

# The District Wire

## The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 6

**“Keeping members in touch”**

December 2010

**In this Issue** ...Two new Lodges consecrated, one of which will eventually will work in the Turkish language; a Teddy from the west goes walkabouts and news of another successful Band Concert. We have a report of a lodge meeting in Afghanistan, as well as some of

the various charity-raising activities by Lodges. Also, we have included details of the Mark Master Mason and the Rose Croix Orders, which in addition to the Craft and Royal Arch are practiced in the District.

### Two new Lodges consecrated

October was a busy time for the District Team when, led by the District Grand Master, two new Lodges were consecrated at Jerusalem Street, Limassol. This brings the total number of Lodges in the District of Cyprus to an impressive 15.

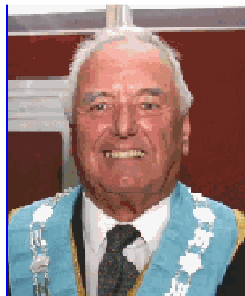
#### St Hilarian Lodge No. 9851



The consecration of St Hilarian Lodge No. 9851 completes the Universality of Freemasonry in Cyprus under the District of Cyprus with Lodge ceremonies being held in English, Greek and Turkish, the 3 languages for and of the communities of the island. It became apparent when recruiting Founders that the Lodge would need to start in the English language, with the support of Brethren throughout the

island, then as our Turkish speaking Brethren progressed to the Principal Officer positions, the Turkish speaking Ritual would be introduced.

The Lodge was consecrated on 30th October 2010. The Founding Worshipful Master is W.Bro John Wyn Roberts LGR. Bro Said Muyhi, as Senior Warden, will become the second Worshipful Master. There are 20 Founding Members with King Tefkros Lodge No. 9786 being the sponsoring Lodge. The Lodge meets at the Othello Lodge Temple, San Remo Hotel, Larnaca on the 1st Tuesday in May (Installation) and the 1st Tuesdays in October and December.



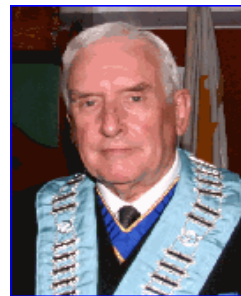
#### Peace and Harmony Lodge No. 9852

Lodge Peace & Harmony No 9852 was consecrated on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2010. The Lodge will be the only Lodge on the island practising Taylors Working and will meet at Jerusalem Street, Limassol. The new Lodge has 39 founding members from the UK, Larnaca, Limassol and Paphos.



The Founding Worshipful Master is W.Bro Mervyn Matthews PADGC, who was instrumental over the past two years in making Peace and Harmony Lodge become a reality.

You may remember that in the last issue we reported that even before it was consecrated, the brethren of Lodge Peace and Harmony had been very active in raising over €24,000 for the Help for Heroes charity. We are sure that under the guidance of W.Bro Merv the Lodge will soon be raising further monies for worthy charities. Why not go to one of their meetings and see them working the Taylor's Ritual. You will be assured of a warm welcome.



### Western, the Teddy Bear from Gunnison, Colorado, USA, joins the Teddy Loving Care Programme in Cyprus.

When W.Bro. Maurice Stephenson first introduced the 'Teddy Loving Care' programme on behalf of the District of Cyprus, W.Bro Dave Hubbard bought Teddy Bear Brooches for all his 7 Grandchildren and his 5 Sisters in Law. Sister in Law 'Liz', who lives in Gunnison, Colorado thought it was such a good idea that she donated *Western*, a mascot Teddy Bear from the Western State College of Colorado, to the programme.

*Western* travelled from Colorado to Hong Kong by air, where he attended the wedding of W.Bro Dave's son (a Lewis) and during that time *Western* visited the Corinthian Lodge of Amoy No. 1806 EC and Foochow Lodge Number 1912 EC. Back in Cyprus *Western* has visited Agapinor Lodge, Dionysos Lodge and Apollo Lodge; and whilst in Jerusalem Street *Western* actually sat in the Chair of King Solomon prior to the Consecration Ceremony of Peace and Harmony Lodge No. 9852 EC. On that same day *Western* was handed over by

W.Bro Dave to W.Bro Maurice, on the right, to join the other Teddy Bears that with all your help have been donated to the Accident and Emergency Departments of all the major Hospitals in Cyprus. Thank you Liz



## Another busy period for Lord Kitchener Lodge



From monies raised during the Lord Kitchener Lodge Centenary, a donation of €2,500 was made on Wednesday 12th May to Combat Stress via the Garrison Commander at Dhekelia.

