

# The District Wire

The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 3

**“Keeping members in touch”**

June 2009

## A busy time around the District

Much has happened since our last issue. A new Assistant District Grand Master and a new 3<sup>rd</sup> District Grand Principal were appointed at the Annual Communication/Convocation meetings; a Banner Dedication Ceremony took place at Lusignan Lodge and a successful Charity Band Concert was held in Paphos. Also, a new initiative to increase membership of the Royal Arch was launched – see the special article. Apart from reporting on these events we also have news on what has been happening in the Lodges around the island. As a result we have been able to increase the size of this issue. We can't guarantee to do this every time; it all depends on your support – so keep the articles coming in.

## Bumper Summer Issue

Including FREE Supplement

**“Why you should join  
the Royal Arch”**

## A ★★★★★ District Communication and District Convocation

**In the early days of Freemasonry meetings were usually held in small rooms in local taverns; how times have changed!**

This year's Annual Communication and Annual Convocation were held on Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> May in the splendid setting of the 4-star St Raphael hotel in Limassol. The Temple was 'built' in one of the conference rooms of the hotel, the work being overseen by Roger “King Solomon” Brooks, ably assisted by John “The Chief Architect” Finney, Bob “The Master Builder” Humphries and a few trusty Fellow Crafts from Apollo and Agapinor Lodges. When the Temple was completed Roger was heard to exclaim “*Oh, wonderful Masons!*” Both meetings were very well attended; over 120 Brethren were at the Craft Communication and over 70 Companions attended the Chapter Convocation. The District was honoured with the presence of the Grand Master of Greece and the District Grand Master of Syria and Lebanon and 6 of his colleagues.

At the Communication the District Grand Master was pleased to invest **W.Bro Andrew Theocharous** as the Assistant District Grand Master, and at the Convocation the Grand Superintendent was pleased to invest **E.Comp Roger Brooks** as 3<sup>rd</sup> District Grand Principal.



**W.Bro Andrew Theocharous**  
Assistant District Grand Master



**E.Comp Roger Brooks**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District Grand Principal

Following the meetings the District Grand Master hosted a dinner at the hotel at which 100 Brethren were in attendance. Feedback from brethren indicates that the event was a resounding success. Thanks go to all involved in the planning and preparation, which went smoothly considering the weather was unusually very hot. In particular the hotel staff could not have been more helpful, although they were quite puzzled by the Temple layout, not quite the conference set up they were used to!

## Nicosia Lodges hold joint Ladies Festival

On 7<sup>th</sup> March the three Nicosia Lodges, St. George's, Lusignan and Phoenix held their joint Ladies Festival at the Hilton Park Hotel. They were honoured by the presence of the Deputy District Grand Master, W.Bro Eric William, and his wife Loretta.

The toasts were shared equally between the three Lodges, the toast to the Ladies being given by the Master of Phoenix Lodge, W.Bro. Harris Zanettos, to which his wife responded humorously on behalf of the Ladies. There was

a large array of valuable raffle prizes, including an expensive Persian Carpet, which was auctioned skilfully by W.Bro. Zanettos. The Festival raised €2,375, most of which was donated to the Children's Ward of Makarios Hospital in Nicosia, €530 for the Teddy Loving Care programme and the balance for other needs of the Ward, yet to be determined. Mrs Diana der Avedissian worked tirelessly behind the scenes making the arrangements with the hotel, securing the carnations free of charge for presentation to the Ladies and for collating all the prizes for the raffle.

## Education update

All Lodges have now appointed a Lodge Education Officer and the education programme is well under way. A meeting of Lodge Education Officers was held in March at which ideas were shared on how the programme is being introduced into Lodges. It's very encouraging to see that there is a great deal of enthusiasm for the programme, not just from recently-initiated Masons, but also from Fellow Crafts and Master Masons. Quite a number of Past Masters are also benefitting from the programme, many stating they wished such a programme had been in use in their early days of Masonry.

A meeting of Lodge Education Officers is being planned for the start of the season, early September, so if you have any queries about education please raise them with your Lodge Education Officer – his details are (or should be) on your Lodge Summons – so that he can raise them at the meeting. It is hoped to run education seminars for EAs, FCs and MMs in the near future.

## Help for the Kidney Association

A joint effort by members of a number of Lodges and Chapters resulted in the Larnaca & Famagusta Kidney Association being presented with cheques totalling €850 at their fund-raising luncheon, held at the 'Sun Hall' Hotel in Larnaca. Three separate cheques were presented to the Association - one from St Lazarus Chapter Rose Croix for €250, one from St Paul's Chapter for €300 and one from Lusignan Lodge for €300. The Association does tremendous work and is always in need of funds to keep providing the vital support they give to kidney sufferers, especially those whose lives depend upon dialysis.

