

The District Wire

The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 7

“Keeping members in touch”

April 2011

We have made a few changes to the Newsletter. There will be more news about District activities and Masonic Charities that will be of interest to you. We will also be featuring regular news on educational matters, something that District is keen to promote.

However, the main focus of the Newsletter will still be the charity events and special occasions that Lodges have held, and in this respect we urge all Secretaries and Charity Stewards to put pen to paper and submit articles.

A very special honour for RW.Bro Simon Waley, Past District Grand Master of Cyprus

We are delighted to report that RW Bro Simon Francis Waley, Past Provincial Grand Master for West Kent, **Past District Grand Master for Cyprus** has been awarded the **Order of Service to Masonry**. The citation from the United Grand Lodge of England reads as follows:

Bro. Simon Waley was made a Mason in November, 1957, at the age of 23, in Surrey Lodge, No. 416, at Redhill in Surrey and became its Master in 1967. In 1970 he joined the Lodge of Peace and Harmony, No. 60 (London) becoming its Master in 1973 and serving, on its nomination, as Grand Steward the following year. He has been a joining member or a Founder of nine other Lodges, and has served as Master of most of them, including The Grand Stewards' Lodge. He was exalted into the Royal Arch in Castle Chapter of Harmony, No. 26 in 1975.



Bro. Waley was appointed a Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in Craft and Royal Arch in 1978 and served in those offices for three years. In 1987, when the office of Provincial Grand Master for West Kent fell suddenly vacant along with that of Grand Superintendent, he was appointed to fill the vacancy and ruled the Province with distinction for the next nine years. In the meantime, as one of the Grand Master's advisers, he served on two committees looking into charitable matters and in particular the uneasy relationship between the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Royal Masonic Hospital under the umbrella of the Masonic Foundation for the Aged and the Sick. In 1993 he became President of the latter, continuing in that role when it ceased to be a formal Grand Office down to the present time.

A few months after he relinquished the Province of West Kent, he was appointed District Grand Master for Cyprus and Grand Inspector of the Group of Royal Arch Chapters there, becoming Grand Superintendent the following year when the Royal Arch Group became a District in its own right. Although he relinquished both offices in 2001 he has continued to interest himself in Freemasonry in Cyprus and more recently became the first Sovereign Grand Commander of a new Supreme Council in that jurisdiction.

It would be difficult to find a Brother – other than among those who have been Rulers of the Craft – who has a record of Masonic service covering so wide a spectrum of activity; Bro. Waley has been a notable influence in English Freemasonry both openly and behind the scenes for so many years. It is to be hoped that the benefit of his experience will continue to be available to the Grand Master and the other Rulers of the Craft for many more years.



THE MASONIC OPEN

There is still time to enter this popular annual event and help raise money for local charities. The date is:

Thursday 5th May 2011

It will be a **STABLEFORD COMPETITION** and is open to all male and female golfers and is played off full playing handicap to a maximum of 36.

Entry fee is only **€25 per player**, which includes a meal after the presentation.

Entry forms can be sent to:

W.Bro Rob Cowin, 4 Ayias Marinas Street, Kalo Chorio, 4566 Limassol (**prior to 23rd April**)

Email: chrisrob@cytanet.com.cy; Tel: 25542044, 99448270 or

W.Bro George Convey, 3 Solomos Solomou Street, Episkopi, Limassol 4620 (**after 23rd April**)

Email: georgeconvey@hotmail.com, Tel: 25935448, 99943166

or can be placed in the Comp Sec Box at JSGC(E)

Whoops Full marks to those that spotted the spelling error in the name of St Hilarion Lodge in the previous issue. Apologies for the error.

An in-depth look at Masonic Charities - a report by the President of the Board of Benevolence

The subject of Masonic Charities is so big, and is of such importance to all of us, that over the next three issues the President of the Board of Benevolence (PresDistBBen), W.Bro Trevor Lace, **PGStB** will be reporting on the "Grand Charity in England" and the Board of Benevolence in Cyprus. In this issue he reports on the Grand Charity and Lodge Almoners.

The Freemasons' Grand Charity is just one of the four central Masonic Charities. The others being:-

the Royal Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys (RMTGB)
the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution
and the Masonic Samaritan Fund

Freemasons' Grand Charity



The Freemasons' Grand Charity stems from original funds set up for charitable activities when Freemasonry as we know it today first started. The Grand Charity is the only one that automatically confers membership on Freemasons, the majority of which live in England and Wales.

