

Finally, in February, the Committee considered a petition from Mrs Lavinia Farrell, the widow of a Founder, which they agreed to support, subject to further enquiry, which two brethren offered to undertake.

The 1962 the March meeting commenced with Silent Tribute being paid to Bro. L. Tickner and then carried on with the Installation of Bro. Desmond Reay. The meeting also agreed to support the Petition for Mrs Farrell. Silent Tribute also started the meeting in April, this time for the Late W.Bro. G.A. Fish LGR, who had served the Chair of Petersham during 1939. In October yet again the meeting commenced on a sad note, this time standing in Silent Tribute to W.Bro. J.W.J. Samels LGR, a Founder, Past Master from his year in the chair in 1928, but who had also conducted the business of the Lodge during 1929, due to the untimely death, three days after the ceremony, of the newly installed Worshipful Master. At the November Meeting the donation of £50 from the Benevolent Fund to the widow of a deceased member was approved. The Lodge also supported a Petition to the Board of Benevolence on behalf of the widow of Bro. Gibbings and voted 10 Guineas onto the WM's list for the RMBI. January again saw the meeting commence with Silent Tribute, on this occasion to Bro. C.T. Brown.

The Lodge Committee dealt with information received from the Tyler to the effect 'that other Lodges were making unauthorised use of use of Petersham Lodge Furnishings'. After considerable discussion it was resolved to put a new lock on the cupboard. The WM announced that he intended to support the Festival of the RMBI to be held on 26th February 1963 and that his Ladies Night would be held at the Red Lion, Hounslow on 14th January 1963.

Information concerning the Western Masonic Centre Committee was received and it was agreed that the Secretary should ask to be kept informed of the progress concerning this Masonic centre for London. Replacement collars for the Deacons were authorised and it was agreed that the Charity lists of the next two Worshipful Masters would be combined to achieve a good subscription for the Boys Institution in 1964, this being sponsored by the Province of London. An Officer, who had repeatedly failed to attend during the year, was written to by the Secretary concerning his advancement to the next post and had replied to the effect that he would be able to attend more frequently.

March 1963 saw the Installation of Bro. F. G. Hill into the Chair and in April he was in action Initiating Mr Norman E. Newson. Norman progressed to the Chair in 1978, was Treasurer from 1989 to 1994 and at the time of writing is the ADC. However, he has agreed to be recycled through the chair and to this effect he will be appointed as Inner Guard in March '98. A further Initiation of a current member occurred in January 1964. Mr Leslie Pinfold was the Candidate on this occasion and, although Leslie has not occupied the Chair in Lodge, he did perform the duties of Charity Steward from 1982 to 1989. He was rewarded with the rank of Provincial Grand Steward in consequence of that work. Unusually, the Junior Warden, Bro. John Allum, gave the charge after Initiation.

In addition to the above and other ceremonies performed, it was agreed during the year to defray the cost of LGR clothing for W.Bro. W. Wyatt LGR and to donate 10 Guineas from the Benevolent fund to the WM's list for the RMI for Boys. The success of a Petition to the Benevolent Institution on behalf of Mrs Gibbings was announced, the annuity being £120. Silent Tributes were made to the memories of Bro. H. Warman in April and to W.Bro. A Shorter LGR in January.

The Lodge Committee met and considered several matters concerning the welfare of various widows of past members; the asked for increase to 3 Guineas of the Tyler's fee, which it

approved; support for the Western Masonic Centre, for which the policy of continuing to keep a watching brief was agreed and the proposal to recommend that the Lodge Fees be increased to £6.16s.6d, non-dining fees to £2 and the dining fee for Visitors and non-dining members to £1.

The next Master to be Installed in the Chair of King Solomon was Bro. Leonard J. Hughes, this occurring on 14th March 1964. In addition to the usual ceremonies, the approval of the increases in subscriptions and the Tyler's fee, discussed in Committee the previous year, was approved. In October Bro. John Allum, now the Senior Warden, was again in action during the ceremonies, this time delivering an explanation of the Second Degree Tracing Board and in November Bro. A. Keddle, the Junior Deacon, was called on to perform this same task. A message of congratulation from the Grand Master to the London Grand Rank Association was read, which referred to the sum donated to the 1964 Boys' Festival. A letter of thanks from the widow of Bro. J. Ritchie, the Lodge Tyler from 1947 to 1961, for the wreath and expressions of sympathy was read to members at the October meeting. A further 10 Guineas was donated from the Benevolent Fund for the WM's list for the RMI for Boys' 1964 Festival.

Committee matters included consideration of a letter from the management of the Star and Garter advising of the increase in the cost of all meals by 1d. Syenes Lodge wrote to express appreciation for the use of Petersham furnishings for many years. Further matters concerning widows, in particular an application by Mrs Farrell to be considered for a place in one of the Masonic Homes, were dealt with.

The March 1965 meeting, which Installed Bro. Alfred John L. Allum into the highest Office the Lodge is empowered to bestow, commenced with Silent Tribute being paid to Bro. F. Carter, a long time member being the 8th Initiate into Petersham. A letter from his son, W.Bro. R.F. Carter, was read later in the meeting, expressing his thanks for the floral tribute from the Lodge and messages of support and regret.

During his year of Office W.Bro. John initiated Mr Robert C. Turner who went on to become Worshipful Master in 1980. Silent Tributes were made during the year to Bro. G.E. Irwin, Bro. H.T. Perry and to W.Bro. E.J. Michaux. 10 Guineas was donated to the WM's list for the RMBI from the Benevolent Fund and the Lodge agreed to defray the cost of LGR regalia for W.Bro. F. Read.

In Committee, the members dealt with a letter from the Brother who had been written to by the Secretary in 1963 concerning his non attendance whilst acting as Inner Guard, who was now asking to be relieved of his duties as JW. A potential candidate withdrew his application, being unable to attend meetings on Saturdays and the Management of the Star and Garter discussed with Bro. Secretary the concerns felt over the numbers present at meetings, asking him to achieve an increase in attendance or consider moving the meetings to another day of the week.

On 12th March 1966, once again, the Installation Meeting commenced in Silent Tribute to a Late Brother, this time Bro. P.H. Taylor, following which Bro. Douglas W. Bird was to have the honour to become WM. After a double ceremony in April, Bro. Secretary raised the question of the Grand Master's 250th Anniversary Fund, pointing out that the Petersham contribution would be £80. It was agreed that this sum be taken from the Lodge Benevolent Fund, to be reimbursed as the Treasurer collected £1 from each member. 10 Guineas was placed on the WM's list for the RMBI.

Two candidates were initiated at both the November and January meetings, the Charge after Initiation being given at the first by Bro. Robert Godfrey, the then JW, and at the second by Bro.

P. Rawkins, who was not even invested as a Steward, this being done at the following Installation Meeting. At the January meeting one of the candidates was a Mr H.T. John Cane, another current member, who went on to be the WM in 1981 and served as Secretary from 1988 till 1996.

The Committee meeting minutes show discussion on the cost of printing copies of the list of members; an acknowledgement for the donation made to the 250th Anniversary Fund; notice of an increase of 1/- per head for meals and 2/- per bottle for wine and the proposition that three consecutive Masters combine to support one of the Charities, thus making the total contributed a good figure. As a special effort was to be made to support Sir Allan Adair's appeal for the RMBI 1968 Festival, it was agreed that this should be the first to benefit. Three further collars were to be purchased to replace those badly worn.

