

PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE
CLEOBURY LODGE

No. 6972

Consecrated
9th May, 1950



A Commentary in Celebration of the
First Fifty Years

By

W.Bro. F. D. Reading, J.P., P.Pr.S.G.W.

To Rosemary my wife
Whose patience, tolerance and assistance with
research made it possible to complete this essay.

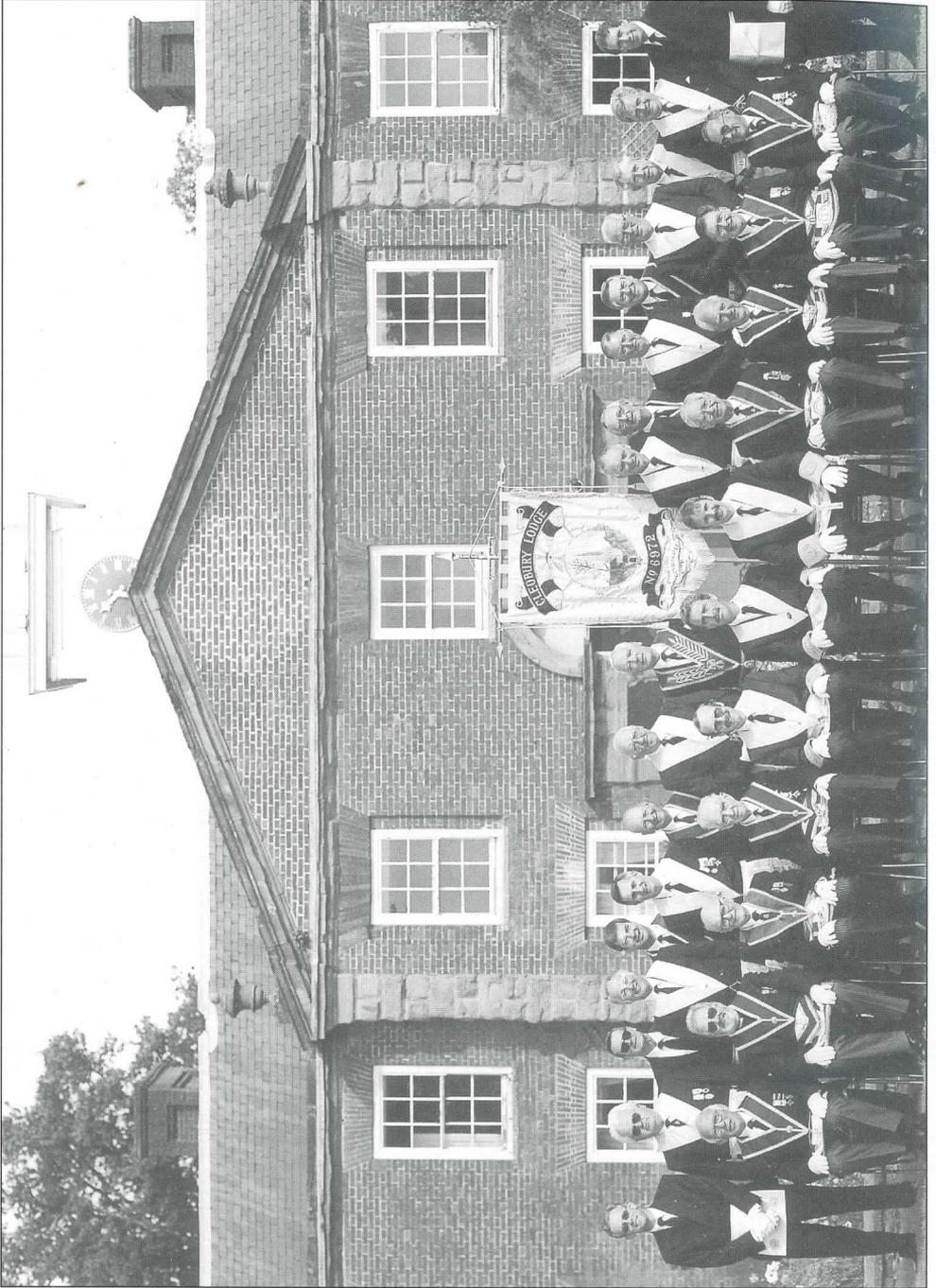
“Loveliest of trees, the cherry now
Is hung with bloom along the bough,
And stands about the woodland ride
Wearing white for Eastertide.

Now, of my threescore years and ten,
Twenty will not come again,
And take from seventy springs a score,
It only leaves me fifty more.

And since to look at things in bloom
Fifty springs are little room,
About the woodland I will go
To see the cherry hung with snow.”

A.E. Housman “A Shropshire Lad”.

CLEOBURY LODGE MEMBERS 1999



IN THE BEGINNING

Fifty two springs have come and gone around Cleobury's Crooked Steeple since the first steps were taken by a group of Shropshire Freemasons to form a new Lodge at Cleobury Mortimer. Although there were several Masons living in and around the town, prospective candidates had to look to the nearest Lodge at Tenbury Wells where several candidates had been accepted by The Lodge of St. Michael No. 1097. Other local freemasons were members of Lodges in various parts of the country and/or Overseas. There was a general feeling among them that a Lodge in Cleobury would fill a gap and give them an opportunity to take a more active part in the Craft.

Informal talks took place and W.Bro.C.H. Bonshor who was the local Manager of Lloyds Bank and had been W.M. of the Salopian Lodge of Charity No. 117 in 1948, was deputed to take steps. He was asked to make preliminary and tentative approaches to W.Bro.C.S. Asbury who was the Grand Secretary of the Masonic Province of Shropshire. During an off-the-record talk sufficient encouragement was given for the matter to proceed further.

The next step was an approach to W.Bro.W.J.Von Monte Pendelbury, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master who, with the Prov.G.Sec., wanted to be satisfied that not only were there a sufficient number of Founders to form a working nucleus but that there was likely to be a supply of suitable candidates to ensure a healthy future for the Lodge once formed. Quality and not quantity being the guiding consideration.

Assurance was also sought on the following points:-

1. That there would be no difficulty in funding the requisite furniture, fittings and equipment.
2. That a suitable meeting place could be found.
3. A sponsoring Lodge would be forthcoming.

Following these early discussions a series of meetings of prospective Founders was held. Sadly no minutes of these meetings were handed down. In 1964 however W.Bro. Bonshor sent to Alan Wreford, then the Secretary of the Lodge, three typewritten pages of his memories of the early days of the discussions leading to the formation of the Lodge and its subsequent consecration.

From these notes and his own recollections as a founder, W.Bro.Wreford compiled a talk entitled 'The First Twentyfive Years'. This he delivered at the Installation Meeting in 1975 and he duly recorded it in the Minutes of that meeting.

In 1983 the late Dep. P.G.M.W.Bro. Ron Davies, then the Prov.G.Sec., in the course of his researches into the history of the Province, discovered a file containing some of the correspondence between W.Bro.Bonshor, the Prov.G.Sec., the Prov.G.D.C. and Supreme Grand Lodge. This file he sent to the Cleobury Lodge Secretary for inclusion in the Lodge archives.

From these papers we learn that on 6th. February 1950 the Prov.G.Sec. wrote to Grand Lodge enclosing the Petition signed by W.Bro.F.G.Edwards the D.C. of the Lodge of The Marches No. 611. He was to be the first Worshipful Master of the new Lodge. W.Bro. Edwards was the Managing Director of the Clee Hill Quarrying Company employing a great number of workmen in the locality.

The names of the Petitioners appear on the Lodge Warrant with the single exception of W.Bro. Lethbridge who, after signing, failed to provide a clearance certificate to the Pro.G.Sec. His name was therefore struck out. From the correspondence it appears that he did later provide the necessary certificate and wrote to the Grand Lodge asking that his name be reinstated. Apparently the Grand Secretary ruled that his name could be put back in at any time prior to the Consecration. However, by March 1950 Bro. Lethbridge, who was destined to be the first D.C. of the new Lodge, had indicated to W.Bro.Bonshor that he could not accept office nor in fact was he willing to continue as a Founder.

In the meantime W.Bro. Edwards had become ill and it was decided that he would not be well enough to take office as W.M. After much discussion and consultation with Grand Lodge it was resolved that the first Worshipful Master would be Charles Bonshor who had done so much of the preliminary work.

The Senior Warden designate would be W.Bro.T.H.Espley Headmaster of the local Secondary School. The Junior Warden designate would be Bro.John Duerdin, Pharmacist of the Town, who though not a Past Master was a mason of considerable seniority.

THE CONSECRATION

"My Senior Clerk informed me on Wednesday 10th May that at about 3 pm. on Tuesday 9th May, a Commercial Traveller passing through Cleobury Mortimer called at the Branch to pay in some monies. He inquired of the Cashier:- "who was the person whose funeral had been taking place?" He said that, judging from the immense number of important gents attired in formal morning dress who had congregated near to the Church, the deceased must have been a very important person indeed."

Charles Bonshor, Manager and
first W.M. of Cleobury Lodge

W.BRO. T.H. PAIN

Founder



Provincial Grand Lodge of Freemasons
for Shropshire

To All and Every our Worshipful and Loving Brethren

Douglas Brown Whittingham

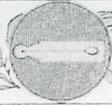
SEND GREETING

I know ye that in recognition of the devoted service to Freemasonry by our well
beloved Brother T. H. Pain of Cleobury Lodge No 6972

over a period of 50 years, it is my will and pleasure to grant Him this
Certificate as a mark of my Appreciation

Given under my hand this 13th day of July A.D. 1991

Douglas S. Whittingham
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.