Pictured:

W.Bro.Brian Mellor MBE

Col(Bro)JockMenzies-Garrison Commander

W.Bro.George Hulme Worshipful Master

From the same monies a further donation of €500 was made on Friday 28th May to the Larnaca Alzheimers Association by W. Bro David Briscoe, Almoner & W. Bro Peter van de Pol PDistSGW - Secretary.

## A Lord Kitchener Room

On Tuesday 21st September 2 cheques were presented to the St George's Home for Children with Special Needs in Larnaca; €2,500 coming from the Centenary Fund and €800 coming from the Masters List.

The new St George's Home building will be opened later this year by the President and a Room is being named after Lord Kitchener Lodge and the District of Cyprus. Pictured above are W. Bro. Peter van de Pol, Sec LKL Centenary Committee; Michael Mallas, President St George's Home; Chrystalla Daktiladou, Secretary; Eleni Kalogera - Manager St George's Home; W. Bro John Searle.



## Lodge Banner Dedication

On Wed 2nd June at Lord Kitchener Lodge a special Banner Dedication Ceremony was held with a District Banner Dedication Team led by W. Bro. Eric Williams PDGSwdB, DepDistGM assisted by W. Bro Andrew Theocharous PAGDC AssistDistGM and attended by some 34 Visiting Brethren.

## Apollo Lodge socials a big success

As the year draws to a close, Apollo Lodge is pleased to announce that it has raised in excess of €2000 from a series of social functions. Regularly held once a month on a Wednesday evening in the Lodge and organised by the Junior Warden, Bro Ian Maclean, there has been bingo, music and a quiz to entertain the Brethren, family and guests. It should be noted that recent improvements to the Lodge infrastructure and plumbing arrangements now enable the "Gents" and "Ladies" to be used simultaneously, thus allowing increased use of the Lodge premises for social functions. An added bonus has been the growth restriction to the palm trees in the Lodge garden!

The Lodge Numbers Club continues with Bro Alan Turtle now running the proceedings. This brings in much needed capital to the Lodge Building Fund and produces an air of expectation at the end of every festive board when the lucky winners are drawn. The Lodge Charity Steward, W.Bro Russ Moren, has expressed his thanks to the JW and his team for all their efforts, to all members of the Numbers Club for their support and to everyone else for making the socials such a success.

## A plea from the Editor

Sadly, only Lord Kitchener and Apollo Lodges submitted articles for this issue. This is your Newsletter brethren and without your support it is becoming increasingly difficult to put together newsworthy editions. The Newsletter is the forum where you can share your events and keep in touch with brethren around the District. Please help me to make the next issue a bumper edition by submitting articles.

## Ritual - the Canadian way

No, it's not some peculiar side degree; it's our Canadian brethren holding a regular Lodge meeting in Afghanistan. It's reassuring to know that Freemasonry continues to be practiced worldwide, regardless of circumstances and adversity and the photograph attests to the same. Canada Lodge held its first Ceremonies of Initiation on the evening of 7th October 2010 at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan when Major Robert Kelly and Corporal Satraj Toor were initiated.

The lodge is now beautifully furnished thanks to the generosity of the brethren from back home. Due to operational requirements the brethren did not have the chance to do a complete run through before the big night. However, all of the parts came together seamlessly and it was quite evident that all of the brethren had put their hearts and souls into perfecting their work. Their evening ended with a truly Afghan flavour. As they were posing for photographs they came under rocket attack and had to hit the floor!



**Lest We Forget Our Brethren Who Could Not Be at Home for Christmas**



## There's more to Freemasonry than the Craft and Holy Royal Arch

Apart from the Craft and the Holy Royal Arch there are two other Orders in Freemasonry that are practiced on the island - these being the Mark Master Mason and Rose Croix. Here we give an overview of these Orders for those Master Masons that might like to consider extending their Masonic activities.

### The Mark Master Mason Order



The Mark Master Mason Order (usually referred to as the Mark Degree) is generally considered as the 4<sup>th</sup> Degree in Freemasonry and is one of hope and encouragement. The ritual is based upon a single verse of Psalm 118 - *"The stone which the builders rejected has become the headstone of the corner"*. It deals with the building of King Solomon's Temple and the various craftsmen employed in its building, but its real message is one of contemplation of human strength and weakness.