Bro. Alistair P. Keddie was Installed in the Chair in March 1967 and enjoyed a full year, two ceremonies being performed at each meeting. In April the candidate was Mr Peter Jones who went on to become WM in 1982 and again in 1988. He also served as Charity Steward from 1990 to 1996 and is, at the time of writing, engaged on preparing this history in his capacity as the Secretary of the Lodge. In October Mr Peter Davidge was the candidate. Although Peter did not assume Office in Petersham he did go through the Chair in the Malines Lodge, of which he was one of the Founding Members, being concerned that, in view of the number of Brethren in the chain before him, age might preclude him from doing this at Petersham. At that meeting a copy of Nigerian ritual in Braille was donated to Bro. Charlie Redford by Bro. Peter Rawkins. A regular visitor at that time was Brother, later to become W.Bro., John Lewis who was also unsighted. Both enjoyed their Masonry enormously. In November the usual 10 Guineas was donated to the WM's list and at the January Meeting it was agreed that the cost of LGR regalia for W.Bro. G. E. Yates be met by the Lodge.

During 'Alec' Keddie's year the Committee discussed the suggestion that Grand Lodge communications be circulated to the Brethren in precise form from the printers, the cost involved to be researched. However, Grand Lodge, in their reply, indicated that this was not an option in favour at that time. A speaker on the Charities would be sought with particular reference to making donations by covenant. The Star and Garter informed the members that the rental for the Temple would increase to £2 per meeting, following the purchase of a new electric organ. Discussion took place on whether the Lodge should continue to defray the cost of full LGR regalia, the decision being to continue the practice for the time being.

Brother Robert Godfrey was the next to be elected to the position of Worshipful Master and was duly Installed in March 1968. Again a full year, with two ceremonies being worked at each meeting. At the April Meeting the candidate Initiated was Mr V. Wilson and the whole ceremony was conducted by the then Secretary and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, W.Bro. H.V. Wilson, his father. Silent Tribute was paid to two Brethren during the year, Bro. F. Bassett MBE and W.Bro. W.H. Skeet LGR, a Founder, Past Master and Honorary Member. Honorary Membership was conferred on W.Bro. A.T. Platt, the usual 10 Guineas was put on the WM's list and it was proposed and confirmed that the application by the widow of a deceased Brother for accommodation in one of the Masonic Homes would be supported.

The Committee dealt with several matters concerning charity, one being the application for accommodation referred to at the full meeting notes above. The Star and Garter Management introduced a minimum figure of 50 for Saturday Lodge dinners and stated that they reserved the right to accommodate diners in the Lodge room. They required a form to be signed, absolving them from any responsibility for the loss or damage to Lodge property, a form which the Secretary was instructed to sign on behalf of the Lodge. In February a report concerning the

financial difficulties being experienced by the Lodge of Instruction, due to rent increases for the room in which it was held, was discussed, the decision being to sound out the feelings of the Lodge before taking action. The formation of a Charities Association was also raised and further details were to be obtained.

March 1969 saw Bro. Bernard Gray Installed in the Chair of King Solomon, preceded by a Silent Tribute to Bro G.E. Baverstock. At that meeting the plight of the LOI was put to the Brethren and the General Purposes Committee was asked to reconsider the matter and formulate concrete proposals for the Lodge to consider. At the April Meeting a ballot was taken for W.Bro. E.J. Luke, a potential joining member, which proved unanimous.

The October meeting was a very special one for Bernard as he Initiated his son Richard into the Lodge. Richard went through the Chair in 1984, was ADC in 1993 and took over as DC in 1994, a position he still holds. 1 Guinea was donated to the LGR Hospital Appeal, W.Bro. Ernie Luke was welcomed into the Lodge and a letter from the Grand Master concerning the appointment of R.W.Bro. The Earl of Cadogan as Pro.GM and the R.W.Bro. Major General Sir Allan Adair as Deputy GM. In November 10 Guineas was donated to the WM's list for the RMI for Boys and in January a Silent Tribute was paid to Bro. G. Comley.

At Committee, it was decided not to proceed with the formation of a Lodge Charities Association, covenants could be by arrangement with the RMI for Girls. The Lodge of Instruction would be supported in the sense that the Lodge would underwrite any deficits which might occur. However, the position was alleviated during the summer by a move from the Railway Inn, Isleworth to the South Western Hotel, Hounslow. [*The Lodge did seem to be pre-occupied with trains; the Hotel sign was an engine in Great Western livery.*] Charity matters included the discussions on Mrs Bassett's application to be housed in a Masonic Home which, sadly, did not look likely to be approved. In October W.Bro. Keddie offered to have the Honours Board repaired and updated, but a decision was deferred due to the fluid situation at the Star and Garter. In November the committee were informed of a change of management at the Star and Garter.

Bro. Philip Smith was Installed into the Chair in March 1970, a meeting at which the all too familiar Silent Tribute was given to Bro. H H. Wild. In April it was agreed to donate £100 from the Benevolent Fund to RMH Redevelopment and modernisation Fund. By-laws 9 and 12 be amended to increase the dining fees in each to £1.10s. In brackets the sum is shown as £1.50, the first reference to decimalisation. October saw a letter of thanks and congratulation, confirming that the Lodge had achieved the status of Patron for the RMI for Boys. In November a Silent Tribute was paid to Bro. T. G. Lenn. Rule 8 was to be amended to increase the annual subs to £10, and Rule 11 to increase the Initiation Fees to £27.50 and joining Fee to £10. The Lodge agreed to defray the cost of LGR clothing for W.Bro. Powell, and to send some Christmas cheer to W. Bro Platt, an Honorary Member.

During the year the Committee again considered the costs involved in defraying the expense involved in purchasing LGR regalia. It was finally decided in November that only the cost of Undress Regalia would be met by the Lodge. Other matters included making enquiries of the Association for the Blind concerning the amount of help received from that source by one of the widows, Mrs Lenn, who might need assistance.

In March 1971, the 250th regular meeting of the Lodge, Bro. Cyril F. Sandy was elevated to the Chair for a busy year, taking part in, or presiding over, two ceremonies at each meeting. The November meeting saw another first for Petersham, the initiation of two blood brothers and sons



of a member, Bro. Eddie Barker, the Inner Guard, who gave the Charge after Initiation. [*The Secretary can remember the look of horror which appeared on the face of Bro. Barker when the result of the ballot, which had been taken for both candidates at once, showed six votes against. Two subsequent ballots, one for each of the brothers, were unanimously in favour of each. The Past Masters were showing their disapproval of time saving, but irregular, practice.*] £10.50 was voted to the WM's list for the RMBI, and Silent Tributes paid to Bro. A.J. Taylor and Bro. A.C. Richards.

In committee much discussion centred on what should be done to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the Lodge and a sub committee was formed to undertake this task. It was reported that the widow, Mrs Lenn, did not appear to need financial assistance and indeed, at a subsequent meeting, it was reported that although she had been offered and accepted a place in a local Blind Home, she had changed her mind and refused the offer.

On 11th March 1972, Bro. Kenneth Jones was Installed into the Chair of Petersham. At that meeting W.Bro. E.R. Smith was made an Honorary Member. Again, a busy year was in prospect with two ceremonies being worked at each meeting, two of these being doubles. In April a Silent Tribute was given to a distinguished member, W.Bro. A.T. Pratt, who had been initiated in 1926, achieved the Mastership in 1943, granted LGR in 1955 and made an Honorary Member in 1968. In October the Lodge agreed to donate £100 to the General Purpose Fund of the RM Hospital. In November it was agreed to defray the cost of LGR undress regalia for W.Bro. Stan Michaux and in January £20 was voted from the Benevolent Fund to the WM's list for the RMIG.

The Committee continued to be involved with discussions concerning how the 50th anniversary should be celebrated. In July it was decided that previously discussed arrangements, involving the meeting being held at Great Queen Street and dining at the Connaught Rooms, were too ambitious. It was agreed that celebrations should be held in association with the Installation Meeting at the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge. 3 Officers from Grand Lodge would be invited. At a further meeting in November it was decided that the dining fee would be £3 for this occasion, and Bro S.F. Smith produced a rough format of an Anniversary Brochure in order that an estimated cost for printing could be established. In January approval was given to print 200 copies of the Anniversary Brochure and it was agreed to accept guests at the Festive Board only if prepaid tickets had been purchased by members. Bro. L.J. Yates, the first initiate, would be invited as a guest of the Lodge.

