Yates Passed his son to the second degree and then went on to Raise a further two candidates, the order of the ceremonies being due to the former being a Lewis. An Emergency Meeting was held in May 1932 at which two candidates were Initiated before Bro. G.E. Yates was Raised. In October the presentation of a special Masonic Million Memorial jewel to W.Bro. Skilton is recorded to acknowledge his contribution of not less than £250 and further Jewels to Bro's Farrell and Matchan.

January saw the initiation of a father and son Mr Frederick Read aged 62 and his son Frederick James Read, aged 28. The Lodge to join with Syenes in presenting London Rank clothing to one of our founders, W.Bro. Severn.



Committee Meeting matters that year included the purchase and alteration of clothing for candidates; the repair of the Ballot Box; the purchase of a box for Lodge furniture; the decision to ask retiring Masters from other Lodges to take the Offices of SW, JW and IG in the Board of Installed Masters.

On Saturday 11th March 1933 Bro. H. F. Gare was installed in the Masters chair; the first 'home grown' master, he being the second initiate into Petersham Lodge, with W. Brothers from Kingston Temple Lodge and the Duke of Fife Lodges assisting. Also, for the first time, a list of Officers appears on the summons.

Two significant features of this year - the lodge finally reached the total required to secure the Hall Stone Jewel, which was collected by W. Bro Skilton and presented to the W.M. at the January 1934 meeting. Individual medals were presented to Bro's Matcham, Pulham and Lenn. The other was the decision to reduce the numbers of meetings to four, as an alternative to increasing the annual subscriptions.

The summons for the Installation of Bro. Frederick G. P. Mitcham at the meeting of March 1934 was black edged, in tribute to W. Bro Almond LR, PM, PPGStdB (Hants and I.of W)., a founder and 1st Secretary of Petersham and distinguished member of 3 other Lodges.

The year was marked by the official visit in January of W.Bro. Lt-Col. H. Hamilton Wedderburn, one of the Lodge Honorary Members and a member of the consecrating team, who presented W.Bro. A. Allum with his Grand Lodge clothing on behalf of the Lodge. Masonic Million Memorial jewels were presented during the year to Bro's Clough and C.M. Williams and commemorative Jewels of the Freemasons Hospital to Bro's Dodge and Pratt. The October summons showed the replica of the Hall Stone Jewel on the front for the first time and the decision to reduce the number of meetings to four was rescinded at the April meeting. However at the Committee Meeting on 19th May it was decided to advise that Brethren should pay 5/6d each for dinner at April meetings.

The 1935 Installation Meeting of Bro. Ernest Mills was attended by W.Bro. Lt-Col. H. Hamilton Wedderburn, who gave the address to the Wardens. For the first time, a Notice of Motion appears on the summons concerning the presentation of a Past Master's collar - to W.Bro. Gare, WM in 1933. At the following meeting, when this was put forward as a Motion, at the suggestion of W.Bro. Moore the additional words 'and to W.Bro. Mitcham and all subsequent Masters on leaving the Chair', were added. This was approved.

In October the Lodge stood in Silent Tribute to the memory of the late Pro. Grand Master, Lord Amptill, the Deputy Grand Master and to Bro. F. Read the elder, of Petersham. In November 1935, by special dispensation and permission of his father, Mr E. Michaux was initiated, he not being 21 years until 30th January 1936. The meeting on January 11th, 1936, was again notified by a black edged summons, as the Lodge went into a three month period of Masonic Mourning at the death of His Late Most Gracious Majesty King George V.

During the year Masonic Million Memorial jewels were presented to Bro's Perry and Shaw. At the Committee meetings Syenes Lodge notified the Lodge that it no longer wished to hire the Lodge furniture; two Brethren wrote to deny any rudeness to the lady artist at the previous meeting and to having no recollection of making any objectional remarks at the dinner table: The SW did not intend to go on and it was agreed to recommend to the Lodge that W.Bro. Mills continue in Office for a further year.

W.Bro. Mills continued in office during the next Masonic year, in which the usual masonic business was conducted, bringing in new members and elevating others. In March an asked for donation of one Guinea was approved to assist fund the rebuilding of the Quetta Temple in India, destroyed by earthquake. Bro. Wyatt received his Masonic Million Memorial jewel. In November it was proposed that a Benevolent Association be formed and a committee of five was appointed to draw up rules. In committee there was talk of limiting the Lodge membership to 70 active members; problems concerning a charge levied on the Lodge by the Hotel of two guineas on three occasions - the Secretary and the Treasurer to interview the Hotel Manager about this!!

The March 1937 meeting, the Installation of Bro. Harold C. Corbin, also saw W.Bro. Samels presented with his LR clothing and W.Bro. Mills receive a presentation for his second year in the chair. At the November meeting a letter was read from the daughter of W.Bro. Severn, announcing the sudden death of her father, following which the Lodge stood in tribute whilst the organist played the death march. In committee, Syenes Lodge again requested the loan of Petersham furniture which was agreed, but at a charge of 21/- per night; an emergency meeting was scheduled for May 1938 in order to enable Mr Pecksen, a Lewis, to be brought into the Lodge without undue delay, but keeping to the resolution made earlier that there be only one candidate for each degree.

