



# Deva News

The Newsletter of  
Deva Lodge  
No. 3447  
SEPTEMBER 2011

## 'Je ne sais quoi'.....

With our tremendous Centenary meeting last September this past year could have been very low key - but it wasn't! October saw the Initiation of Bro. Iain Maloney and in November we celebrated the 50 years in Freemasonry of W. Bro. Norman Page - more later. In December our Worshipful Master gave a presentation entitled 'All at Sea' highlighting his masonic gatherings whilst cruising and January saw the Passing of Bro. Maloney. For Burns Night we had an interesting and enlightening presentation by the Chairman of the 2016 Festival, W. Bro. Paul Richards P.A.G.D.C. followed in March by not only a Raising but also welcoming as a joining member Bro. Jed Sindol.

With the Installation of Bro. Alan Johnson in April the Lodge can look forward to a splendid year with safe hands at the helm! All these meetings had that 'je ne sais quoi' - the Cornish twist. It was always a delight to see W. Bro. James Robert Matthews Watson, P.Pr.J.G.W. (Cornwall) in the Chair - described as 'like a breath of fresh air' by one Brother! Even greater when his Cornish colleagues accompanied him. W. Bro. Jim was backed up through the year by W. Bro. Andy Lloyd and our thanks to him. No apologies for repeating the Centenary photograph, especially as it also includes our new Senior Warden!

## Welcome to our New Members

We were pleased to welcome Bro. Robert Iain 'Spiker' Maloney as an Initiate last October, although, with our rather unusual programme last year - it took until March for him to reach Master Mason. He was appointed as Banner Bearer at Installation although having just undergone a knee operation was not able to be present. Now recovered we wish him many happy years in Deva Lodge.

Also a delight to welcome as a joining member Bro. Jed Sindol, a Master Mason Initiated into La Naval Lodge No. 269, Cavite City, Grand Lodge of the Philippines, on 7th May 2005. The Grand Lodge of the Philippines is a foreign Constitution recognised by the United Grand of England and with all the necessary clearances in place, and a successful ballot, Bro. Jed was admitted and made the required Declaration under Rule 163. He was welcomed by the Worshipful Master and by W. Bro. David Hinde as representative of the Provincial Grand Master. Bro. Jed has brought his wife Christine to a number of social events and we wish them both many happy years in Deva Lodge. We have Candidates for October and January but always pleased to welcome new potential members.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to W. Bro. Matthew Williams on appointment as Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer and to W. Bro. John Tranter on promotion to Past Provincial Junior Grand Warden. They expect to be present at The Floral Pavilion, New Brighton, on Wednesday, 5th October - leaving them with a dash back to make our own Lodge meeting!

Also congratulations to W. Bro. Norman Page, promoted to Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works last November, on the floor of the Lodge by W. Bro. J. M. McGarva, our Assistant Provincial Grand Master. This follows the promotion of W. Bro. Ray Gittins by our Provincial Grand Master at our Centenary celebration - not a bad year for Deva Lodge!



*L-r: Bro. Mark Fortune now SW, W. Bro. J. M. McGarva APGM, W. Bro. S. Adcott PGM, W. Bro. Jim Watson PJGW, W. Bro. I. Cranston DPGM, Bro. A. Johnson, now Master.*

## Divisional Committee

Many thanks to Bro. David Kent for volunteering to serve on the Divisional Committee with W. Bro. Jim Griffiths - who is also seeking replacement! Good to see Bro. David welcomed by the Chairman of the Divisional Committee, W. Bro. Tom Lewis, who just happened to be present! Report on page 2.

## NEW DINING ARRANGEMENTS

### P L E A S E R E A D

**Dining Bookings must be made with the Dining Secretary, W. Bro. Roy Thomason**  
e-mail: [thomasonannt@talktalk.net](mailto:thomasonannt@talktalk.net)  
or: [deva3447@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deva3447@hotmail.co.uk)  
**82 Ermine Road, Chester CH2 3PW**  
Tel: **01244 342558**

Please advise if you wish to be booked **IN** (unless you advise otherwise) or booked **OUT** (unless you advise otherwise). The cost of meals for the forthcoming season will probably be £16 Special occasions will be different!