The 260th Meeting, held on 10th March 1973, witnessed the completion of 50 years and was marked by the Installation of Bro. S. Frank Smith into the Chair of Petersham. Grand Lodge was represented by V.W.Bro. G.P. Bulman, Past Grand Sword Bearer. Bro. Lewis Yates, the first initiate, was carried up the stairs in his wheelchair by several willing hands to enable him to enter the Lodge. 67 visitors were present on the occasion to witness a very proficient ceremony and happy occasion. Bro. Peter Jones, on behalf of members past and present who regularly attended the LOI, presented the WM with three inscribed goblets 'to be used, in perpetuity by the WM, SW and JW for the time being, at the Festive Board'. The additional business during the year included the donation at the April Meeting to each of the four Masonic Charities of £50 to mark the 50th Anniversary Celebrations. This meeting was graced with the presence of W.Bro. J. Davison the Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works. Silent Tribute was paid to Bro. F. Simmons at the October meeting and during the year Annual Subs were increased to £16, non dining fees to £3.50, Dining fees to £2 and Initiation Fees to £30. The sum of £20 was placed on the WM's list for the RMH who had, earlier in the year, circulated an appeal for increased support.

The committee had a relatively quiet year, the major decision taken by them being that members who attended the Audit Meeting should meet the cost of the meal provided on that occasion themselves. *[A lodge elder offers the perhaps cynical view that the only reason this meeting was well attended, prior to this decision being taken, was the free meal on offer.]*

Brother 'Tony' C. Hill was the 50th person to occupy the Chair of King Solomon which he did on March 9th 1974. Visitors on this occasion included two Grand Officers, W.Bro. J. Davison, AGSuptWks and V. W.Bro. G.P. Bulman, PGSwdB. In April Bro. Secretary informed the brethren that, at the A.G.M. of the LOI, a proposition was taken to make the annual subscription of £2.50 payable in advance in April each year, and expressed the hope that more members would join. At the November meeting Mr Robert Redford, son of Bro. Charles Redford, was Initiated. Robert has remained a member of Petersham despite living and working in Scotland for many years, a situation which has precluded him from attendance on all but a few occasions. At that meeting £25 was placed on the WM's list for the RMI for Boys from the Benevolent Fund. In January Silent Tribute was paid to two long standing members, W.Bro. D.C. Willis LGR, Initiated in 1931, WM in 1938, LGR in 1960 and made an Honorary Member in 1965, and to Bro. R. Kempthorn.

In Committee discussions included the fee for the Acting Organist, which was increased to £3.10, increased charges by the Star and Garter in their current seasons menus and an increase in the Tyler's fee to £5.

Bro. 'Eddie' Barker was Installed in the Chair in 1975, W.Bro. J. Davison, AGSuptWks, again being present as he was at the following, April, meeting at which £250 from the Lodge Benevolent Fund was donated to the RMH. A letter was read from the Hospital regarding the admittance of fee-paying non-masonic patients. A further letter from the RMI for Boys concerned steps being taken to admit sons of Freemasons to the School as fee paying pupils. Clearly the writing was on the wall concerning the future of both these institutions.

In October Silent Tribute was being paid to W.Bro. W. Clough, LGR, Initiated in 1930, WM in 1946, LGR in 1958 and passed to the Grand Lodge Above in July. Also, the death of the Acting Organist, Bro. G.T. Hall, who had played at Petersham since 1950, no less than 25 years, was marked in the same manner. £1 was donated to the LGRA Welfare Fund.

In November news was received and communicated of Bro 'Rex' Roberts, who had been initiated into Petersham in January 1972 and who was now resident in South Africa. Rex went on to become a founder of the first multi-racial Lodge in South Africa, of which he became WM in 1983. He was given District Grand Rank in 1988 - PDGStdB - and promoted to DAGDC for the Transvaal in 1991. Sadly Rex passed to the Grand Lodge Above on 21st August 1995. At the January meeting £25 was donated from the Benevolent fund to the WM's list for the RMBI and a motion passed allowing the Committee to vary the subs at their discretion.

In Committee, news of the decision that the Boys School would close by August 1977 was received with sadness. Discussion took place on a new format for the Summons and Agenda, and it was noted in January 1976 that the strength of the Lodge stood at 51 full members and 29 country members.

March 1976 saw the Installation of Bro. Leslie Green, again in the presence of W.Bro. Davison who was becoming a very regular attendee and friend to many in the Lodge. The Fees were set at £20 per annum for full membership and £5 for country membership. The April meeting dealt

with the alteration to By-Law 11, making the Initiation Fee £35 and the Joining Fee £15. By-Law 12 alterations saw the Visitor and Country Member Dining Fee increase to £3.

Silent Tribute to W.Bro. C. Hepworth, Initiated in 1937, WM in 1955, was paid at the November Meeting, and in January the by now usual donation of £25 was put on the Master's List for the RMI for Boys. In the Grand Lodge Communications details were given of the proposed Grand Officers' Visiting Scheme for London Lodges. A letter of appeal was received from the RM Hospital, indicating the need for greater assistance. At this time a very serious fire, following a burglary, all but destroyed the Star and Garter and the next two meetings were held by Special Dispensation at the Red Lion Hotel, Hounslow in Middlesex.

In March 1977 the Brethren stood to Order in respect for W.Bro. Alec Keddie, W.Bro. S.F. Smith delivering an oration in his memory. This was followed by the Installation of Bro. John M. Foster. In April W.Bro. R.E. Godfrey gave an Oration for Bro. A. Sheldon, who had died in Hospital on the Sunday following the Installation Meeting at which he would have moved from Junior to Senior Deacon. As a result, the Steward who had been asked to stand in for Archie as JD in March got the job of acting SD for the remainder of the year. Following that Oration W.Bro. Davison, our visiting Grand Officer, gave an Oration for W.Bro. H. Clark, the late Tyler of Petersham, who had supported the Lodge since 1970. It was proposed and carried that, as from September that year, subscriptions would be £25 per annum, Dining fees for visitors and Country Members be £3.75, Initiation Fee be £40 and Joining Fee be £20. Also proposed and carried that £50 be donated to the RMH in memory of W.Bro. A. Keddie.

In October, back in the newly refurbished Star and Garter, Silent Tribute was paid to W.Bro. L. Hughes who had joined Petersham in 1948 and served as the WM in 1964. W.Bro. F. Read gave an Oration. Silent Tribute was also paid to Bro. W.G. House. In November yet another death was being remembered in Silent Tribute, this time W.Bro. R.F. Carter who had been initiated at the age of 20 years and 10 months in 1925, being a Lewis, and appointed WM in 1942. At that meeting it was resolved to make a contribution from the Benevolent Fund to the RMH of £50 in memory of the Late W. Bro L. Hughes and to commemorate the excellent services he had performed in the Offices of Charity Steward - he was the first to fill this post when it was introduced in 1976 - and then Almoner, an office he held from 1970 to 1975.

The Committee discussed the advisability, or otherwise, of a permanent meeting place in a Masonic Centre and decided to keep the matter under consideration. Also, because of the past association between Petersham and Syenes Lodge, the serving Worshipful Master would be invited to Installation Meetings.

Bro. Norman Newson was the next to occupy the Chair of King Solomon, which he did on 11th March 1978 a meeting which had begun on a sad note with Silent Tribute to a long time visitor and friend of Petersham, W.Bro. J. Davison PAGSuptWks. These were difficult financial times, as can be seen by the motion repeated below, which was put and carried.

"That, to combat severe increase in expenditure due to inflation, and to regularize Lodge finances...