The Provincial Grand Master - The Right Worshipful Bro. Colonel Lord Forester - spent a considerable part of the year in Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) where he owned extensive farm lands. For that reason it was difficult to agree a date to suit him and the other Provincial Officers. However, after many attempts he finally chose Tuesday 9th May, 1950.

Fortunately the great day was bright and fine and the fears expressed by the Prov.G.D.C. at the rehearsal on the previous Sunday were not realised. Just as well, because there was little room for the storage of coats and hats as well as cases, which all had to be stored under the rear rank of chairs.

On-lookers in the High Street were intrigued by the presence of sombrelly dressed gentlemen who arrived by omnibus, train or car and who proceeded towards the Assembly Rooms next to the Church of St. Mary.

Among the one hundred and twenty six Freemasons present was Bro.T.H.Pain now W.Bro.T.H.Pain, PP.S.G.W. At the time of compiling this History (June & July 1999) Bro. Tom is the only surviving Founder. He had, around that time, been very ill and according to his daughter Rosemary, he was carried up the stairs to the meeting because he was not expected to be well enough to attend again. His regular attendance and faithful service to the Lodge over the last fifty years testifies to his resilience and determination. In recognition of his fifty years as a Mason the Certificate of Approbation of the Provincial Grand Master was presented to him at Provincial Grand Lodge in July 1991 and is reproduced herein.

In the words of Founder W.Bro.Alan Wreford in his address to the Lodge on the occasion of its twentyfifth anniversary:-

"The Meeting was attended by many guests from Shropshire and the surrounding Provinces and none could help being impressed by the solemnity and precision with which the Ceremony was carried out by the Provincial Officers and the Founders. We must again express our gratitude to W.Bro.R.J.S. Parry-Jones the then Pr.G.D.C. who arranged for a rehearsal at Cleobury, gave valuable guidance to all concerned, and ensured from the point of view of Provincial Grand Lodge that everything went like clockwork."

It is worth noting that 'Dick' Parry-Jones became Deputy Provincial Grand Master of the Province and regularly presided at subsequent installations in Cleobury. He was a character somewhat larger than life in both manner and physique; full of humour and a thirst for all Masonic experiences as Bro. John Cope well remembers when he was stewarding at top table one Installation night. John, full bottle of whisky in hand, inquired whether the D.P.G.M. wished for a drink; the great man replied "Yes please and you can leave that bottle by me young man!". Later, seeing that the bottle was empty, Bro. John's similar enquiry produced the reply "Yes please but I will make do with a double now".



The Right Worshipful Brother, Colonel Lord Forester, P.G.W.
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

The Worshipful Brother, W. J. von Monte Pendlebury, M.A., P.G.D.
DEPUTY PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

CONSECRATION

OF THE

CLEOBURY LODGE, No. 6972

AT THE ASSEMBLY ROOM, CLEOBURY MORTIMER

ON TUESDAY, 9th MAY, 1950, 2-45 p.m.

BY

THE R.W. BROTHER, COLONEL LORD FORESTER, P.G.W.
THE PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

Assisted by

Wor. Bro. W. J. v M. PENDLEBURY, M.A., P.G.D., D.P.G.M.	...	...	as Installing Master.
Wor. Bro. J. HAMER DAVIES, Pr. Senior Grand Warden	...	...	as S.W.
Wor. Bro. HAROLD W. THOMAS, Pr. Junior Grand Warden	...	...	as J.W.
Wor. Bro. Rt. Rev. Bishop EDWARD W. SARA, Pr. G. Chaplain	...	...	as Chaplain.
Wor. Bro. C. S. ASBURY, P.A.G.D.C., Pr. G. Sec.	...	...	as Secretary.
Wor. Bro. R. PARRY-JONES, P.A.G.D.C., Pr. G.D.C.	...	...	as D.C.
Wor. Bro. JOHN C. MENZIES, Pr. Asst. G.D.C.	...	...	as Asst. D.C.
Wor. Bro. T. E. PRITCHARD, Pr. G. Purst.	...	...	as I.G.

Wor. Bro. CHARLES LEONARD BONSHOR (P.M. 117)	...	...	Master Designate.
Wor. Bro. THOMAS HODKIN ESLEY (P.M. 1120)	...	...	S.W. Designate.
Bro. JOHN DICK DUERDIN	...	...	J.W. Designate.

FULL DRESS MASONIC CLOTHING, DARK MORNING DRESS, BLACK TIES.

Order of Procedure.

1. The Brethren assemble in the Lodge Room.
2. The Consecrating Officer having entered, takes the Chair and appoints his Officers pro tempore.
3. Opening Hymn.

Hail, Eternal, by whose aid
All created things were made ;
Heaven and earth Thy vast design,
Hear us, Architect divine.

May our work begun in Thee,
Ever blest with order be ;
And may we when labours cease,
Part in harmony and peace.

By Thy Glorious Majesty,
By the trust we place in Thee,
By the badge and mystic sign,
Hear us, Architect divine.
So mote it be.

4. The Lodge is opened in the Three Degrees.
5. The Consecrating Officer and Grand Officers are saluted.
6. The Consecrating Officer addresses the Brethren on the motive of the meeting.

7. **Prayer by The Chaplain**

Chant (*Omnes*) : "So mote it be."

8. The Director of Ceremonies addresses the Consecrating Officer.
9. The Consecrating Officer replies and gives directions.
10. The Brethren of the New Lodge are ranged in order by the Director of Ceremonies.
11. The Warrant is read.
12. The Consecrating Officer enquires if the Founders approve of the Officers named in the Warrant.
13. The Founders signify their approval in Masonic form.

14. **An Oration**

On the Nature and Purposes of the Institution by the Chaplain.

15. Anthem (Psalm cxxxiii). *Ecce, quam bonum* ;

1. Behold, how good and joyful a thing it is : Brethren to dwell together in unity.

2. It is like the precious ointment upon the head that ran down unto the beard : even unto Aaron's beard and

went down to the skirts of his clothing.
3. Like as the dew of Hermon : which fell upon the hill of Zion.

4. For there the Lord promised His blessing : and life for evermore.

So mote it be.

16. **Dedication Prayer—First Portion**

17. Chant (*Omnes*) : "So mote it be."
18. *Musical Response*—"Glory be to Thee, O God."
19. The Brethren turn towards the East, and the Consecrating Officer pronounces

The Invocation

20. Chant (*Omnes*) : "So mote it be."
21. The Chaplain reads—II. Chron. chap. 11, verses 1 to 16.
22. The Lodge Board is uncovered, and the Consecrating Officer and Wardens carry the Elements of Consecration three times round the Lodge, halting in the East after each perambulation.
23. Before the First Circuit the Chaplain reads Psalm lxxii, verse 16.

24. The Brethren sing—
 When once of old in Israel
 Our early Brethren wrought with toil
 Jehovah's blessings on them fell
 In showers of Corn and Wine and Oil.
25. The first perambulation is made and the Consecrating Officer scatters Corn—the symbol of plenty.
26. *Musical Response*—"Glory be to God on High."
27. Before the Second Circuit the Chaplain reads Nehemiah, Chap. x, verse 39.
28. The Brethren sing—
 When there a shrine to Him alone,
 They built with worship, sin to foil,
 On threshold and on corner stone
 They poured out Corn and Wine and Oil.
29. The Second perambulation is made, the Consecrating Officer pours Wine—the symbol of Joy and Cheerfulness.
30. *Musical Response*—"Glory be to God on High."
31. Before the Third Circuit the Chaplain reads Exodus, Chap. xxx, verses 25 and 26.
32. The Brethren sing—
 And we have come, fraternal bands,
 With joy and pride, and prosperous spoil,
 To honour Him by votive hands
 With streams of Corn and Wine and Oil.
33. The Third perambulation is made, the Consecrating Officer pours Oil—the symbol of Peace and Unanimity.
34. *Musical Response*—"Glory be to God on High."
35. The Founders are ranged in order around the Tesselated Pavement.
 Before the Fourth Circuit the Chaplain reads Leviticus, Chap. ii, verse 13.
36. The Brethren sing—
 Now o'er our work this salt we shower,
 Emblem of Thy conservant power ;
 And may Thy presence, Lord, we pray,
 Keep this our Temple from decay.
37. The Consecrating Officer alone perambulates the Lodge and sprinkles salt—the Emblem of Hospitality and Friendship.
38. *Musical Response*—"Glory be to God on High."
39. **The Consecrating Officer Dedicates the Lodge from the Chair**
40. Sanctus (or Anthem).
41. The Chaplain carries the Censer thrice round the Lodge, halting in the East.
42. **Dedication Prayer—Second Portion**
43. Chant (*Omnes*) : "So mote it be."
44. The Founders are ranged in the West, Master and Wardens designate in front, all facing East.

45. **The Consecrating Officer Constitutes the Lodge**
 46. Chant (*Omnes*): "So mote it be."
 47. The Director of Ceremonies gives directions to the Founders to return to their places.
 48. Anthem.
 49. Closing Hymn.

<p>Now thank we all our God, With heart and hands and voices, Who wondrous things hath done, In whom his world rejoices: Who from our mother's arms Hath blessed us on our way With countless gifts of love, And still is ours to-day.</p>	<p>O may this bounteous God Through all our life be near us, With ever joyful hearts And blessed peace to cheer us; And keep us in His grace And guide us when perplex'd, And free us from all ills In this world and the next.</p>
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50.

Patriarchal Benediction

"So mote it be."

Ceremonial Music under the direction of W. Bro. A. W. H. Fox, Prov. G. Organist.