It is **VITAL** that you advise W. Bro. Roy of your requirements, particularly regarding any guests and especially dietary needs, by the **WEEKEND PRIOR to the Lodge Meetings at the LATEST.** The final dining figures must be given to the Hall Secretary at 9.00 am on the Monday morning **AT THE VERY LATEST.**

On special occasions, e.g. Installation, Burns Night, etc. these figures and payments are needed before these deadlines.

The Lodge will be charged for all meals ordered. **Any Brother who orders a meal (whether his own or his guests) and does not attend will be charged with the cost of that meal.**

## From our Almoner . . .

Our Almoner, W. Bro. Jim Griffiths is always a busy man and tries to keep in regular touch with all the widows of the Lodge as well as Members and families suffering ill-health or other problems. He works closely with our Charity Representative and visits as much as possible. We are pleased to see W. Bro. Monty Stokes recovering and indeed, also our Almoner.

*W. Bro. Jim needs your assistance in notifying him of any member suffering illness or adversity. If he does not know he cannot offer assistance!*

## From your Charity Representative . . .

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support during the past year. Amongst the year's highlights in February we presented W. Bro. Paul Richards PAGDC, Chairman of the Masonic Samaritan Fund 2016 Cheshire Festival, with a cheque for £250.00 which was followed at Installation with a further cheque for £250.00 and £750.00 from the 100 Club - with many thanks to W. Bro. James Dandy and his supporters. The Lodge has now achieved the rank of Grand Patron of the 2016 Festival. A further £250.00 was presented to the Cheshire View Benevolent Fund which supports small local causes. Any Brother wishing to make a personal donation to any charity please contact W. Bro. Albert at the hall as he can then channel donations through the Cheshire View fund. Other items include support for the Provincial Grand Master on his climb of Kilimanjaro in August and Bro. Dave Sutch on his Isle of Man Walk.

As mentioned the Lodge is now a Grand Patron of the 2016 Festival but I am most anxious to try to have every Brother achieve a (free!) jewel by pledging just £5.00 per month. I have the necessary forms - please contact me. Well done once again and I look forward to seeing you all over the coming season! Please always remember -

*Charity is giving - not waiting to be asked*

## Divisional Committee

At our April meeting Bro. David Kent reported his first Divisional Meeting held on 31st March. This included an Easter Egg Appeal for children at The Dale Army Camp, a new Lodge moving to Christleton, Temple Lodge which would be the base for the proposed University of Chester Lodge and that we are now Area 5. Ongoing support was required for the Teddies' for children in A & E and for the 2016 Festival, including 'Loose Change Boxes', pledges and merchandise.

## OBITUARY

### W. Bro. John Walker

Sadly W. Bro. John Walker passed away in February marked by a Funeral Service at St. Andrew's Parish Church, Tarvin, which was well supported by Lodge members and other brethren and leaders of the Province. A moving eulogy was given by W. Bro. Keith Roberts, Past APGM, and it seems like the passing of a whole era in Deva Lodge. W. Bro. John will be remembered for many years, if only for the help he gave to many Brethren through Unity Lodge of Instruction.

Other Chester Masons lost include W. Bro. Sidney Jones and only in August W. Bro. Michael Gartland, a regular visitor. W. Bro. Michael was in the Chair of The Lodge of King Solomon's Temple, as Father of the Lodge to guide them through their Centenary last year, a month after ours.



**DEVA LODGE 100 CLUB  
NEEDS YOU !**

W. Bro. James Dandy has taken over the 100 Club and eagerly seeks your support. So far he has done a great job of arm-twisting!

Your £10 per number helps fund donations to worthy causes, and with £70 per month prize money, October to April. If we can take up the remaining numbers, great! Take extra numbers for family and friends.