- 1 a.) Subscriptions for the period March to December '78 be £35, payable in two instalments in March and September.  
b.) Country members subs £6 for the same period (By-Law 8).
- 2 As from 1st Jan. '79, Subs will become due and payable on the 1st January and 1st July annually.
- 3 Dining Fees for Visitors and Country Members to be £5, increase to apply to March '78

- Installation Meeting and thereafter, until amended.
- 4 Initiation Fee to be £50 and joining members fee to be £25.
  - 5 That New Members [*Initiate and Joining Members*] subscriptions shall be proportionally reduced to cover only the un-expired period to 31st December each year.

At the April meeting, which commenced with a Silent Tribute to Bro. H.E. Michaux, in the Risings, a letter was read from the RMH refuting any suggestion of the closure of the Hospital. Also the report of the AGM of the Hospital, showing that, although annual expenditure exceeded income, progress had been made since the previous year to reduce this amount. The modernisation programme was also going to plan. In October a further Silent Tribute was paid to Bro. F.H. Drube and congratulations given to W.Bro. Reg. Farrow on receiving LGR. In October Bro.T. Davies was welcomed as a Joining Member, and the donation of £25 to the WM's list for the RMIG was approved. At the January Meeting the all too familiar Silent Tribute was again being paid, this time to W.Bro. E.R. Smith, Initiated in 1934, WM in 1951, and to Bro. A.J. Fisher.

The Committee passed a vote of thanks early in the year to W.Bro. Farrow for renovating the Tracing Boards; discussed cutting the Meetings to four per year, deciding not to action this proposal; looked at ways in which attendance at the LOI might be improved; recommended that 'and the 1st July' be deleted from By-Law 8 to comply with a Grand Lodge request that Lodge Dues be shown as yearly, not half yearly. The widows would receive a Christmas donation of £10, a sum which would also be sent to Master Mark House, the son of Bro. Frank House. Christmas cards would be sent to widowers in the Lodge.

In November it was reported to the Committee that all possible help had been extended to Mrs House and at the February Meeting a letter from Grand Lodge was read, which set out the correct form for the first three toasts at the Festive Board, i.e. all honorifics should be omitted.

Bro. 'Bill' T. Kew was the next to occupy the Chair, doing so on 10th March 1979. In October Silent Tribute was paid to Bros. A.R. Pulham and R. Massey and a proposal that £750 be donated from the Lodge Benevolent Fund to the RMIG, the RMIB and the RMBI, to enable the Lodge to become a Patron of each, was passed. At the November Meeting, which was graced with an official visit from W.Bro. Elford PAGSwdB, the revised obligation in the first degree was discussed and at the following meeting in January Brethren were informed that the 'Alternative Wording' in the book of Emulation Ritual would be adopted by the Lodge. Also that meeting saw a further increase in the Visitors' and Country Members' dining fees, to £6.50, and in the Country Members' Subscriptions to £10 annually.

In Committee, discussions had taken place on the change to the wording in the Obligations; the Organist and Tyler would each receive £7.50 per meeting and cheques would again be sent to widows and again to Mark House.

Bro. 'Bob' Turner was Installed on 8th March 1980, a meeting at which it was proposed and carried that the date of the January meeting be changed to the fourth Saturday, instead of the second. At the April Meeting W.Bro. R.E. Godfrey presented the Lodge with a suitable engraved Volume of the Sacred Law, to be used on the WM's pedestal, and W. Bro S.F. Smith presented an inscribed cushion on which it would rest. Both were thanked accordingly. In October Silent Tribute was paid to W. Bro J.E.B. Powell LGR, W. Bro F.G. Hill and Bro J. Heatherington. In November the now familiar round of increases in subscriptions took the Annual Subscription to £52, the Country Membership Dues to £12, the Visitors and Dining Fees to £8, the Initiation Fees to £60 and the Joining Fee to £30. £30 was donated to WM's list for the RMIG from the Benevolent Fund and W.Bro. J. Allum was saluted with three on his appointment to LGR.



In Committee, the Christmas donations were again approved as for the previous year and discussions continued concerning the Masonic Centre at Hanwell, which brethren from other Lodges were discussing setting up. The Secretary and a Past Master from Petersham kept a watching brief at meetings held to discuss this matter.

The 300th regular meeting of the Lodge occurred on 14th March 1981, at which Bro. H.T. John Cane was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon. The October meeting paid Silent Tribute to W.Bro. D.K. Jones who had served the post of Treasurer through the difficult years 1976 to 1980, as recorded above. In November £50 was donated to the Imperial Cancer Research Fund in memory of W.Bro. Ken Jones and £30 was placed on the WM's list for the RMH. In January a letter from Grand Lodge informed the Brethren that 'The Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis OBE, DL was now the Deputy Grand Master'. At this meeting the candidate was a Mr Graham Gatland. Graham achieved the Chair himself in 1990, acted as Tyler for the Lodge during a difficult period for that office in 1994, is currently the Charity Steward and has been a stalwart of the Lodge of Instruction, in which he holds the joint Secretary/Treasurer post.

The Committee, as well as dealing with the usual matters concerning the running of the Lodge Meetings, discussed the question of assistance for various members and their dependents; expressed concern over the donations coming to the Benevolent Fund from collections made at the Festive Board and had reports concerning the resignation of two members now resident overseas.

The Installation Meeting on March 1982, at which Bro. Peter Jones was put into the Chair of King Solomon, commenced with a Greeting to W.Bro. George Yates, who was celebrating the completion of 50 years in the Lodge. Two Joining members were welcomed into the Lodge, Bro. J. Payne, and Bro. John Luke, who went on to assume the Chair in 1989 and is still a regular attendee. The October meeting commenced with a Silent Tribute to W.Bro. W. Wyatt LGR who was initiated in 1941, placed in the Chair in 1949, honoured with LGR in 1963 and acted as Chaplain from 1966 to 1969. The Initiate on this occasion was a Mr Esmond Howarth who is still an active member and regular attendee, both at Lodge and LOI meetings. Es went through the Chair in 1994 and is currently the overseeing Steward. In November W.Bro. R.E. Godfrey was congratulated on achieving LGR and £30 was placed on the WM's list from Benevolent Funds. In January '83 a miniature Third Degree Tracing Board, presented to the Lodge by W.Bro. John Cane, was used for the first time.

The matters dealt with by the Committee during the year included the insurance of lodge possessions; discussions and consideration of various options concerning our future meeting place and the usual routine matters.

On March 12th 1983 Bro John Collett was the next to be installed into the Chair, and in April was in action Initiating Mr Robert F. Dawe. Robert is currently the Treasurer, but at the next meeting will be appointed ADC. An outstanding ritualist, he held the Chair in 1991 and went on to serve in 1992 as well. In October £25 was donated to RMH in memory of the Late W.Bro. Wyatt. The November 1983 meeting, the last to be held at the Star and Garter, Kew Bridge, was tinged with sadness in consequence, but also with expectancy at the new phase which Petersham was about to enter. Most were aware that Provincial Masonry was slightly different to London Masonry, but just how different was the question on the minds of many members.

Mr Godfrey Fiamingo was Initiated on that occasion. Godfrey is currently the Senior Deacon, having had to drop out of a progression towards the Chair on a previous occasion due to business pressures. £30 was placed on the WM's list for the RMH.

Members had been aware for some time that the Star and Garter was to close as a Hotel and was scheduled to be sold for office development. Where the Lodge would locate to had been the subject of much research by Bernard Gray, the Secretary at that time, and others on the General Purposes Committee. That work, and all the discussions, were now focused in a Motion put to the Brethren to consider.

A proposal that By-Law 1 be amended to read:

- 'The Regular Meetings shall be held at Guildford on the second Saturday in January, March, April, October and November at such time as the Worshipful Master shall determine.'

was put to the Brethren and passed by 31 votes for, 1 against with one abstention. Thus the association with the Star and Garter ended, as did the status of the Lodge as a London Lodge.