Public recognition was given during the presentation by Mrs Leila Agathou (President) and Mr Alkis Pierides (eminent Consultant Surgeon) both expressing their grateful thanks for these donations and the continuing support given by the Freemasons of the District of Cyprus. Also present were several members of Lord Kitchener, Othello and Lusignan Lodges and St Lazarus Chapter.

## A double celebration for Lusignan Lodge

### A Banner Dedication .....

On 24 March 2009 Lusignan Lodge held a very impressive Banner Dedication ceremony, which was performed by a team of District Grand Officers led by the District Grand Master. The ceremony was held in the Cleopatra Hotel, Nicosia, where the Lodge Room was purpose built for the occasion.



The Banner incorporates the coat of arms of the Lusignans, who reigned on the island between 1192 and 1489, and during this period were closely associated with the influx into the island of mediaeval building fraternities of Operative Freemasons, who engaged in the construction of public buildings and religious edifices.

### ... and a special Birthday

As the Lodge's 400<sup>th</sup> regular meeting coincided with the Banner Dedication ceremony, the celebration of that occasion was postponed to the April regular meeting, which was held on 28 April. The Assistant District Grand Master conveyed the District's congratulations to the Lodge and stated that he had no doubt the Lodge would go from strength to strength. The WM also gave a short speech about the significance of the event and then proceeded to present to the senior members of the Lodge certificates of long service etched onto brass plaques mounted on wooden frames.

At the Festive Board the Brethren had a treat in store – a specially baked 400<sup>th</sup> meeting cake, seen here being cut by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro Onnig Yenovkian, watched over hungrily by two of the Brethren.





## Masonic Open Golf Competition

Another successful Masonic Open Golf Competition was held at the Episkopi Golf Club on 16<sup>th</sup> April where over 60 Masons and friends took part. This annual event is always well supported and apart from everyone enjoying a pleasant round of golf, money is raised for local charities. A cheque for €650 was presented to the President of the Board of Benevolence by George Convey, Worshipful Master of Apollo Lodge, at their May meeting, and a further €200 was donated to the 'Help for Heroes' fund. W.Bro George, who organised the event, was also the overall winner in the Men's Competition Masons event (co-incidence?), with Stan Reed coming in as worthy runner-up and Stewart McMahon being placed third. David Bell took the prize for Best Mason Handicap 18+.

## Band Concert hits the right note

Another successful Band Concert was held at the Paphos Castle on 20<sup>th</sup> June, when the Band of the RAF Regiment played to a packed audience. This annual event is the major fund-raiser for the District and this year a total of €15,142.92 was raised for the District Benevolent Fund. The event could not happen without the hard work and dedication of brethren of the two Paphos Lodges and their families who helped sell tickets at the harbour during the week before the concert and also helped set up over 2,000 chairs in very hot conditions.

All of this planning needs a co-ordinator and W.Bro Trevor Lace, President of the Board of Benevolence, proved invaluable in liaising with the various authorities, not an easy task because of the beaurocracy involved, and the late confirmation of the Band's tour programme for the island.



At the concert the District Grand Master presented a cheque for €10,000 from the Benevolent Fund to Mr Stephen Willis, Chairman of the Friends Hospice in Paphos. Members of Agapinor Lodge also presented a cheque for €5,000 to Mr Willis, which had been raised at some of their charity events.

## No, this is not a Cuddly Teddy!



It's a picture of W.Bro Simon Barter, Charity Steward of Othello Lodge, who has undertaken a 12 weeks sponsored hair dye in aid of the Teddy Loving Care Appeal. Simon will spend 2 weeks with blue hair, then 2 weeks with orange hair, followed by 2 weeks with pink hair and finally 2 weeks with green hair – the colours

of the Teddies clothes. Already he has raised €900 during his rounds as a professional singer and hopes to reach a target of €2,000 when he goes au natural and has his head shaved on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

We are pleased to report that the Appeal has now moved into more Hospitals. Children, parents and hospital staff are benefitting from the efforts of Brethren in a number of Lodges with regular distribution of the teddies now taking place in Paphos, Paralimni, Larnaca and the Makarios Hospital in Nicosia.

After a lot of hard work by members of Othello Lodge a breakthrough was made in getting Larnaca Hospital involved in the Teddy Loving Care (TLC) programme. The first batch of Teddy Bears were delivered to the Paediatric Unit & Accident & Emergency Unit at Larnaca Hospital the week after Easter and were put to use immediately to help relieve the stress and suffering in children. Cyprus Life magazine ran a full page feature in their May issue with a follow up story in June with photos of the Teddy's being handed over.

During the past year donations were received from Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges and from the Nicosia Lodges Ladies Festival. Whilst these donations are of great assistance in supporting the purchase of the teddies, tremendous efforts are being made by individuals to maintain this flourishing bond with their local community.