Lodge Business

1. Installation of the Master Designate.
2. Election of Treasurer.
3. Election of Tyler.
4. Appointment and Investiture of Officers.
5. Election of Committee to frame By-Laws.
6. To receive Propositions :—
 - (a) Initiates.
 - (b) Joining Members.
 - (c) Honorary Members.
7. To receive Communications.
8. Any other Business.
9. To close the Lodge.

CLOSING HYMN

<p>The day Thou gavest, Lord, is ended; The darkness falls at Thy behest; To Thee our opening hymn ascended, Thy praise shall hallow now our rest.</p>	<p>Great Architect; Thy throne shall never, Like earth's proud empires, pass away; But stand, and rule, and grow for ever, Till all Thy creatures own Thy sway.</p>
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LIST OF FOUNDERS

F. G. Edwards, P.Pr.G.Stwd., P.M. ... 611, 1097, 6346	E. S. S. Hennen 611
C. L. Bonshor, P.M. 117, 6262	L. Slingsby 5581
T. H. Espley, P.M. 1120	B. Martin 318, 4930
W. H. Weale, W.M. 611	H. Cooke 5583
R. H. Jones, P.M. 560	H. J. Sturton, P.M. 611, 2533
J. D. Duerdin 2819, 1097	T. Wainwright 611
T. H. Pain 1097	E. K. Turpin, P.M. 611
C. O. Grubb 4934	N. E. Lane 4209, 6781
The Hon. R. J. Ward 5638 (E.C.) 3245	F. A. N. Wreford 2240
F. G. Maddocks 611	S. Rostron 892

R.W.BRO. THE RIGHT HON LORD FORESTER

Provincial Grand Master 1938-1977
Who presided at the Consecration
of the Cleobury Lodge.



W.BRO.W.J.VON MONTE PENDLEBURY M.A.,P.G.D.

Was Deputy Provincial Grand Master
at The Consecration.
As Installing Master
he Installed
Charles Bonshor as First Master



W. BRO. R.J.S. PARRY-JONES P.G.D.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies
at the
Consecration of Cleobury Lodge in 1950.



Of considerable value in setting the tone of the whole ceremony on 9th May 1950 was the contribution by the Ridgway Choir under the direction of the Prov.G.Organist W.Bro.Arthur W.H.Fox of Wellington. They had performed a similar service at the Consecration of the Column Lodge No. 6900 just seven months earlier in Shrewsbury.

After the Consecration Ceremony the Provincial Grand Master installed W.Bro. Charles Bonshor, P.M., as first Worshipful Master of the Cleobury Lodge No. 6972, who then appointed and invested his offices as follows:-

W.Bro. W.H. Weale (W.M.611)	as	I.P.M.
W.Bro. T.H. Espley P.M.	as	S.W.
Bro. J.H. Duerdin	as	J.W.
Bro. B. Martin	as	Chaplain.
Bro. H. Cooke	as	Treasurer.
W.Bro. H. J. Sturton, P.M.	as	Secretary.
W.Bro. E.K. Turpin, P.M.	as	D.C.
Bro. F.G. Maddocks	as	S.D.
Bro. The Hon. R.J. Ward	as	J.D.
Bro. C.O.Grubb	as	Asst. Sec.
Bro. T. Wainwright	as	I.G.
Bro. L.G.O. Slingsby	as	Steward.
Bro. E.S.S. Henman	as	Steward.
Bro. N.E. Lane	as	Steward.
Bro.F.A.N. Wreford	as	Steward.
Bro. S. Rostron	as	Steward.
Bro. E.R. Humphries (611)	as	Tyler.

During the business at this first meeting it was proposed that the Consecrating Officers be elected as Honorary Members. Two Joining members were proposed and Messrs H.F. Downes, Grocer & Postmaster, and R.J. Morris, Headmaster of the City of Coventry School were proposed as candidates for Initiation. Mr. H. Fawcett Downes became the first Initiate of the Cleobury Lodge in October 1950.

Festive Board

This was held at the Parish Hall where caterers from the Angel Hotel at Ludlow looked after the needs of one hundred and thirty diners. Four more in fact than attended the ceremony! No doubt the extra four were selected in advance by the Ostensible Steward of the Lodge Bro. Duerdin to provide for the comfort of the many.

From the correspondence in the files it would seem that a photograph of the Founders was proposed and in fact authorised by the Prov.G.Sec. but I can

unearth no trace of it. What a shame! The Lodge does have photographs of all the W.Ms. taken soon after their installation but a group picture would have been welcome for this history.

At this date I have traced four brethren in this Province who were present at this meeting and the dinner. The survivors are:-

W.Bro.Tom H. Pain, P.P.S.G.W. (then 1097)
W.Bro.John Elder, P.P.S.G.W. (1432)
W.Bro.Douglas Plant, P.P.S.G.W. (611)
W.Bro.Dr.Michael Lloyd-Jones, P.P.J.G.W. (1632)

All of these were then quite junior masons and their memories of the occasion vary; they all seem to feel it was a great success but they cannot remember much about the dinner except that it was good! Did they fill the 'Firing' glasses too full or too frequently? We sincerely hope they will be able to join us at Cleobury in the year 2000 to celebrate.

Year Book for 1950

The Consecration of Cleobury Lodge No. 6972 failed to get a mention in the Shropshire Masonic Year Book. A sad omission caused by the death of W.Bro.Harry W.Newman P.G.St.B. and W.M. of the Pengwerne Lodge in 1919. He died in 1950 after presenting the Candlesticks to be used at the Cleobury Lodge Consecration. Harry Newman was W.M. of the Column Lodge No. 6900 and a Founder of the Shropshire Installed Masters Lodge No. 6262. More to the point he was Editor of the Shropshire Masonic Year Book which, because of his untimely death, was not published at all for that year.

THE LODGE PREMISES

This old photograph taken at about the turn of the last century shows the Assembly Rooms which was the first home of the Cleobury Lodge. The Church with its crooked spire in the background inspired the designer of the Lodge badge. The corner shop in the foreground is now the butcher's shop owned by W.Bro.John Cope, P.P.J.G.W.



One of the problems faced by the Founders was to find a meeting place suitable for its important purpose. Many of the preliminary gatherings of the Founders took place in the Talbot Hotel which eventually became the regular venue for the Lodge's Festive Board. There was a fairly large Clubroom at the Talbot, sometimes referred to as the 'Buffs Room' for obvious reasons, but the Founders were not convinced that this room would be sufficiently private to satisfy the requirements for Lodge Meetings.

After some discussions with the Parish Council who were the Trustees of the Assembly Rooms (Market Hall) next to the Church, it proved possible to agree terms for use of the first floor of the building. It was not possible at that time for the Lodge to have exclusive use of the upper floor because it was used, among other purposes, for the serving of School Meals which were cooked in the kitchen below. During the War years the premises had been used as a 'British Restaurant' providing 'off ration' meals for workers.

At first, and thereafter for a period of many years, the Lodge furniture and equipment had to be removed and packed away after every meeting. The larger

items were stacked up in a corner and the rest locked away in a very small storeroom. The Tyler and the Stewards became adept at storing a quart in a pint pot.

In those days, shortly after the Second World War, the use of the building as a central kitchen left its mark in the evenings. Meals were prepared on the ground floor and sent out to the outlying rural Primary Schools while local children ate their meals upstairs.

The food was sent up in a lift or 'dumb waiter', opening to a hatch behind the Senior Warden's chair. There was also a cold water tank mounted high up on the wall, immediately above the chair occupied by the Junior Warden. Humidity generated by the bodies in the Temple condensed on the outside of the tank and dripped so that the Junior Warden frequently found large drops on his forehead. Which drops doubtless he removed in the traditional manner known to Master Masons! There was also an all-pervading odour of cabbage, gravy and peas, left over from years of midday meals!

From a fireplace in the centre of the north wall came a form of rudimentary central heating, none other than a blazing fire, stoked up by the Tyler, who was well qualified in such matters being both School Caretaker and Chief Officer of the local volunteer Fire Brigade.

This system of heating presented problems, not only because of the discomfort it caused to brethren sitting only a few feet away, but because of the amount of unwanted light coming from it which proved an embarrassment on occasions.

During an Initiation ceremony the Candidates' first presentation was in close proximity to the fire's fierce radiation. In my own case, traditionally prepared, I felt the heat on my left leg and with some trepidation anticipated the next test of fortitude. Perhaps after trial by heat some even more uncomfortable demand on my courage lay ahead!

There was also a siren mounted high up on the gable end of the building poised above the Master's chair. This siren, presumably a relic of the War years, was used as a local Fire Brigade alarm call. This was before the days of the in-pocket bleeper alarms for members of the volunteer brigade. It was not unusual for the alarm to go off during a ceremony, much to the astonishment of the candidate. This was particularly disturbing during the 'shrouded' period of a Third Degree!

During his long and faithful service as Tyler Bro. Jack Bishop, P.P.G. Tyler, was for many years the local Fire Chief. Quite often the call of the siren precipitated his rapid exit from his post outside the door of the Lodge to join his team assembling at the Engine Shed. This was a corrugated iron affair at the rear of the Assembly Rooms.

On Jack's retirement from his fire fighting duties his place was taken by Leading Fireman Bro. Derek Purslow, father of our present Worshipful Master. Bro. Derek also found it necessary to answer the call of the fire siren during some Lodge and Lodge of Instruction meetings.

Later, when the new Secondary School was erected with modern kitchens, the Lodge acquired exclusive use of the upper floor at the Assembly Rooms. It was then possible to erect a partition to provide an ante-room. The 'dumb waiter' was sealed off and electric heaters suspended from the ceiling in the Temple. For the greater comfort of all the fireplace could be blocked off and used as a support for Masonic volumes. The Stewards, who traditionally seated themselves in this area, sometimes risked injury to their heads when called to order if they did not exercise care on rising.