## CHAPTER 7

### PROVINCIAL MASONRY AT GUILDFORD

Saturday, January 14th, 1984 saw Brethren arriving at Guildford Masonic Centre, Weybourne House, Portsmouth Road, Guildford clutching the maps Bernard Gray had provided. In the presence of distinguished visitors W.Bro. R Bowers PPJGW and W.Bro. W. Hambrock PPJGW, Bro. Es Howarth was Raised to the Third Degree.

Following news from W.Bro. John Cane of the Installation of W.Bro. Rex Roberts as WM of the Kosmos Lodge No. 2768 E.C. E. Transvaal, S. Africa, it was agreed that a Letter of congratulation should be sent to him from his Mother Lodge, Petersham.

During the previous masonic year the discussions in Committee had, of course, centred heavily on the future location of the Lodge. In all twelve possible homes had been researched but, due to the meeting dates which were required, some proved not to be suitable at an early stage. The final short list included the South London Masonic centre at Penge, Cole Court at Twickenham and Guildford - the strong recommendation of Bernard. Also, it was agreed that the WM should be allowed one guest free of charge at each meeting and two at the Installation Meeting and that all Lodge members should be invited to become members of the Lodge of Instruction at £3.50 each.

Just how different Provincial Masonry would be was amply illustrated at the next meeting, on March 10th 1984, when an official visit by W.Bro. B.C. Hart PAGReg, APGM and W.Bro. K.G. Twitchen ProvGDC saw a Procession being formed to escort the above into the Lodge. The WM vacated the Chair in favour of the APGM who occupied it whilst Bro. Secretary read the minutes and the vote was taken, following which, and suitable words of thanks, the WM resumed the Chair and Installed Bro. Richard Gray. The APGM gave the Address to the Brethren. Meetings continued, April, October and November all containing two ceremonies and at the latter the By-Laws were again being amended to show the Annual Subscription for Full Members to be £55, for Country Members £15, the Initiation Fee to be £70, and the Joining Fee £35. £30 was placed on the WM's list for the RMBI and details were heard of the proposed sale of the RMH. In January Brother Len Mee was welcomed as a Joining Member. Whilst Len has not progressed through the Chair he has served the Lodge with distinction as its Almoner from 1988 to 1996, being rewarded with the rank of PPGStwd for that work by Province.

The committee continued to meet at the South Western Hotel, Hounslow and matters dealt with included the donation to the widows as a Christmas gift, which was increased to £15. Donations totalling £750, spread over three years, were agreed for the Guildford Masonic Centre lift fund; a donation was made to the Testimonial Fund for the retiring Steward at Guildford; the prospect of running raffles at the Festive Board was discussed and there were further matters on the charity front which required consideration.

Bro. Stanley W. A. Pettitt was duly Installed into the Chair in 1985, a busy year as far as ceremonies were concerned with two planned for each of the meetings. Unfortunately, the candidate who was to be Initiated in January decided not to proceed at the last minute, and so that meeting was restricted to a single ceremony. £30 was donated to the WM's list and the widows again received a Christmas gift of £15 each. Voting was required on the future of the Royal Masonic Hospital which resulted in 7 votes being cast for the sale, and 21 against. The meeting in October paid Silent Tribute to W.Bro. Des Reay who had been Initiated in 1945 and Installed as WM in

1962. At that meeting a Mr Michael F. Allen was the candidate for Initiation. Michael progressed to the Chair in 1995, is currently the Lodge Almoner and the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, also acting as the Lodge Historian and Curator. As is stated in an acknowledgement on the frontpiece to this History, the writing of it would not have been possible without the time and effort he made in researching the minute books and other records to summarise the facts.

The Lodge of Instruction donated £100 from its funds to Guildford Masonic Centre and were thanked accordingly. Committee meetings also dealt with the unexpected resignation of the Junior Warden due to ill health and the application of the Senior Deacon to go on the Country List, the decision being that the WM and the SW should stay in office for a further year and that a past master should act as JW, other positions to rotate as planned.

Following that decision, the March Installation Meeting re-appointed W.Bro. Pettitt as the WM for a further year. At that meeting a resumé of computerisation in Grand Lodge was given. During the year Silent Tributes were paid to two Bros., E. Farrow, initiated in 1950, and M. Frampton, initiated in 1985. W. Bro. H.R. Walker, who had been the WM in 1953, completed 50 years in Freemasonry, having been Initiated into Petersham in October 1936. Regrettably, he was unable to be present to celebrate this anniversary. £30 was placed on the WM's list for the Foundation for the Aged and the Sick.

The Lodge Committee dealt with the usual matters and additionally decided that the Charity Column would be circulated in Lodge, rather than at the Festive Board. It considered the venue and timing of the committee meetings, deciding to make no change in the end. The Tyler and Organist would receive an increase in fees to £7.50.

Bro. N.P. Kress was Installed in the Chair in March 1987, a meeting which paid Silent Tribute to Bro. H.D. Gare who had been a member since 1936. The Charity Column was circulated in the Meeting for the first time and realised the sum of £52.70. In April the candidate for Initiation was a Mr Peter E. Henley and also at that Meeting the members welcomed as a Joining Member W.Bro. James A. Pound LGR. Peter went on to become Master of Petersham in 1996 by progression, and is currently the IPM. James was Installed in 1993.

In October congratulations were offered to W.Bro. John Foster on being appointed Past Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies and to W.Bro. Leslie Green on being appointed Past Provincial Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works, the first two Brethren to receive Provincial Honours from Surrey for their work in Petersham. The November meeting was attended by an official visitor, W.Bro. R.D. Gordon PAGDC, PPJGW, who presented a Grand Lodge certificate to Bro. Mike Allen. £50 was donated to the list of the WM for the RMH, and the subscriptions were increased to £69 per annum, non-dining members paying £20. The date of the April meeting was changed to the 3rd Saturday and By-Law 1 amended accordingly.

Matters considered by Committee during the year included the disposal of Jewels returned to Bro. Secretary; the timing in the ceremony of Salutations and the running of raffles, which were confined to two per year to attempt to improve the collections made for Benevolence. The proceeds of an April one would go to the Guildford Centre and the March one to the 1997 Festival Appeal. Poor attendance at the LOI was again causing concern, and Bro. Secretary was asked to write to all officers, an action which did achieve a slight improvement, as was noted at a subsequent committee meeting. W.Bro. S F. Smith was appointed Liaison and Press officer, and the year ended with a decision to move the LOI and committee meetings to a new venue at Laleham Village Hall.



W.Bro. Peter Jones was the next occupant of the Chair at the March Meeting 1988, having been recycled through the Junior and Senior Wardens chairs en route. The brethren were informed that the proceeds of the Ladies' Festival raffle, £506, had been donated to the Princes Alice Hospice. In April a Mr James M. Blandford was Initiated, the current Master of Petersham. The October Meeting, attended by W.Bro. E.N. Gudge PADC, PPJGW, the official visitor, commenced with Tribute to Bro. K. Matheson by W.Bro. Norman Newson. W.Bro. Norman had himself been afforded the Active Provincial Rank of PGStdB at the Surrey AGM, an honour he was congratulated on, this being the first time a member had received an active rank.

In Committee it was decided that reports from the Almoner and the Charity Steward should appear on the summons in future; the high cost of wine at the March Festive Board was raised by the Treasurer, but it was agreed that attendance had been much higher than normal; cheques for the widows' Christmas gift were approved at £15 and the provision of an Honours Board at Guildford was discussed.

On 11th March 1989 Bro. Sidney J. Luke was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon, a ceremony which, no doubt, gave much pride to his father, W.Bro. Ernest G. Luke. This pride was again to be in evidence in January 1990 when the WM Initiated his own son Jon Luke and W.Bro. Ernie, the 93 year old Grandfather, delivered the Charge in an excellent and most proficient manner. Annual Subscriptions were again increased, on this occasion to £65, with the Country Members to £23 and the dining fee being raised to £8.50. £50 was placed on the WM's list for the 1997 Festival.