Bro Alfred Shorter was Installed in March 1938 and at his next meeting, in April, Initiated Mr Stanley A.G. Michaux, a Lewis and still an active member of the Lodge. During his time in the Lodge Stan has been the Organist, following in the family tradition, 1948 to 1949, occupied the Chair in 1957, was ADC from 1966 to 1969 and then DC from 1970 to 1972. Stan recalls as a lad seeing a model goat, complete with Masonic apron, on his fathers mantleshef and being told that Initiates had to look lively to prevent being attacked from behind by the real article. Strangely, he recalls having some serious doubts during certain moments in the ceremony. Lodge fees he remembers at 4 Guineas, which funded five course meals with wines, cigars and all the lodge expenses, even extending to seven course meals at Installation meetings. The habit of general toasting occurred, but this did get a bit out of hand and was later stopped by edict from Grand Lodge.

Stan's family were heavily involved with Petersham. Walter, his father, was the sixth Initiate, in 1923, and went on to become the Lodge Organist, a position he held until his death in 1947 when Stan himself played for 2 years. Ernest James, an uncle, was Initiated in 1925 and became Master in 1940 and his son, also Ernest, was initiated in 1935 whilst an Undergraduate. He went on to become a priest and later resigned and went out to the West Indies, where he worked in leper colonies. Harry, Stan's brother, was Initiated in 1961 and Paul, another son of E.J., was the last of the family to join the Lodge, being Initiated in 1965. Paul moved to Canada and became Master of the Lodge he joined in Toronto.

The previously mentioned Emergency Meeting in May introduced yet another Lewis, Mr Pecksen, into the Lodge. On this occasion there were no risings and those attending were required to pay 5/6 for their supper - times were obviously hard for the Treasurer. Bro. Povey died in the September and his widow was found to be in some considerable need, being almost blind and it was agreed to pay her a fraternity of £25, so perhaps the Lodge was not in such a bad financial position after all, but good to see that it got its priorities right.

The year continued with usual masonic business, one item of note being the instruction from Grand Lodge in January 1939 that greater care should be exercised on the admission of new candidates, also of visitors and the discussion of Masonic Matters in the presence of Non

Masons. Brethren were asked to ensure that those with whom they discussed Masonic Matters were in fact Masons themselves.

March 1939 saw Bro George A. Fish Installed in the Chair. A difficult time obviously, reflected by the decision at Committee in October to reduce the fees to one and one-half Guineas for duration of the hostilities, to resume the Lodge and for the Lodge to become non-dining. Members of H.M. Forces were asked to notify Bro. E. Michaux, the Senior Warden, of their military addresses in order that the Lodge may keep in touch with them.

The November summons requests attendance in Morning Dress or uniform and at that meeting a letter from Grand Lodge was read giving an account of the last meeting, at which His Majesty the King invested his brother His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent as Grand Master of England. The Worshipful Master, the Immediate Past Master and the Secretary, having all been successful in the ballot for tickets, added their own descriptions of the scene for the remainder of the brethren. A letter was read representing the widow of the late brother Povey, the result being a further grant to her of £1 per week for 10 weeks and a commitment to make representation to the next Benevolent Committee Meeting.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### THE FORTIES

In January 1940 the Lodge stood in silent tribute to W.Bro. F. Mitcham; one Guinea was granted in response to an appeal by the Royal Masonic Hospital for funds to meet the cost of knitting materials for the troops in the hospital and also one of our widows, Mrs Povey, died.

At the March 1940 meeting Bro. Ernest J. Michaux was Installed, and the Freedom of the Lodge was conferred upon W. Bro. Pannell in appreciation of his long and faithful service to the Lodge, he having been the first Treasurer of the Lodge from 1923 to 1928 and then Secretary from 1929 to 1939.

The Lodge met again in April when, in addition to one Raising and one Initiation, it was proposed that the Lodge present W.Bro. Yates with his Grand Lodge undress clothing on his appointment to Past Grand Assistant Standard Bearer and that W.Bro. Pannell be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge. There were no more meetings held, either Regular or Committee, until January 1941, when a meeting was held to elect the Master and all Officers for the ensuing year. The Lodge Committee met in February when a grant to a widow of £10 was recommended and it was decided to invest £100 from funds in 3% Defence Bonds.

March 1941 saw the Installation of Bro. George S. Good; a meeting at which the Brethren stood in Silent Tribute to Bros. W.J. Dodge and W. H. Farrell, a Founder, both of whom had died in 1941. In addition to approving the proposal concerning the purchase of Defence Bonds the Lodge also donated £2 to the King George Fund for Sailors. The committee met later in the month to arrange dinner at the next *[April]* meeting, the 100th, at the cost of 5/6 per head, exclusive of wines.

At the April Meeting a letter was read from one of the founders, W.Bro. Almond, now in Uruguay, stating that it was very unlikely he would be able to attend Petersham again, and, in view of his long standing, Honorary Membership was conferred upon him. The committee met in September and decided that lunch could be provided, at cost to the Lodge, before the October Meeting. At that meeting an Emergency Grant of five Guineas was made to the Masonic Hospital.

The November Meeting recommended that from October 1st 1941 all Brethren joining H.M. Forces should be excused Lodge Fees. The WM wished Bro. Stan Michaux God's Speed and a safe and speedy return, on his leaving for foreign service with the Fleet Air Arm. In January the sum of ten Guineas was given from the Benevolent Fund to a special appeal from the Royal Masonic Hospital, but this sum was increased to £14.16s. 0d as the result of a subsequent collection.

