



CMA Regular Events – 2017

If you wish to add an event here please contact the editor of the CMA Newsletter
Email: allandeluca@btinternet.com

Sunday 12th November 2017 – Annual Remembrance Sunday Wreath laying at the Chingford War Memorial at 11.00 a.m.

Saturday 18th November 2017 – Annual Fundraiser “Race Night” in aid of the Broken Column Luncheon

Friday 15th December 2017 - Annual Christmas Broken Column Luncheon - Chingford Masonic Hall 12.00 - 3.00 p.m.

More events to be announced

SUNDAY ROSE CROIX CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT



On the Fourth Sunday of each month, there is a combined Rose Croix Chapter of Improvement at the Chingford Masonic Hall. It is known as the “Richard Shone Chapter of Improvement”. If you wish to attend, why not come along,

you will be most welcome. Membership is just £10.00 per annum. The Chapter of Improvement commences at 10.30 a.m. Or contact Mike Claxton: email mikeclaxton@gmail.com for further information.

MONTHLY LODGE OF IMPROVEMENT FOR MARK MASTER MASONS



A Lodge of Instruction of the Mark Degree at the Chingford Masonic Hall is being held on the first Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. Mark Master Masons of any Lodge meeting in the Province of Essex are welcome to attend, we would

also welcome members who are in the Mark Degree from other Provinces if they so wished to attend to rehearse the ceremony of Advancement. There may be exceptions to the proposed dates, i.e. Christmas and Bank Holidays. The LOI's are held on the first Tuesday of the Month, at 10.30 a.m. contact W Bro. John Bold on email: john.bold@btinternet.com

MONTHLY CHINGFORD HOLY ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER OF IMPROVEMENT



There is now a monthly Chapter of Improvement at the Chingford Masonic Hall on the 4th Sunday of every month. It is a great opportunity to sharpen your Royal Arch Skills! There will be at least two preceptors present and all rituals will be

welcome and they will rehearse any parts of the ceremony, as required, by the attending Companions. This Chapter of Improvement is free of charge and all Companions and E. Companions are welcome. 10 am for a 10.30 am start.

Masonic Study Circles Meeting Dates 2017

Chingford Masonic Study Circle – meeting at the Chingford Masonic Hall – 7.30 p.m.

Secretary: W Bro Allan de Luca PPGSwdB
email: allandeluca@btinternet.com

Wednesday 22nd March 2017

W.Bro. Steven Smith, M.A.

“The early 18th century Masonic connections to Mathematical Instrument-Maker Jonathan Sisson (1692-1749) and his legacy to Modern Freemasonry.”

Monday, 26th June 2017

W.Bro. Charles Lawrence

To present a paper

If you have a talk you would like to present at this meeting of the CMSC, please contact the secretary, via the email address printed above

Southchurch Masonic Circle – meeting at the Saxon Hall, Southend on Sea – 8.00 p.m.

3rd Thursday March, May & September,
2nd Thursday December (With Cheese and Wine Buffet)

Maplin Suite – Saxon Hall

Secretary: W. Bro. Robert Vine

Email: Robert.vine@vodafoneemail.co.uk

Telephone: 01702 202076 – mobile: 07799 643240

Mike Neville's Masonic Walks - 2017

Mike Neville's Masonic Walks & Talks

Dive into the history of Freemasonry, its origins, members, successes & scandals, the myths & more..... Family & Friends welcome! £7.50 per person Lunch can be arranged

City of London Tour - 5 Nov 16 & 24 + 25 Jun 17
•The site of the original Grand Lodge – 300 years ago
•The Old Bailey - Murders & Murder

Crime & The Craft Tour - 17 Dec 16 & 25 Mar 17
•Masonic links to famous cases of murder & treason
•Jack The Ripper, Jack the Mason??

British Museum Tour - 11 Feb & 10 Jun 17
•Ancient Egyptian influences on Freemasonry
•Exhibits linked to: Tutankhamun, Cleopatra, Cyrus & more

Masons & The West End Tour - 21 Jan & 22 Apr 17
Talks of celebrity, scandal & a ghost
Oscar Wilde, Mozart, Kipling & other famous Masons

Charity lectures at your Lodge or Chapter
“everyone went home with renewed vigour, fully intending to make their daily advancement.”
“It was the best lecture, indeed the most useful lecture I have ever heard presented in an open Lodge.”

For further information contact - WBro Mike Neville
Author of “Sacred Secrets”
mrmikeneville@aol.com
07415 634613

Mike Neville's Masonic Walks & Talks 2017

Charity Lectures at your Lodge or Chapter

Contact

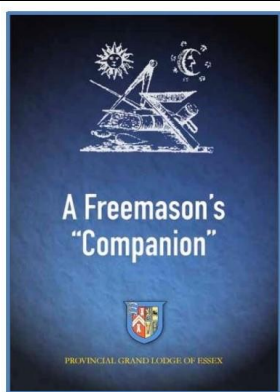
W.Bro. Mike Neville

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The Province of Essex – A Freemason’s “Companion” is available online via the “Cube”



This is the third edition the Freemason’s “Companion”, and has been issued on the appointment of R.W.Bro. Rodney Lister Bass as Provincial Grand Master on 3rd September 2015. This booklet can be downloaded in “pdf format” from the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex web site, follow the “Download” menu and you will be directed to the various forms that can be downloaded to include this document.



www.essexfreemasons.org
A password protected website

The Cube Social Network has been designed for Essex Masons. It promotes communications between all Lodges and Chapters in the Province of Essex. It has a social media portal which allows you to communicate with masons across the Province.



The annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter of Essex Thursday, 1st September 2016 If Lodges or Chapters have a regular meeting on this day a dispensation can be applied for and will be granted free of charge.

**The Philbrick Lodge No.2255
In need of new members**

Philbrick Lodge No.2255 is in need of additional members. It is the only “Daylight Lodge” meeting at the Chingford Masonic Hall, and they would like your support. The Philbrick Lodge extends invitations to you to visit the Lodge, particularly those who are able to attend as a paying guest, and is useful for “Retirees” who may wish to attend and not dine. The regular Lodge meetings are held on 1st Wednesday, February, April, October (Installation) and December. Meetings normally commence at either 10.30 am or on occasions at 11.00 am and all business including the Festive Board is completed by 3.00 pm at the latest. The Philbrick Lodge was consecrated on 23rd July 1888, and is a Hallstone Lodge, and celebrated its 125th anniversary in 2013. For further information, please contact the Secretary, W.Bro. David Clarke...email davidclarke0403@btinternet.com



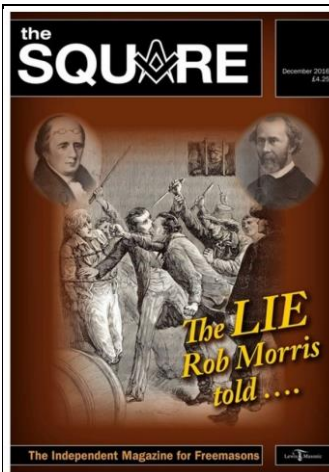
¹ Essexfreemasons.org

**The New Province of Essex Jewel
for the Festival 2022**



Pictured left is the new Festival 2022 Jewel which has now been approved by Grand Lodge and will be available to all Essex Masons after the Festival has been launched on 1st September. You will see that the jewel features the Stewards name at the top. This keeps us in line with other Provinces and is the official name for vice patron. There will be bars for Patron and Grand Patron. To qualify for this jewel as a personal honorific we are hoping that Essex Masons will commit to a regular payment totalling £500 by 2022. Patron level is £1,000 and Grand Patron, £1,500. Gift Aid where applicable should be added. The Province hopes that thousands of Essex Masons will wear this jewel with pride which will be available - **FREE** of charge - as soon as masons have committed to a regular payment or for those who can - have made a payment for the total amount plus Gift Aid. ¹

**The latest edition of “The Square” Magazine, the
Independent Magazine for Freemasons
December 2016 Edition**



The magazine is available at Letchworths Shop at Great Queen Street and other outlets. It is also available in a variety of electronic formats, for digital access for iPad, iPhone, Android or Computer at £2.95 per issue, or an annual subscription of £9.99. For a “Free Trial Issue” or to subscribe go to.....
<http://exacteditions.com/read/square>.

The TLC Appeal



The simple objective is to provide Teddy Bears and soft toys to Accident and Emergency Units, for the medical staff, to give, at their discretion, to children admitted who are in severe distress and where the staff feel that a Teddy or soft toy to cuddle will help alleviate the stress and assist them in their work. The Children are allowed to take the Teddy home. The idea began following the resuscitation of the wife of an Essex

Freemason at an Essex A&E unit after an allergic reaction, which closed her windpipe. They both found the experience the most frightening of their lives and are eternally grateful for the swift and caring attention that she received. Following this incident, the parent discussed with his Masonic Lodge in trying to do something useful as a thank you to the A&E unit and its staff. From that point onwards the idea of “Teddies for Loving Care” was born. Through the kindness of Essex Freemasons, TLC was launched at all A&E Units serving Essex in 2002 and proved a resounding success. It was not long before the word spread and through the support of Freemasons and others TLC Teddies are used at A&E units in almost the whole of England and Wales, Gibraltar, Cyprus, Orange County USA and most recently, Ireland, both North & South. Over 90% of the money needed to relieve these severely distressed children is donated by local freemasons. Additionally, many grateful parents and others see the benefits of what the TLC do and choose to donate or fundraise for the Charity. Absolutely nothing of the money donated goes on administration. The time and facilities are donated by volunteers. The TLC spend less than 1% on fundraising items (such as lapel badges which generate donations) and PR, but every penny of the remainder is used to purchase the Teddies soft toys or urgently needed paediatric equipment for A&E Units. If you require more information and wish to donate, visit the website: www.tlcappeal.org or on Facebook, or email: info@tlcappeal.org.



Teambrief
Keeping Essex Masons Informed



WE WANT YOU

Local News Gatherers needed in the Central Area. Chelmsford, Harlow and Saffron Walden. The Provincial Internal Communications Teams are looking for Local News Gatherers to search out News in their areas. Any event or activity that needs to be published for the good of Freemasonry in the various media available, local news papers, the Cube or the monthly Teambrief. If you think you can help please contact Russell Segal Now. Details below.