In Committee it was agreed that the frequency of the raffles should increase, the proceeds from March would go to the Guildford Centre, from November to the Lodge of Instruction and the remainder would go to support the 1997 Festival. £100 was allocated from the Benevolent Fund for the Guildford Centre and the Christmas donation to widows was again set at £15. It was agreed to invite the reigning master of Syenes Lodge to the Installation ceremony, a practice which had died out, and furthermore that he should be requested to participate in the ceremony by occupying the Senior Warden's Chair.

In March 1990 Bro. Graham Gatland was installed in the Chair for his year of Office, W.Bro. Leyshon of Syenes occupying the SW Chair. It was announced at this meeting that the Lodge of Instruction venue would be the Manor Social Club at High St, Shepperton. In April a new set of Gauntlets was presented by W.Bro. R.E. Godfrey, the retired Chaplain of the Lodge, in appreciation of the enjoyment this and previous service to the Lodge had brought to himself. At the October meeting Silent Tribute was paid to W.Bro. H.R. Walker who had been Initiated in 1936 and Installed in 1953.

This meeting was graced with an Official Visit by W. Bro T. Doyle PSGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master for whom W.Bro. Derek Barr PJGD requested an escort. After occupying the Chair for the minutes the PAGM vacated the chair in favour of the WM who then Initiated his blood brother Mr Ian Gatland. Ian is currently the JW. At the same meeting Brother John Gridley, currently serving as a Steward, was welcomed as a joining member. At the November Meeting subscriptions were again on the move, the new figures being voted for by the Brethren being:- Full Member £72, Country Member £28 and dinning fees £9. Also in November it was recorded that W.Bro. John Cane had presented the Centre with a set of Blocks and Gavel.

In Committee, it was announcement that the Tyler, W.Bro. S. J. Thorpe, was to move from the Guildford area and that a new Tyler had been found. W.Bro. R. E. Godfrey reported that the list of past masters in the Lodge Bible had been updated and was thanked for this action. W.Bro.

Pettitt, the Preceptor, stated that the LOI would continue at Shepperton, conditions there being satisfactory. There was some concern over the new Tyler, and it was agreed that the Secretary should write to him concerning certain points of procedure which may be peculiar to Petersham. The possibility of holding a Charity show to raise funds for the 1997 Festival was discussed, and a small sub committee was formed to progress this idea.

Bro. Robert Dawe was installed as the next Master on March 9th 1991, the 350th occasion that Petersham had conducted a Regular Meeting and one at which W.Bro. M. Leyshon from Syenes again acted as the SW. Bro. Secretary announced that W.Bro. Peter Jones was to receive active Provincial Grand Rank, DepPGSwdB, at the Surrey AGM and that, at the same meeting, W.Bro. Collett was to be appointed PPAGStdB and Bro. Len Mee PGSteward. In April the candidate for Initiation was Mr Michael W.C. Sanders, the current SW and Master Elect. In October the Brethren stood in Silent Tribute to W.Bro. E.J. Luke PPAGDC, W. Bro C. Sandy PPAGDC and to Bro L.B. Yates, a very sad start to a meeting at which W.Bro. John Luke Raised his son Bro. Jon Luke. The Official Visitor, W.Bro. J. C. Guersouille, PJGD, PPSGD suggested that W.Bro. Ernie Luke, the grandfather of Jon, was there in spirit to look over the Raising. Annual subs were again increased, this time to £80, Country Members £35 and dinning fees £9. In January yet a further need for Silent Tribute, W.Bro. Eddie Barker being remembered on this occasion. Brethren were informed that the LOI would meet at Guildford in future, and a letter of thanks was read from the Princess Alice Hospice concerning the donation of £831 from the proceeds of the Ladies' Night Raffle.

During the year the committee had continued to meet to deal with routine matters, additionally discussing and approving higher charges to enable the standard of the meals and wine to be raised. The transfer of £75 to the Master's List for the 1997 Festival was approved, and the decision to transfer the LOI to Guildford was debated at length, finally being approved for a two month trial period.

March 1992 saw W.Bro. Robert Dawe continue in office for a further year, due to the Senior Warden being unable to continue in progression due to business pressures. A resume was given of the Masonic Career of W.Bro. George Yates who had written a letter, dated 5th March 1992, in which he stated his disappointment at being unable, through ill health and because of Doctors' orders, to attend this meeting, it being the 60th anniversary of his Initiation into Petersham.

*[As an aside, the Petersham Record Book shows just five entries under 'Y', all for the Yates family.]*

In April the Initiate was Mr Paul Austin, a current member who is unable to attend on a regular basis due to his wife's health and business commitments. Also admitted at that meeting were two Joining Members, Bro. John R. Lucas and Bro. B.A. Jackson, both of whom are still members. In October Bro. Len Mee PPGStwd presented the Lodge with a 275th Anniversary Medal, and the Minute book records the singing of the first verse of the National Anthem at the closing of the Lodge, rather than in the Festive Board, for the first time.

At the November Meeting a presentation of the 2nd Degree Lecture, Sections 2-5, was given by members of the LOI. The Official Visitor, W.Bro. G. H. Jones, PAGDC, PPJGW, representing the Most Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, The Earl of Shannon, thanked the Brethren concerned and praised the high standard of the work, commenting that it reflected well on the LOI. Fees rose again, to £90, Country Members £40 and Dining to £10. Inscribed silver goblets were presented to W.Bro. J. Foster, W.Bro. L. Green and to W.Bro. P. Jones from the Lodge to commemorate various anniversaries of Initiation. These had been purchased from LOI funds and

would be presented to all Brethren on achieving 25 years service, or at the next 5 year interval thereafter if they had already passed that milestone. In January 1993 a letter of thanks from Princess Alice Hospice was read, thanking those concerned for the donation of £700 - the proceeds of the Ladies' Night Raffle. Also read was a letter from the Cystic Fibrosis Research trust concerning the donation of £240, this being the sum raised by a raffle of a 'T' shirt, signed by Ritchie Richardson, and obtained for that purpose by W.Bro. Richard Gray.

In Committee the usual duties of arranging the Lodge meetings and other administration matters were dealt with. Additionally, social functions - a trip to the Theatre to see the musical Buddy, a lunch at the Guildford Centre for wives and friends, perhaps even providing some incentive for additional membership, were arranged by W.Bro. Bob Dawe. The final details of the Cabaret night at Imber Court were presented by the organising Committee, the night itself being a resounding success. A contribution towards the leaving gift of the centre Steward Harry and his wife Cathy was agreed.

W.Bro. 'Jim' Pound was elected and Installed into the Chair of King Solomon on 13th March 1993, and a visiting Past Master from Seyenes, W.Bro. Leyshon, and W.Bro. Theale, the WM of Noel Lodge were asked to occupy the SW and JW Chairs respectively. Jim's year was to be marked with tragedy for, at the next meeting, whilst delivering the Traditional History, his very good friend and proposer into Petersham, W.Brother Stanley Pettitt suffered a massive heart attack and died, despite the best efforts of Lodge members and later Paramedics to revive him. The Lodge business was not fully concluded, some members did remain to dine, but there were no toasts or speeches.

At the October meeting an eulogy was given for W.Bro. G.E. Yates by W.Bro. S.F. Smith, and for W.Bro. S. Pettitt by W.Bro. R. Gray, following which Brethren stood in Silent Tribute to both. The Minutes of the previous meeting were read and, as an addendum, reference was made to the fact that Bro. Paul Austin, who had been the candidate during the previous April Meeting, had attended Malines Lodge, at the invitation of W.Bro. S.F. Smith, a member of both Lodges, to be present whilst he delivered the Traditional History in particular, but also to witness the complete 3rd Degree ceremony in general. Thus the complete degree was made known to Paul as early as possible, and the links between the two lodges were further cemented. [*Several members of Petersham are also members of Malines and others frequently visit.*]

The intention for this meeting had been an Initiation, but the candidate was prevented from attending through illness. W.Bro. Bob Dawe, with only a few hours notice, presented an excellent rendition of the explanation of the First Degree Tracing Board, being complimented by a visiting Grand Officer who asked that the minutes show his comments. A silver goblet was presented to W.Bro. S. Michaux. Reports given indicated that a trip to visit a Lodge in Paris had been very interesting and successful. Also, a Sunday lunchtime trip on the River Wey had been both enjoyable and successful, in that a few extra pounds had been raised for the 1997 Festival and an impending trip to Great Fosters for Sunday lunch was now fully booked.

