

# The District Wire

## The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 2

**“Keeping members in touch”**

February 2009

### An encouraging start

*“The Newsletter will be very useful in keeping brethren informed of important issues ...”*

*“Congratulations on an excellent publication; it will bridge a gap between District and Lodges...”*

*“An easy to read format with the right balance of articles ....”*

Just some of the messages of support received following the publication of the new District Newsletter. The positive response from many brethren is very encouraging and it clearly indicates a wish for brethren to be kept informed of both District and Lodge activities. As such this second issue of the Newsletter has been published well ahead of the planned date. We rely on contributions from Lodges and individuals to enable us to publish on a regular basis. In particular we want to hear from Charity Stewards on the excellent work your Lodges are doing to help those in need. So please send your articles to the Editor so that we can let everyone know about your worthy efforts.

### Education update

There has been an excellent response from Lodges to the District Education Programme with 9 Lodges already having appointed Lodge Education Officers:

Othello Lodge:	W.Bro Duncan Moore
Apollo Lodge:	Bro Ian McLean
Agapinor Lodge:	W.Bro David Hubbard
Dionysos Lodge:	W.Bro John Winslow
King Tefkros Lodge:	W.Bro John Colias
St George's Lodge:	W.Bro Derrick Hirst
Lusignan Lodge	W.Bro Michael Shacallis
Lord Kitchener Lodge:	Bro Iain Boardman
Phoenix Lodge:	W.Bro Panos Hartsiotis

The Education Team has produced another set of Fact Sheets, for Progressive Officers, which will serve as ready references for those working towards the Chair. The Fact Sheets cover general points on the duties of Progressive Officers and supplement the ritual tuition received at Lol. One recently-installed WM said he had found the Fact Sheet for the WM to be most informative and useful. If you will shortly be taking up one of these offices ask your Lodge Education Officer for the relevant Fact Sheet.

### A proud moment for W.Bro Peter

At the Lord Kitchener Installation meeting, held on 26th November, W.Bro Peter van de Pol installed his son, Tobias Jan, into the Chair of King Solomon. It was the completion of four ceremonies that W.Bro Peter had performed for his son. He initiated, passed and raised him and to place his son in the Chair was a very proud moment for him, and an emotional occasion for them both. When investing his father as Secretary, W.Bro Toby told him that if he did not do as he was told he would tell Mum!



### New Masters ...

Since our first issue the following brethren have been installed as Worshipful Masters in their Lodges:

Lusignan Lodge:	W.Bro Onnig Yenovkian
Lord Kitchener Lodge:	W.Bro Tobias Jan van de Pol
Agapinor Lodge:	W.Bro Bob Tucker
Apollo Lodge:	W.Bro George Convey

### ...and new Initiates

The following brethren were welcomed into the Craft and the District during the past few months:

Dionysos Lodge:	Bro Raymond Hynes
St George's Lodge:	Bro Yiannos Ioannides
Apollo Lodge:	Bro (Flt Sgt) Gary Thomas
Lord Kitchener Lodge:	Bros John Walker & Peter Alcock

### 'Elect' – is there a link?

Last November the American people made their choice and they now have a new President. After his election he became known as the 'President Elect' until his inauguration on 20<sup>th</sup> January. The term 'Elect' is one with which we are familiar; each year every Lodge appoints a Worshipful Master who is then known as the Master Elect until his investment. Is the American use of the word simply coincidence or does it have a Masonic connection? After all, a number of the signatories to the Declaration of Independence were Freemasons. In fact the first President, George Washington, was one of them, and had to borrow a bible from a local Masonic lodge on which to take his oath of allegiance. The same bible has been used on a number of other Presidential inaugurations, probably by Presidents who were Freemasons. It is known that at least 15 of them were Freemasons, including Andrew Jackson, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin D. Roosevelt, Harry S. Truman, Lyndon B. Johnson and Gerald Ford. George W. Bush Sr also took his oath on this bible although he is not a Freemason. Food for thought, perhaps!

Rumours are abound on the internet that the new President is a Mason, but no positive links have been found that identify him with the Craft. He did, in fact, take his oath of allegiance on a bible used by Abraham Lincoln, whom he admires.