Bro. Roy F. Carter was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon in March 1942, a meeting tinged with sadness due to the earlier deaths of The Most Worshipful Brother, His Royal Highness the Duke of Connaught and Strathearn, KG, Past Grand Master and our own first master of Petersham, W.Bro. J. D. Firmston. On a happier note W.Bro. Skilton was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.



The Lodge met five times during the year, but at the October meeting no ceremony was conducted. Five Guineas was donated to an appeal by the British Sailors Society in April and the Lodge went into a period of Masonic Mourning in October [*full period 6 months, but 2 had already passed*] in respect for The Most Worshipful Bro. Air Commodore, His Royal Highness The Duke of Kent, K.G., Grand Master, who had died in August 1942.

There was a dinner following the November Meeting, for which members had to purchase tickets at 6/6 each and the summons requested that guests be kept to a minimum. The first mention of a Brother's membership lapsing through non-payment of subscription occurs.

In March 1943 Albert T. Pratt was Installed, and during the meeting a grant of 25 Guineas was made to the Royal Masonic Hospital in answer to an appeal and a further grant of 5 Guineas to the King George Fund for Sailors. Dinner was provided and paid for by the Lodge.

The Lodge again managed to meet five times and conduct business and, although dinner was possible on four occasions, visitors continued to be restricted - this was underlined on the summons - and Brethren were required to purchase tickets at 6/6 each, inclusive of wine. 10 Guineas was put on the WM's. list for the RMI for Boys; Silent Tribute was paid to the memory of W.Bro. Skilton, a founder and the 2nd Worshipful Master, in November and to Bro. Seal in January. Sympathy was extended to W.Bro. Allum on the loss of a son.

At the Installation Meeting on 11th March 1944 Bro. Charles G. Stone was elevated to the Chair, two Guineas was sent to the Appeal for The Greater London Fund for The Blind and the Lodge paid for the dinner. The year was a busy one for the Lodge by comparison with the recent years; April - two ceremonies; October - two ceremonies - including the Initiation of Mr A.J. Shorter by his father, W.Bro. A. Shorter; November - three ceremonies; January - two ceremonies. A further 2 Guineas were donated to the King George Fund for Sailors.

The Lodge was clearly feeling confident concerning the future. At a Committee Meeting on 2nd December 1944 it was decided to recommend that normal subscription rates be applied from the end of that Petersham Masonic year. In February, the Committee decided to recommend to the Lodge that, after the Candidates on hand had all been Initiated, only one candidate be taken each year...To be reviewed as circumstances alter.

In March 1945, Bro. Herbert F. Elliott was installed in the Chair, the Lodge heard and approved of the plans to limit the number of persons Initiated each year and dinner was taken at 6.0 p.m., at the expense of the Lodge, as it would do henceforth.

April saw the Raising of a candidate followed by the Initiation of Mr F. G. Hill, the father of W.Bro. A. Hill. W. Bro E. Mills was presented with his London Grand Rank clothing and a further 2 Guineas was donated to the King George Fund for Sailors. At the Emergency Meeting in May, as well as the intended business of Passing two Candidates and Initiating one, it was proposed that 'As a Thanks Offering for Peace in Europe the Lodge vote 10 Guineas to each of the Masonic Charities'. This was confirmed by a vote at the October meeting, at which two ceremonies were again performed, as they were in November and in January. An Honorary Member, W.Bro. Lt-Col. Hamilton Wedderburn, OBE, PGD, attended in November as the Official Visitor, and the January summons was the last to ask brethren to restrict guests to a minimum. At this meeting the Secretary reported that the SW, Bro Matcham, had indicated that he would be unable to go forward to the Chair due to business commitments. After the Past Masters had withdrawn their names a ballot was taken which proved unanimous for the Junior Warden, Bro. Walter Clough.

The 125th meeting of Petersham, in March 1946, duly Installed Bro. Clough in the Chair, the Address to the Wardens being given by W.Bro. Lt-Col. Hamilton Wedderburn OBE, PGD. A Notice of Motion recommended that Annual Subscriptions be 4 Guineas, Country Members' and Visitors' dining fees be 15/-. The summons was the last to have reference to Service Uniform as an allowed form of dress. The usual meetings took place during the year, but sadly the Lodge suffered the loss of two of its Founding Members, W.Bro. L.T. Yates, Acting IPM for the first year of Petersham and WM for 1932, who died in March, and W.Bro. H.E. Pannell, the first Treasurer of Petersham and now an Honorary Member, who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above in September. He had also enjoyed the distinction of being the longest serving mason of the founding members, having been initiated on 17th March 1885.

Saturday 8th March 1947 marked another first for Petersham. W.Bro. Harold F. Gare, who had been through the Chair in 1933, was to be the first Master to enjoy a second term of office, during which he was honoured with London Grand Rank. The sum of 10 Guineas was granted to each of the two Charities, the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls and that for Boys. The year was attended with sadness at the death of The Most Worshipful The Grand Master the Right Honourable The Earl of Harwood, KG, GCVO, DSO, for whom the Lodge went into Masonic Mourning. Also passed to the Grand Lodge Above were Bro. W. Michaux, Organist; Bro. F. Gare, Tyler and W.Bro. Almond, a Founder and Hon. Member, who died in Montivideo.