At first the Lodge adjourned after labour to an upper room at the Kings Arms Hotel opposite to the Assembly Rooms. Records show that in 1956 there was some dissatisfaction with this arrangement and other measures had to be considered. Indeed for the Initiation of Bro. Frank Russell it appeared likely that the Festive Board would be cheese and biscuits in the Lodge Rooms until Founder Tom Pain, aided by his wife Louie and his daughter Rosemary, came to the rescue. The Board was laid in the imposing entrance hall of the Manor House three hundred yards up the High Street. Little did Rosemary think then that in later years she would become, and remain to this day, the regular caterer to the Lodge! As Rosemary Hinwood, wife of W.Bro. Ken Hinwood, she continues to spoil us month after month and year upon year.

After that one-off indulgence at one of the finest old houses in Cleobury there began a regular period of routine adjournment to the Talbot Hotel one hundred yards west of the Assembly Rooms. There the idiosyncratic landlord Reggie Thould presided. He prepared meals in the kitchen below and sent them up in the elevator to the small but elegant dining room above to be served by the Stewards who have always had to work hard in the Cleobury Lodge. The meals were excellent and, as I recall, in 1957 cost the impressive sum of eight shillings (forty new pence?) for three courses with coffee to follow. A year or so later some brethren felt slightly aggrieved when the charge was increased to ten shillings!

The Lodge dined there for most regular meetings but for Installations and some other big occasions it was necessary to retire to the Parish Hall and even on one or two occasions to the newly built Secondary School dining room.

The Landlords of the Talbot Hotel came and went but the Lodge continued to dine there happily, albeit in different dining rooms, until 1984. A few hours after the October Lodge Dinner there was a violent explosion in the hotel kitchen which destroyed both the kitchen and the adjoining dining room. John Green the Landlord was blown from his bed but suffered no other harm apart

from the indignity of having to retreat to the High Street in his birthday suit. Fortunately the trouble was judged not to have arisen from the residual heat generated from Masonic after-dinner speeches.

As a consequence the Lodge, being then without a suitable dining room, negotiated the regular use of the ground floor of the Assembly Rooms. The purchase of tables and chairs and some upgrading of the rather antiquated kitchen facilities was necessary and approved by the Lodge. Finally the generous offer by W.Bro. J. Cope of the use of his ovens at the Butcher's shop across the courtyard allowed us to set up a dining room downstairs below the Temple. It was small but intimate, airless but convenient. On a cold winter night the walls literally ran with condensation but many happy evenings were spent at table there.

Here for many years Mrs Rosemary Hinwood and her helpers established a legend of Cleobury hospitality. Conditions were indeed very cramped, the Stewards having little room for their bar and less room to wait at table, but it was our home and in spite of drawbacks good times were had by all. The Lodge became quite famous for the quality and generosity of its meals. Thanks are indeed due to Mrs. Hinwood and her staff and to John Cope for indispensable asset of the ovens at the back of his shop. These are still used for the production of the locally and masonically famous raised pork pies cooked by John.

It seemed that we should be happily at home there for the Golden Jubilee and even the Centenary but relations with the Trustees of the rooms became less easy. The building being very old needed some structural repairs. The Trustees insisted that for safety reasons it must be closed for planned refurbishment and thereafter used in such a way to generate an income sufficient to maintain it in good condition.

We had of course periodically decorated the interior in accordance with the provisions of the lease, and carried out internal improvements upstairs while regularly paying a reasonable but not extravagant rent.

The Lodge offered to undertake certain work at its own expense in return for security of tenure of the lease, but our offer was refused. Nothing has been done by the Trustees to the building since we left and it is understood that it may be taken over by the Parish Church. Thus ended a significant period in the history of the Lodge.

Searching for a Home

Finding a suitable place to hold meetings was even more difficult for the Committee of the Lodge in 1994 than it was fifty years ago. However W.Bro. Walter Murrell, the Lodge Secretary, negotiated successfully with Hopton Wafers Parish Hall Committee for the use of their new hall.

The meeting of 21st September, 1995 was therefore held at the hall but, due to a previous booking of the hall at Hopton, it was necessary to seek the help of our Mother Lodge at Ludlow to permit us to use their Temple for the October meeting. Thereafter the Lodge met regularly at Hopton until and including the April meeting in 1997.

A modern kitchen in the Hall at Hopton was a godsend to Mrs. Hinwood and her team. The Lodge was, however, back once again to stacking and storing furniture before and after meetings. It was not possible to find storage space for our possessions at the new location so yet another difficulty had to be overcome.

W.Bro. Terry Davies came to the rescue by making available an outbuilding at his shop premises opposite the Assembly Rooms in Cleobury. The considerable quantity of furniture and other equipment acquired over the years had to be packed up by volunteers and stored at these premises. Preparing for the monthly meetings involved quite a number of members in many ways. The transportation of the necessary furniture from Cleobury to Hopton and back was a logistical miracle, owing much to the provision of vehicles by Bro. Roger Gittins and W.Bro. Terry Davies. W.Bro. Ken Hinwood worked more miracles with the setting up and by organising the dismantling. The bar and its contents were stored at W.Bro. Peter Cuthbert's house and produced every month without fail.

The speed at which the transition from Temple to Dining Room took place was inspiring, but getting attention at the bar while the furniture movers were busy was more difficult.

We are indebted to the Hopton Parish Room Committee for their co-operation and hospitality and we hope we did not inconvenience the Playgroup in any way. Some of their posters may have caught the attention of those of us moving towards second childhood, but others were blanked out by our own large cardboard reproductions of the Lodge Badge with its crooked steeple and square and compasses.

The intransigence of the Cleobury Parish Council as Trustees of the Assembly Rooms continued to bedevil any attempts to secure a speedy return to those premises. It became obvious that a more local solution, providing storage space for furniture and facilities for dining as well as temple, was required.

When the future looked bleak and consideration was being given to moving to the Lodge of the Marches' Temple, W.Bro. John Cope's good relations with Mr. Rupert Galliers-Pratt at Mawley Hall brought more than a ray of hope!

Mr. Galliers-Pratt was willing, under certain conditions, to make available the two large rooms upstairs in the Coach House and to allow, on Lodge nights, the use of the kitchen and Dining Room on the ground floor of the same building. Manna from Heaven indeed!

After a party of Past Masters had viewed the premises, the Lodge Committee appointed a small group of Past Masters to meet Mr. Galliers-Pratt and to agree the next steps.

We must place on record the kindness and support of Mr. Galliers-Pratt. He explained that he and his father had many friends in the Craft and said that he had great admiration for the charitable work performed by English Freemasonry. We told him frankly of the payments we had made previously for rent and rates, heating and lighting in previous premises. Emphasising that he did not wish to charge rent for the use of the building Mr. Galliers-Pratt did however express the wish that we should make available to local and other charitable organisation the monies we would otherwise have expended on premises. This would be in addition to the traditional and ongoing contributions made to other Masonic and non-Masonic Charities.

It was agreed that any lighting installed by the Lodge would be of such a nature as not to require alteration to the fabric of the rooms. Although our host reserved the right to use the rooms when necessary we were permitted to move in our furniture and store equipment in the two rooms provided upstairs.

Thus we have become the proud and grateful users of unique facilities for our Temple and Social activities. Already through the kindness and generous support of our Patron we have been able to distribute over £4,250 among deserving local charities.

In return it is our duty to ensure that, when using the premises, members and their guests disturb the occupants of the hall as little as possible and respect the truly gracious surroundings we are privileged to share. In particular a cautious and restrained approach up the impressive drive, keeping strictly off the grass edges. Finally when leaving the Lodge to restrict noise from cars and occupants to the absolute minimum.

Mawley Hall has lent dignity to the Cleobury district for nearly three centuries and was built when English Freemasonry was a growing influence in our land. Of all its different homes the Lodge cannot have a more agreeable and fitting background for its affairs.

Whatever happens in the future the Lodge will always recognise this and continue to express its sincere thanks to the owner who has made it possible for us to celebrate the "First Fifty Years" in such a happy and dignified manner. We hope that the members of the Lodge in the year two thousand and fifty will be able to rejoice in such good fortune.

The Warrant

This parchment gave authority from Supreme Grand Lodge for the Formation and Consecration of the Lodge and will repay study by the Brethren. It is pointed out to every Initiate on his first night and each one of us who has had the honour to be elected as Master will remember receiving it at his Installation and entrusting it to his successor at the next.

This was a privilege denied to the First Master because the vital document had not been completed by the Grand Lodge in time for the Ceremony. Instead a typewritten copy was sent to the Prov. G. Secretary to be read at the Consecration and handed to the W.M. on his Installation.

As set out in the original Petition the Warrant, signed by the first ten Brethren named on the Consecration Programme authorises W.Bro.F.G. Edwards as First Master, W.Bro.C.Bonshor as Senior Warden and W.Bro.T.Espley as Junior Warden. The alteration of the principal officers due to W.Bro.Edward's illness is indicated by an amendment in the top right hand corner of the Warrant. W.Bro. Edwards was well enough to attend the Consecration meeting but sadly never became Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

The Furnishings of the Lodge

According to W.Bro.Bonshor the Founders' fees were set at Ten Guineas (that is ten pounds and fifty pence), in those days several weeks wages for a workman! Having decided on the Assembly Rooms as the first home of the Lodge the next problem was how far two hundred and ten pounds would go towards providing essential furniture and equipment. The first officers agreed that they would purchase the collar and jewel of their office and present them to the Lodge. Most of the collars have been replaced by W.Bro. D.M. Lomas but the Jewels are those presented by the Founders.