*In times like these, it helps to remember there have always been times like these.*

**Bro Paul Harvey**

## Lodge charity news

### Lord Kitchener Lodge

The Lodge recently donated 4 wheelchairs to two worthy causes - 2 to the Bank of Cyprus Oncology Unit in Nicosia and 2 to the Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients & Friends in Larnaca; the latter being presented at the Lodge's Christmas Carols and Toys 4 the Children of Larnaca Appeal, which raised some 500+ presents. In addition, on Wed 18th Dec a cheque for €1,500 was made to the President of the Alzheimer's Association in Larnaca by W. Bro David Briscoe from his Master's List for 2007/8.



### Agapinor Lodge

The Paphos Friends Hospice can breathe easily now thanks to a donation of cash from the Lodge to purchase an oxygen concentrator. The Hospice provides palliative care for people suffering from terminal illness and the concentrator means the Hospice will not have to purchase costly bottled oxygen anymore. "The help of the Masons will make a huge difference to us," said Ruth Manor, the Hospice Manager.

### District office has moved....

... but not too far. The District Office has moved into new premises, just across the road from the office they have occupied for the past eight years, courtesy of the District Grand Master. The new offices have been purchased outright, made possible by a generous donation from a member of Apollo Lodge, Bro Dan Stoicescu. On behalf of all the Brethren in the District, the District Grand Master has expressed his sincere thanks to Bro. Dan for this very kind gesture.

### Secretaries – *S..p..r..e..a..d* the word

Why not take a few copies of the Newsletter to your Lodge meetings and hand them out to your visitors from off the Island? It will help spread the word about our District activities.

## Dates for your diary ...

Unfortunately the Jazz Concert scheduled for next month has had to be postponed until September as the band is unavailable.

### Annual Communication, Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2009

The Annual District Communication is being held at Jerusalem Street, Limassol starting at 17.00. Your Worshipful Master and his Wardens will be in attendance, and if you are a Master Mason you should make an effort to attend and support them. It is a very special event in our Masonic calendar and it is quite a spectacle to see the District Grand Master enter with his Officers. Perhaps there are brethren in your Lodge who are receiving District honours; come along and support them. The Communication is followed by a Festive Board at a hotel nearby – a chance to mix with brethren from other Lodges. Your Lodge Secretary will be able to provide you with details.

If you are in the Holy Royal Arch you should also make the effort to attend the Annual District Convocation, which is held on the same day starting at 15.00. This too is a special occasion when the Grand Superintendent appoints his District Officers and reports on District Chapter business. See your Chapter ScribeE for details.

### From one island to another

Apollo Lodge was honoured at its February meeting with the presence of the Provincial Grand Master for Guernsey and Alderney, R.W. Bro David Hodgetts LVO, who was accompanied by our own District Grand Master and his Officers. The Provincial Grand Master was pleased to be able to present a Grand Lodge Certificate to his son, Bro(Capt) Andrew Hodgetts, a member of Apollo Lodge. He said he had initiated, passed and raised his son and the presentation of the Certificate, the first he had given in 37 years, was a very pleasant duty for him. At the festive board the PGM was very surprised, but delighted to receive a frame picture of himself in the Apollo Lodge Room, made possible by the photographic and printing skills of W. Bro Bob Humphries and the framing skills of W. Bro Russ Moren, both of whom worked with lightning speed before the festive board began to prepare the picture.

### Useful contacts

Articles/pictures for the Newsletter to the Editor:

W.Bro John Finney: [deo@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy](mailto:deo@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy)

District website: <http://cyprus-freemasons.org.cy>

Webmaster: [webmaster@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy](mailto:webmaster@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy)

## Make YOUR daily advancement in Masonry



You may have noticed some brethren wearing a small, blue lapel pin in the shape of a flower. The origin of this is that during the Nazi reign in Germany, Freemasonry was outlawed so a symbol was sought by which brethren could recognise each other. The simple **Forget-Me-Not** was chosen and the wearing of it in one's lapel would signal to other Freemason's that you were a brother. At the end of the Second World War, the Grand Lodge of Germany reconvened, and announced that the Forget-Me-Not would remain as a symbol by which German brethren would recognise each other, and also to be worn in memory of those brave brethren who continued to practice Freemasonry against these odds, and had lost their lives. In later years the Forget-Me-Not was adopted by Freemasonry in general as a symbol that despite the great oppression, adversity and evil faced during those dark years, the light of Freemasonry was not extinguished. In some Lodges, a newly-raised Master Mason is presented with one by his proposer as a symbol of eternal friendship and as a reminder that the light of Freemasonry will continue to shine through all adversity.