



The District Wire

The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

“Keeping members in touch”



Issue No. 8

July 2011

It's not long since the previous issue of The Wire was published, but a lot has been happening in the District, and so we have a bumper issue. We report on the Annual Communication and Convocation; copies of the addresses of the District Grand Master/Grand Superintendant are attached. Two successful charity events were held - the Band Concert and the Masonic Golf Day - both of which raised quite a lot of money for the District Board of Benevolence. Another Lodge was Consecrated, the 16th in the District, and we also have a few interesting snippets from around the District.

Two charity events – €12,000 – well done to everyone

Annual Band Concert

On 18th May the **Central Band of the Royal Air Force** once again performed to a packed audience in the Castle Square, The Harbour, Kato Paphos at the Annual District Grand Charity Military Band Concert. A tremendous amount of work beforehand by members of Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges ensured that the event went off without any major hitches. Special thanks must go to W.Bro Roy Newman who had the unenviable task of liaising with all the official bodies that have to be contacted; getting decisions from them was not always easy and straightforward!.



The above picture shows the view from the castle of the beautiful setting for the concert. The stage could not be placed in front of the castle as in previous years, but still it's a very nice backdrop.

Thankfully the unseasonal thundery weather during the morning cleared up and the 1150 people attending were able to enjoy the concert under clear skies with warm temperatures. The District was also pleased to welcome representatives from the Western Sovereign Base Area, who had given permission for the Band to perform. This is the biggest charity event of the year within the District and a **grand total of €10,000 was raised** with €5,000 being donated to both The Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society and The Alzheimer's Association of Paphos.



At the concert the District Grand Master, RW Bro Theodosios S Theodossiou, presented the cheque to Mrs Christalla Themistocleou of The Alzheimer's Association.

The Cheque for The Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society was presented to Mr V Shiarylly, President, during the Call Off at the District Annual Communication 3 days after the Band Concert, where the Brethren received a short talk on the work of the Society.

Masonic Golf Day

Thanks to the hard work of a few, dedicated Brethren, and the generosity of some Lodges and sponsors, a large amount of money was raised at the annual Masonic Golf Day, held on 5th May at the Joint Services Golf Club, Episkopi. The event was organised by Apollo Lodge on behalf of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus and a total of 67 competitors spent an enjoyable day of golf in near perfect weather conditions. Sadly, out of the 67 competitors only 13 were Masons, all from the Limassol area. The event was followed by a very pleasant social gathering at which a raffle raised €330; this was donated to the UK-based Motor Neuron Disease Charity. A letter was received from Dave Wilson thanking everyone for the fantastic donation. He said the money will be put to good use helping people with this most cruel disease. He also attached details of a link to his son's MNDA charity challenge, which he is doing over this coming year 2011, and it is quite a impressive feat. <http://www.mndcharityevents.org/>.

With the assistance of Lodge and private sponsors and entrance fees the **grand sum of over €2,200** was raised, which has been forwarded to the District Board of Benevolence for subsequent donation to the Children's Ward of the Archbishop Makarios III Hospital in Nicosia. The DepDistGM V.W. Bro Eric Williams attended with his wife Loretta and presented the prizes to the winning competitors.



The DepDistGM with the winning Masonic team of George Convey, Geoff Stean and Brian Walker

Winners were:

Ladies: Cacs Hinds; **Non-Masons:** Martyn Dove

Masons: Geoff Stean; **Nearest Pin:** Bob Bickford (Men & Women)

Longest drives: Ladies – Sally Harris; Men – Bob Whiteoak

Masonic Team Prize: Apollo Team 4

The schoolteacher was taking her first golfing lesson. "Is the word spelt p-u-t or p-u-t-t?" she asked the instructor. "P-u-t-t is correct," he replied. "Put with one t means to place a thing where you want it. Putt with two t's means merely a vain attempt to do the same thing."

Masonic Charities - Part 2 of a 3-part series by the President of the Board of Benevolence



In the first part of this series the President of the Board of Benevolence (PresDistBBen), W.Bro Trevor Lace, PGStB reported on the work of the Freemason's Grand Charity. In this issue he covers **The Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF)** and the **District Charity contributions** for the past year. The MSF is a charitable company limited by guarantee within the UK. It was established in 1990 to take on the role of the Samaritan fund at the Royal Masonic Hospital. Since the closure and sale of the hospital it has been the only central Masonic charity that funds the provision of medical support. The support it provides has developed in keeping with the evolving needs of Freemasons and their dependants. The MSF helps those who: a) Have an identified Medical, Dental or Respite Care need, b) Are waiting for, or are unable to get, treatment via the Local Authority, and c) Are unable to afford their own private treatment. Support is available to Freemasons, their Wives, Partners, Widows and Dependants.