As at 2011 every Freemason in England and Wales contributes a sum of 14 pounds a year to this fund. In addition a great amount of money is raised by the Provinces when they have what is called "A Masonic Festival." These festivals usually run over a period of 5 to 10 years and bring in many millions to the fund. The Charity supports Freemasons and their dependants who are experiencing hardship (Masonic Relief Grants), mainly for meeting daily living costs. Money cannot be given normally, for debt relief, grants must not be regarded as a regular income

It is also the principle non-Masonic grant-giving Charity of the four central Charities; also for emergency relief work worldwide. The Charity made grants of over 2.5 million pounds to numerous non-Masonic Charities in 2010

Within the Grand Charity is the "Masonic Relief Grants Committee"; its chairman is VWBro Michael D.P.Turnbull, **PGSwdB**. In 2010 this committee gave out just under 2.5 million pounds in Masonic Grants; part of this, the sum of 70,000 English pounds, was to the District Benevolence of Cyprus.

Eligibility

Any Freemason (a member of the United Grand Lodge of England) who is experiencing genuine hardship, whether he is a presently subscribing member or no longer belongs to a Lodge (for whatever reason) may apply.

The widows and certain other immediate dependents of the above may also apply, including others who were dependent on him before his death, e.g. partners, daughters or sisters (if incapacitated or over 60) and certain other family connections who might be considered dependent. Advice should be sought on specific circumstances from the District.

Applications

A Relief Grant application in the first instance must be made through the Lodge Almoner who, after ascertaining all the facts, will contact the PresDistBBen. He in turn will liaise with the Grand Charity and a set of application forms will be forwarded to him to be passed on to the Lodge Almoner.

These forms consist of 4 A4 size sheets and must be completed by the Lodge Almoner in the presence of the applicant, the forms are quiet comprehensive but unless filled in the Grand Charity will not consider the application. Once completed the forms are passed back to the PresDisBBen and he will then pass them to the Grand Charity. The whole process normally takes about 2 weeks and is very dependent on the Almoner getting the forms back to the PresDisBBen.

The Role of the Almoner

The core role of the Lodge Almoner is to be the "eyes and ears" of the Lodge, ensuring the welfare of its members and of their widows and dependants. Specific responsibilities include:

Keeping in touch

- Maintaining regular contact with sick or distressed Lodge members.
 - Maintaining regular contact with Lodge widows
 - Making contact with families of recently deceased brethren.
- Being alert to the needs and problems of Lodge members and their dependants.

Providing support

- Making new members welcome, and explaining the Almoner's role in the Lodge.
- Ensuring that members, partners and dependants are aware of what support may be available, particularly Masonic support.
- Conducting visits and discussions with members who may need support.
- If not able to help with the resources within his Lodge contacting the President of the Board Benevolence for his input.
- Maintaining accurate records of all receipts and payments made by him.
- Maintaining records of all visits to brethren, widows or other dependants.
- In conjunction with the Lodge Secretary maintaining a record of the names and contact details of brethren, widows and dependants of all brethren including those that have resigned or have been excluded.
- Reporting on the above to the members at each Lodge meeting, while preserving due confidentiality.

In the next issue I will deal with the "Masonic Samaritans Fund" (MSF)

If you have any questions or would like clarification on the above Charity please contact me:

W.Bro Trevor Lace 99530567

Grand Lodge Promotion/Appointments

We are delighted to announce that the M W Grand Master has been please to award the following Brethren with Promotion/Appointment to Grand Rank, and will be pleased to invest them on Wednesday 27th April 2011 at Grand Lodge.

Promotion: W Bro Eric Stanley Williams from PDepGSwdB to **PGSwdB**. This means that W.Bro Williams will be addressed as "Very Worshipful Brother" from the 27th April.

Appointment: W Bro Spyros Georghiou Efraxias to **PGStB**.

Greek in one easy lesson... a paraprosdokian saying:

"Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit but Wisdom is knowing not to put them in a fruit salad."

A *paraprosdokian* (from Greek "παρα", meaning "beyond" and "προσδοκία", meaning "expectation") is a figure of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected in a way that causes the reader or listener to reframe or reinterpret the first part.