Dudley C. Willis was to become the next Master of Petersham in March 1948 and he enjoyed a busy year with two ceremonies at each of his meetings, which included three Initiations. [*Clearly the rule concerning only admitting one per year had been quietly forgotten.*] April saw the grant by the Lodge to the Masters list of 50 Guineas for the RMI for Boys, that being their 150 anniversary year. A letter was read at that meeting from the Royal Masonic Hospital which informed Brethren that the Minister of Health had disclaimed the hospital from the Transfer of Provision under the National Health Act. It was decided that the proceeds of the Charity Box on that occasion should go to the Hospital.

At the October Meeting, again attended by W.Bro. Lt-Col. Hamilton Wedderburn as our official visitor, the Lodge agreed to donate 10 Guineas to purchase London Grand Rank clothing for W.Bro. H.J. Gare. In January 1949 a letter from Shorts Ltd., the owners of the Greyhound, Richmond, informed members that the hire of the Temple would be increased from two to five Guineas per year. Cutbacks in expenditure had been discussed at a previous Committee Meeting, agreement centering on after dinner entertainment as the source of savings.

On 12th March 1949 Bro. William Wyatt became the 25th person to occupy the Chair of Petersham. Extracts from a letter from Grand Lodge were read in which Special Reference was made to the Loyal Message of Sympathy sent to The Most Worshipful Brother His Majesty The King, PGM on his illness. Also, congratulations were sent to Her Royal Highness Princess Elizabeth, and H.R.H. The Duke of Edinburgh, on the birth of their son.

In April the subs moved to 5 Guineas, payable half yearly in March and October. 20 Guineas was voted to the WM's list for the RMI for Girls. A committee was formed to organise the first Ladies Festival since the war, this to be held in February 1950. At a committee Meeting in October the decision to do away with the after dinner entertainment was rescinded and the sum of 15 Guineas was voted for the WM to spend on entertainment at the Festive Board. Silent Tribute was paid at the October Meeting to W.Bro. H. F. Elliott, WM 1945, who died in August and in November to Bro. R. J. Hawkins who died in October. The November also saw the Initiation of Mr A. John L. Allum, a young 24 year old shipping clerk who no doubt made his

father very proud. John went on to become the Worshipful Master in 1965 and from 1971 to 1972 was the ADC, going on to become the DC in 1973, a post he held with some distinction until 1984. Two Guineas was donated to the Royal Institute for the Blind.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### THE REMAINDER OF THE YEARS AT THE GREYHOUND

Bro. Frederick Read was the next to occupy the Chair of King Solomon, which he did on 11th March 1950, enjoying yet another busy year as far as ceremonies were concerned with two at each of his meetings. In April London Grand Rank clothing was presented to W. Bro Shorter. In October the Lodge stood in Silent Tribute to W.Bro. the Rev. G. F. Irwin, DD, PGChap. an Honorary Member of Petersham by virtue of being the Consecrating Chaplin. It is the first time the minute book records a Calling Off and a Calling On. Quite remarkable if true, particularly when one considers the work undertaken by some of the early Masters.

The November Meeting saw the donation of 20 Guineas from the Benevolent Fund to the WM's List for the RMH and 10 Guineas from Lodge funds to the RMBI. In January the Lodge again went into six months of Masonic Mourning for one of the Grand Masters, this time The Most Worshipful His Grace The Duke of Devonshire. Two Guineas were donated to The Marie Curie Cancer Relief Fund.

During the year the Committee had discussed the plight of an ailing W.Bro. and set aside the sum of £25 for the WM and Treasurer to apply at their discretion. Also, a letter received from Richmond Lodge asked for a donation towards the repair of their organ, the letter stating that Petersham had made use of this instrument for some time. The Committee disagreed with this point and, in what must have seemed a particularly perverse act, decided to have Bensteads overhaul the 'Petersham organ', at a cost of between £12 and £15. A sign of modern times appears, in that the minutes of the March 1950 Committee Meeting are signed in Biro!!

The 150th Meeting of the Lodge in March 1951 saw Bro. Edward R. Smith move into the Mastership of the Lodge. Again, for him, a busy year with two ceremonies worked at each Meeting. The additional matters included, donations from the Benevolent Fund to a sick Brother in urgent need of financial assistance of £25 and to the widow of a late Bro., also of £25; a Silent Tribute to the late W.Bro. Stone, WM in 1944; a donation of 2 Guineas to the Royal Institute for the Blind and of 20 Guineas to the WM's list for the Royal Masonic Hospital. W.Bro. G.S. Good was congratulated on his appointment to London Grand Rank.

On 12th January 1952, before the Lodge was opened, the first verse of the National Anthem was sung as an expression of Loyalty and Thankfulness for the recovery of His Majesty The King from his serious illness. With hindsight this appears incredibly inappropriate, as on the 16th February we find the Committee standing in silence, the last tribute of respect to The Most Worshipful Brother, His Late The Most Gracious Majesty, King George The Sixth, Past Grand Master.

Committee matters during that year centred heavily on charity, the daughter of one of the deceased Founders being supported, following information from the Secretary of another Lodge, with a donation. She later obtained an annuity from the Board of Benevolence. The widow of a brother was supported, both by Grants and by Petition to the Grand Lodge Board of Benevolence, but this petition was later discontinued.