The November Meeting was attended by W.Bro. P. R. Swinnerton PGStdB, Provincial Grand Treasurer, representing the RWPGM, who was able to witness a presentation of the First Degree Lecture given by members of the Lodge of Instruction. A box of Working Tools was presented to the Lodge, the result of an anonymous donation in the memory of W.Bro. Stan Pettitt. In January W.Bro. S.F. Smith and Bro. L. Pinfold were presented with their goblets.

In Committee the additional matters dealt with included agreement to send formal letters of thanks to the Artists who had performed at the Cabaret Night, also thanking the Lodge Brethren

who had organised and participated in the event. A letter of appreciation would also be sent to Surrey Ambulance Service in respect to the events at the April Meeting.

In March 1994 Bro. Esmond Howarth was installed in the Chair, assisted by W.Bro. Chapman, a past master from Syenes, who occupied the SW's Chair, and W.Bro. Sillence, reigning Master of Noel, who occupied the JW's Chair. W.Bro. S. F. Smith presented the Lodge with the first Initiate's Jewel, which had been presented to Bro. Lewis Yates, and the Founder's Jewel of W.Bro. George Yates, on behalf of both these brethren, for display and safe keeping. Information was given concerning the impending honour of PPJGW [Middlesex] and PAGDC ranks to W.Bro. S.F. Smith and PPGSuptWks for his blood brother W.Bro. P. Smith.

In April Brethren stood in Silent Tribute to Bro. T. Davies; and in October, in the presence of W.Bro. H. M. Sharpe, PSGD Assistant Provincial Grand Master, and W. Bro J.A.R. Powell, Provincial Assistant Director Of Ceremonies, the Lodge of Instruction gave a presentation of the Second Degree Lecture. The Official Visitor presented W.Bro. R. Gray with an inscribed silver goblet to commemorate his 25 years in the Lodge, and passed a vote of thanks to those who participated in the lecture, saying how much he had enjoyed it. W.Bro. R.E. Godfrey was thanked for bringing the inscriptions in the Volume of the Sacred Law he had donated earlier up to date.

The November Meeting heard a very interesting talk on the work of the RMBI and how it spends the money it receives, given by W.Bro. J. Edmunstone PAGDC, who had agreed to attend to do this at very short notice. W. Bro S.F. Smith reported that he had presented W.Bro. J. Allum with his silver goblet whilst visiting him in Hospital. At the January meeting the fees were increased to £110 for Full Members, £55 for country Members and the dining fee to £11. This meeting was the occasion of the Initiation of Mr Eric Francis Eastwell, the current JD.

The Committee discussed the discontinuation of Petersham Charity Association and a move to use the Relief Chest run by Grand Lodge was proposed and agreed. This would overcome problems posed by changes in the rules governing Charity Accounts brought in by the Charity Commission. The need to look for a new Tyler was dealt with. Progress on the procurement of a Lodge Board was reported and the formation of a small working group to think about the 75th Anniversary was agreed.

The Installation of Bro. 'Mike' F. Allen in March 1995 was preceded by Silent Tribute to W.Bro. H.V. Wilson LGR who had been initiated in Jan 1943, occupied the Chair in 1958, had been the Secretary from 1961 to 1974 and was awarded LGR in 1975. Bert, never a person to tolerate fools, or anyone else for that matter, lightly was also the Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction and as far as this [*Bro. Sec.*] mason is concerned was responsible for the high standards of ritual achieved by Brethren during his time in that post. The Installation Ceremony was assisted by W.Bro. L. Hamberger, the reigning Master of Syenes Lodge, who occupied the SW Chair.

In April Mr Roger Martin Goswell was Initiated into the Mysteries and Privileges of Freemasonry. Roger is currently the IG. Silent Tribute was again given at the October Meeting, this time to W.Bro. R. Roberts who had died in South Africa in August. The meeting heard an impressive talk from Bro. B. Jackson on the preparation of a mason. A letter was read from Mrs J. Bird, the widow of W.Bro. D.W. Bird, stating that she had in her possession three table napkins, dating from 1887 when King Edward VII, who was then the Grand Master, had attended a Banquet in Yorkshire. Apparently only twelve of these napkins had been printed and she offered two to Petersham in memory of her late husband, which the Lodge accepted with pleasure and gratitude.



In November the Lodge joined together in an Act of Remembrance just before the Calling Off to commemorate those Brethren who had fallen during wars and in peacetime, making particular reference to those from Petersham who had been called to the Grand Lodge Above during the past year. This ceremony was introduced at the suggestion of W.Bro. R.E. Godfrey, and it is intended that it shall continue indefinitely. The minutes show that Bro. M. Sanders, the JW, had participated in the Lecture Festival organised by Egham Lodge and had answered the questions in the 4th Part of the First Lecture. Also, the long closing was delivered by the WM for the first time.

In January an Apron Cushion was presented to the Lodge by W.Bro. Mike Allen as a memento of his enjoyable year in the chair. W.Bro. Mike also thanked all the Brethren who worked outside the Lodge meetings to make the membership more interesting, enjoyable and worthwhile, also mentioning the wives of Bob Dawe and Len Mee in particular.

In Committee notification of a case of need by one of the widows was reported by Bro. Almoner and authorization was given for steps to be taken to provide relief. A request to assist with the garden fete at Shannon Court would be dealt with sympathetically. W.Bro. Gatland suggested that Menu cards be introduced and offered to undertake the task of preparing and producing them.

In March 1996 the position of Worshipful Master passed to Bro. Peter Henley. On this occasion his proposer, W.Bro. P. Jones, occupied the SW Chair and his seconder, W.Bro. A. Hill, the JW chair. W.Bro. S.F. Smith returned three more medals to the Lodge, one a Founder's medal and two Past Masters' medals which had been returned by Mrs Ellen Wilson. These were gratefully received. At the April Meeting Graham Gatland donated to the lodge a case in which Lodge Jewels could be displayed and was thanked accordingly. October began with a Silent Tribute to Bro P. Rawkins and to W.Bro. J. Foster PPGReg. In November Brethren again participated in the Act of Remembrance, following the Initiation of Mr Colin Matthews. W.Bro. A.C. Hill received his Silver Goblet, Annual Dues were increased to £140 Country Members to £80 and the Dining Fee to £12.

In January W. Bro 'Bob' Dawe gave his by now usual impeccable delivery of the Lecture on the First Degree Tracing Board.

Matters dealt with by the Committee included relief to a Brother in need; consideration of how the 75th Anniversary would be celebrated and the distribution of funds from the raffles. On this latter point it was agreed that the primary aim would be, for the time being, to fund the 75th Anniversary costs, with the matter to be reviewed after that event. The insurance of the Lodge effects would be reviewed by Bro Treasurer. The By-Laws would be re-written and updated by Bro. Ian Gatland, with his brother, W.Bro. Graham Gatland, offering to get them printed afterwards. It was agreed that Bro. Secretary take on the additional duties of Lodge Information Officer.