**"A man never stands as tall as when he stoops to help a child"**

W.Bro Maurice Stephenson, co-ordinator for the project, said special thanks should be given to the following Lodge TLC representatives:

Agapinor	Bro Peter Moore
Dionysos	W. Bro Albert Bright, Bro Ray Haynes
Phoenix	W.Bro Panos Hartsiotis
	Bro Efthymios Tsivitanides
Lord Kitchener	W.Bro Peter Moore
Othello	W. Bro Simon Barter

There are of course other brethren who make worthwhile contributions to the Appeal and their help is greatly appreciated. Any Lodge which is not currently involved in the scheme and would like more information please contact W.Bro Maurice Stephenson Tel 26642895 email [msteve@cytanet.com.cy](mailto:msteve@cytanet.com.cy)

Also see website: <http://www.tclappeal.org>

Please remember that this is not necessarily a Charity Steward's job; any brother with an interest in fostering good relationships with their local community (injured children, their parents and the nurses) are the ideal volunteers.

### Othello Lodge's new home

The San Remo Hotel in Larnaca is now the new location for Othello Lodge & Chapter Masonry, where a permanent, custom-built Lodge Room has been built. The hotel will also be used for Masonic functions and was the popular setting for the Othello Lodge Easter Sunday Social on the 12 April.

After a prolonged period of heavy rain showers the clouds parted and some 60 brethren and guests enjoyed a lovely sunny day beside the pool. On this occasion the Lodge raised €387.50 towards one of its main charities, the Pan Cyprian Thalassaemia Association & Larnaca Kidney Association. The newly-installed Master, W.Bro Paul Kellett, was on hand to assist with the raffle and was prominent in welcoming all the guests in true Masonic style.

Event Organiser Bro Ray Clark compared the entertainment, and the music supplied by Dave Powell was varied and enjoyable. The Hotel Manageress, Erika, and her excellent staff provided a sumptuous feast that had everybody complimenting its variety and quality. With the possibility of other Lodges also locating to the San Remo Hotel, the new Lodge Room will certainly be put to good use.

### A cautionary tale

*A recently raised Master Mason applied for a job, and knowing his prospective boss to be a prominent Mason he made sure to wear his square and compass cuff links. During the interview he also dropped several Masonic references. At the end of the interview the prospective boss asked him if he were to be offered the job, what package would he expect. Our candidate, now feeling very confident, said that he would like €100,000 and four weeks annual leave. His interviewer replied, "We will halve it and you begin."*

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

#### **Jazz Concert, Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September 2009 at the Kanika Pantheon Hotel in Limassol**

A very popular evening, for which early bookings are essential. The South Coast Stompers Jazz Band will be providing music while you enjoy a fabulous carvery buffet and dancing. The cost? A mere €35, which includes local wines/beers/spirits/soft drinks AND a 'free bar' from 19.15 until 20.00! There's a charity raffle with the main prize being 2 return air tickets Larnaca to Vienna. There will also be a Silent Auction for a signed football shirt worn by the great Sir Tom Finney (no relation) ex England and Preston North End footballer.

Double rooms are available at a cost of €78 inc B&B – book direct with the hotel – 25 591111. Your Secretary has booking forms for the Concert. For further details contact our District Grand Charity Steward, W.Bro Bob Jarvis.  
[trebor@spidernet.com.cy](mailto:trebor@spidernet.com.cy) 25 452295 99 462295

#### **District Gala Ball, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2009 at a Limassol Hotel**

Please make a note of the date in your diary for this annual event hosted by the District Grand Master. Further details will be sent to Lodge Secretaries after the break, and it is hoped that each Lodge will host a table.

### Well-deserved promotions

Congratulations to W.Bro Leandros Zachariades **PAGDC** and W.Bro Lois Harakis **PGStB** on their appointments to Grand Rank for their many years of dedicated service to the District. They were invested by the District Grand Master, on behalf of the Grand Master, at the Annual Communication on 16<sup>th</sup> May.

### Lord Kitchener Alms Plate comes home

Last year W. Bro Pete Schofield of Lord Kitchener Lodge was visiting Wigan Masonic Centre Museum, near his home town, when he saw on display a Lord Kitchener Lodge Alms Plate. It had come into their possession from relatives of the late Major John Yates (Deputy Provost Marshall in Cairo in 1954) who was initiated into Lord Kitchener Lodge on 9<sup>th</sup> January 1954.

After 6 months of hard negotiations between the Museum and the Lodge, the Museum finally agreed to return the plate to the Lodge. The formal handover took place on Sat 22nd Nov, with W. Bro Pete Schofield (left) receiving the plate from W. Bro Jim Millar - Museum Curator. Also in attendance were W. Bro Fred Lomax PPrGSuptWks [Museum Secretary] and W. Bro William Wilding PPrAGDC.