Russell Segal
Provincial Internal Communications Team, Central Area
07798 652255
russell.segal@me.com
www.essexfreemasons.net

If you are interested.....as a local news gatherer
Contact Russell Segal – Russell.segal@me.com

A Tale of Masonry Vindicated
*'Tis wine, ye Masons, makes you free,
Bacchus the father is of liberty*

There is a booklet in the Library of the United Grand Lodge of England with a title “*Bruin in the suds or Masonry vindicated*”, published in 1751. The author, was a Freemason, and the booklet was sold in 1751 by a Brother Dickinson, and the booklet was available for purchase at the “*Corner of Bell-Savage-Inn, Ludgate Hill.*” It tells a story, in poetical narrative, or a Derry, which is a set of four line verses relating to a trial of skill between a noted vintner and a lodge of freemasons entitled “*cook'd up in a song.*” This particular piece of poetical essay has 77 verses, and each verse is followed by an audience participation in the singing after each verse the refrain “*Derry down, down, down, derry*

down.” Often to the tune of “*The Abbott of Canterbury.*” It certainly was the vogue by some gifted writers in the mid-18th century to create a satiric poetic account of a particular historic or public event and it was normally sung to a popular tune of the day. One of these “songs” of just eight verses, was published in the Newcastle Courant, 21st July 1759.

<p style="text-align: center;">B R U I N in the S U D S.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O R,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mafonry Vindicated.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">B E I N G</p> <p style="text-align: center;">A P O E T I C A L N A R R A T I V E of a late famous Trial of Skill, between a noted <i>Vintner</i>, and a Lodge of FREE MASONS:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Cook'd up in a S O N G</p> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>O magnum publicum Secretum!</i> H o r.</p> <div style="text-align: center;">  </div> <hr style="width: 50%; margin: auto;"/> <p style="text-align: center;">L O N D O N:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><small>Printed for the Author, a Free-Mason, and sold by Brother Dickinson, at the Corner of Bell- Savage-Inn, Ludgate-Hill, 1751.</small></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">B R U I N in the S U D S:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">O R,</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Mafonry Vindicated.</p> <p>O F <i>Urso</i> I sing, a most notable Blade, Who lately a wonderful Figure has made; His Feats and Exploits are so strange and so rare, That needs must surprize all good People to hear. <i>Derry down, &c.</i></p> <p>'Tis true of his Birth he has little to boast, His Father a Keeper of Bridewell it is said, The House of Correction for Stripes and Lard Work, Is known well enough in the City of York <i>Derry down, &c.</i></p> <p>But <i>Urso</i>, of a high and aspiring Mind, Disdaining his Talents should thus be confin'd To a Place where was nothing but <i>Misery</i> seen, And nothing was heard but loud Clamour and Dun, <i>Derry down, &c.</i> H</p>
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The story “*Bruin in the suds*” published in 1751 is a poetic account, in a song, of a young man named “*Urso*” who was born in apparent poverty among beggars and criminals in the City of York. Urso’s father, we are told was a “*Keeper of Bridewell*” a house of correction well known for its inmates to be subjected to hard labour, and for the punishment of the “*Stripes*” which was inflicted by being struck by a whip or cane which left stripes (*whipping scars*) on the back of the prisoner. Urso had an aspiring mind with talents and thought that it was beneath him to stay in York, and resolved that London was the place to be for a man of his capabilities, and he too believed that the streets of London were paved with gold, but this was just an irony, and as Dick Whittington found when he went to London that the streets were in fact grimy and poverty stricken.

NEWCASTLE, JULY 21.

O L D E N G L A N D :

O R, A C O N S T I T U T I O N A L M I L I T I A.

L E T every TRUE BRITON now gratefully sing,
And toast in a Bumper the Health of the King;
The Health of each Patriot, who OLD ENGLAND wou'd save,
By Training her Sons to be Martial and Brave.
Derry down, down, down, derry down.

The second irony was that with persistence, belief, and luck, Whittington was able to become successful, as did Urso. Arriving in London, with high expectations, he had very little money, Urso begins to search for a job to earn money, and following this new life path, he soon realised that it was not so easy as he had originally thought, and he cursed his bad luck that his hopes of making a long journey to London with “*cross stars*” of hope has not turned out to his expectations. “*He begins his cross Stars and ill fortune to curse.*” He decided that he had to make the best of a “*bad bargain*” and keeping his wits about him he rethinks his situation of how to make the long journey he had made to London to his best advantage. Keeping his sharp Yorkshire wits about him, he realised that there was money in London, and started racking his brains on how to make a living.

*“Shall I stand hamm’ring my brains
for a thought how money may here,
where there’s plenty, be got?”*

In his search, Urso observes a local wine bar and decides that here is a worthwhile place where, if he got a job, it would provide all the food and wine he could imagine.

So, he ventures into the bar, pulling his hat over his face, and approaches the landlord, bows and in his broad Yorkshire accent asks for a job in the wine bar. The owner, asking what experience he has of a wine bar, especially as Urso hailed from Yorkshire, where the landlord, out of ignorance insinuated that all he could do was tending to horse stables, ploughing the fields, and feeding cows, bulls, pigs and threshing the corn, and that he knew nothing of the “Vintners” trade. Keeping his wits about him, Urso naturally agreed with the landlord, and ventured to make a bet with him that he would be able to learn the trade, and asked for a trial and to give him a task, without any wages, and if he proved to be as good as his word, he suggests the landlord could make a payment of what he thought he was worth, but Urso’s was in luck, and although the landlord called him a “Tike” agreed to give him a job, and promised that if he likes his behaviour, he shall be properly dressed and be provided with food, but if he decided that the job was a “drudge” to be working on tedious, unpleasant or menial tasks, then he would not be paid.

*Agreed, said the Landlord, for tho’ thou’rt a Tike,
Yet if thy behaviour I happen to like,
Good cloaths thou shalt have, and thy belly I’ll fill,
And as thou deservest, encourage thee still*

The landlord went on to list his duties, such as attending and cleaning the landlords “Drawers” (underpants) and his shoes, as well as what his family asks, and not to refuse, such as washing bottles, using a broom, emptying the “piss pots”, and should anyone who be intoxicating, he should expect to “take a good “Knock” (clout) on the Pate (head) for thy Pains.” The landlord said that if he could do all this with hearty goodwill and never complain, then the job was his, and if he did not like the idea to “beat the hoof back again to old York.” Naturally, Urso was pleased with this outcome, and said with a grin, that all his life he has been a slave, and that often he was pleased to receive any crust, and because of this he pledged to be true to the landlord’s trust who immediately summoned the cook and instructed him to feed Urso with any scraps and offal, which he stuffed himself with delight, and picked clean every bone, and in his mind he thanked his good fortune for sending him such luck. Urso applied, without question his dedication to his work, and a nod or a wink was to him a command.

He worked hard, with the scrubbing of rooms, setting out the tables and chairs and making tidy all the rooms fit to receive any guest being especially respectful and ready to attend at any beck and call. He assisted the cook, as a kitchen scullion (servant), with the washing up the dirty dishes, and any other duties that was asked of him, he was a domestic help. “The cook and the scullion he will both assist, and wash up their dishes, and do what they list.” Urso became a good servant with nothing too menial or too low being refused, and because of his good character, the landlord promotes him as the house porter, and introduced

him to his fine wine cellar. Before long Urso excelled in the learning the art of being a wine vintner.

*Here Urso again so well played his Part,
He quickly had learned the Vintner’s Art;
To fine, or to brew, or to palate it well,
The skillfullest Drawers he soon did excel.*

Unexpectedly his employer moves away, and a new landlord moves in, and Urso shows his skills to his new Master and his confidence grows,

*His Master removes, and another comes in,
And still in his post the brave Urso is seen;
In his bus’ness is diligent, brisk and alert,
but as he grows knowing he’s saucy and pert.*

With this self-confidence Urso’s behaviour began to change, and he soon was to become oppressive and insulting to his co-workers.

*He struts and talks big, and looks won’drous wife,
Domineers o’er his fellows, who he seems to despise,
The boys and young drawers obey his commands,
Or feel the dread weight of his terrible hands.*

Urso’s luck was on the up and the unexpected death of his Master raised his hopes, and he began to dress in smart clothes, made of the finest cloth, of good Holland cloth² and Urso wore the latest style of buckled shoes, and pursued the widow of the Landlord with “Passion and Zeal” and her head was turned in an instant, and her love she could not conceal.

*To the widow, his mistress, his love he addressed,
And widows, you know, with young fellows, are pleas’d,
He urged his suit with such passion and zeal,
That madam no longer her love could conceal.*

Urso married the widow, and when the nuptials were over, he realised that he had achieved his ultimate goal to be at the top of his power, and this soon was to cause some concern as he had lost his sense of his principles. It was at this time that a lodge of Freemasons, who he knew were “all gen’rous souls” and often met at his house, who wined and dined to be merry and free, “for Masons are friendly, and always agree.” Before long Urso realised, and with his now bloated self-esteem thought himself above these freemasons, “Thinks none of them all is so great as himself” and began to wonder how to use these freemasons, who he considered as his worthy good friends, on which his livelihood greatly depends, and although he could not be rude to such important guests, but because of his background,

*As Ass is well known by his bray and his ears,
Altho’ the grim skin of a lion he wears,
So Urso, ‘mong Beggars and Criminals born,
no manners, nor language, but such can return.”*

But how can a leopard change its spots, but unfortunately, not for Urso, and treats the freemasons meeting at his house with contempt, regardless of whether they held royal commissions, titles, and his language was abusive and slurred and defamed their character openly. As it is well known among the fraternity, the masons and gentlemen they are, they forgive with friendly admonishment, and suggest to him to “consult his more serious thoughts.” Unfortunately, Urso would not bow down to such advice, and it was suggested by his guests, that as a Master of good

² a cotton fabric made more or less opaque by a glazed or unglazed finish (the Holland finish). Originally the name was applied to any fine, plain woven linens imported from Europe, and particularly from the Netherlands

fortune he had become, that he should be more considerate towards them, and act as an upright person in their company. But for the proud Urso, the freemasons decided that they would not want to continue holding their meetings under such duress, and Urso continues to believe that they were not worthy of his respect. Obviously, things eventually came to a head, and the freemasons all agreed that they would leave the hostelry, and remove to another meeting place, as such insults were brutish, and could no longer be tolerated by the brethren. Without much further ado, the Lodge called upon “their Porters” without delay, to take out their furniture. Urso realised that the freemasons were leaving, and his anger grew and ordered his servants to lock every door, to stop all the furniture and chattels being removed. However, the only exit that was left for the freemasons were the windows, from which they were able to escape. *“Yet leaves them the windows from whence they may leap.”* Urso soon realised the error of his ways, and that the law would frown upon such action, and unlocked the doors and set them free, but despite this he vowed revenge on their departure. This action was soon reported by the freemasons, and Urso was summoned to appear at the Sessions, and he, in his defence cites on oath that the freemasons had rioted on his premises.