A tremendous effort by "The Calendar Girls"

On 28th March about 70 people enjoyed an evening at the Loukiana Restaurant in Ayia Triada for a sumptuous buffet and cheque presentation to the Cyprus Cancer Patients and Friends Association. The cheque presentation was as a result of all of the hard work done by Lynn Barter and her husband Simon, in producing a "Calendar Girls" Calendar for 2011 highlighting the blight of Breast Cancer.

Lynn said "My husband, Simon, has been very actively involved in raising money over the last two years through his work as the Charity Steward of Othello Lodge in Larnaca so we decided that this year I would take the lead and manage a project that was very close to our hearts, as we lost Simon's Mum to breast cancer. We had previously seen the work that the Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends are doing in the care for people with all kinds of cancer and decided that it would be a very worthwhile cause to support."

"We decided on a Calendar Girls Calendar as I had previously been involved with producing one in the UK some years ago. I enlisted the help of a female photographer, Amanda Trigg who was brilliant throughout with her skill and presence putting all of the girls very much at ease in our "all female" photo shoots. I had to enlist the help of a truly fabulous group of girls, who came from all over the island as well as the UK and America, by coercing them and explaining that it was not a "dolly bird" type calendar and that it would be done very tastefully, but that it would also reflect the fact that breast cancer was not discriminatory when it attacked and all of us can be at risk during our lives regardless of our age."

"Over the summer there were various fund raising events from sponsors all over the island and the total raised was almost exactly 50/50 from both Masonic and Non Masonic events and although I know that everyone is affected by the current economic climate, it was very gratifying to see how generous people were to us."

The icing on the cake

Under-privileged and disadvantaged children in the Larnaca and Famagusta areas received welcome Christmas gifts thanks to the efforts of Lord Kitchener and Othello Lodges, assisted by the 2nd Anglican Regiment. A function at the Eastern Sovereign base of Dhekelia raised money and provide presents individually wrapped for gender and age for the children. This year the 2nd Anglican Regiment provided the icing on the cake by donating 10 fantastic Christmas cakes for the purpose of auction or raffle. Also donated by Bro Alf Fisher, co-owner of The Princess of Wales Pub & restaurant in the local village of Pyla, was an enormous cake adorned with the Lord Kitchener insignia.



The evening featured a film, The Santa Story, Christmas carols, mince pies and sausage rolls washed down with mulled wine. In total the event raised €424 which was designated towards Lodge charities, namely The Larnaca Kidney Association. Entertainment for the event was provided free by W.Bro Simon Barter, well known to all Masons island wide as a professional entertainer.

We know that this money will help people who are suffering at the moment and hope that by raising awareness in everyone that we may be able to continue to raise money in the future for such worthy causes."

Pictured below is the presentation of a cheque for €8226 to Andri Antoniou from the Paralimni Branch of the Cyprus Association of Cancer Patients and Friends by Lynn Barter and W.Bro Eric Williams DepDistGM.



The first batch of presents were delivered the next day to the 'Association of parents and friends for children with special needs in the free Famagusta area'. by the WM of Lord Kitchener Lodge, W.Bro Ray Clark, his wife Lee, W.Bro Simon Barter and his wife Lynn. A special children's cake was presented to the Association Principal Officer, Sophie, by the WM—see picture.

A second delivery to the *Larnaca Children's Home* - a government funded centre for the disadvantaged - was made by the WM early in January as the home had been closed for the festive period. Other gifts were given to the local children's welfare officer for the Larnaca area - Dimetria Demetra.

W.Bro Ray said "A general round of thanks must go to all who participated at our December Christmas Social i.e. the members of 2nd Company Royal Anglican Regiment, Garrison Sodexo workers and local manager Bro Taff O'Connell, and to Members, wives and friends of Lord Kitchener & Othello Lodges."

The Grand Charity - helping others around the world

When the Pro Grand Master attended the 150th celebration of their District in Christchurch, New Zealand, at the end of 2009 he was invited by the Dean of the Cathedral to attend their Holy Communion service in regalia where the Pro Grand Master read the lesson. Sadly, as a result of the recent earthquake, the Cathedral spire has collapsed and the civic centre, where the main celebration was held, has been completely destroyed. The Grand Charity immediately sent £30,000 via the Red Cross to Christchurch. The recent floods in Brazil prompted another emergency grant of £20,000 being made to the District Grand Lodge of South America, North Division, to assist with the devastation after the mudslides and flooding north of Rio de Janeiro. The key is that the Grand Charity sends the money through the Red Cross and it knows that they will use the money properly at the beginning of these disasters.