In March 1952 Bro. George Yates was Installed at a meeting which stood in silent memory to the late King and to Bro. W. Shorter. The Lodge passed a resolution expressing 'its deep sorrow at



the death of His Majesty and offering its profound sympathy to Her Majesty the Queen and the Royal Family'.

The year was a full one with two ceremonies at each meeting, the highlight for the Master undoubtedly being the Initiation in November of his son Lewis Bryant Yates. At that same meeting the Treasurer announced that the Lodge had been constituted a Patron Lodge of the Royal Masonic Hospital, this following a final donation at the previous meeting to the RMH of 10 Guineas. 2 Guineas was donated to Institute for the Blind and 20 Guineas put on the Masters list for the RMBI.

The Committee again considered charitable matters during the year. In February '53 a letter was received from Lewis Yates, a civil engineer, asking to become a non-dining member due to appointments in Kuwait. Also at this meeting it was agreed that musical entertainment would be confined to the Installation Meetings only.

Bro. Herbert R. Walker was the next to become Master of Petersham in March '53, a meeting attended by three Grand Officers, as was fairly common by now, W.Bro. Lt-Col. Hamilton Wedderburn being one of them. At the April Meeting the Brethren stood in silent memory to Her Late Most Gracious Majesty Queen Mary and in October they again stood, this time in respect to W.Bro. A. Allum LGR, Founder and Past Master. The cost of LGR regalia for W.Bro. G.A. Fish would be defrayed and a letter was read from the Directors of the Greyhound Rooms stating that they were reluctantly compelled to raise their charges for dinners and the hire of rooms. In January 1954 Silent Tribute was again being paid, this time to W.Bro. H.F. Gare LGR who was, with Bro. L.J. Yates, one of Petersham's first Initiates.

The Committee dealt with matters such as the insurance of the Lodge furniture, cash, notes and cheques to the sum of £300; charity matters; the increased charges and a request from the organising secretary of a Lodge yet to be formed, who wished to hire Petersham furniture, working tools etc.

Installation came round again in March, Bro. George L. Nursaw being promoted on this occasion. Silent Tribute was paid to another Petersham member, Bro. A.A. Peckson, BEM. At the April Meeting the Annual subs for country members were set at one and one half Guineas, the dining fee to be 18/- and the visitors dining fee also 18/-.

Two ceremonies were worked at each of the meetings, the Initiate in October being Mr R. E. Godfrey and in November Mr B.S. Gray, both of whom went on to hold the highest office the Lodge has in its power to confer, Robert in 1968 and Bernard in 1969. Additionally, Robert served as Chaplain from 1980 to 1989 and Bernard as Secretary from 1975 to 1987; obviously two very well chosen and worthy candidates. Silent Tribute was paid in January to Bro. T. Atle. An Honorarium of 25 Guineas was approved for W.Bro. A. Shorter LGR, who had served as Treasurer since 1949 and was to go on to serve until 1963. A donation of 20 Guineas for the WM's list was approved.

In Committee thanks were expressed to W.Bro. F. G. Hill for the gift of four rest blocks for the wands; the purchase of a Steward's collar and collar badge was approved; in response to a request from the Tyler, his fee was increased to one and one half Guineas per meeting. Invitations had for several years been sent to Masters of other Lodges to attend the Installation Meetings and on this occasion they went to the WM's of Richmond, Seyenes, Sudbrook and Remigium Lodges.

March 1955 saw the Installation of Bro. Charles Hepworth into the chair in the presence of two Grand Officers attending as guests.

The April Meeting, at which Bro. Bernard Gray was Raised, was the last to be held at the Greyhound Hotel, Richmond, which had been the Lodge's home since the December 1923 meeting.

A letter from the management of the Greyhound Hotel was discussed at some length at a Committee meeting on 30th August 1955. This stated that, due to structural alterations, whilst a room could be made available for meetings, the dining facility would no longer be possible. A small committee was formed to investigate other possible new arrangements which later reported that the Star and Garter Hotel at Kew Bridge had been viewed and the opinion was that this was a suitable meeting place. Some changes would have to be made to the meeting dates in November and in April and there was a problem of storage space which meant that the 3 chairs, 3 pedestals, organ and carpet could not be stored. However, these could be hired from the Royal Alfred Lodge, No 970. It was proposed that the Lodge transfer to the Star and Garter Hotel.



*The Star & Garter Hotel, Kew - our third meeting place.  
(Photograph courtesy of Fuller Smith & Turner, plc)*

## CHAPTER SIX

### THE STAR AND GARTER, KEW, YEARS

On Saturday 8th October 1955, by Special Dispensation from Grand Lodge, the Lodge had its first meeting at its new location, the Star and Garter, Kew. Unfortunately no ceremony was conducted, only the third time this had occurred, but a Grand Lodge Certificate was presented.

The November meeting was the first occasion that a lecture was performed, Brother Stanley Michaux, assisted by W.Bro. E. R. Smith gave an exposition of Section two of the Second Lecture. LGR clothing was presented to W.Bro. A. J. Pratt. In January a candidate was Initiated and Silent Tribute was paid to Bro. W. Furse.

In addition to matters concerning the search for a new meeting place the committee empowered the Secretary to offer the Petersham furniture, at a charge of one Guinea per meeting if it was required, at any meeting which might be called to establish a Masonic Centre at The Star and Garter Hotel. The Tyler reported that the wands had been lost or misplaced.