*“The sessions were soon to be held at the Hall,
Where justice is done both to great and small,
And ten of these gentlemen thither he cites,
And there for a riot on oath he cites.”*

Among the ten gentlemen accused by Urso, was a Knight of the Realm, and another of great honour, and even his barber “Trimwell” was included in the indictment. The accused were not undaunted by the charges laid *“and despise in this action the fool and the knave”* but Urso was bent on revenge for them leaving his hostelry, and provided the court with such proof of his own spiteful intent and swore to prove that the accused had rioted and beat him. The brethren were summoned to appear at the trial, and before a Judge and Jury to discover whether the brethren were guilty of such accusations, but it was their intention to clear their names with honour and restore their injured fame, but if Urso succeeds and all else fails, suffer the shame of such of a conviction. On the day of the court hearing, the prosecution lawyers set about to paint a dreadful picture the riot had created by the freemasons, and to obtain a guilty verdict against these supposedly honest ten gentlemen, who were driven by the *“devil and with malice”* and that they had set upon Urso, and during this disturbance broke his scone (chandelier).

*“And then, their harangues to the point to reduce,
These honest ten Gentlemen stoutly accuse,
That, mov’d by the Devil and malice at once,
They’d mobb’d the good Urso, and broken his scone.”*

Urso was called upon to give his evidence, and he mounts the dock and *“kisses the book”* before being questioned by the lawyers on the events of that shameful event. Urso gave a splendid performance, and answered all the questions put to him with confidence, and continued to give an account of the disturbance and the racket that ensued and added that how shamefully the defendants had attacked his spouse, and that not one of the accused were abused in any way, but that it was himself and his wife who were *“most vilely abused.”* Urso described that three of them beat him with *“mighty and large”* candlesticks. Two others defendants, he

accused of shouting instructions from the window, from where they were attempting to escape.

*“Two others, he swears (who from window survey’d
The fray) call’d aloud to the bruisers and said,
G-d d—n him knock him down, and drive him well there,
Such a dog is not worthy to breathe common air”*

Urso went on to add that during the skirmish the defendants were rude to his wife and with brutish manners beat up and bruised his servants, who were frightened by the threats and punches from the Lodge members. The defending barrister was called upon to present his case on behalf of the accused, and with calm and efficient manner speaks with eloquence, freedom and grace and gains the attention of the Jury and the Judge. He makes no deviations, or pointlessly rants, but keeps to the facts which relate to the case, and tells the Jury that no such riot took place in the house, but this was a fabrication of the Plaintiff’s making, and that no such blows or strong words exchanged, but in fact, the members sat quietly and did not offer any ill words, or riot was made in his house. He said he would also call several witnesses in support of their innocence, to prove that the Masons who were on trial were not guilty of breaking any laws, or causing any affray, damage or disrespect to the landlord and his wife. When cross examined by the council for the defence, Urso’s downfall was soon to be shown, when he refused to answer the questions, perhaps a modern day *“no comment”* which clearly indicated he was telling the court a pack of lies. During this cross-examination, and without realising it, Urso’s demeanour had changed dramatically, and he inadvertently dropped his pretence of a wronged man, and he retorted to the accusations being made against him, with a *“snarling and doglike behaviour”* whereupon the Judge intervened and sharply rebuked him that a Court of Justice was not to be used with such scorn, contempt and abuse. Having completed his cross-examination, the defence council turned to the Jury, advocating that the accusations against the ten men in the dock for misconduct, did not happen, because of their honour as Masons, whose badge they wear, and he insists that they should cleared of any such crimes.

*“If Masons, so famous for union and love,
Of mobbing and riots thus guilty should prove,
Of the craft and its secrets I’ll take a farewell,*

For where there’s no peace, there can nothing excel.”

The Judge then too acknowledged that there had been no such crime committed as he listened to the defence barrister explaining to the Jury the exact circumstances of what actually transpired, and that only Urso had created all this disorder, and he would certainly be sorry should a verdict go against him. Urso bitterly complained *“and thus all my pains and my money be lost, shall to such fellows thus basely submit, ask pardon, and humble myself at their feet?”* In the 18th century, with the jury, it was still considered an advantage if jurors had prior knowledge of the background to a trial, and any knowledge they had of the community (particularly of its more disreputable members) was to be used when making decisions.

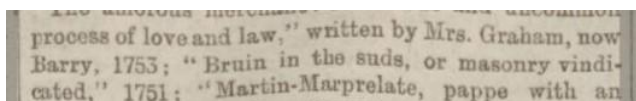
Urso remained unrepentant and stood firm with his accusations and that the jury make their decision, at whatever the cost. It certainly was not Urso’s day, as the Jury huddled in the court and reached its verdict, and in their opinion resolved to acquit the defendants of all the accusations made against them. So Urso left the court in

shame, with his unwarranted indictment of malice and spite against the Lodge of Freemasons having been exposed.

*“How best may he ward off the blows from his head
Which he just reason with terror to dread,
For lies, and for slanders, and perjuries base,
So plainly detected, and prov’d to his face.”*

As to whether this particular story is true, remains obscure, and despite some research through the usual archives and newspapers of the mid eighteenth century, I have not been able to uncover any reported narratives of any trials between Freemasons and a Vintners, or landlords in the mid 1750’s, or before, but we must assume that it may well have happened, as since it has been so eloquently versed and published in a booklet form, and made available for sale, it is then assumed that to some degree that such an incident occurred. However, there was a copy of the pamphlet in the extensive library, which consisted of over 3,000 lots of a Mr. James Crossley, President of the Chatham Society, which were offered for sale on the 11th June 1885 by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson and Hodge, Strand, London.

A list of the library was published in the “The Manchester Courier, and Lancashire General Advertiser” on Thursday 4th June 1885.



Article and Research by Allan de Luca

Watch Your Thoughts

Watch your thoughts: They become your words.
Watch your words: They become your actions.
Watch your actions: They become your habits.
Watch your habits: They become your character.
Watch your character: It becomes your destiny.

Freemasons from across Chingford gathered at Chingford Masonic Hall to witness a world-first event for Freemasonry



In front of a completely packed hall, a live video link was made to the Freemasons in New York State. After hearing a fascinating lecture from three of the American masons about Freemasonry in the USA, the Chingford Masons said they were delighted to be able to wire \$500 to them in favour of a charity called TLC. TLC is a charity that was started in Essex which ensures that children in hospital are given a free teddy bear. Chingford Freemason, Elliott

³ Excerpts from “Chingford Times” - Thursday 3rd November 2016

Chevin said: “They love it and it helps to take their mind away from the problem at hand. This in-turn, helps to calm the parents.” Recently, this initiative has spread across England and has now made it across the pond to New York State. Elliott added: “£500 was then donated to the Masonic charitable foundation, which will form part of millions of pounds that Essex Freemasons will be donating to this grant-making charity providing help for Freemasons, for families and for everyone. All of the Freemasons from the area then enjoyed an American-themed dinner to celebrate a truly momentous, educational and charitable evening.” ³



Group Almoners

The Group Almoners looking after Chingford, Loughton and Epping Forest are W Bros Bill Bangs and John Mansfield. If you have any questions or queries relating to welfare, assistance for members or their families, annuities etc. please contact Bill or John directly. They will then be able to advise you, or will be able to either find out or direct you to someone who will be able to help. They will also be able to help and assist new Almoners in understanding their duties.

Contact Details

W.Bro. Bill Bangs – email:
Bill.bangs@sky.com

W.Bro. John Mansfield – email:
Mansfieldofcoppens@yahoo.com



The Silent Summons

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him. It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire.

Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited. The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent. His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one, lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead. Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember, and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it. As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, “Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting.” ⁴

⁴ <http://www.mastermason.com>

The Chingford Masonic Study Circle Monday 7th November 2016

On Monday 7th November 2016 at the Chingford Masonic Hall, the regular meeting of the Chingford Masonic Study Circle was held, with a good attendance to include, on this occasion, wives and partners of the brethren to enjoy the special talk presented by VW Bro. Irene Howell, Grand Inspector for Essex, entitled “The Order of Women Freemasonry.” VW Bro Irene opened the talk by mentioning the “Suffragettes” who in 1905 started off reasonably peacefully. It was in 1905 that the organisation created a stir when Christabel Pankhurst and Annie Kenney interrupted a political meeting in Manchester to ask two Liberal politicians, Winston Churchill and Sir Edward Grey, if they believed women should have the right to vote. No man replied. As a result, the two women got out a banner which had on it “Votes for Women” and shouted at the two politicians to answer their questions. Such actions were all but unheard of then when public speakers were usually heard in silence and listened to courteously even if you did not agree with them. Pankhurst and Kenney were thrown out of the meeting and arrested for causing an obstruction and a technical assault on a police officer. However, Women in Freemasonry, which was solely the domain of the men, came into this country from France in 1902, where a number of Women were Initiated into Freemasonry, and it arrived in England in the form of mixed Lodges, known as Co-Masonry. In 1908 some Co-Masons decided to break away to start a new Order because, like the Suffragettes, objected to the control from France and to some of the ritual and influences found in Co-Masonry. They wanted to practise Freemasonry on the same lines as the male United Grand Lodge of England. The Honourable Fraternity of Antient Masonry was founded on 20th June 1908 and its first Grand Master and driving force, ironically was a man, the Rev. Dr. William Frederick Cobb. However, since 1912 the Grand Masters have all been women. The new Order at first included both men and women, but eventually the decision was taken in the early 1920’s to restrict entrance to women only and no longer admit men as visitors to their meetings. Although a handful of loyal men remained in office, by 1935 it had become an exclusively female organisation and remains so to this day. There is another Masonic Order for Women, which was founded in 1913, and in 1958 to avoid confusion in names, the “Order of Women Freemasonry” was added to their title, as they are known today. The headquarters of the OWF is in Pembridge Gardens, in Notting Hill, London, (pictured left)



it is a Grade II listed building, constructed during the mid-19th century, complete with an extensive Grand Temple, and has a second smaller Temple, VW Bro Irene referred to the interior of being something like “Upstairs/Downstairs” and mentioned that Stella McCartney is one of their neighbours.