The Tracing Boards and the original Banner were painted by 'young Tom', the son of W.Bro.T.H.Espley, who also designed the Lodge Badge. Many other items were provided by different Founders but I am unable to list all of these because the records are not complete.

It is known, however, that the chair now used by the Worshipful Master was presented by Bro. The Hon.R.J.Ward. It was used by him as Junior Warden when he attained that office. This upholstered chair was so much liked by a later Junior Warden that he transferred it, first to the West when he became Senior Warden, and thence to the East when he was installed in the Chair of King Solomon. There it has remained to this day and, having been reupholstered a few years ago, is a veritable Master's Chair.

The Candlesticks were presented by W.Bro. Newman as described in the paragraphs about the Consecration. The Pedestals, the three Heavy Malls, and many other items of woodwork were made and provided by Founder W.Bro.Wallace Weale. Among these was the first Worshipful Masters' Board which, like the heavy malls or gavels, should be treasured by the Lodge because of their origins.

The combined Candle Lighter and Snuffer was donated by W.Bro.Neville Lane who made his gift conditional with respect to the lighting of the candles at the opening and closing of the Lodge- namely that the Senior Deacon will hand the lighted taper to the Master and Wardens in turn. Beginning with the Master thence to the Junior Warden and on to the Senior Warden for each to light his own candle. Similarly with the snuffing of the candles. This tradition has been faithfully observed ever since.

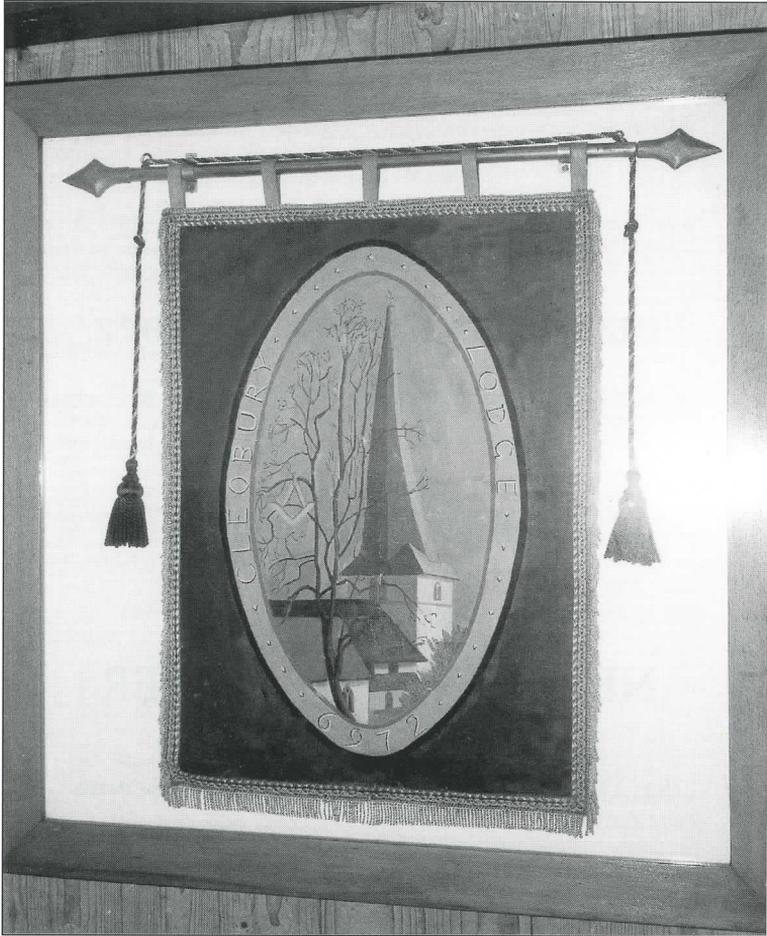
Cushions and Kneeling Stool were presented by Bro. and Mrs.J. Duerdin and another stool by W.Bro.T.H.Pain.

The Poinard was presented by W.Bro.C.S. Asbury the Provincial Grand Secretary at the time of the Consecration. During succeeding years other items were presented by generous benefactors. Of note is the beautifully hand-turned Alms Dish and the Secretary's Book Rest, made and given by W.Bro.Stuart Davies. The very fine carpet provided for our move to Mawley Hall by W.Bro. Alan Bullock, Master at that time, is an impressive ornament to the Lodge. The new Masters' Board to provide for the next fifty years was given by Bro. Roger Gittins.

Another set of Gavels was provided by W.Bro.Tom Wakeman to mark the end of his year as master. Many other items have been presented over the years but the donors have preferred to remain anonymous.

Two very ancient Pillars supporting spheres on which are delineated maps of the celestial and terrestrial globes were a gift from our 'Mother' Lodge, the Lodge of The Marches No. 611. This gift was through the good offices of W.Bro. Cyril Francis of that Lodge who did so much to catalogue and display the wonderful collection of Masonic Memorabilia at the Ludlow Temple in Brand Lane.

The Lodge Banners



The original Banner used at the consecration is a much prized heirloom of the Lodge. It was used until 1965 and has now been framed and hangs in the Lodge Room. It was painted by Tom, the son of Founder W.Bro. Tom Espley.

ANTIEN AND HONOURABLE FRATERNITY
OF FREE AND ACCEPTED MASONS

PROVINCE OF SHROPSHIRE
CLEOBURY LODGE, No. 6972

WORSHIPFUL MASTER W. BRO. GEORGE MAURICE BELLWOOD

DEDICATION
OF THE
NEW LODGE BANNER

AT THE MASONIC HALL, CLEOBURY MORTIMER

On THURSDAY, APRIL 15th, 1965

By THE RT. WORSHIPFUL BROTHER
THE RT. HON. LORD FORESTER
PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER.

ORDER OF CEREMONY

1. The Provincial Grand Master having occupied the Master's Chair, the W.M. invites the Provincial Grand Master to dedicate the Lodge Banner as follows:—

"Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, will you kindly dedicate our new Banner." The R.W.P.G.M. replies: "I will do so with pleasure, Worshipful Master."

2. The Provincial Grand Master appoints the Officers who are to assist him in the Ceremony (Provincial Wardens, Chaplain and Director of Ceremonies).

3. The W.M. and Officers are assembled in the centre of the Lodge by the Provincial G.D.C.

4. The Provincial G.D.C., Escort and Lodge D.C. retire. (The Escort consists of two Provincial Grand Standard Bearer, two Provincial Grand Deacons and Provincial G.D.C.).

5. The Tyler announces the return of the Escort. The Procession enters with the Banner (veiled and carried by the Lodge D.C.); the Brethren being called to order by the gavel of the Provincial Grand Master.

6. The Procession takes up its position in the centre of the Lodge.

7. The Provincial Grand Master requests the Provincial G.D.C. to unveil the Banner (which is done).

8. Dedication by the Chaplain:—

"O Lord our Heavenly Father, Architect and Ruler of the Universe, who dost from Thy Throne behold all dwellers upon earth; we beseech Thee to bless and hallow this Banner which we here consecrate as a symbol of our Masonic fellowship, and to the honour and glory of Thy Most Holy Name. Grant to all who gather beneath its shadow, wisdom to teach, humility to learn, and grace to fulfil their obligations. Pour down upon them, and upon all the members of our fraternity the continual dew of Thy blessing that we may daily increase in love of Thee and of one another. And when earth's fitful day is past, grant unto us a happy passing and glorious entry into Thy Heavenly Temple where amid the company of Thy faithful people we may shine like the stars for ever and ever." So mote it be.

9. The Provincial Grand Master will give an address on the Banner with special reference to its meaning and the lessons to be derived from it.

10. The Provincial Grand Master then Dedicates the Banner, as follows:—"In the name of Almighty God we do dedicate and set apart this Banner that it may be a sign of our duty to Him and a Symbol of our high purpose."

11. The Provincial G.D.C. takes the Banner from the Lodge D.C. and stands before the pedestal. The Provincial Grand Master says: "Worshipful Master, will you be pleased to accept this Banner on behalf of the Lodge?"

12. The W.M. replies: "I accept it with great pleasure, Rt. Worshipful Provincial Grand Master," and hands it to the Lodge D.C. who places it in position behind the Chair.

13. The Provincial Grand Master says: "Brethren, for all the Blessings and Mercies vouchsafed to us by T.G.A.O.T.U., let us praise and glorify His Holy Name."

14. Musical Response—"Glory be to God on High."

15. The Provincial Grand Master calls upon the Brethren to sing the Dedicatory Hymn:—

Supreme Grand Master, God of Power,
Be with us in this Solemn Hour.
Guide Thou our work, our plans approve,
Fill every heart with joy and love.

Bid all discordant thought be gone;
Let love unite our hearts as one;
May we in harmony combine
For Praise and Worship ever Thine.

Great Architect, to Thee we pray;
To bless our Festival this day;
And may our Lodge for ever prove
A lodge of loyalty and love.

So mote it be.