### Next issue

In our next issue we will be reporting on the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebrations of Lord Kitchener Lodge and the dedication of their new Lodge Banner, the Consecration of the new Bellapais Lodge, and events held by Lodges during the summer months. There are lots of events being scheduled by Lodges so we look forward to reports and pictures from Charity Stewards.

### Useful contacts

**Newsletter** articles/pictures to the Editor: W.Bro John Finney: [deo@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy](mailto:deo@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy)  
25 717045 99 878514

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

Lots of information about the District, the Lodges, education and a programme of events

**United Grand Lodge** [www.ugle.org.uk](http://www.ugle.org.uk)

Contains details of UGLE policy and its quarterly meetings, Book of Constitutions etc

**Freemasonry Today:** [www.freemasonrytoday.com](http://www.freemasonrytoday.com)

A quarterly magazine published in conjunction with UGLE and containing lots of useful articles.

**Make YOUR daily advancement in Masonry**  
(Special supplement to Newsletter No 3)

**“Why you should join a Holy Royal Arch Chapter in Cyprus”**



***A major initiative to recruit members***

**The Chapter Committee of General Purposes has started a major initiative to increase membership of the Royal Arch Chapters in the District.** To this end they have appointed a senior brother in each Craft Lodge as the Chapter Representative for his Lodge. He will be targeting two specific groups within his Lodge - those Master Masons who have not yet become a member of a Holy Royal Arch Chapter, and more specifically those that have come to Cyprus as Companions of the Order but for whatever reason they have not joined a Chapter in Cyprus.

***Not yet a member?***

If you are a Master Mason and not a member of the Holy Royal Arch your Chapter Representative will let you have all the necessary information you require in order for you to decide whether or not you wish to join. The Holy Royal Arch (usually referred to simply as 'Chapter') is generally regarded as the final step in Pure Antient Masonry and the next step to take after the completion of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree in Craft Masonry. A Master Mason is permitted to join a Chapter after he has been a Master Mason for four weeks and upwards. As in the Craft you will require a sponsor and a seconder; they will usually be members of your Craft Lodge who are members of the Chapter in question. There is an excellent Fact Sheet - No. MM 09 - which contains useful information about the Order and each Lodge Education Officer has copies of this.

***A Companion already?***

If you are one of the many Companions who have not yet joined a Chapter in Cyprus, the Chapter Representative in your Lodge will be speaking with you to find out why you have not joined and hopefully encourage you to do so. When Companions are asked why they have not joined a Chapter in Cyprus many say "Chapter is not for me. I joined a Chapter in UK many years ago but never really got to grips with the ritual and simply sat on the sidelines." In all probability they were most likely 'encouraged' to join by well-meaning brethren very shortly after becoming Master Masons without really understanding what Chapter was all about. Fortunately things have changed for the better.

***A user-friendly ritual***

The Royal Arch ceremony has become much more user-friendly following some recent revisions to the ritual, which now enables more Companions to take an active part in the proceedings. The Chapters in Cyprus have a strong membership base and a warm welcome awaits those who have not yet joined one of them. There are five Chapters in Cyprus conveniently spread around the island and a visit to any one of them is but a short drive away. The Chapters and meeting places are:

***St Paul's Chapter No. 2277*** - Nicosia and Limassol – meeting 5 times each year

***Othello Chapter No. 5760*** – Larnaca – meeting 5 times each year

***Apollo Chapter No. 7886*** – Episkopi – meeting 4 times each year

***Agapinor Chapter No. 8905*** – Paphos – meeting 3 times each year

***Cyprus Principals' Chapter No. 9655*** – Limassol – meeting 3 times each year

***Have a word with your representative***

If the Chapter Representative in your Lodge has not already spoken with you why not take the initiative, seek him out and ask him about the Order, if you are not already a member; or, if you are already in the Order find out about the Chapter in your area and how things have changed for the better. His details appear on your Lodge summons.

***Drive to increase membership of the Cyprus Principals' Chapter***

In addition to the above two initiatives District Grand Chapter is looking at ways to increase membership of the Cyprus Principals' Chapter, which is open to any Companion that has passed through one of the Principal's chairs. The Chapter is the focal point for Masonic improvement within the District and most meetings consist of interesting talks presented by members of the Chapter. This is an opportunity for a Companion to research and deliver a short paper on any Masonic or philosophical topic (generally Royal Arch orientated) and to meet and exchange thoughts and ideas with the senior members of the Royal Arch Fraternity in Cyprus. Appointment to an office within the Chapter is not by advancement but by a process of rotation amongst its members. Masonic rank holds no sway in the Chapter; indeed the two Stewards for this year are in fact the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> District Grand Principals!

Details of the Chapter can be obtained from ScribeE -

E.Comp Thalís Petrides

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