Bro. James E. B. Powell was Installed on 10th March 1956, a meeting at which the members stood in Silent Tribute to W.Bro. E. E. Mills LGR, who had served the Lodge as WM during the years 1935 and 1936. Bro. D. Reay was thanked for the generous gift of a cabinet in which to store the Lodge regalia. At each meeting during W.Bro. Powells year two ceremonies were performed. November witnessed the Lodge standing in Silent Tribute to Bro. W. W. Pike and also at that meeting the decision to wear Evening Dress for the Installation Meeting was taken whilst at the January 1957 the Initiate was Mr Philip W. J. Smith, who went on to become Master in 1970 and is presently serving as Chaplain. 10 Guineas was placed on the WM's list for the R.M.H. Extension Fund.

During the year the Committee considered two approaches to be involved in supporting new Masonic Meeting places, firstly at The Star and Garter, Petersham and secondly by looking for a suitable building in Hanwell to purchase and convert. It was decided that no action would be taken to further either of these aims. Mrs Furse enquired about financial assistance for widows and a letter of explanation was sent to her. The Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, advised that the Charge per meeting would be 25/-.

The March 1957 meeting commenced by standing in Silent Tribute to the memory of the Late W.Bro. Lt-Col. H. Hamilton Wedderburn OBE, PGD who had passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 30th December 1956, a Consecrating Officer and Honorary Member of Petersham who had been a very regular attendee at meetings. Bro. Stanley A. G. Michaux was Installed in the Chair in the presence of two Grand Officers and a Notice of Motion to increase the amount of Relief in cases of urgent distress from 2 to 5 Guineas was on the Agenda.

During the other meetings that year Honorary Membership was conferred upon W.Bro. J. W. Scott LGR, W.Bro. J.W.J. Samels LGR and W.Bro. W. H. Skeet LGR, all PMs and Founders of Petersham. Silent Tribute was paid to Bro. J. C. Elvin in April and to Bro. G. C. Stedman in November.

The Committee met routinely, discussing a letter in December from Bro. E. R. Norton, in which he expressed his wish to go through the Chair in one years time due to illness, the result being that Bro. H. V. Wilson, the Junior Warden, was voted Master Elect in January.



The Installation of Bro. Herbert V. Wilson, in 1958, was preceded by a Silent Tribute to another of the Founders and a Past Master, W.Bro. J.W. Scott LGR, who went through the Chair in 1931. W.Bro. Wilson went on to enjoy a full year, each of the meetings dealing with two ceremonies. In April yet another Silent Tribute occurred, this time to Bro. E.B. Shaw who had been Initiated in October 1925. In October a Notice of Motion appears on the summons, to defray the cost of LGR clothing for W.Bro. W. Clough, also that the sum of 20 Guineas from the Benevolent Fund be given to the Samaritan Fund of the RMH. In November further gifts of 10 Guineas were made from the Benevolent Fund to each of the RMIB, the RMIG and the RMBI. In January 1959 Mr Sidney Frank Smith, a brother of Philip Smith who had joined 2 years earlier, was initiated. Sidney, or Frank as he is known in the Lodge, is the only Grand Officer currently in the Lodge. He served in the Chair in 1973, going on to become Charity Steward from 1977 to 1981 when he became Treasurer, a post he held until 1988. As well as Provincial Rank in Surrey Frank also holds Provincial Rank in Middlesex, being a founder of Malines Lodge.

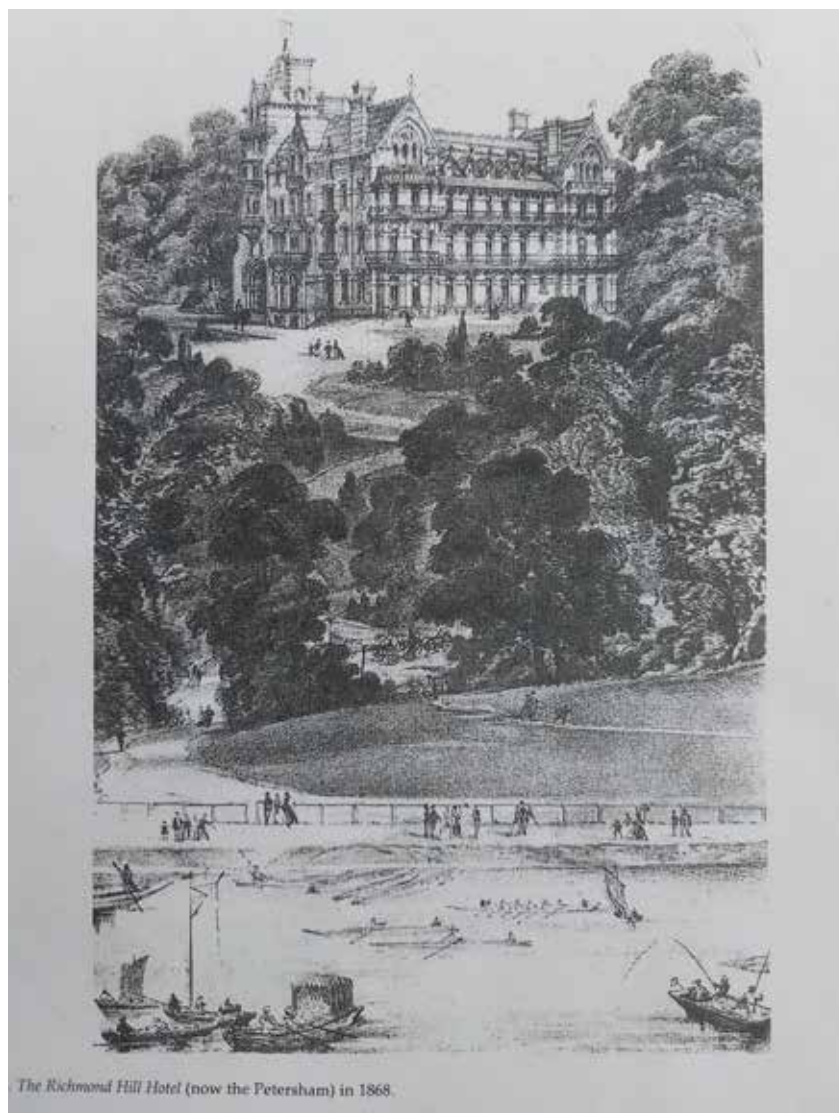
In Committee, notice was received from Grand Lodge of the Death of the Grand Secretary The R. W.Bro. Sir Sidney White, KCVO and the appointment of the Deputy Grand Secretary W.Bro. J.W. Stubbs to take his place as Grand Secretary. The £100 Defence Bonds 2½ % which the Lodge had purchased in 1941 [*they were 3% then, what happened to the other ½%?*] were redeemable on November 1st 1958 and it was decided to place the money in the Lodge Bank Accounts with Barclays Bank.