16. The Chaplain gives the Patriarchal Benediction.

17. National Anthem.

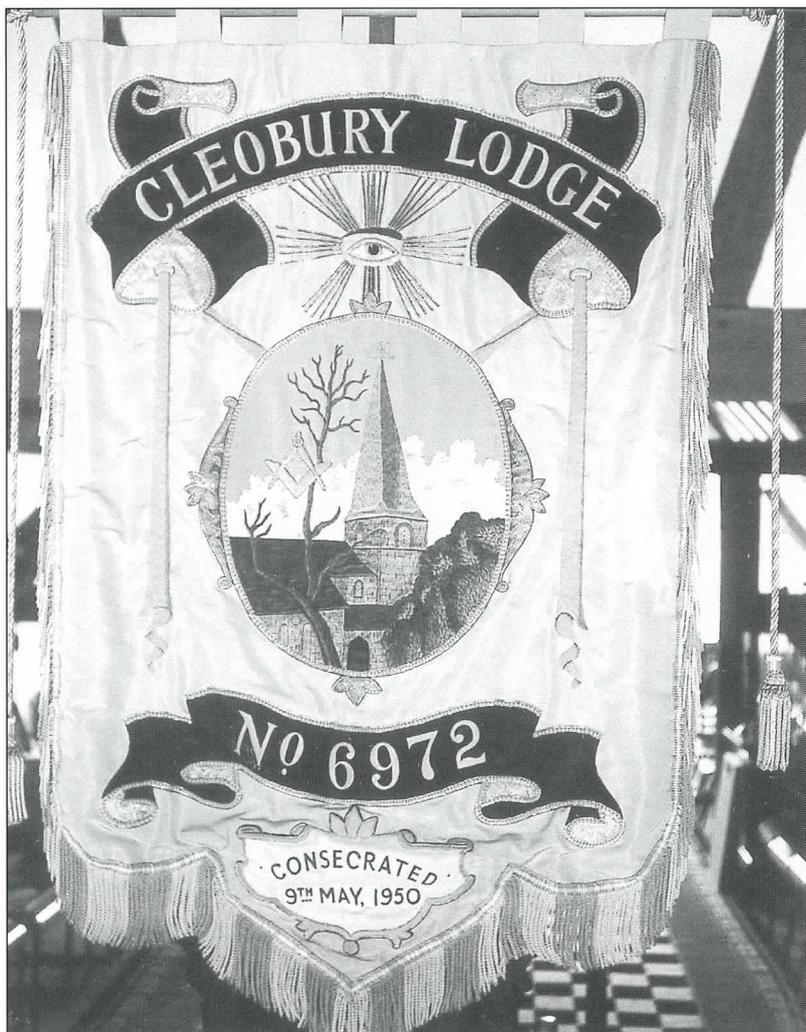
18. The Provincial Grand Master invites the W.M. to resume Chair.

19. The Officers and Brethren of the Lodge resume their places.

The Embroidered Banner

In 1965 one of the Founders who was the First Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge, presented this very handsome item. It was originally given anonymously, but it was really well known to most of us that it was W.Bro.Edmund K. Turpin who commissioned this beautifully crafted silk-embroidered banner in memory of his wife who died in 1964.

It is the duty of the Deacons of this Lodge to ensure that the protective cover is replaced on this valuable item after every Lodge meeting.



FOUNDERS AS ACTING PROVINCIAL WARDENS



W.Bro. E.K. Turpin W.Bro. F.A.N. Wreford
Provincial Grand Wardens
1964-65

PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE AT CLEOBURY

On Saturday 11th July, 1964 the Lodge, after many anxious committee meetings, achieved a great success. We successfully staged the annual meeting of P.G.L. in the Secondary School Assembly Hall. Under arrangements made by the Lodge a luncheon was arranged at the Parish hall and tea was provided at the School after the Provincial Meeting had concluded.

Arrangements had to be made to remove the furniture from the Assembly Rooms and take it to the School to be set out on the Friday evening after classes had finished. Fortunately for the Lodge its Treasurer and Charity Steward at the time was the Headmaster of the School. He was able to obtain the approval of the Governors and Local Education Authority for the Province to hire the School for the Saturday.

Needless to say Lodge members were much involved with both the preparations before the day, the arrangements on the day and the restoration on the Sunday after the meeting.

The School Assembly Hall was converted into an impressive Temple and the classrooms and Laboratories served as dressing rooms. The Headmaster's Study was of course set aside for the use of the Provincial Grand Master.

Setting out the Parish Hall for the luncheon called for a suitable chair to be provided for Lord Forester the Provincial Grand Master. Once again W.Bro. Tom Pain came to the rescue. As Deputy Chairman of the Magistrates at that time he was able to arrange that the Chairman's impressive upholstered specimen be borrowed from the Court next door.

Bearing in mind the special preferences of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the matter of liquid refreshment the Headmaster stocked up with scotch for the meeting with the Pro.G.Sec and the D.P.G.M. a week before the meeting. The facilities at the School were discussed and inspected and in due course approved over a refreshing glass in the School House. Assured that all was in hand for a good day the party returned to Shrewsbury. A letter from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master soon after the big day referred to the splendid effort of the Lodge. It also emphasised the tremendous help provided by certain members of our Mother Lodge who had come across and given sterling assistance at the Car Parks and at the Parish Hall with the luncheon.

Although it provided Lodges with considerable challenges the practice in those days of 'going round the Lodges' to provide a venue did have many advantages. It stimulated the country Lodges and made them feel an integral part of the Province. It was of course difficult to arrange, and we understood the reasons to adopt a fixed centre, first at Shrewsbury Technical College and more recently in the superb surroundings at Harper Adams College.

The Lodge has since that day, again in tandem with the Lodge of The Marches, hosted the Provincial Meeting at Shrewsbury.

Once more we rose to the challenge. This time ferrying our furniture up the A49 and once more being rewarded with congratulations for the tremendous effort expended by so many of the members.

SAD OCCASIONS

Throughout the past fifty years there have been many meetings of the Lodge which will remain indelibly imprinted on the memories of those present. Any member initiated, passed and raised in this Lodge will recall those ceremonies with particular clarity. Likewise a mason installed as Master will not forget that special evening.

However, whether present on the occasion or not, every member of the Lodge will remember with sadness two meetings which were of necessity brought to an earlier and sadder conclusion than was planned.

The meetings held on 15th April, 1993 and 18th September, 1997 are in the last category.

The Installation meeting in 1993 was for Bro. Terry Stubbs marred by the sudden death of a much respected and loved brother. I quote from the minutes recorded by the Secretary W.Bro. Walter Murrell:-

Installation. The W.M. requested the Officers to line up in the North and, having thanked them for their efforts and support during the year, directed them to hand in their collars and resume their seats. It was at this point that W.Bro. R.C.N. Atcherley collapsed and was quickly removed from the Lodge Room because of the numbers present and the heat in the Temple, and a Doctor was sent for. W.Bro. Atcherley's wife, who was present in the building was sent for and she insisted that it would be her husband's wish and her own that the Meeting should continue.'

Roger Atcherley was then the Treasurer of the Lodge, and his wife with the other Ladies was preparing Tea downstairs for the brethren when the Lodge was called off. It was to have been a specially important meeting for Roger because the Provincial Grand Master was present and would have announced later that Roger was to be invested as Provincial Grand Junior Warden at the next Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting. A great honour for him and the Lodge.

At first some of the ordinary business of the evening was conducted because the doctors and paramedics were with Roger in the Ante-Room which was the only exit from the Temple. After about half an hour it was announced that

Brother Atcherley had died. The brethren received the news with sadness and in silence. On the advice of the Prov. Grand Master it was decided to proceed with the Installation and investiture in the briefest possible form. The Festive Board was cancelled and after the closing brethren and guests departed.

It should be recorded that in spite of his inauspicious start W. Bro. Terry Stubbs completed a very good year, and continued to serve the Lodge faithfully and with distinction until his resignation some years later.

W.Bro. R.J. Davies, P.Dep. P.G.M.

The Lodge had for many years been helped at different times by W.Bro. Ronald Joseph Davies, P.Dep.G.Swd.B., and Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Shropshire. His visits to the Lodge when he was Prov.G.Sec. and later when he was Deputy in Charge of the Province had endeared him to the members. For this reason the Lodge was looking forward with great anticipation to his visit on the occasion of the first Lodge to be held in our new home at Mawley Hall on Thursday 18th September, 1997.

After opening the Lodge the programme was for the splendid new carpet presented by the W.M. to mark the opening of the new premises to be dedicated by a prayer by the Chaplain. This was duly carried out by W.Bro. The Rev. Arthur Griffiths. The main item on the agenda was to be talk by W.Bro.R.J. Davies entitled "Freemasonry. Why the mystery?"

To quote again from the Minutes recorded by W.Bro. Murrell:

'It is with great sadness we record that soon after Bro. Ron Davies started his talk to the Lodge, he collapsed and, after sending for an ambulance and the Doctor, he died. The Lodge Meeting was not continued and by virtue of the powers invested in him the Worshipful Master declared the Lodge closed.'

The Lodges in the Province were already in mourning for the death of The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master and the black rosettes on Officers' collars seemed especially appropriate at the next meeting in October. This was attended by the R.W. Bro. Dr. G.T.Haysey, Pr.G.M., who addressed the Brethren on the life of W.Bro. Ron Davies and, on behalf of Mrs. Davies, thanked the Brethren for all their support during this sad and difficult time.

THE LODGE OF THE MARCHES No. 611

In recording the history of the Cleobury Lodge mention has been made of the part played by members of our Mother Lodge at Ludlow. As has been stated it was necessary for a Lodge to sponsor the Petition. The tremendous debt the Lodge owes to those Founding Masons from Ludlow cannot be overstated. They had the foresight to see that there was a need and the determination to persist with the task once it had been undertaken.

Year after year they travelled over the Clee Hill to attend committee meetings and rehearsals and few ever failed to attend regular meetings of the Lodge.

The History of our "Mother" Lodge is set out in some detail in the History of Craft Freemasonry in Shropshire written and published by Dr. Harold Temperton, Provincial Grand Master in 1981. It seems that at its consecration in 1853 the arrival of the P.G.M., his Deputy and other Provincial Officers by special train from Shrewsbury was greeted by the firing of cannon and the ringing of church bells. At the Banquet which followed the Ceremony twenty toasts were honoured with music following after each toast. The Lodge of the Marches was preceded in Ludlow by the Silurian Mercian Lodge which had lapsed, but its furniture and jewels were inherited by the new Lodge consecrated in such style. No wonder with such a tradition behind them that the 'Mother' Lodge for Cleobury showed such continuing concern for its infant.