The Mark Order contains many messages for the discerning man and illustrates that the wisest of men can be mistaken, that the experts are often wrong, that the weakest can display greater perseverance than the strongest, that the insignificant has the potential for distinction and that we all have a part to play in the building of Life. There is a firm statement that no man is beyond redemption and the possibility of distinction is always within our grasp. Finally the Mark Order reminds us that when the wisest and cleverest of the builders were gathered together only one exhibited the wisdom necessary to assume the mantle of leadership. The Mark Order represents the everyday life of each one of us, for the Stone hewn from the virgin rock depicts us all on our journey through life, and its final recognition as perfection should be the guide to our conduct through life so that we too may finally be found worthy.

In the District of Cyprus there are 4 Mark Lodges, which meet 3 times a year:

**St Paul's Mark Lodge No.455** - Limassol

**Kypros Mark Lodge No.1835** - Episkopi

**Kition Mark Lodge No. 1904** - Larnaca

**Phoenix Mark Lodge No. 1923** - Nicosia

There is also a **Kypros Lodge of Royal Ark Mariner No. 1835**, which one can join after becoming a Mark Master Mason.

Further information is contained in the Educational Fact Sheet AD1. which is available from your Lodge Education Officer.

### The Rose Croix Chapter Order



The Ancient and Accepted Rite of the Rose Croix is one of the oldest Christian Degrees. The precise origins are shrouded in myths and legends involving texts from the Christian Rosenkreuz in the early 1600's, with reference to the Esoteric wisdom of the East and Arab sages of the Middle East, and following Pilgrimages to Jerusalem in the 15<sup>th</sup> Century, resulting in the founding of what was called - the Fraternity of the Rose.

Candidates for the Rose Croix must:

1. have been initiated in a Lodge or Lodges under the United Grand Lodge of England [unless otherwise authorised by the Supreme Council]
2. have been a Master Mason for at least one full year and be in good standing .

The Order amplifies the teachings of Craft Masonry within a Christian context. For this reason candidates must profess the Trinitarian Christian Faith and are required, prior to any formal consideration of their candidature, to sign a declaration to this effect.

The ceremony is immensely thought provoking and impressive which instils a warmth of Brotherly love on which the whole Masonic movement is founded.

The District of Cyprus currently consists of eight Rose Croix Chapters each of which have just 3 regular meetings a year, including what is termed the Enthronement Meeting (equivalent to Craft Installation) and meetings are completed with a traditional, though less formal, Festive Board. Meetings are very friendly and relaxed with members sharing a commitment to brotherly love, relief and truth and a fellowship and understanding of this very beautiful Masonic Order. The Chapters meet at Limassol, Dhekelia, Nicosia and the island of Zakynthos.

One of the Chapters - St Hilarion Rose Croix chapter No. 7 - works in Universal Working which allows faiths other than Christians to join.

Further information is contained in the Educational Fact Sheet AD3. which is available from your Lodge Education Officer.

The Worshipful Master of a Lodge in UK found a bottle with a Genie in it. In accordance with custom, the Genie offered to grant him a wish. "OK," said the Worshipful Master, "I like to go to the Continent, but I hate ferries and flying and I don't fancy using the tunnel, so my wish is for you to build a bridge over the Channel so I can drive there". "I can't do that" exclaimed the Genie, "don't you know that's impossible? No Genie could do that. It's too far, the water is too deep, it's just totally beyond anybody's power. You will have to make another wish." "OK," said the Master, "I wish that at our next meeting all the Past Masters would just get along and not cause any trouble, would not tell us how they did it in their year, would not complain about the ritual, but just sit on the sidelines and behave!" "Hmmmm," said the Genie, "do you want that bridge with 2 lanes or 4?"