A busy week for District

The week commencing 16th May will be a hectic week for the District when both the Annual Communication and the Annual Band Concert take place within the space of four days. This is due to the early visit of this year's Band, and District has to work around their schedule. So District will be looking for willing volunteers to help with the preparation of these events.

Annual Band Concert

This year the **Central Band of the Royal Air Force** will once again be performing in the Castle Square, The Harbour, Kato Paphos on:

Wednesday 18th May 2011 at 7.00 pm



This will be their last concert prior to returning to the UK. Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges will be co-ordinating the event and Team Leaders for the varying areas have already been assigned. However, they are looking for other brethren and perhaps wives/partners too to cover either areas of support or direct help. There is a great deal of preparatory work to do so if you can spare some time please ring either

W.Bro John Winslow 96 496353 or

W.Bro Roy Newman 96 742120 for details

This year's donated monies will be going in the main to 'The Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society' and the 'Alzheimer's Association of Paphos'

Tickets are priced at only €10.00. and can be obtained from:

Hearn's Bookshop, Coral Bay

Daryl Fitzgerald Estate Agents, Kato Paphos

Friends Hospice Shop, Paphos

Chillies Stores, Paphos

W.Bro Roger Brooks 26 815502 / 99 409620

and W.Bros John and Roy - details above

Please support this important charity event, which is the main fund raiser for the District

District can be proud of its Education Programme

When the M W Grand Master made it known a few years ago that he wanted education to become a key element of the Craft most of the Provinces started up education programmes. However, because of their small sizes it was expected that Districts would not have the resources to do the same. The District of Cyprus has proved the exception and can now boast a well-established Education Programme.

At a recent meeting of Lodge Education Officers, the District Education Officer, W.Bro Dave Hubbard, reported on the on-going success of the District Education Programme. He was pleased to report that all Lodges in Cyprus, including the recently consecrated Lodges, had now appointed a Lodge Education Officer. It should be noted that the Education Programme is not mandatory and that Lodges do not have to adopt it, so the fact that all Lodges are actively pursuing an education programme is very

Annual Communication/Convocation

The highlights of the District Year are undoubtedly the **Annual Communication** (for the Craft) and the **Annual Convocation** (for the Holy Royal Arch). This year they are being held on **Saturday 21st May at the Holiday Inn, Limassol**. It is the occasion when the District Grand Master appoints his Officers for the year and gives his annual addresses about the Craft and Holy Royal Arch in Cyprus. A great deal of planning and preparation by the District Office and the District Grand Director of Ceremonies goes into the organisation of the events to ensure everything goes smoothly, but without the co-operation of everyone attending things can go wrong. For instance, last year over 30 brethren turned up for the Communication who had not indicated they were attending, which created seating problems in the Temple and at the Festive Board. So to assist the District Team in their preparations could Brethren please note the following:

Annual Convocation

Starts at 15.00 so please ensure you are seated not later than 14.50. A seating plan will be in position outside the Temple. A rehearsal takes place at 14.00 so could you please not enter the Temple until this has been completed - usually about 14.30. Companions that have not passed through one of the 3 Chairs are encouraged to attend, to support their Principals, but please note that you are not entitled to vote on any proposals.

Annual Communication

Starts at 17.00 so please ensure you are seated not later than 16.50. A seating plan will be in position outside the Temple. Remember, there will be approximately 140 Brethren signing in for the meeting so the sooner you can arrive the better. Master Masons are encouraged to attend, to support their Worshipful Master, but please note that, apart from Senior and Junior Wardens in the District, Master Masons are not entitled to vote on any proposals.

Following the meeting a Festive Board is held; you will need to book early as seats go quickly. Please note that even if you are not dining you should still let District know that you will be attending the meeting(s) so that the Temple seating can be arranged accordingly.

heartening. It should also be noted that the Education Programme is not set in stone; it is simply a guide that Lodges can adapt to their own needs if they wish, which some have.

What did come out at the meeting is that a Lodge Education Officer cannot carry out his role effectively if he does not have the full support and help of all Past Masters of his Lodge. It can be very disheartening for him if this is not the case and all Past Masters should be grateful that someone in the Lodge is willing to spend a considerable amount of time with newer Brethren who are willing to learn.