Application procedure

Advice and application forms may be obtained through your Lodge Almoners. If the requirement is beyond the Almoners resources he will contact the The President of the District of Benevolence who will advise him, supply the appropriate application forms, and then deal with the correct branch of the charity in the UK. Applicants do not need to be destitute in order to qualify for support but confirmation of a medical and financial need is required. A visiting Brother (usually the Lodge Almoner) will be appointed to assist with completing the application form.

Although the application process is co-incidental the President of the Board of Benevolence will willingly arrange a Visiting Brother from another Lodge if requested by the applicant. The Grants Committee meets monthly (except December) and decisions can generally be reached quickly providing all relevant information has been supplied. Although, where circumstances indicate, swift action is possible, all emergency cases should be dealt with by the local health authority. The fund will only consider retrospective claims in exceptional circumstances.

Having agreed to support an Applicant, it is the needs and interests of the individual that are paramount, and these determine how and where relief is granted. The fund makes arrangements to pay hospitals, consultants and care providers etc. direct, not via applicants or Lodges. Each case is assessed on its merits taking into account the applicant's financial resources. Some applicants will be asked to contribute towards the cost of their treatment.

DISTRICT CHARITY

Brethren, since the last issue of The Wire the District has provided the following;

Alzheimer's Association Paphos: €5,000

The Cyprus Anti Cancer Society: €5,000

The Neo Natal Unit, Makarios Hospital: €10,000 presented by the DepDistGM at the hospital on the 9th of June (this was from the Band Concert of 2010), plus a promissory note for €2,200 on behalf of the "Masonic Golfing Society.

If you have any questions in relation to anything to do with the Charities please do not hesitate to contact me - Bro Lace 99530567

16th Lodge consecrated in the District



The beautiful Lodge Banner, which is awaiting approval by UGLE.

On Thursday 23rd June the 16th Lodge in the District, **Allegoria Lodge No 9865 EC**, was consecrated in a newly-built temple in Limassol. The Temple building, which has been built from scratch with the help of Founder Members, is small but beautifully decorated, and is called the 'John Percy White' Masonic Rooms, named in honour of W.Bro John Percy White (1858-1916), the founder Senior Warden of St Paul's Lodge*. There are 12 Founding Members of the Lodge and they chose the name 'Allegoria' because, in their words, 'Allegoria denotes a beautiful and evocative term for Freemasons. It has assisted people throughout the epochs to ward off prejudice, bigotry and fanaticism, and has paved the way for the precedence of Peace, Democracy, Progress and Freedom.'



The WM, W.Bro Lois Harikis PGStdB with the DepDistGM, the AssistDistGM, Founder Members and the Consecration Team.

The Consecrating Officer, V.W.Bro Eric Williams PGSwdB, DepDistGM, and his team of Officers performed a lovely ceremony in English, although future ceremonies will be performed in Greek. The Founding Worshipful Master is W.Bro Lois Harikis PGStdB. Interestingly the IPM of the Lodge is W.Bro David Hubbard DistGDC, so the Greek lessons he has been attending over the past couple of years will prove most useful.

* Sgt John Percy White was the Founding SW of St Paul's Lodge and worked hard over the next 3 years to establish a Lodge in Cyprus under the Grand Lodge of Greece. The Grand Lodge of Greece finally agreed and suggested the name 'Zenon', the name of an ancient philosopher, "to alleviate the distrust which some people had for Masonry".

Better late than never

During his year as Master of Apollo Lodge, in 2005, W.Bro Peter Simmons raised a grand total of €5,000 for his Master's list. At that time the Lodge was in a poor state of repair and he very generously decided that the monies raised would be deposited into the Building Fund to be used for repairs to the fabric of the Apollo Rooms. Now, however, as a result of the generosity of a Lodge member, Bro Dan Stoicescu, the money does not have to be used for this purpose. So, six years after the event, W.Bro Peter has finally been able to donate his Master's list monies to the following charities - €2,500 to Friends for Life and the £2,200 to The Masonic Benevolent Fund.