## FAMOUS MASONS .....

**Joseph Rudyard Kipling**, author of 'The Jungle Book' and many other books, was born at Bombay on December 30th, 1865. He was christened Rudyard after the name of the lake in the Midlands where his father proposed to his mother. He was initiated a Freemason in Lodge Hope and Perseverance, No. 782, E.C., at Lahore, India on the 5th of April, 1886. Being under 21 years of age, a Dispensation for his initiation was procured from the District Grand Master. He was for a short time Secretary of the Lodge. Rudyard Kipling's name first burst on the public as one of strange sound. "What," asked one old lady of another in the train, "is this stuff called Rudyard Kipling that I see placarded about so much?" "I don't know, my dear," placidly replied the other old lady, "but I rather think its a kindred preparation to Hanyadi Janos, a sort of mineral water, don't you know." Apart from writing books he also wrote a number of poems about Freemasonry, probably his best-known being 'The Mother Lodge'. However, one of his lesser-known poems is:

### THE NINE O'CLOCK TOAST

If at nine o'clock you listen when around this festive board,  
If you listen very closely with your hearts tuned in accord,  
You'll hear, when in the West and South you're charged in fullest measure,  
Some distant voices calling, "Brother, may we have the pleasure?"

For at nine o'clock we toast you, wherever you may stand,  
At home or maybe out of Town or in some far-off land;  
With cheerful hearts and distant thoughts we steal a moment's leisure  
To call our ancient challenge, "Brother, may we have the pleasure?"

For we are bound together by a universal link;  
We drink from that Masonic Cup from which we all may drink;  
To our far-flung Brotherhood, whose fellowship we treasure,  
The old Masonic greeting, "Brother, may we have the pleasure?"

W.M. and Brethren, the Toast is "TO ABSENT BRETHREN".

## Freemasonry in the Cinema No. 2



A scene from the 1993 film "Tombstone", which starred Kurt Russell.

## Another successful Band concert

W.Bro Trevor Lacey, President of the District Board of Benevolence, reports on the Band Concert held on Friday 25th June by the Royal Signals (Northern) Band at Paphos Harbour.

Unfortunately not as much money was raised as last year, but considering the hard time we had trying to sell tickets everyone involved did extremely well. I feel sorry for the Brethren and their ladies who worked the ticket stands in the harbour area; to stand there many hours in very hot conditions and sell only 3 tickets was very disappointing for them. On the positive side I have had several Emails asking me to pass on to all concerned how much people enjoyed the concert; it was a good night all round. Once again the Brethren of Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges and others worked extremely hard on the day laying out the seating and stacking away almost 2000 chairs after the event.

A total of €8,165.22 was raised and after all expenses were paid I was able to pay into the District Benevolent Fund a total of €6,012.22.

### 2011 dates for your diary

The popular District Jazz Dinner and Dance will be held on **Saturday 12th March** in Limassol. Tickets €30.

The Annual Communication and Annual Convocation will be held on **Saturday 21st May** in Limassol. Please note the date in your diary and come along to support the District.

No news yet of a date for the **Annual Military Band Concert**, which is usually held at the Paphos Harbour. The President of the District Board of Benevolence is hard at work behind the scenes trying to identify a band that will be visiting the island during the months of June/July.

**Saturday 3rd December** is the date for the District Grand Gala, which will be held at the Holiday Inn, Limassol.

On a general note please visit the District website and check the dates of Lodge Installation meetings. Why not make up a party of Lodge members and visit another Lodge's installation?

Please send your articles and pictures (small jpeg please) of charity events or special occasions for inclusion in The Wire to the Editor:  
W.Bro John Finney  
thewire@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy

## Make YOUR daily advancement in Masonry

### The District Grand Master demands admission

When the Tyler announces the arrival of a latecomer he says e.g. "Bro Smith **seeks** admission." However, when the District Grand Master visits a Lodge the Tyler says: "The District Grand Master **demand**s admission." Why is this? Well, the *Book of Constitutions, Section 122: Official visitation of Lodges*, states that the District Grand Master (or his representative) has full authority to preside in any Lodge in the District. This is why he demands admission when visiting a Lodge and why the Worshipful Master must offer him the gavel of the Lodge, the ultimate symbol of authority. Invariably the DGM will decline the offer and take his seat to the right of the WM. However, in the Province of Worcestershire (and possibly others) on an Installation Night the Provincial Grand Master (PGM) actually accepts the gavel and take the Chair of King Solomon, the WM being placed on his immediate left. The Provincial Grand Wardens accompanying the PGM also replace the Lodge Wardens at this time. The PGM then takes charge of the meeting whilst the minutes of the previous meeting are read out by the Secretary, even if they are usually taken as read. The PGM then signs the Minutes together with the WM. The PGM and his Wardens then stand down and the WM resumes command of the Lodge.