Some new fact sheets and papers have been placed on the excellent Education website, which can be accessed by all Master Masons – your Lodge Education Officer can supply you with the Password and Username –go to www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy – and click on the Education logo.

Focus on The District Grand Secretary

In almost every Province in the UK the Provincial office will have dedicated, paid civilians to assist the Brethren working in the office with all the work. Here in Cyprus the District office is not so fortunate and the small band of dedicated, unpaid Brethren that work in the office are responsible for ensuring that the District runs smoothly. At the head of the small team is the **District Grand Secretary, W.Bro Gerry Goldsack PAGDC**, who has been in post for 4 years.



The responsibilities of the District Secretary are both numerous and onerous. He has to ensure that all paperwork from the 15 Lodges in the District, including Annual Returns and Installation details, is correct before he sends it to the United Grand Lodge of England (UGLE), and that the right amount of money payable by Lodges to UGLE and the District is correct. He has to ensure that the Book of Constitutions is adhered to by all members and Lodges. i.e. that the correct information is printed on the summons agenda and that all by-laws are correct and adhered to by the Lodges. He also has to arrange the Annual Communication meeting, producing the brochure and summons. Additionally he ensures that the District database of over 800 members is up to date, so that if information is required then it can be supplied quickly. Regrettably, he has on rare occasions to arrange any disciplinary hearings that may be needed. He must also report annually to the UGLE Grand Secretary on the well being of the District.

He maintains contact with the Web Master to ensure that the information on the Website is up to date. He attends the District Board of General Purposes meetings, and the District Board of Benevolence meetings; and in conjunction with the President of the District Board of Benevolence he ensures that the correct paperwork is sent to the various Charities in London. And finally a catch all - any other duties that the District Grand Master requires.

As you can see, there is a great deal of paperwork to process. However, the District Secretary can only manage this effectively if Lodge Secretaries do their part by submitting accurate returns as and when required, and so he maintains a close working relationship with the Secretaries of the Lodges. In a future issue we will explain the work the other two, hard-working Brethren in the office do.

Zenon 18 Lodge goes from strength to strength

At the Zenon 18 Lodge No.9818 Installation Ceremony, held on 9th February, the outgoing Worshipful Master, W.Bro Loizos Harakis, paid tribute to the District Grand Master and his Officers for their strong support during his time as Master. He said the Lodge has been strengthened by no less than 15 very promising Brethren, most of whom had been present at all the meetings, and some had visited almost all Lodges of the District. W.Bro Harakis said the rejuvenation of the Lodge could not have been materialized without the great help and assistance of the DGM and the Secretariat of our District.

He said that during the past year there had been 7 Regular Meetings and 4 Emergency Meetings at which a large number of ceremonies had been performed. Additionally, courtesy workings by King Tefkros Lodge (three passings), St.Paul's Lodge (one passing) and the Cyprus Masters' Lodge (one raising), meant that there had been 12 joining members, 3 Initiations, 7 Passings and 10 Raisings. He expressed his grateful thanks to the Masters and Brethren of these Lodges for all their help.

Some ways of dealing with the burdens of life:

Accept that some days you're the pigeon and that some days you're the statue.

Always keep your words soft and sweet, just in case you have to eat them.

Always read stuff that will make you look good if you die in the middle of it.

If you can't be kind, then have the decency to be vague.

It may be that your sole purpose in life is simply to serve as a warning to others.

Nobody cares if you can't dance well. Just get up and dance.

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

Masonic ranks

Confused by all the letters you find behind some of the brethren's names on your Lodge summons? Given that we have brethren in Lodges who obtained their rank elsewhere it is not surprising that many brethren are unable to figure out the differences. To list just a few:

- An Active District Officer's rank is shown as e.g. DistGDC – District Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- A Past District Officer's rank is shown as e.g. PDistGDC – Past District Grand Director of Ceremonies.
- A UK Past Provincial Officer's rank is shown as e.g. PPrSGD(Worcs) – Past Provincial Senior Grand Deacon, Worcestershire.
- Officers from London Lodges are shown as e.g. LGR – London Grand Rank, or SLGR – Senior London Grand Rank
- You will also see e.g. PSGD/EA – Past Senior Grand Deacon, Eastern Archipelago.
- Finally you will see e.g. **PGStB** – Past Grand Standard Bearer, which is one of the ranks of a Grand Officer.

Usually on Lodge summonses Active District Officer ranks and Grand Officer ranks are shown in bold.