W.Bro. Turpin the first D.C. of Cleobury Lodge, who later became its Master, when the S.W. was unable to progress, was a most versatile ritualist and a member of very many other orders in Masonry. He and W.Bro. Weale, who himself became D.C. in due course, conducted the rehearsals with skill and consideration for the difficulties facing young men coming into office with not many years' experience in the craft. In those days there was no Lodge of Instruction at Cleobury but all new entrants were encouraged to attend the rehearsals which were held after the committee meetings. These young masons soon found that they had jobs to do which they were expected to prepare themselves for by study of the ritual and by practice.

W.Bro. Tom Wainwright the first Inner Guard who lived to the ripe old age of 101 years was a legendary character himself. A bachelor and a veteran of the First World War, who returned to run a saddlers and leather shop in Ludlow, he remained young in heart to the end. He regularly attended Ladies' Festival evenings where in his eighties he still danced with skill and enthusiasm. After he had served as Worshipful master he soon became Chaplain in which office he served with distinction for many years. His rendering from memory of the verses from the Book of Ecclesiastes in the Third Degree ceremony was inspiring and touching. Tom Wainwright had a fine voice and an incredible

memory which lasted well into his nineties. To hear him deliver the First Tracing Board when he was over ninety years old was a privilege. When I visited him in the Home at Church Stretton in his 98th year he said he could still recite both tracing boards and proved it by quoting a large part of it to me over tea and cakes.

Even when the Offices of the Lodge were mainly filled by Initiates of the Lodge the 'Old Guard' continued to attend the committee meeting and to give their valuable advice and support.

A Founder whose faithful service to the Lodge proved most influential was W.Bro.Alan Wreford. P.P.S.G.W. He was a Steward at the first meeting and became Master in 1954 and shortly after that became Lodge Secretary. It was not until 1980 that he relinquished this post. His knowledge of the ritual was so good that he could always prompt from memory while sitting at the Secretary's table should it prove necessary.

Even when he had moved across England to Stamford in Lincolnshire he regularly attended his Lodges in Cleobury Mortimer and Kington. It was W.Bro.Alan who was instrumental in getting sanction for a Lodge of Instruction of which he became the first Preceptor. The training he gave to young master masons inspired many of them to aspire to offices they had not expected to fill. His standards were high and he expected us to get as near to perfection as possible. His notes on the customs and traditional variations peculiar to this Lodge are treasured by other Preceptors like W.Bros.A.E Griffiths, J.L.Cope, J.F.Williamson and P.Cuthbert in their turn.

After the first successful Lodge of Instruction Festival organised by Alan Wreford there has been a Festival regularly arranged each year. These occasions have been encouraged and patronised by successive Provincial Grand Masters or their Deputies and visiting Grand Lodge Officers. Just one of the many legacies left by Founder Alan Wreford to inspire future members of the L.O.I.

One of the duties of earlier Lodge Secretaries was to render the Annual Return of members to the Clerk of the Peace (The Local Magistrates' Clerk at Bridgnorth). In these days when declarations have been called for from Police Officers, Magistrates themselves and others in Local Government it may be interesting to younger members to learn that the Law required the Secretary of 'Secret Societies' to provide a list of their members each year. In 1967 we were informed that this was no longer necessary!

MASTERS OF THE CLEOBURY LODGE

Classified as Founders (F), Initiates (I) and Joining Members (J). In this Country Lodge based on a small Market Town it is of interest to note the variety of occupations.

C.L. Bonshor	F	1950	Bank Manager
T.H. Espley	F	1951	Headmaster
W.H. Weale	F	1952	Master Builder
F.G. Maddocks	F	1953	Shoe Retailer
F.A.N. Wreford	F	1954	Commercial Manager Electricity Board
L.G.O. Slingsby	F	1955	Journalist & Advertising Manager
T. Wainwright*	F	1956	Leather Retailer & Saddler
T.H. Pain JP	F	1957	Farmer and Timber Merchant
T.J. Smith	F	1958	Bank Manager
F.C. Bidmead	J	1959	Engineer
W.H. Shaw	I	1960	Farmer
R.A. Everingham JP	I	1961	Farmer
C.W. Beale	I	1962	Company Accountant
E.K. Turpin	F	1963	Wine & Spirit Merchant
G.M. Bellwood	I	1964	Farmer & Shopkeeper
F.A. Trouth	I	1965	Managing Director
F.D. Reading JP	I	1966	Headmaster
N.C. Plummer	J	1967	Retired Insurance Manager
T.R. Beddoes	I	1968	Farmer
P. Pain	I	1969	Farmer
W.S. Murrell	I	1970	Deputy Headmaster
Rev. A.E. Griffiths	I*	1971	Headmaster & Clerk in Holy Orders
H.A. Hayward	I	1972	Agricultural Engineer
C.W.S. Davies	I	1973	Schoolmaster
J.N. Barratt	I	1974	Grocer
B.K. Hinwood	I	1975	Farmer
T.S. Lloyd	I	1976	Veterinary Surgeon
G.P. Parker	J	1977	Headmaster
Rev. B.H. Gadd	I	1978	School Master & Clerk in Holy Orders
G.M. Bishop	I	1979	Farmer
R.C.N. Atcherley	I	1980	Company Director
G.B. Broome*	I	1981	School Caretaker & Retired Coal Miner
D.E. Jones	I	1982	Bank Manager
E. Hewitt	J	1983	Chartered Accountant

MASTERS OF THE CLEOBURY LODGE *Continued*

P.F. Swain*	J	1984	Chartered Engineer & Company Director
J.L. Cope	I	1985	Master Butcher
B.S. Plester	I	1986	Surveyor
F.W. Pain	I	1987	Farmer
M. Chopping	I	1988	Schoolmaster
J. F. Williamson	I	1989	Farmer
P. Cuthbert	I	1990	Deputy Headmaster
D. M. Lomas	I	1991	Advisory Teacher
D.T. Davies	I	1992	Company Director
T.G. Stubbs	I	1993	Police Inspector
M.F. Baker	J	1994	Manufacturer
G.A. Hems	I	1995	Master Butcher
R.M. Hughes	J	1996	Director
A.R. Bullock	I	1997	Managing Director, Victoria Carpets
T.H. Wakeman	I	1998	Advertising Manager
D.R. Purslow	I	1999	Haulage Contractor
R.H. Gittins	I	2000	Inn Keeper

- *1. T.Wainright was Master by dispensation of Grand Lodge while simultaneously W.M. of Lodge of The Marches 611.
- *2. Rev.Arthur Griffiths is the first member of this Lodge to be appointed an Officer of Supreme Grand Lodge.
- *3. G.B. Broome was initiated as a serving brother but subsequently was elected a full member and gave outstanding service as Master and then Chaplain for many years.
- *4. P.F.Swain was Master by Dispensation of Grand Lodge whilst simultaneously WM. of Tudor Rose Lodge No. 5660.

BRETHREN WHO HAVE SERVED THE LODGE AS:-

CHAPLAIN

Bro. B.Martin

W.Bro. T.Wainwright, P.Pr.G.Reg.

W.Bro. Rev.A.E.Griffiths, P.Asst.G.Chap., Pr.G.Chaplain.

W.Bro. G.B.Broome, P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.

W.Bro. Rev.B.H.Gadd, MA., P.Pr.G.Chap.

SECRETARY

W.Bro. H.J.H.Sturton

W.Bro. T.Wainwright, P.Pr.G.Reg.

W.Bro. F.A.N.Wreford, P.Pr.S.G.W. (for 15 years)

W.Bro. W.S.Murrell, P.Pr.G.Reg. (for 18 years)

W.Bro. P.Cuthbert, P.Pr.G. Supt Wks.

TREASURER

Bro. H.Cooke

Bro. R.T.Morris

W.Bro. F.A.Trouth, P.Pr.G.Reg.

W.Bro. F.D.Reading, P.Pr.S.G.W.

W.Bro. W.S.Murrell, P.Pr.G.Reg.

W.Bro .D.Jones, P.Pr.J.G.D.

Bro. C.H.Heath

W.Bro. D.M.Lomas, P.Pr.G.Std.B.

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

W.Bro. E.K.Turpin, P.Pr.S.G.W.

W.Bro. W.Weale, P.Pr.S.G.W

W.Bro. F.Reading, P.Pr.S.G.W.

W.Bro. J.L.Cope, P.Pr.J.G.W.

W.Bro. J.F.Williamson, Prov.G.D.C.

W.Bro. P.Cuthbert, P.Pr.G.Supt.Works

W.Bro. D.T.Davies, P.Pr.G.Swd.B.

ALMONER

W.Bro. T. Wainwright, P.Pr.G.Reg.

W.Bro. T. H. Pain, P.Pr.S.G.W.

W.Bro. T. S. Lloyd, P.Pr.G. Supt.Wks.

CHARITY REP/CHARITY STEWARD

W.Bro. E. K. Turpin, P.Pr.S.G.W

W.Bro. F. D. Reading P.Pr.S.G.W

W.Bro. D. Jones, P.Pr.J.G.D.

W.Bro. M. Chopping, P.Pr.J.G.D.