The freehold of the building was donated to the Order by a member in 1924. The Order of Women’s Freemasonry is recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England with whom they enjoy a “cordial” relationship.



Pictured Above:
VW Bro. Irene Howell
G.I. for Essex



Pictured Above: VW Bro. Irene Howell, receiving a cheque to her preferred Charity from W. Bro. Dennis Jane Chairman of the CMSC.



Pictured above left to right: W. Bro. Loretta Champion PGR, PM of Lodge Kedron No.75 (who meet at the Chingford Masonic Hall) VW Bro. Irene Howell and W. Bro Dennis Jane, Chairman CMSC.

This was a most interesting talk, and prompted many questions from the audience, and there was an excellent repartee between both male and female Freemasons.

As is the usual custom, the CMSC made a donation to VW Bro. Irene, who requested that the donation be made to the “Lodge of Stronghold No.130” in support of their Charity, “Race for Life” a Cancer research project, which is a series of women-only events raising money for research into all 200 types of cancer.

As there were to be expected Ladies among the audience, the Secretary brought along a piece of 18th century Masonic “bling” which was a 1790 George III spade half guinea, with a square and compasses with brilliants, and is almost certainly a gold Past Masters Jewel, circa 1795, very rare and probably one of the best examples of Masonic ephemera, and it is in an excellent condition, and is pictured below.



The next meeting of the CMSC will be held on Wednesday 22nd March 2017, and the guest speaker will be W.Bro. Steven J Smith M.A., and a member of the West Essex Round Table Lodge No.9310, who will present his talk entitled “*The early 18th century Masonic connections to Mathematical Instrument-Maker Jonathan Sisson (1692-1749) and his legacy to Modern Freemasonry.*”

If you wish to become a member of the CMSC, please contact the Secretary, W.Bro. Allan de Luca, email: allandeluca@btinternet.com The regular meetings are held on the 4th Wednesday, March, 4th Monday June, 1st Monday, November.



Photographs very kindly supplied by W.Bro. David Hook

A “Night at the Races” Success

The annual Fundraiser “A Night at the Races” held on Saturday 19th November 2016, raised the tremendous amount of over £1750.00 in aid of the Widows Broken Column Luncheon, which will take place at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Friday 16th December 2016. The CMA members express their sincere thanks for all the support they have received from the Lodges and Chapters with this annual event.

Jane Elizabeth Moore – Poet

Who wrote poems to an anonymous Freemason on the subject of admitting women and other topics

Jane Elizabeth Moore was of English extraction, writer and businesswoman, was born in London on 30 September 1738, the elder of two daughters of Abraam Gobeil, leather manufacturer, and his wife, Jeanne Marie (c.1719–1741), eldest daughter of Monsieur G—r of St Onge, France. Both her parents were French, living in England at the time of her birth. She was baptized at St Martin Orgar French Huguenot church, Martin Lane, on 15 October 1738. Jane’s mother, Jeanne Marie, was tricked into an unhappy marriage, and died young in 1741 aged 21 or 22 and about two years later her father remarried. Her stepmother, according to Jane, “had forsaken the path of virtue ... and every scheme was agitated to destroy the reputation of the house.”⁵ After a series of adulterous affairs, the stepmother left when Jane was ten years old. Jane was brought up speaking only French, and she claims to have begun her schooling at the age of twenty months. She rapidly learned English and at five could read the Bible in both languages. She was removed from school in 1743 and spent a year at home with her stepmother where unsuccessful attempts were made to teach her needlework and “most indelicate novels” were read aloud to the servants in her presence. After a spell at a school for young ladies in Bromley, she moved first to her godfather's house where she was tutored by a French refugee, then to a seminary for young women and finally to a school in Wandsworth. Jane completed her formal education in 1753, and on returning home on the completion of her schooling, Jane found that her father resented her because she was a girl. She nevertheless began to work in his business, turning down several proposals of marriage in order to remain with him. She provides a vivid account, in her “Genuine Memoirs of Jane Elizabeth Moore” (1785) of her work as a clerk in her father’s business.

Annual Remembrance Sunday Poppy Wreath Laying ceremony Sunday 11th November 2016



On Sunday 11th November 2016, outside of the Cenotaph in London and throughout the rest of the United Kingdom, services of remembrance have been held in many towns and villages and more especially in Chingford. Many of the “great and good” of the Borough were in attendance, especially the Rt. Hon. Iain Duncan Smith, who as M.P. for Chingford and Woodford Green annually attends the ceremony of Remembrance and laid a wreath of poppies at the Chingford War Memorial, as were brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall along with their partners and family to participate in the Remembrance Service. W. Bro. Ted Page, of the Chingford Lodge No.2853 laid the poppy wreath on behalf of the brethren of the Chingford Masonic Hall.



⁵ (*Genuine Memoirs*, 38–9; 43–4).

She also makes it clear, in comments on her relationship with her husband, that she was determined “*not to be obligated to any man breathing.*” She bullied her father into dowering her with a “*daughters share*” of the business. When her father died, she learned that he had not provided for the promised dower⁶ and she engaged in a six-year lawsuit contesting the will. Subsequently because of her subsequent business concerns, she developed an illness brought on by overwork, and her travels throughout the United Kingdom, and in 1773 amid the difficulties of wartime trade⁷ she learned that her husband was having an affair with her maid, and the following five years are punctuated with further discoveries of his mistresses and her stepson’s various minor misdemeanours, and Moore suffered several strokes and then a relapse after being abused by his drunken son, and by the spring of 1781 she became very ill, and her husband had died. It was in 1760 when she first met Mr. Moore (c.1717–1781), her future husband, when he visited her father’s warehouse. He became interested in her and, according to Jane, “pretended to have knowledge of books” and “flattered her.” Although her father opposed the match, they were married on 10 October 1761.

Upon marrying, Jane Moore became stepmother to her husband’s son from a previous marriage. Two children were born to the couple but both died in infancy. Moore participated in her husband’s leather manufacture business and travelled extensively around Britain studying trade and manufacture. By 1772, however, both the business and the marriage were in serious difficulty. When Mr Moore died in 1781 he left considerable debts, and in 1784 Jane was arrested by Mr. Moore’s executors, and was placed in temporary confinement for six weeks in a “sponging house”⁸ and from there to the King’s Bench Prison, Southwark during which time she was made a bankrupt for a debt contracted by Mr. Moore, and remained in prison for eight months.

On the 28th October 1785, Moore wrote “*on the third of May, I obtained my liberty and once more launched on the tempestuous ocean of life, relying on my patrons for a more calm situation to console my languid sole*” Concluding with “*I remain ever, and on all occasions with due respect, the publick’s most faithful and diligent humble Servant, Jane Eliz. Moore.*” She had suffered during 15 months from 1784 to Christmas 1785, of being robbed once on the high road, her wagon robbed, the loss of a large quantity of linen, loss of horses, a loss of the sale of premises and spent six weeks under a surgeon. After her release, she turned to writing as a way to support herself. Jane Moore wrote three volumes, entitled *Genuine Memoirs*. In the third volume of the Memoirs, Jane justifies various articles as “from a female pen”, and that she is wholly conversant with trade and manufacture, from fisheries to coinage, customs and excise, with several chapters on English law. The *Monthly Review* (December 1786) described the book as “a silly tale of trifling adventures, related in a most vulgar style” and complained that the “journey through Great Britain is neither sentimental nor instructive” (*Monthly Review*).

⁶ A provision accorded by law, but traditionally by a husband or his family, to a wife for her support in the event that she should survive her husband

⁷ Probably the Trade Wars of the East India Company

⁸ Places of preliminary confinement for debtors

Jane Moore had written poetry for years, and had published a number of poems (some anonymously) in the “*Sentimental and Masonic Magazine*” (1792–5). Visiting Dublin in 1795 on business, she met the poet and satirist Henrietta Battier and the poet Thomas Moore, the latter describing her as “of the largest and most vulgar Wapping mould ... making havoc with the v’s and w’s” as she read her poems to the assembled company.”



Pictured left: *An elegant Frontispiece, representing the Patron of the Magazine, Right Worshipful Grand Master of Ireland, receiving it from the figures of LOVE, HONOUR and JUSTICE, and was published from July 1792 to December? 1795, printed in Dublin, Ireland.* In 1795, the

Sentimental and Masonic Magazine, of Dublin took the first step in commemorating and publishing a tribute to George Washington as a Freemason. Jane Moore’s “*Miscellaneous Poems, on Various Subjects*” was published by subscription in 1796, a second edition followed in 1797.

Generally considered to be better than her prose, it included poems to the royal family, biblical paraphrases, a set of songs and poems from an opera, “The Female Hermit” (lost), and an entertaining poetic correspondence with an anonymous freemason on the refusal of the Society of Freemasons to admit women as equal members. Jane moved to Dublin where she apparently bored Thomas Moore by insisting on reading her poems to him.