## - THE FINANCIAL TIMES -

The Treasurers lament . . . Like many things in life we can be rich but also poor. How do the accounts at first view appear a paradox? Simple . . . Brethren who are in arrears please pay your subscriptions which were due in January this year! That's how I started last year and the only difference this year is that we have even more outstanding subscriptions and, again, will find difficulty in meeting our lodge commitments unless we rob Peter to pay Paul. Remember September is the official exclusion date - not the eighteen months it used to be! Letters will be on their way but will ALL Brethren bear in mind that, as clearly stated on the Summons, in the By-Laws, etc. the subscription is due on 1st January. Grand Lodge and Provincial Lodge dues have to be paid in January.

## Lodge Officers

Willing volunteers aspiring to take office in the Lodge are always welcome. If any Brother has ambitions to fulfil an office, not immediately perhaps, but maybe in a year or so when a particular crisis in life is over, have a quiet word with the Secretary. This would not be a commitment, on either side, but would register your interest and hopefully see that this interest is not overlooked. Not all offices require a Past Master, e.g. Treasurer, Almoner, etc. which leads us to . . .

## Sits Vac !!

W. Bro. Vaughan urgently seeks a successor as Treasurer, a role that can be filled by any Brother of the Lodge. Enthusiasm is the main qualification! Also a Divisional Representative - not an onerous job - again enthusiasm is the main qualification! Also the Secretary would like to hang his pen up. Main qualifications, Past Master, on Internet and thick skinned. Being half-crackers is also a big help.

## Chapter

Grand Lodge are keen to see Master Masons continue, following the completion of the Third Degree by joining Chapter. This is a very enjoyable Degree and usually involves four meetings during the year. Our Royal Arch Contact Officer, W. Bro. Alan Pierce would be pleased to assist Brethren.

## Unity Lodge of Instruction

Unity Lodge of Instruction meets on the 3rd Monday, September to April, at 7.30 pm. Informal - invaluable for those 'on the ladder' - enjoyable and instructive for everybody!

## Blue Badge

Are you aware that the Blue Parking Badge is available on application on reaching 90 years of age. The forms can be taken off the web or from the Council. It simply needs a signature, two photographs and £2.00! Proof of disability is not required and remember the Badge is issued to the person, not the driver or the car!

# Socially Speaking . . .

## Ladies Evening

W. Bro. Jim and Bertie had support of family, Lodge members and friends to make a memorable evening. Our thanks for the many miles they put in and thanks to all who supported and assisted in many ways to make a splendid occasion.

## Family Bowls Evening

It was regretful that The Family Bowls Evening was notheld this year but the commitment from members was somewhat lacking. It's an old adage but 'use it or lose it' is as true as ever.

## Quiz Night

One again a great fun Fish 'n' Chips Quiz Night. The Inquisitors, Magnus & Bamber Thomason thank you for your support and we all look forward to another fun and feed night in November.

## Burns Night



Another very enjoyable evening. The Pipes and Drums were at their best and for next year we are exploring the possibility of a lone piper as the later 'cabaret' All suggestions welcome but mainly your support and guests! The usual great Festive Board and full details for 2012 will be out shortly.

### THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER - A PROFILE

#### Worshipful Brother Alan Leonard Johnson

Alan was born in Chester on 2nd February 1945 and is married to Bronwen. They have two grown up children and two grandchildren. He grew up in the Garden Lane area where amongst other things as a boy, he delivered newspapers to the home of his predecessor in Deva Lodge, W. Bro. James Matthews Watson. He attended The College School in Chester as did a number of other well known members of our fraternity.

After leaving school at age 15, Alan worked in a shoe shop in Eastgate Street before joining the Cheshire Constabulary in 1965 serving on the Wirral and in Chester for 30 years on various duties before specialising in Juvenile Liaison, Youth Justice and Community Affairs. Following retirement he went on to work in local government as an Education Welfare Officer and after 'retiring' again in 2008 he was commissioned by Halton Borough Council as Children Missing Education Co-ordinator. A position he held until late last year.

For almost 40 years Alan was a member of St. John Ambulance in Chester, first a Cadet and later Superintendent, in charge of a very successful Cadet Division. He was a First Aid Instructor and Trainer qualified to teach 'First aid at Work' and also had much success in representing Cheshire Constabulary in first aid competitions throughout the region. He was admitted as a Serving Brother of The Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St John of Jerusalem at an investiture in The Grand Priory Church in London in October 1979 and promoted in The Order to Officer Brother at a similar investiture in 1987.