TYLER

Bro. E.R.Humphries (611) (1950 - 1953)
Bro. J. Bishop, P.Pr.G.Tyler. (1953 - 1973)
W.Bro. G.B.Broome, P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks. (1967 - 1973)
Bro. W.A. Broome (1974 - 1986)
Bro. G. Bache (1987 - Present)

MEMBER OF THE LODGE HONOURED WITH GRAND RANK

In 1998 the Lodge was delighted to learn that W. Bro. Rev. Arthur Evan Griffiths had been appointed by United Grand Lodge of England to the rank of P.A.G. Chaplain. W. Bro. Arthur is the first member of the Lodge to be honoured with Grand Rank. He is also the holder of the rank of P.G.St.B. in the Royal Arch and as a Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master in the Mark Province of Staffordshire and Shropshire he holds the rank of P.G.S.O.



INITIATES

Name	Known as	Age	Occupation	Year
F. Downes	Fawcett	66	Postmaster & Grocer	1950
R.T.Morris	Reg	48	Headmaster	1950
W.H.Shaw	Bill	44	Farmer	1950
J.G.Bishop	Jack	58	School Caretaker	1951
R.A.A.Everingham	Rex	36	Farmer	1951
T.Smith	Tom	41	Grocers' Manager	1952
	'Crackers'			
H.S.Dwerryhouse	Tim	38	Veterinary Surgeon	1952
C.W.Beale	Charles	41	Company Secretary	1952
A.C.C.Pardoe	Arthur	32	Farmer	1953
G.M.Bellwood	George	37	Farmer	1954
F.A.J.Roberts	Frank	39	Ironmonger	1954
W.E.Badger	Bill	59	Company Director	1955
L.Sinclair	Leslie	52	Bank Manager	1955
F.A.Trouth	Frank	34	Sales Manager	1955
Rev.L.C.Perfect	Leslie	43	Clerk in Holy Orders	1956
F.E.Russell	Frank	44	Salesman	1956
F.D.Reading	Douglas	38	Headmaster	1957
J.N.Barratt	Jack	42	Grocer	1957
T.R.Beddoes	Reg	44	Farmer	1958
F.L.Jacobs	Leon	64	Optician	1958
P.Pain	Peter	38	Farmer	1958
W.S.Murrell	Walter	38	Deputy Headmaster	1959
L.V.Matthews	Lambert	60	Quarry Manager	1959
H.E.James*	Elwyn	42	Bank Manager	1959
C.A.S.Skellern	Arthur	59	Farmer	1960
C. Northwood*	Clem	50	Farmer	1961
H.A.Hayward	Bert	44	Agricultural Engineer	1961
C.W.S. Davies	Stewart	36	Schoolmaster	1961
B.K.Hinwood	Ken	30	Farmer	1962
P.B.Hartmann	Paul	60	Swiss Managing Director	1962
W.S.C.Nugent	Willie	52	Factory Gatekeeper	1963
F.C.Harrold	Frank	52	Garage Proprietor	1963
R.D.Purslow	Derek	34	Haulage Contractor	1963
T.S.Lloyd	Trevor	33	Veterinary Surgeon	1964
R.C.Home	Ron	50	Farmer	1965
B.H.Gadd	Brian	31	Schoolmaster	1965
C.G.Colson	Grant	27	Schoolmaster	1965
J.W.Wells*	John	29	Farmer	1966
G.B.Broome	Bernard	50	School Caretaker	1966
T.P.Straughton	Tom	35	Sales Manager	1967
G.M.Bishop*	Geoff	27	Farmer	1967
R.C.N.Atcherley	Roger	37	BOCM Representative	1968

INITIATES Continued

T.K.Bailey*	Keith	38	College Lecturer	1968
T.H.Wakeman	Tom	42	Journalist	1969
D.E.Jones	David	45	Bank Manager	1969
C.A.Hill*	Cedric	41	Electronic Engineer	1970
Capt.I.D.Reading	Ian	25	Regular Army Officer	1970
L.P.Hart*	Leslie	51	Sales Representative	1970
C.H.Heath	Harry	51	Retired Police Sgt.	1971
J.L.Cope	John	31	Master Butcher	1972
B.S.Plester	Brian	43	Surveyor	1973
F.W.Pain	Frank	50	Farmer	1973
W.A.Broome	Archie	45	Tool Setter	1974
M.Chopping	Mike	37	Schoolmaster	1975
J.F.Williamson	John	29	Farmer	1976
L.G.Bache	Leslie	54	Sales Manager	1976
P Cuthbert	Peter	35	Schoolmaster	1976
G.H.Hems	Gordon	41	Master Butcher	1977
D.M.Lomas	David	39	Schoolmaster	1977
E.J.Humphries	Eric	35	Security Co. Director	1978
D.T.Davies	Terry	34	Company Director	1978
T.G.Stubbs*	Terry	49	Police Inspector	1979
D.Weaver*	Don	49	Sales Manager	1980
A.H.Ingram	Tony	37	Transport Supervisor	1980
E.Lord*	Ted	48	Bank Manager	1981
J.Sidaway	Jack	49	Schoolmaster	1981
J.C.Allman*	Clive	36	Industrial Chemist	1982
T.W.Lucas*	Terry	38	Product Manager	1982
A.G.Cordon	Alan	29	Auto Sales Manager	1983
M.L.E.Hurcombe*	Mike	42	Heating Engineer	1984
C.M.Reading*	Charles	25	Security Corps Manager	1985
B.J.Link	Brian	28	Assurance Company Rep	1986
P.D.Shilling	Peter	27	Schoolmaster	1986
G.R.Bache	Graham	30	School Caretaker	1986
A.R.Bullock	Alan	39	Export Manager	1987
A.G.A.Lawley	Tony	60	Building Consultant	1989
K.T.R. Shields*	Keith	25	Financial Consultant	1989
B.Caley	Brian	46	Assurance Company Rep	1989
D.R.Purslow	Duncan	28	Telecomm Engineer	1989
R.H.Gittins	Roger	38	Publican	1990
J.T.Fox	John	42	Farmer	1990
T.G.Elcock	Tim	32	Garage Proprietor	1990
A.N.D.Windsor	Derek	64	Construction Manager	1992
P.L.Ward	Phillip	44	Purchasing Manager	1992
J.Noblet*	John	46	Company Director	1993
D.R.Godwin	Douglas	33	Agricultural Contractor	1995

INITIATES Continued

M.B.Shew	Brian	53	Driving Instructor	1995
K.R.Lloyd	Kingsley	52	Ambulance Driver	1995
E.R.Andrews	Roy	50	Service Manager	1996
M.C.Breakwell	Melvyn	46	Leading Toolsetter	1996
R.G.James	Robert	43	Chartered Surveyor	1998
D.J.Hill	Dennis	51	Civil Servant	1999
T.E.Bailey	Terry	40	Safety/Security Man.	1999
S.N.Tolley	Stephen	46	Police Officer	2000
J.L.Greening	John	56	Company Director	2000

* Resigned

JOINING MEMBERS

Bro.J.H.Farquahar	Jack	Retired Colonial Civil Servant	1950
Bro.F.C.Bidmead*	Charlie	Colliery Electrical Engineer	1950
Bro.T.J.Smith	Tom	Bank Manager	1954
	(Crackers)		
Bro.F.Ives	Frank	Chartered Mechanical Engineer	1955
Bro.W.D.Coates	Bill	Bank Manager	1956
W.Bro.W.E.Dudley	Bill	Clerk to Bromsgrove RDC	1958
Bro.R.H.Batey	Ron	Lighting Engineer	1959
WBro.N.C.Plummer	Norman	Retired Insurance Manager	1962
Bro.Rev.G.H.Hewins		Clerk in Holy Orders	1962
Bro.G.P.Parker	George	Headmaster	1965
W.Bro.R.A.Hall	Ray	Auctioneer and Valuer	1967
Bro.A.Y.Greenhalgh*Alan		Director G.K.N.	1969
Bro.E.G.Schults	Eric	Headmaster	1971
Bro.E.Hewitt	Edgar	Chartered Accountant	1971
Bro.J.I.C.Waddicar	Jim	Garage Proprietor	1971
Bro.J.K.Talbot	John	Mining Engineer	1972
WBro.D.C.W.Watkins	Bill	Garage Proprietor	1972
Bro.R.C.Heydon	Roland	Civil Servant	1972
Bro.G.B.Broome	Bernard	Elected a Joining Member after serving as Tyler for 7 years	1973
W.Bro.E.S.Exley	Sid	Farmer	1974
Bro.A.E.Colquhoun	Alan	Retired Legal Executive	1975
W.Bro.P.F.Swain	Peter	Chartered Mechanical Engineer	1977
Bro.I.A.Jackson	Ian	Company Director	1980
W.Bro.C.Warwick	Charles	Company Director	1980
W.Bro.M.F.Baker	Mike	Managing Director	1985
W.Bro.A.H.Simmonds	Tony	Photographer	1986
W.Bro.R.M.Huges	Richard	Company Director	1986
W.Bro.P.J.Pendergast	John	Retired Director	1988

JOINING MEMBERS Continued

Bro.G.L.Stevens	Graham	Retired	1998
Bro.J.W.Shields*	John	Hotelier	1989
W.Bro.J.E.Austin	John	Company Director	1990
Bro.A.E.Bush	Alan	Retired	1996
W.Bro.D.Thorpe	David	Wholesale Merchant	1997
W.Bro.B.F.Kent	Brian	Local Government Officer	1997
W.Bro.T.W.Carlyle	John	Welding Engineer	1999

* Resigned

THE GOLDEN JUBILEE SUB COMMITTEE

W.Bro. F.D. Reading JP.,P.Pr.S.G.W.
W.Bro. M. Chopping P.Pr.J.G.D.
W.Bro. P. Cuthbert P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks.
W.Bro. D.M.Lomas P.Pr.G.Std.B.
W.Bro. D.T.Davies P.Pr.G.Swd.B.
W.Bro. A.R. Bullock P.M.

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