Her “Miscellaneous Poems” (Dublin 1796) contain poetic celebrations of the discovery of gold in County Wicklow and the opening of Maynooth College, Co. Kildare. She also engaged in the following unusual exchange of verse letters with an unknown Dublin freemason. The date of Mrs Moore’s death is not known.⁹

A Question to the Society of Freemasons

Ye Brethren Masonic of ancient degree,
 Who for ages have boasted of being ‘quite free’
 But whence, my good Sirs, does this freedom arise?
 When so many thousands, who wish to be wise,
 Are suing¹⁰ instruction you boldly deny,
 The answer is tacit, pray tell me for why?
 The knowledge you prize were it once but made known,
 Might soften the manners and model the clown¹¹
 The secret so valu’d, once known to the fair¹²
 Might improve on ideas by feminine air,
 Then why were your tenets so cruelly prest,
 As not to admit of a plume in your crest?
 That an emblem of union would boldly proclaim,
 By admitting, ‘quite freely’ each well-inform’d dame,
 Who such secret would keep on the terms of admission,
 And her sacred word pledge on obtaining permission;
 Your answer is claim’d, why you thus should refuse,
 The requests of the fair, who were born to amuse.

⁹ From the book “*Verse in English from Eighteenth-century Ireland*” by Andrew Carpenter published 1998

¹⁰ i.e. asking for

¹¹ An ignorant or ill bred person, often a countryman

¹² i.e. to women – Freemasons do not admit women to their ranks.

ANSWER

T.W. M-----a Esq

You've ask'd why our secrets are kept from the clown?
And why to the fair we do not make them known
That a clown should partake of our mystery divine,
As well might bid us cast pearl before swine,
And as to the fair, why since truth I must tell,
Their foibles and frailties we all know too well,
But as Masons should ever from babbling¹³ forbear,
I'll pass by in silence the faults of the fair,
Their merits acknowledge, nor can I do less,
They were born to amuse us, but never to bless.

To T.M. W-----a Esq

By Jane Eliz. Moore

Your answer I've read and lament with surprise,
That the fair should appear so frail in your eyes,
Reflect, that the errors you so keenly scan,
Are such as are taught them by still frailer man,
If the clown you could polish from nature's rude mass,
It would greatly embellish your much renown'd class,
Your secret, now futile for'er it may be,
Savors not of *pro bono* well all daily see,
And since Heaven's gift you so badly define,
I fear 'tis our sex are as "pearl before swine"

A Rejoinder

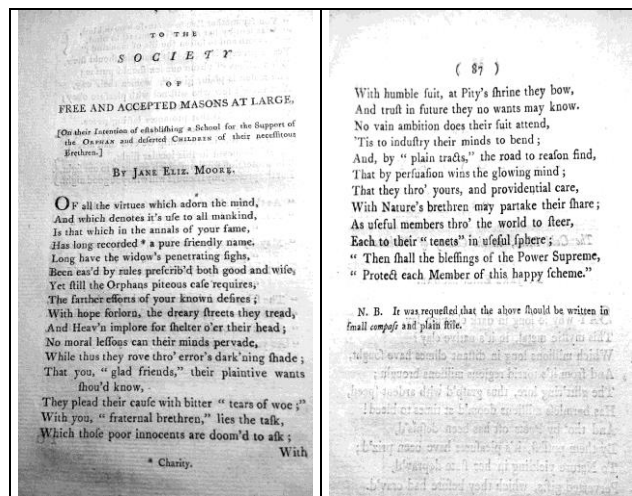
To Mrs. Jane Eliz. Moore Repledum [sic]

By T.W. M-----a Esq

I've read your reply, fraught with humour and taste,
And now to join issue permit to haste,
When first mother Earth was call'd up by a nod,
From chaos and shap'd by Jehovah, our God,
Who made man in his own image, with reason endow'd
And surveying the whole, proclaim'd all his work good,
Who form'd our rules and imparted the same,
To a chosen few, from the rest did retain,
Our secrets mysterious, who his word issu'd forth,
They should not be reveal'd but to men of true worth,
That a man without principle, reason or thought,
To guide him to speak, or to act as he ought,
Should not be admitted our lodge to disgrace,
It's harmony blast, or its beauties deface,
That the faults of the fair sex are taught them by man,
I deny, for their crimes with creation began.
Mother Eve, who was made to encrease [sic] human kind,
To soften and solace man's trouble of mind,
Who tho' form'd his equal in reason and soul,
No mandate divine could her conduct controul [sic]
'Till banished from Eden, or herself and her race,
Brought the first curse on man, with th' Almighty's disgrace
Tho' as Masons we're ever attached to the fair,
Their sorrows still sooth, still assuage every care,
Their weakness protect from the vulgar and rude,
Their joys still increase, nay their every good
Yet our secrets and rites we can never impart,
To the sex, for whose sin all mankind feel smart,
Altho' we lament we the fair can't admit,
Convinc'd that a few possess merit and wit,
That our secrets partaking, the brighter wou'd shine,
But we're bar'd by our rules, form'd by precepts Divine.¹⁴

¹³ Probably "babbling"

Jane Moore also wrote the following prose on the proposal of the Freemasons establishing a School for the support of the "Orphans and deserted Children of their "necessitous" Brethren." Jane Moore added a footnote to her work stating that "It was requested that the above should be written in small compass and plain stile.[sic]"



The prose reads as follows:

Of all the virtues which adorn the mind,
And which denotes it's use to all mankind,
Is that which in the annuls of your fame,
Has long recorded * a pure friendly name.
Long have the widow's penetrating sighs,
Been eas'd by rules prescrib'd both good and wise,
Yet still the Orphans piteous case requires,
The farther efforts of your known desires;
With hope forlorn, the dreary streets they tread,
And Heav'n implore for shelter o'er their head;
No moral lessons can their minds pervade,
While thus they rove thro' error's dark'ning shade;
That you, "glad friends," their plaintive wants shou'd
know,
They plead their cause with bitter "tears of woe"
With you, "fraternal brethren" lies the task,
Which those poor innocents are doom'd to ask;
With humble suit, at Pity's shrine they bow,
And trust in future they no wants may know.
No vain ambition does their suit attend,
'Tis to industry their minds to bend;
And, by "plain tracts" the road to reason find,
That by persuasion wins the glowing mind;
That they thro' yours, and providential care,
With Nature's Brethren may partake their share;
As useful members thro' the world to steer,
Each to their "tenets" in useful sphere;
"Then shall the blessings of the Power Supreme,
Protect each Member of this happy scheme."
*Charity

Article and Research by Allan de Luca



¹⁴ "Misc. Poems on various occasions by Jane Elizabeth Moore, published 1797 - UGLE Library & Museum

Masonic Order of Athelstan, Province of Essex



On Thursday, 17th November 2016, the Annual Provincial Assembly, hosted by Wulhelm Court No.4 was held at the Chingford Masonic Hall. During the Provincial meeting, a banner was dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Brian Vickers. A talk on the history of the Province, its Courts and the relevance of banners was written and presented by the Provincial Eminent Grand Prior, W. & EM. Bro. Barry Jones.

There was also the investment of the Provincial Appointments by the Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial meeting was followed by Wulhelm Court No.4 regular meeting followed by an excellent festive board, along with heads of Order Orders. It was an excellent night, and thoroughly enjoyed by all.



*Pictured above: left – the Logo of the Order:
right: The New Provincial Banner of the Province of Essex for the
Masonic Order of Athelstan*

The Masonic Order of Athelstan is based on the life of King Athelstan, the first King of all the English who reigned from 925 to 939 AD. The historical order provides a wonderful degree which is growing very quickly here in the UK and overseas and celebrated its 10th anniversary last year (2015). There are Courts in Chingford, Colchester and Southend and one to be consecrated in the near future in Upminster. The Province of Essex also includes London, and there are two Courts in London.¹⁵

¹⁵ Source and photograph – The Cube and W. & Em. Bro. Barry Jones

For further information on the Order you can contact the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Emlyn Carter, email: emlyn.carter@blueyonder.co.uk

Rose Croix District of South Essex Installation of V.III. Bro. Paul Tarrant 33°



The date for the Installation of V.III. Bro. Paul Tarrant, 33° as Inspector General for the District of South Essex has now been confirmed with Supreme Council. The Installation will be held on Monday 13th February, 2017 at Saxon Hall, Southend on Sea and will be hosted by Thames Estuary Chapter No634. The meeting coincides with the celebration of the Chapter's 50th anniversary so this will be a truly memorable occasion. The Summer Lunch for the District of South Essex will be held at Upminster Masonic Hall on Sunday 11th June 2017.

Province of Essex New Provincial Appointments 2017

The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Rodney Lister Bass has announced the following new appointments.

New Provincial Grand Secretary

W. Bro. Andrew Bishop PAGDC will be retiring in March 2017. W. Bro. Philip Lovelock PAGDC will be appointed in his stead, and W. Bro. Andrew Bishop will assist by remaining in Office as Provincial Scribe E until September 2017.

Other Appointments and Changes

W. Bro. Laurie G.T. Justice PSGD will be retiring as Assistant Provincial Grand Master in March, and will be succeeded by W. Bro. Nicholas J. Franklin PAGDC. E. Comp. Phillip I Campbell PGStdB will be appointed to the position of Third Grand Principal in the Royal Arch. The Provincial Grand Master announced that W. Bro. E.R. Robertson PSGD and W. Bro. Anthony J Hellier PSGD both Past Assistant Provincial Grand Masters would be awarded Distinguished Service to Freemasonry in Essex, in recognition to their service to the Royal Order of Scotland and Knights Templar. As Provincial Grand Mentor, W. Bro. Mike Fisher PAGD with W. Bro. John Davies PSGD APGM will continue to retain broad oversight. As Provincial Grand Senior Warden, W. Bro. David J. Brown PPJGD and Robert J.W. Eels AGDC as Provincial Junior Grand Warden. The Provincial Grand Sword Bearer will be W. Bro. Graham Elvidge PPAGReg for next year.¹⁶

Reflections of the Great War As it continues into 1917 and becomes a "World War"

As the world looks back to 100 years ago, when Great Britain was fighting in the Great War, by the beginning of the new year of 1917 there was no sign of abatement and the Great War raged on as ally and foe were again to add to the death toll of millions of servicemen who had already sacrificed their lives since the beginning of the Great War on 4th August 1914.