The 14th March 1959 saw Bro. Ernest R. Norton honoured with the Mastership of Petersham, and at that meeting Bro. Secretary reported that the widow of the late Bro. Elvin had made an application for their daughter Barbara, then aged 5 years, to receive the benefits of the RMIG. The petition was unanimously approved by the Brethren and in April a letter was read from the RMIG which acknowledged receipt of it. Subsequently, at a Committee Meeting on 17th September, a letter was read from the RMIG stating that the Committee had recommended a grant of £75 per annum until Barbara reached the age of 8 years, when it was hoped that a place in the junior school would be available.

At the October meeting the brethren stood to order in Silent Tribute to W.Bro. G. S. Good LGR, Master of Petersham in 1941 and Director of Ceremonies from 1947 to 1959. A proposition by Bro. Reg. G. Farrow that Petersham form a Lodge of Instruction was referred to the General Purpose Committee. In November a formal proposition 'That, subject to the approval of the M.W. The Grand Master, a Petersham Lodge of Instruction be formed forthwith'. This was carried unanimously and at the January Meeting Reg announced that the meetings would be held at the Railway Inn, Isleworth at 7.30 p.m. 25 Guineas was granted for the WM's list for the RMH from the Lodge Benevolent Fund.

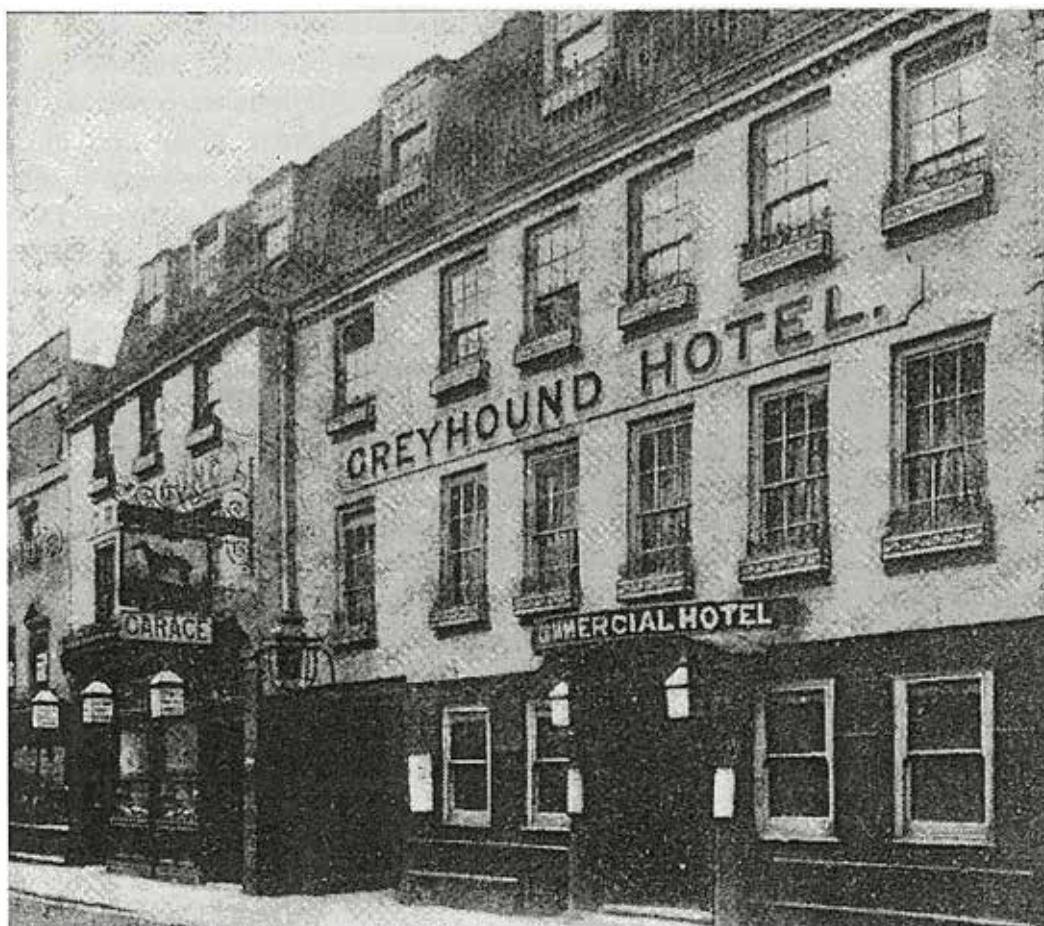
The Committee received a letter from the widow of the Late W.Bro. Good requesting financial assistance, and a grant of 10 Guineas was made to her. Unfortunately the appeals to the Benevolent Fund of Grand Lodge and the RMBI had revealed that Mrs Good was ineligible for assistance until she reached the age of 60 years. A further meeting on 10th Feb agreed that Syenes Lodge No. 4900 be allowed to use certain of our Lodge furnishing Requisites, subject to a charge of 10/6 per meeting. The Dress regalia bequeathed to the Lodge by W.Bro. Good would be renovated and a set of undress regalia purchased in anticipation of the appointment to LGR of W.Bro. D. C. Willis. A report from Grand Lodge had sanctioned the formation of a Lodge of Instruction to be held at The Railway Inn, Isleworth and it was proposed to hold the first meeting on 16th March 1960 at 7.0 p.m. A loan of 5 Guineas was made to enable the LOI to meet its initial costs.