Alan is a member of Garden Lane Methodist Church where he has served as Church Steward for a number of years. He is an active supporter of a number of local and national charities including The Hospice of the Good Shepherd, Chester Aid to the Homeless, Christian Aid and Help for Heroes. He is also a member of the National Trust.

## Deva Lodge Social Calendar . . .

Social Secretary Andy Lloyd 0151 348 0452  
Email: andyxlloyd@supanet.com

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**Wednesday 17th November, 2010**

**Fish 'n' Chip Quiz Night**

Worshipful Master/Mind ?? - Fun and Feed

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**Wednesday 7th December 2011**

**Christmas Lodgore**

Ladies to dine and join in Carol Singing to finish

\* \* \* \* \*

**Saturday 31st December 2011**

**New Year's Eve**

5 Course Banquet inc. Wine - Comedian

Grand Raffle - Dance into 2012

\* \* \* \* \*

**Wednesday 1st February 2012**

**Burn's Night**

The Pipes & Drums of The Scots Guards Association

plus Special Guest

\* \* \* \* \*

**2012**

**Ladies' Evening**

SUPPORT THE MASTER - SUPPORT THE LODGE

## Ladies Meeting - December

A reminder that at our meeting on Wednesday 7th December the ladies are cordially invited to dine and join us for carol singing later. The ladies usually bring along a small (under £5) wrapped present to exchange among themselves (and their menfolk pay for their meal!)

The Social Committee comprises W. Bro. Andy Lloyd as Secretary, with the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens (ex officio) and Bros. Johnny Andrews and Mark Stevens with co-opted members as required.

Lodge Raffle Prizes, bottles of wine, etc.

Auction items for the Festive Board

Raffle Prizes for Bowls Evening and Quiz Night

Prizes for Ladies' Evening

*All contributions gratefully accepted*

**The main thing required**

**for all these occasions is**

**YOUR SUPPORT**

**DON'T LEAVE IT TO OTHERS  
WE WANT TO SEE YOU!**

# www.devafreemasonry.org.uk

The only Chester lodge web site and I am sure, perhaps slightly biased, it's the best Cheshire site.

*I hope it will emulate the foresight of our forefathers and launch us into the 21st Century as they launched us 100 years ago!*

Hopefully it will help us keep us in touch with others in this country and across the world such as Ashley Williamson in NZ, Chris Sprake in America, Alan Dutton in New York, Richard Geier in Wichita and even Bill Willetts in Australia - eventually!

We also have a dedicated Lodge email address: <[deva3447@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deva3447@hotmail.co.uk)>  
email to the Secretary for the password if necessary.

You will see when you get on to our web site that you can link to other sites - Grand Lodge, Provincial Grand Lodge, Cheshire View  
You can take a video 'virtual tour' of Cheshire View, up to the Temple, with our 651 plaque figuring prominently, taking in the murals and everything else! These sites cover all the FAQs etc. It also links to Chester Tourist site. Our Newsletter is also attached

- just 'click here' in the right places!

You can log on via Google - just key in [deva3447](http://www.devafreemasonry.org.uk) or [deva lodge](http://www.devafreemasonry.org.uk) or use the full address - <http://www.devafreemasonry.org.uk> using the URL browser box in the top left of your screen.

Sincere thanks for the assistance of W. Bro. Paul Rogerson in getting us up and running!

**If you are not receiving Lodge emails please advise the Secretary on**

**<[deva3447@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deva3447@hotmail.co.uk)> or <[mhkhph@btinternet.com](mailto:mhkhph@btinternet.com)>**

email really is a cost effective, and very much time effective, way of transmitting information and keeping Brethren informed.

A reminder that Provincial Office have a first class site which provides a wealth of information separate to the linked pages.