¹⁶ Announcement on the "Cube" Province of Essex website, 2nd December 2016

The Press of the day, especially the Dublin Daily Express dated Friday 5th January 1917, published the following dialogue and poem by Rudyard Kipling, "The Neutral" which appears as an epilogue to his book on "Sea Warfare" which contained chapters "The Fringes of the Fleet, Tales of the Trade, and Destroyers at Jutland" became available at the beginning of January 1917, and cost 5/- net.

Brethren, how shall it fare with me
When the war is laid aside,
If it be proven that I am he
For whom a world has died?

If it be proven that all my good,
And the greater good I will make
Were purchased for me by a multitude
Who suffered for my sake?

That I was delivered by mere mankind,
Vowed to one sacrifice,
And not, as I hold them, battle blind,
But dying with opened eyes?

That they did not ask me to draw the sword
When they stood to endure their lot,
That they only looked to me for a word,
And I answered I knew them not?

If it found when the battle clears
Their death has set me free,
Then how shall I live with myself thro' the years
Which they have bought for me?

Brethren, how must it fare with me,
Or how am I justified,
If it be proven that I am he
For whom mankind has died;
If it be proven that I am he
Who being questioned denied.

Other news of the day in January 1917, was that it was quite by chance that the public learnt of an excellent scheme, when a correspondent of the Daily Mail, residing at Ealing, received a letter from the Argentine on which was a stamp-label with the inscription "Don't forget! The safe arrival of this letter is due to the British Navy."



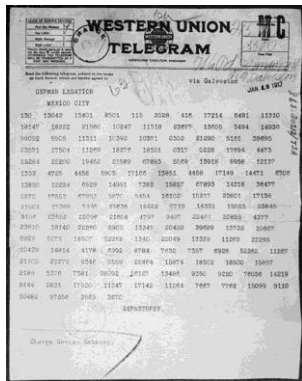
The label, was printed in red, white and blue, with the Union Jack in the left-hand corner. When this interesting fact was announced, the general secretary of the Navy League pointed out that these stamps had been in use by the League for the past several months, and any quantity can be secured from its offices at the rate of sixpence per hundred. The reporter for the Daily Mail then suggested that the stamp might advantageously be adopted in England by

firms having a large correspondence with neutral countries. It was also suggested that it might be used on letters to the troops on the various fronts. The scheme was an excellent form of propaganda, and it was strongly suggested by the Newspaper, that the Navy League might do worse than to advertise the sale of stamps, and the cost was small and within everybody's reach.¹⁷

At the turn of the New Year 1917, there was much publicity of a "German Peace Offer" issued to the Entente (Britain France and Russia) by the Kaiser in December 1916. David Lloyd-George had become Prime Minister on the 6th December 1916 and set about with legislation of universal national service, with that every man not in the army to be engaged in work of national importance. In his address to the House of Commons on Tuesday 19th December 1916, he said the problems of production and distribution of food need to be tackled, but the people must be prepared to make real sacrifices. By the spring of 1917 the government was developing an increasing amount of its business to a growing number of sub-committees to act as a supervisor regulating their decisions rather than as a complete body taking decisions itself. For Germany and its central powers, they also had much to grumble about for the war had not gone well for them in 1916. On the credit side, by Christmas they had defeated Romania and occupied Bucharest. Romania had been the newest member of the Entente, following their defeat, the Austrian and German leaders agreed that they had demonstrated to their enemies that the military balance had swung once again in their favour, and the Central Powers should issue a call for a peace conference. This is where the rub lies, as they were not seeking to negotiate a general peace but rather to divide their enemies by encouraging defeatism in France and Russia, which might incline them towards a separate peace agreements. The British Government received the German note of peace on 12th December 1916. However, no senior British policy-maker wanted to open peace negotiations following the German offer, especially that after two years of war, and the sacrifices of the Somme, it was emotionally unendurable for the Lloyd-George government to accept that the appalling casualties Britain had suffered had bought no tangible gains, and inclined him to take the matter seriously. The German peace offer was seen as ambiguous, and arrogant in tone, it produced only suspicion in the Allied Camp, but President Woodrow Wilson, who had recently been re-elected President of the USA suggested to Lloyd-George that Germany be invited to state her terms of the peace settlement. Lloyd-George, remained deeply distrustful of Wilson, and he was convinced that Wilson's note was a "pro-German move" and being fearful that he would look inflexible to Wilson by a flat refusal to negotiate peace terms, managed to solve the issue by reasoning that he would listen to any useful terms Germany might offer. Lloyd-George was convinced that the while Prussian aggression continued, he felt that worthwhile terms would not arise in the first place, and that any German concessions would be worthless because they would be German, coming from the Nation that had already violated pledges and treaties in 1914. In the end, Lloyd-George had tactfully squared the circle, and found a way to pledge Britain to a fight to final victory without offending America.

¹⁷ Army & Navy Gazette – 20th January 1917

It was universally known that Wilson was aggravated with the British for ignoring his suggestion of a post-war league of nations, and he also objected to their seizure of mail from neutral ships and their blacklisting of firms trading with Britain's enemies. Wilson always insisted that a league of nations was the solution to ending the war. However, on 26 January 1917, the British reluctantly accepted his suggestion of mediation, but what happened next, is that the British Intelligence based in the Admiralty, had intercepted



and decoded a diplomatic communication issued from the German Foreign Office. Pictured Left: The Zimmerman Telegram as it was sent from Washington to Ambassador Heinrich von Eckardt (who was the German Ambassador to Mexico). Having been kept secret before its release by British Intelligence, the problem arose that the

disclosure of the telegram might expose that British Intelligence had broken the German codes. Although the British had cut the German international cables at the outbreak of war, the United States allowed Germany limited use of its own diplomatic cables to communicate with its ambassador in Washington. Two other cables ran from Sweden and from the US Embassy in Denmark, but neither ran directly to the USA, but passed through a relay station at Porthcurno, near Land's End, and all traffic through Porthcurno telegram was copied to British Intelligence, in particular to the codebreakers and analysts in Room 40 at the Admiralty. The Germans handed in messages to the U.S. Embassy in Berlin which were relayed to the embassy in Denmark and then to the United States by American telegraph operators. The only condition the United States placed on the Germans using the facility was that all messages had to be in the clear (i.e. un-coded), but the Germans assumed that the United States cable was secure and used it extensively. Obviously, Zimmermann's note could not be given to the United States in the clear, and the Germans therefore persuaded the U.S. Ambassador, James W. Gerard to accept it in coded form, and it was transmitted on 16th January 1917.

The British cryptographic office known as "Room 40" decoded the Zimmermann Telegram and worked deftly to expose this telegram to the Americans. The decision-making on this, however, was made entirely by British intelligence and the Foreign Office. Lloyd George was informed about it, but he appears to have had no hand in how it was released, and on the 2nd March 1916 "The Daily Mirror" published the telegram with the headline "German War Plot against America" and provoked widespread outrage in the U.S. Diplomatic relations between Germany and the United States had already been severed in early February, when Germany resumed unrestricted submarine warfare and began preying on U.S. vessels in the Atlantic. Zimmermann's decoded telegram was offering an alliance to Mexico and the return of parts of Texas and New Mexico if she declared war on America. It was then that Wilson learned that Germany was adopting unlimited submarine warfare.

With this revelation, Wilson immediately broke off diplomatic relations with Germany. The telegram read "We intend to begin on the first of February unrestricted submarine warfare. We shall endeavour in spite of this to keep the United States of America neutral. In the event of this not succeeding, we make Mexico a proposal of alliance on the following basis: make war together, make peace together, generous financial support and an understand on our part that Mexico to reconquer the lost territory in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The settlement in detail is left to you. You will inform the President of the above most secretly as soon as the outbreak of war with the United States of America is certain and add the suggestion that he should, on his own initiative invite Japan to immediate adherence and at the same time mediate between Japan and yourselves. Please call the President's attention to the fact that the ruthless employment of our submarines now offers the prospect of compelling England in a few months to make peace." Signed ZIMMERMANN

In his reply, the President of Mexico, Venustiano Carranza, spoke in the name of his nation "We have no interest to serve by entering the war. The country needs rest and is now undergoing political reconstruction" and went on to say "The disclosure of the Zimmermann telegram only proves one thing, namely, that Germany attempted to make use of my country against the United States. They have founded newspapers and spent big sums of money on their propaganda in order to mislead public opinion. Do not think, however, that they have succeeded. American sympathies generally are with the Allies, and you may state positively that my country will never undertake anything that is contrary to the Allies policy."

In March 1917, the telegram was published, the revelation of the contents enraged American public opinion, especially after the German Secretary Arthur Zimmermann publicly admitted the telegram was genuine. In a statement, he said, "that he wrote no letter to General Carranza, but sent instructions "by a sure channel" to the German Minister at Mexico City. How those instructions came into the American hands he did not know." He stated that he ordered the Minister, in the event of war with America, to propose an alliance with Mexico and an entente with Japan, but he expressed the hope that America would remain neutral, in spite of the submarine campaign. The instructions were to be carried out only a state of war had come into being. Herr Zimmermann referred to the breaking off of diplomatic relations as an unkind action on the part of President Wilson. German submarines had already compounded the offence by sinking seven American merchant ships.

Woodrow Wilson had no choice but to summon Congress, and, on 2nd April 1917, to declare war on the Central Powers, declaring that Germany's latest pronouncement had rendered "armed neutrality" policy untenable and asked Congress to declare Germany's war stance was an act of war, and to declare war in order to make "the world safe for democracy." Four days later, Congress overwhelmingly passed the War Resolution which brought the United States into the Great War. The war was not only total, it was finally a "World War."