*Four Past Masters' breast jewels, showing various artists' interpretations of the New Star and Garter Hotel*





*The Greyhound Hotel, Richmond - our second meeting place*



*Founders' Jewels*

The March meeting Installed Bro. Reginald Farrow into the Chair, and also voted on a gift of 10 Guineas from the Benevolent fund to the widow of a deceased brother; the increase in the annual subs to 6 Guineas and in the fee for Initiation to 25 Guineas. All these were carried. In April Bro. D. Reay was thanked for his services in keeping the honours board up to date, and in October the Lodge silently remembered Bro. W. Gibbings and Bro. R.F. Phillips. It was also formally agreed to defray the cost of LGR regalia for W.Bro. D.C. Willis and that 10 Guineas would be put on the WM's list for the RMI for Boys from the Lodge Benevolent Fund. At the November meeting two candidates were initiated by W.Bro. G.E. Yates, one of whom was his son Mr Edward G. Yates.

The Committee met in April to discuss the disposal of items of Lodge furniture which had been in store for five years - one organ [mahogany], three wooden dias, two kneeling stools, three pedestals, three small pedestals, one black and white carpet, three large chairs, three wooden candlesticks and three wooden stands for wands. After interviewing the Manager of the Star and Garter Hotel, it was proposed to sell this furniture for the best figure that could be negotiated. An amendment that we do not sell the items but hire them out was suggested by Bro. Shorter but fell on a vote. A subsequent vote carried the original motion, and the Secretary was instructed to write a letter in these terms to the Manager of the Star and Garter, the price to be sought being £65. At Committee in September a letter from J. T. Davis & Co. Ltd, the Managers of the Star and Garter, agreed to the purchase at the asking price. It was agreed that all telephone charges concerning Lodge business should be paid for by the Lodge, and the Secretary was instructed to purchase three sets of gauntlets. At the February meeting the WM, as Secretary of the newly formed Lodge of Instruction, reported on its first years work.

Bro. Alfred Shorter DFC was the next member of Petersham to occupy the Chair of King Solomon, which he did on 11th March 1961, the 200th Meeting. A full year ensued with two ceremonies being performed at each meeting. October 1961 was a special meeting for W.Bro. F.G. Hill as he gave the Charge After Initiation to his son Anthony, the first of a number of candidates to come from the Fingerprint Branch at New Scotland Yard. Tony went on to the Chair in 1974, was Assistant Director of Ceremonies in 1984 and then DC from 1985 to 1992. He is currently the Treasurer elect. In November a further initiation occurred which saw another relative performing the Charge, this time W.Bro. Stan Michaux for his blood brother Henry. 10 Guineas was voted from the Benevolent fund to the WM's list for the RMIG and the By-laws were updated. In January the Late W.Bro. E.R. Norton, the WM in 1959, was the subject of a Silent Tribute.

During the year the committee considered a request from the Tyler for an increase in payment for services rendered. It was agreed, at the March meeting, that 2 Guineas per meeting would be paid, but, as at the September meeting it was reported that Bro. Ritchie had resigned, perhaps he felt that this was inadequate. Also in September the purchase of a cable tow, a blindfold, a slipper and a pair of compasses was agreed. The minutes for this meeting are written in Biro for the first time. In October the Acting Organist, no doubt having got wind of the increase achieved by the Tyler, asked for and got an increase to 2 Guineas per meeting. The question of purchasing a Lodge Banner was to remain on the table for further enquiries concerning costs etc.

*[Readers should not take the lapse of 37 years between this item first being discussed and the Ceremony in 1998 as an indication of the speed with which the Lodge deals with matters of importance.]*