[www.secretariat.cheshiremasons.co.uk](http://www.secretariat.cheshiremasons.co.uk)

## The Frank Fox Library

When Frank Fox started collecting books and various items on Freemasonry it was for his own personal research and use. With the move of Freemasons' Hall to Christleton in 1995 and Frank's collection of 750 volumes, which by now were taking over his home, he decided to donate all the items to the founding of a Library at Cheshire View. It was with Frank Fox's foresight, generosity and dedication that Freemasons' Hall now has a fine collection of over 2,000 items in its Library.

Ably assisted by fellow librarians; Grenville Phillips who is responsible for cataloguing, Ken McKenzie an expert on the Scottish Constitution and John Brittleton a graduate historian. Frank and his team are ready to help you locate any piece of Masonic literature or history that you may require from the collection of books, videos, audio tapes and photographs.

The Frank Fox Library is open most Thursdays from 10.00 a.m. when a librarian will be available by prior arrangement to discuss with members the borrowing of items.



*The Library would be glad to receive donations of any Masonic books or information from Lodges or members to further its collection.*

## 50 Years Service to Freemasonry and Deva Lodge

Wednesday 3rd November 2010 saw a special Ceremony to celebrate 50 years of service by W. Bro. Norman Page, P.Pr.J.G.D. with the proceedings conducted by our Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. J. M. McGarva PSGD, who promoted W. Bro. Norman to Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works

Some of the facts given on the evening are rather sobering!

In 1960, when W. Bro. Norman was Initiated the Annual Subscription was 4 Guineas (£4.20) Lodge Membership stood at 79, at the January Initiation 69 Brethren were present and at Installation the following April 125 Brethren and guests were present! As a reminder, 1960 was before JFK in America, The Beatles, colour television, calculators, home computers, CDs, DVDs, sat navs, moon landings, mobile phones, and so much more!

*Congratulations and best wishes Norman*



**The Master and Brethren of Deva Lodge No. 3447  
extend a warm invitation to our Lodge meeting on**

**WEDNESDAY 1st FEBRUARY, 2012**

**at Cheshire View, Plough Lane, Christleton, Chester CH3 7BA**  
*a 2nd Degree Ceremony to be followed by a special Festive Board to Celebrate*

# **BURN'S NIGHT**

*Entertainment by*

**The Pipes & Drums of**

**The Scots Guards Association**

**+ Guest Address to the Haggis + Grand Raffle**

*The Festive Board is a special menu suitable for the occasion!  
Haggis with 'Neeps and Tatties and with a wee bottle of 'Gravy'*

*Roast Pork with all the trimmings followed by Scottish Oatcakes with selected Cheeses*

**LODGE COMMENCING AT 6.00 pm**

**[deva3447@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:deva3447@hotmail.co.uk)**

# Deva Lodge Social Calendar . . .

Social Secretary Andy Lloyd 0151 348 0452

Email: [andyxloyd@supanet.com](mailto:andyxloyd@supanet.com)

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## ~~Saturday 20th August 2011~~ **FAMILY BOWLS** for all family and friends !

~~World class bowling not required - just have fun - from 6.00 pm~~  
£7.50 inc Sandwiches & Cream Scones Contact Alan Johnson 01244 313639

Email: [johnson365@briinternet.com](mailto:johnson365@briinternet.com)

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## **Wednesday 16th November, 2011** **Fish 'n' Chip Quiz Night**

Worshipful MasterMind ?? - Fun and Feed - Start Training Now!!

Interrogators - Magnus & Bamber Thomason

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## **Wednesday 7th December 2011**

### **Christmas Lodge**

Ladies to dine and join in Carol Singing to finish

\* \* \* \* \*



## **Friday 31st December 2010**

### **New Year's Eve**

5 Course Banquet inc. Wine - Comedian - Grand Raffle - Dance into 2011

\* \* \* \* \*

## **Wednesday 1st February 2012**

### **Burn's Night**



The Pipes & Drums of The Scots Guards Association and all the guests you can muster  
Special Guest - W.Bro. Barry McQueen - Entertainer Extraordinaire!!

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## **March / April 2012**

### **Ladies' Evening**



SUPPORT THE MASTER - SUPPORT THE LODGE