Article and Research – Allan de Luca

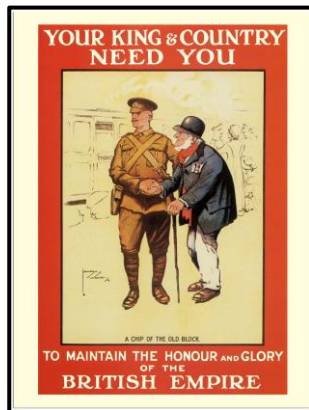
Annual Meeting of
**Provincial Grand Lodge of
 Essex**
 23 March 2017
 Freemasons Hall
 60 Great Queen St, London WC2B
 5AZ

**Lawson Wood – English Painter and
 Designer of Humorous Depictions**



For some of those brethren who were born during and after, or perhaps even before the Second World War, will no doubt recollect some of the children's books and toys, especially of those by Lawson Wood, were always a favourite to be found among the presents

in their stocking on Christmas Day. Lawson Wood (pictured above) was an English painter, illustrator and designer known for humorous depictions of cavemen and dinosaurs, policemen, and animals, especially a chimpanzee called Gran'Pop, whose annuals circulated around the world. He was deeply concerned with animal welfare and was awarded membership in the Royal Zoological Society in 1934. His animal designs were reproduced as wooden toys and he established a sanctuary for aged creatures.



Pictured above: 1914 World War I British recruitment posters by Lawson Wood.

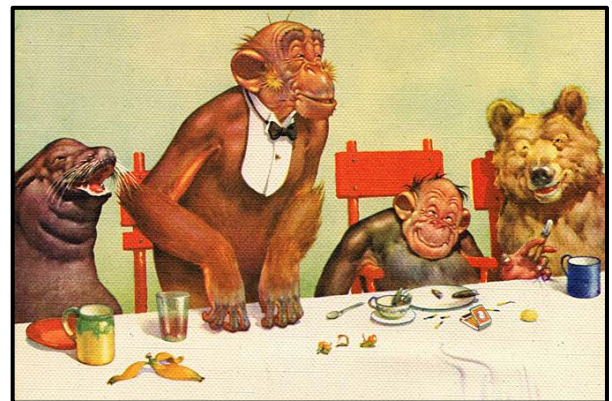
Lawson Wood was born 23rd August 1878 in Highgate, London, and the son of landscape artist Pinhorn Wood, 1848-1918, the British landscapist and watercolourist, best known for his rural scenes of Sussex and Surrey. Lawson Wood studied at the Slade School of Fine Art, Heatherley's School of Fine Art and Frank Calderon's School of Animal Painting. In 1896, he was employed with periodical publisher C. Arthur Pearson Ltd. In 1902, he married

¹⁸ *The Sketch* – 4th May 1932

Charlotte Forge. From the age of 24 he pursued a successful freelance career and was published in “*The Graphic*, *The Strand Magazine*, *Punch*, *The Illustrated London News*, and *Boys Own Paper*.” He contributed to many illustrated periodicals in Britain and America, and continued to specialize in comic animal drawings and military subjects.



Pictured above: Probably a previously unpublished and unusual characteristic by Lawson Wood depicting “Gran’Pop as a Freemason, outside the door of the Lodge.”¹⁸



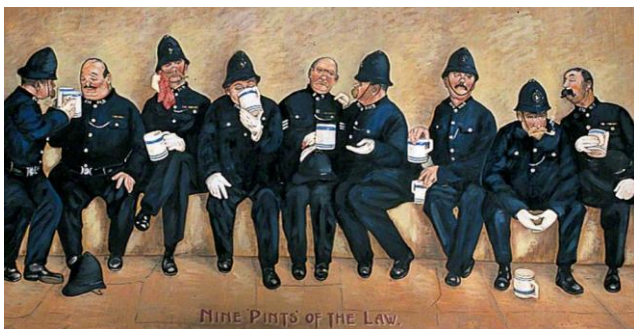
Another picture worthy of note by Lawson Wood, is of Gran'pop being illustrated in a masonic setting, rising to make a speech following the Festive Board.¹⁹

He held several one-man exhibitions of his work. By 1906, he was recognized for his humorous style, especially for his depictions of stone-age humans and dinosaurs. His standing among artists was made obvious when he was chosen by art instructor Percy V. Bradshaw to launch “*The Art of the Illustrator*” a collection of twenty portfolios demonstrating six stages of a single painting or drawing by twenty different artists. Lawson Wood was a member of the London Sketch

¹⁹ *Grand Lodge of British Columbia*

**News from 150 years ago
Friday 21st December 1866
Freemasons Lodges**

Club, and a close friend of fellow member Tom Browne whose influence is clearly seen in his work. He was elected a member of the Royal Institute of Painters in Watercolours and exhibited with Walker's Galleries, Brook Street Art Gallery, and the Royal Academy. During the 1914-18, Wood served for about three years as an officer in the Balloon section of the Royal Flying Corps at G.H.Q., and was responsible for spotting planes from a hot-air balloon. The duty was dangerous, and Wood was decorated by the French for his action over Vimy Ridge. Once peace returned, Lawson Wood's love of animals came to the fore in his work. To ensure accuracy of detail, Lawson Wood regularly visited London Zoo and a small menagerie in Eastbourne, The Wannock Tea Garden. Inter-Art and Valentine published many of his designs. He also set up a factory producing "The Lawson Woodies" simple wooden toys of animals, birds and humans to his own designs. His humorous, sometimes grotesque, but always beautifully-coloured work is technically superb and is still enormously collectible today.



Pictured above: The famous Lawson Wood painting, the title plays on the legal term "Nine points of the Law". There have been many subsequent images which have been based on the painting, amongst which are "Nine half pints of the Law" showed children dressed as Policemen and there are several versions showing different Constabulary uniforms.

In 1934, he was awarded a fellowship of the Royal Zoological Society for his work with animals and his concerns about their welfare. He established his own sanctuary for aged creatures. The ape Gran'pop brought Wood fame at home and abroad and the "Gran'pop's Annuals" 1935-1950, were circulated around the world, and no doubt was always a much coveted, Christmas stocking filler.

Lawson Wood was a recluse during his later years and dwelt in a 15th-century medieval manor house he moved brick by brick from Sussex to the Kent border.

Lawson Wood married Charlotte Forge in 1903 and she gave birth to twins in 1906. For most of his life, he lived and worked in Groombridge in Kent but he retired eventually to Sidmouth in Devon, where he died on October 26th 1957, at the age of 79. It is not known if Lawson Wood was a Freemason.

Article and Research – Allan de Luca



²⁰ *The Coventry Standard – Friday 21st December 1866*

FREEMASONS LODGES – There are nearly eleven hundred lodges under the control of the Grand Lodge of England; of this number, some one hundred and seventy are in London, or within ten miles of the Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street. Over five hundred and sixty are scattered over other parts of England and Wales. Rutlandshire [now Rutland] has none, Bedfordshire, but three, while Lancashire has nearly one hundred. There are others in the Channel Islands, India (there are 10 in Calcutta), Cape of Good Hope, West Indies, North and South America, Australia, New Zealand. The 1st, 6th, 12th, 14th, 31st, and 89th Regiments of Foot have lodges attached to their respective corps. In addition to these, there are nearly one thousand Royal Arch chapters under the same jurisdiction. In the above numbers are not, of course, included lodges in Scotland or Ireland, each of which countries has its own Grand Lodge. In round numbers, there are about one million and a quarter free and accepted masons scattered upon the face of the globe. Of this number, some one hundred and fifty thousand are English masons, one hundred thousand Scotch, fifty thousand Irish. There are about six hundred thousand on the continent of Europe; half that number in the United States; and fifty thousand in other parts of the world. In England, there are two or three thousand persons initiated each year; and Papal allocutions and feminine denunciations notwithstanding, the masonic body is said to be everywhere increasing. – "Freemasonry" in *Chamber's Journal*.²⁰

A MASON'S CHRISTMAS GREETING

Merry may thy Christmas be
Jew or Christian Brother, free !
Happiness to thee and thine,
On this good day, at any shrine !

Where'er thou art may God bless thee,
On foreign land or English sea;
May kindest words be ever found,
And universal joy abound.

Long may the good our Craft inspires
Give holy thoughts at Christmas fires;
Peace to thy Lodge, and Peace to thee !
And Faith, and Hope, and Charity.²¹

**The Annual Christmas
Broken Column Luncheon
Held at the Chingford Masonic Hall
Friday 16th December 2016**

The annual Widows Broken Column Luncheon took place at the Chingford Masonic Hall on Friday 16th December 2016. This event has again been another outstanding success, due to the efficient organisation of the CMA committee.

²¹ *The Freemason – 25 December 1880*

The catering staff served an excellent Christmas Fayre of Tomato Soup, Roast Turkey with Sage and Onion Stuffing accompanied by Seasonal Vegetables. The traditional Christmas Pudding with Brandy Sauce was served along with Mince Pies, Cheese and Biscuits, and after dinner mints were also served to complete this sumptuous Christmas luncheon, accompanied by Red or White Wine. The Christmas widows luncheon has been an annual event since 2002, with funds being raised from the successes of the “Night at the Races” which to date has raised in excess of £22,000. The Christmas Luncheon was an extra special occasion, with a special presentation gift by RW Bro John Webb PPGM to Val Laurence, who had been the head waitress of the Hall’s catering team for over 50 years, serving and feeding the hungry Masons at their Festive Boards. Val was taken ill in the summer, and has undergone a process of treatments, and it is pleasing to announce that Val is now in remission, and was delighted to be honoured at the Christmas Widow’s Luncheon. Many Lodges and other Masonic units had contributed to the purchase of gifts for Val, an Emporio Armani watch, with an engraved plaque on the box, a framed certificate referring to her 50 years service and £500.00 of Lakeside vouchers accompanied by a beautiful bouquet of flowers as an appreciation for her long service and commitment to the Chingford Masonic Hall, of which no doubt the brethren will have happy recollections at their Festive Board’s and other functions. As already mentioned, our modern-day menu for the Broken Column Luncheon, is soup starter, followed by the 21st century offering of Turkey and all the trimmings, and accompanied with wine. The diners were attended to by members of the CMA who served the wine, and dealt with any particular needs of the guest. The Christmas pudding (all ablaze), accompanied by Mince pies, cream or custard, was greeted with the singing of “Good King Wenceslas”. The excellent Christmas meal being expertly cooked by the chef at the Chingford Masonic Hall. It is worthwhile reflecting to 22nd December 1887, when the brethren of a Masonic Lodge, entertained 220 aged and deserving poor. It reports that an excellent dinner, consisting of roast beef, roast legs of mutton, roast veal, hams and Christmas pudding, fully ablaze, and the mince pies, and there appeared to be an abundance of everything. After dinner, there was a plentiful supply of oranges and of pipes and tobacco for the men.