Bro. James M. Blandford was Installed in the Chair of King Solomon on March 8th 1997, a meeting at which it was announced that W.Bro. Newson was to be promoted to PPGSwdB at the next Provincial AGM. A letter was read in the third rising from the Guide Dogs for the Blind thanking the Lodge for the £1,200 donation raised by the Ladies' Night raffle. At the April Meeting Mr R. J. Simpson, the son in law of the WM, was Initiated into the Lodge. Two more Past Masters' Jewels were donated to the Lodge, which would go on display in the case. In October Brethren heard an eulogy by W.Bro. P. Smith, following which they stood in Silent Tribute to Bro. R. Adams who had been initiated in 1961. The Almoner reported on a successful

petition on behalf of one of our widows. The November Meeting saw the Initiation of Mr J.E. Luscombe, a ceremony performed by W. Bro. Mike Allen, which had been preceded by the Passing of Bro. R. J. Simpson, the first time for ten years that a double ceremony had been worked in the Lodge. Brother Mike Sanders, the Senior Warden, presented the Lodge with a splendid Master's Collar with attached nameplates, on which were engraved the names of all the Past Masters of Petersham, with sufficient blank ones left to accommodate his own name next year and many more to follow.

In March 1998, Bro Mike Sanders was Installed into the Chair of King Solomon. By-law 10 was amended to allow the sum of £100 to be paid out of Lodge funds without notice being given on the Summons. In April, Honorary membership was awarded to W Bro Reg Farrow. There was a Banner Dedication given in the presence of W Bro Paul Swinnerton PSGD, APM. He was requested by the WM to dedicate the Banner, assisted by other Provincial officers. A special programme was produced for the occasion. The APM also presented W Bro Stan Michaux with a letter from the PGM congratulating him on 60 years in Freemasonry.

In October, the Brethren stood in silent tribute to Bro Lewis Yates who joined the Lodge in 1982. Mr Paul Martyn Kerswell was then Initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry.

In committee, details of an alternative suit for candidates was suggested by the WM who stated that he would fund it personally.

In March 1999, Bro Ian Gatland was installed in the Chair for his year of office. In June, the LOI sponsored the Southwest Craft Lecture Festival which later attracted many favourable comments regarding the meeting and standard of ritual. Petersham members given offices at the meeting were W Bros Godfrey Fiamingo as WM; Mike Sanders as Treasurer; Graham Gatland as Secretary and Bro Eric Eastwell as Senior Deacon. W Bro Norman Newson and Bros Julian Luscombe and Roger Goswell assisted with the lectures. 78 Brethren dined after the meeting.

In October, Mr James Julian Grindley was initiated into the Lodge and in November, W Bro John Allum celebrated 50 years of Petersham membership. Annual dues were raised to £150 and £80 for full and country membership respectively and the dining fee to £13.50.

In committee, a paperweight with Petersham logo was suggested as a gift for all those attending the 400th meeting.

March 2000 saw the position of WM pass to Bro Godfrey Fiamingo. A Founders Jewel which had belonged to Bro Frank Carter was presented to the Lodge by W Bro John Cane. In October, Mr Andrew Frank Eastwell was initiated into the Lodge and the Working Tools were explained to him by his father, Eric.

The WM for 2001 is going to be invited to a reception at the House of Commons. Annual dues were increased to £160 for full membership, £85 for country membership and £15 for dining. W Bro Graham Gatland, Charity Steward, devised a novel way of collecting for charity. He distributed tubes of Smarties to the Brethren with a request that they were filled with 20p and £1 coins for donation to the 21cc fund. Bro P Kerswell is to act as IG at the SW Surrey Lecture Festival in June.

In committee it was agreed that a £5 surcharge would be levied to cover the extra cost of the meal for the 400th meeting.

Bro Eric Eastwell was installed as the next WM on 10th March 2001. In June W Bro E. Howarth was appointed to PPAGSuptWks and W Bros B. Gray and A. Hill both promoted to PPJGW at the Provincial AGM. In November, an entertaining talk entitled 'Freemasonry and Entertainment' was given by W Bro J. Ashby of the Quator Coronait Lodge No. 2076.

The Widows have been sent their usual Christmas cheques along with a letter stating they might be entitled to benefits if their husbands had been the victims of the Japanese during WW2. Petersham has been made a Patron of James Terry Court in acknowledgement of past help and fundraising. W Bro P. Jones presented the Lodge with a collar jewel originally given to W Bro G. Good in 1941/42 and recovered from an antique shop in Suffolk.

W Bro Roger Goswell was the next occupant of the Chair at the March meeting in 2002. In April, the WM and IPM were presented with lapel badges to mark the Jubilee year. W Bro P. Smith will be promoted to PPGRag at the forthcoming Provincial meeting while W Bros John Luke and Mike Allen were appointed to PPAGStdB and Peter Henley to PPAGSuptWks. Annual fees were raised to £165 and £90 respectively for full and country membership and £21 for the dining fee. The Initiates fee to remain at £75. In November, a demonstration of 'Making a Mason', circa 1790, was given by the William Cobbett Demonstration Team.

In committee, W Bro P.Kerswell undertook research into the feasibility of a Lodge website and W Bro A. Hill was appointed as the Royal Arch representative.

W Bro N. Newson was installed in the Chair in March 2003 but resigned shortly afterwards leaving the WM duties to W Bro J. Cane in April and W Bro S.F. Smith for the remainder of the year. In October, W Bro J. Cane delivered a paper entitled 'Coming to terms with Freemasonry' and in January read a paper he had written concerning the explanation of the Masonic apron. In November, W Bro Mike Sanders gave an explanation of the background to the Walking Charge.

In committee, a reduction in the number of meetings per year to four was suggested but rejected. The building of a new Masonic centre was under consideration close to the current one, Hitherbury House, which would become residential accommodation. Christmas cheques to the widows were increased to £30. It was suggested that too much time was being taken for tea and pre dinner drinks.

Bro Paul Kerswell was installed into the Chair in March 2004. At this meeting, Bro Timothy Patrick Harvey became a joining member. In April, W Bro M. Sanders read a paper entitled 'Freemasonry in the USA' and W Bro I. Gatland then read a further paper called 'Absent Brethren', both of which were well received. W Bro John Cane was congratulated on having his 2003 paper, 'Coming to Terms with Freemasonry' published and he has also been invited to sit on the Province Education committee. It was announced that eight members of Petersham were to visit St. George's Lodge in Paris on 23rd April. W Bros J Blandford and M. Sanders were selected to receive PPAGSuptWks and PPAGDC respectively.

In November, annual fees were raised to £175 and £95 respectively for full and country membership. The dining fee will be £18. In January, Bro Paul McIntosh Mudie became a joining member, W Bro M. Sanders gave an explanation of 'The Preparation of a Mason' and W Bro B.Gray was presented with a certificate commemorating his 50 years in Freemasonry.

In committee, it was agreed to support a request from Province for donations to the victims of the earthquake and subsequent tsunami in Asia with a contribution of £100 plus further backing from funds accrued at the Ladies Night. A Lodge paperweight was donated for placement in a time capsule at Guildford.

W Bro P. Kerswell was proclaimed as WM for a further year in March 2005. The Brethren stood in silent tribute to W Bro Percy Davidge, PPAGDC (Middx) who was initiated in 1967. He was given a eulogy by W Bro S. Smith. In April W Bro M. Sanders, assisted by Bro T. Harvey, delivered the 4th section of the first lecture which was followed by the WM, assisted by W Bro R. Goswell, performed the 6th section of the first lecture. By-law 6 requiring a joining member to pay a £35 fee was repealed. W Bro I. Gatland has been offered PPAGStdB at the upcoming Provincial AGM.

In October, the Brethren stood in silent tribute to W Bro R. Turner, who joined the Lodge in 1966 and was WM in 1980 and Bro Len Mee, PPAGStd, who joined in 1985 and was Almoner from 1988 to 1996. £500 was donated to the New Masonic Centre Support Fund, Guildford. Petersham members would be assisting with the move to the new building on 21st November. In November, Bro Jon Luke re-joined the Lodge, W Bro M.Sanders delivered a paper on the third degree and annual fees were revised to £200 and £105 for full and country membership. The dining fee would be £19.50. In January, Bro J. Gonsalves became a joining member and Mr David William Lock was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Freemasonry.