Article (*in absentia*) – Allan de Luca

The New Province of Essex Tie



Pictured left: The design for the new Essex tie. It is now on sale The cost of the new Provincial Tie: Silk £18 and Polyester £11. Obtainable through the Essex Mason Ltd.

²² Source: *The Cube* (www.essexfreemasons.org)

Festival 2022 Craft Beer



Order your Festival 2022 Craft Beer. At £24.00 per pack of 12 x 500ml bottles of this specially brewed craft beer, £9.60 from your purchase will go to the Festival 2022 appeal and help those in need in Essex, at the same time £4.80 will be credited to your lodge or chapter for honorific purposes. To support the Masonic Charitable Foundation, masonic centres through Essex are stocking this very special Festival 2022 Craft Beer. It is a smooth balanced taste, which is deliciously floral with lovely coffee notes at the very end. You can order your beer, and for further information via the website: www.masonicbeer.org.

Essex Freemasons break half a million total for Air Ambulance

Essex Freemasons have donated a further £10,000 towards the Essex and Herts Air Ambulance Appeal as part of their ongoing support for the charity which has now received more than half a million pounds from the organisation over the last 15 years. The latest donation, raised by the Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge at events in every part of the County reinforces the commitment that Essex Masons have for the charity and its ability to continue its vital work. Handing over the latest cheque to Sabi Stafford responsible for fund raising for the Air Ambulance, the Provincial Grand Master, Rodney Bass, commented “*Essex and Herts Air Ambulance plays an essential role in the local community as do Freemasons making this a natural charity for us to support.*” “*I am delighted that Essex Masons continue to raise and donate so much money to this very worthy cause, which could literally mean the difference between life and death for anyone of us who lives and works in the county.*”



Pictured above at the cheque presentation left to right: Graham Turner, Jack Gilliland, RW Bro Rodney Bass, Sabo Stafford and Matt Slade. ²²



**John Helliar PAPGM, member of the Chingford Chapter Rose Croix No.850 and many other orders
West Ham United Historian**

W.Bro.John Helliar PAPGM, (Appointed in 2003) is a member of Chingford Chapter Rose Croix No 850 meeting at the Chingford Masonic Hall, and in many other Orders. His family have been involved with West Ham United football club for 4 generations. John is the current club historian. With the move from the Boleyn ground to the new venue in Stratford City, the local newspaper published a history of the Helliar family involvement with West Ham which you may find of interest. However, I have reproduced the article below, and hope that you enjoy the contents. When I was an active Provincial ADC in 2007/2008 season, I had the privilege of escorting John Helliar in his office as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, to the various Lodge meetings in the Province of Essex, it was a memorable and enjoyable time for me also. (AJD)



The family tree of club historian John Helliar is inextricably linked to West Ham United. His dad printed match-day programmes for decades, while his great-grandfather worked for Thames Ironworks ²³

When you look over the lifetime of West Ham United, from its inception as Thames Ironworks to the point it became West Ham, its move to Upton Park in 1904 and now its transfer to Stratford, one thing has been constant. That is the involvement of the Helliar dynasty. For four generations's they have been part of the fabric at Upton Park with John Helliar rounding it off as the current historian. Who better to ask about the story of the club? "My great grand-father Samuel lived in Silvertown and played for one of the church teams, St. Luke's, explained John. He was around 35 and he worked as a brass founder at Thames Ironworks. When the Thames Ironworks Football Club was founded, he was at the original meeting, and although he never played for them, he knew a lot of the players and so was invited on to the committee from the very start."

In 1900 Samuel started a printing business in his house and he was not only printing for local businesses, he was also doing some bits for West Ham. It was a connection that was to last a lifetime. "I believe he started printing the programme around the end of the First World War when West Ham joined the enlarged Football League Second Division," said John who seems to have a photographic

²³ Dave Evans, West Ham Correspondent

memory about the Hammers. "He also worked as a turnstile operator as did his two sons, my grandfather, Frederick Samuel and Henry William, when they were old enough." His father Jack even had a connection with West Ham during the war. "In the army, he signed up for the territorials in the Essex Regiment and there were a lot of players in the same unit like Archie Macaulay, Ernie Gregory, Terry Woodgate and loads of others. Also, there was Len Cearns, who became the chairman of West Ham." So, what about John's early life? "I was born in the East Ham Memorial Hospital and lived with my mother and father, but also my grandparents in Ranelagh Road, when my father came out of the army. In the early 1950s my parents got a permit to buy a bungalow in Upminster Bridge so we moved there when I was about six and after the 11-plus, I went to St. Bonaventure's School in Forest Gate."

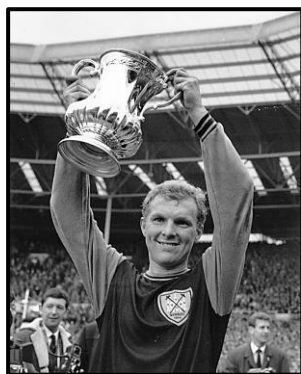
All that time, Helliar and Sons printers, based where they are now in Barking Road, Canning Town, were printing the West Ham programme. "From 1946, my father Jack took over writing the programme and when West Ham were promoted to the First Division in 1958, they decided they wanted a different type of programme," explained John.

It was him who designed the smaller type of programme and a lot of people on the stadium tours that I do now, say they still have those little 7x5 editions up in the loft" said John with a wry smile. What of John's time watching the Hammers? He was there for it all, the F.A. Cup win in 1964, the Cup Winners' Cup triumph in 1965 and even the World Cup final in 1966. He was at the 1975 and 1980 F.A. Cup victories, basically he was there for every moment of success the club has enjoyed and he waxes lyrical about it. "When West Ham played midweek matches I would come down from school to the print works and go to the match" he said. "I don't remember my first game, but I do remember matches from when West Ham were promoted in 1957/58. You always talk about Moore being a great player, but he could be a hard man when he wanted" said John. I always remember playing Leeds in the League Cup. They were champions and a very hard team. Billy Bremner got the ball and Bobby put him into the Chicken run, dumped him against the boards and you never say Billy again and we won 7-0. ²⁴ That was the night John Byrne destroyed Leeds and he is another of my heroes, as is Trevor Brooking." The one play who Helliar separates from all the rest though is Billy Bonds. He came after the World Cup win from Charlton for a lot of money those days, but what Bill did for the club epitomises West Ham" said John. I saw Bobby Moore make his debut against Manchester United in September 1958. The story goes that Ted Fenton asked Noel Cantwell who should come in at wing half, Malcolm Allison or Moore, and Noel said that much as Malcolm was a good friend of his, it had to be 'Mooro.'

"I always thought that Moore was one of the greatest players I ever saw and I watched his entire career at Upton Park, but I still think Billy was the greatest of all the West Ham players." Things did not always go smoothly for the Helliar clan though. "My father had been writing the programme from 1946 to 1983 when we lost the contract. We went over to see Len Cearns at his firm in Stratford and apparently, it was a decision by the other directors at the time. Jack Petchey came in and had different ideas, he

²⁴ 7th November 1966 – West Ham recorded their biggest ever victory in the Football League Cup.

brought in Brian Blower as a developer and they decided to go with Maybank Press.”



Pictured above left: Bobby Moore leading the Hammers against Leicester City at Upton Park in September 1973 ²⁵ And right F.A. Cup Final 2nd May 1964, Wembley. Preston North End v West Ham – final score 1-2

Despite that, Jack Helliar continued to write in the programme and with his wealth of knowledge about the club, he became the club historian too, until his death in 1992. “I had been helping him out, so it was only natural that I would take over both as historian and writing in the programme” said John. “Around 2000 they started doing stadium tours and after the first people they asked stopped doing it, they asked me to step in and I have been doing it ever since.”



After a lifetime of being involved at West Ham, will John miss Upton Park? “What can I say? I have got so many memories from the Boleyn Ground, it has been such a huge part of my life for so many years.” He added. “The day my wife Betty and I got married, we were playing Norwich City and my father came to the wedding and had to dash off to the ground to complete his duties in the press room before coming back to the reception.

Our eldest daughter Joanna was born in 1975, the year we won the F.A. Cup. My wife was pregnant again with Samantha in 1980 when we won the Cup too!” Son Giles was born in 1982, but John’s wife steered him away from the printing business and football. “It has been a long association with the club, he said. It is fair to say that there is claret and blue running through our blood.” The Helliar dynasty have seen the Hammers every step of the way and now John will go with the club to the joys of the Olympic Stadium.

²⁵ From the book “West Ham United – A complete Record” by John Northcott & Roy Shoemsmith published 1993



Pictured above: The Old West Ham United Stadium, Upton Park



Pictured above: the new venue of the West Ham United Football Club at the Stratford Olympic Stadium
Reproduced from the Rose Croix District of South Essex Website, (with additional material)

A Christmas Message from the Provincial Grand Master



“Dear Brethren, May I wish you and your families a happy and peaceful Christmas and a prosperous New Year and thank you all for the support you have given me as your Provincial Grand Master over the last 15 months. It is a privilege to be able to serve you at a time when

Freemasonry is facing several challenges as it addresses a decline in membership. But I am also aware of the opportunities to promote the Craft and I am seeing many encouraging signs across the Province that our strategy for growth is succeeding. Essex is a vibrant Masonic Province with committed Freemasons helping us to expand and cement an exciting new feature and I am proud to be associated with these initiatives. Freemasonry has always evolved and changed with the times. It is one of the reasons why this wonderful organisation has always remained relevant to different generations. In the 21st Century we have to accept that our young people now face far more pressures as they juggle their working lives with family and financial commitments. It means we have to recognise that younger members frequently need more time to enjoy their Freemasonry without being pressurised to learn the ritual and occupy office too quickly. God Bless you all and let us enjoy our masonry, grow our membership and increase our community engagement as we embark upon our Tercentenary year.” Yours sincerely and fraternally RW Bro Rodney Lister Bass. **For the full content of the Christmas Message from the Provincial Grand Master, it is available on the “Cube” the official website of the Province of Essex.** www.essexfreemasons.org