Dates for your '2013' diary - Apollo Lodge's 50th

2013 may seem a long way off but for special celebrations it's never too soon to start making plans. On the 13th May 2013, Apollo Lodge will be celebrating its **50th Anniversary** (consecrated on 13th May 1963), and a small committee, headed up by W.Bro Bob Humphries is already drawing up a programme of special events. W Bro Bob has asked that details of these events be circulated around the District and to members overseas, so that dates can be put in the Brethren's diaries in the hope that they will be able to attend some of the celebrations.

Thursday 9th May 2013

A 'Meet and Greet' in the grounds of Apollo Lodge for the Brethren of Apollo Lodge; with a Curry Supper and Music.

Saturday 11th May 2013

A Ladies Festival to be held at the Poseidonia Hotel, Limassol, with various entertainment.

Sunday 12th May 2013

A Church Service either in Episkopi Garrison Church or the Lodge; followed by a buffet lunch at Curium Beach.

Monday 13th May 2013

The Apollo Lodge Regular Meeting (50th Anniversary). To be held at the Poseidonia Hotel or Jerusalem Street, Limassol.

Further details will follow when available.

Grateful thanks from Nicosia Hospital

It's always nice to see the practical results of the charitable causes that the District supports. On 9th June 2011 at the Makarios Hospital, Nicosia, Bro. Dr. Efthymios Tsvitanides, SW of Phoenix Lodge arranged for a number of Brethren from District to meet the Manager and have a conducted tour, where they were introduced to the Doctors and Nurses of the wards and saw firsthand how the equipment donated by District was put to good use. Everywhere the Brethren went in the hospital the message was the same: "Thank you for all you've done for us".

The DepDistGM also presented to the Director of the hospital a promissory note for €2200 for the purchase of equipment being the money raised on the Masonic Golf day specifically for that cause.



All the equipment donated by the District has a label attached which states: **"Donated by the DGL of Cyprus"**, to show the hospital's appreciation.



The photograph shows from left to right the DistGrandSec, the DepDistGM, the AssistDistGM, the PresDistBdBen, and Bro Dr. Efthymios Tsvitanides.

Teddies for sick children



Not all functions have to be on a large scale to raise money for worthy causes. W.Bro Merv Matthews, WM of Peace and Harmony Lodge, reports that at the 'Fundraising Event' held on Friday 10th June at Valerie Tills home the magnificent sum of €420 was raised for the Teddy Loving Care appeal to provide cuddly toys for sick children in Limassol Hospital.

Thirty-two people attended; it would have been more but unfortunately many Members were off island or unable to attend. Those who did had a good time, thanks to the efforts of the Ladies and some Members.

The entrance fee of €5 raised	€200:00
The Raffle, with a bit of help raised	€200:00
The sale of Teddy Badges	€20:00

In addition to the above a number of Members have indicated that they are sending a donation. So the Lodge should hopefully meet its target of €500. A splendid effort by all.

St Hilarion Lodge No 9851 - first Turkish speaking Master

On 3rd May, in the Temple at the San Remo Hotel in Larnaca, with V.W. Bro Eric Williams **PGSwdB**, DepDistGM., W. Bro Andrew Theocharous **PAGDC**, AsstDistGM., District Officers and 6 Worshipful Masters of other Lodges present, W. Bro Said Muhyi was duly installed in the Chair of King Solomon as the first Turkish speaking Master of the Lodge.



The WM W.Bro Said Muhyi with his SW: W.Bro John Kirk PPRAsstGSB and his JW: W.Bro John Goodison PPRGSB

St Hilarion Lodge has had a tremendous beginning, holding one and two "double" Ceremonies at each Meeting (including a "double" 1st before Call Off on Tues 3rd May). This was to allow Candidates waiting to be Initiated and existing Brethren to progress and take Office, all working towards the goal of becoming a fully Turkish speaking Lodge. It has been very hard work, especially for those Senior Lodge Officers assisting in 2 x double Ceremonies each Meeting – but the spirit in the Lodge is tremendous, which is evident in the Ceremonies with a true Masonic warmth, Brotherly love and friendship evident throughout the Lodge. The number of Meetings held is now being increased from 3 to 4 per year and from October the Lodge will meet on the 1st Thursday (as opposed to Tues) of the months of March, May (Installation) Oct & Dec. The Lodge works strict Emulation and visitors are always welcome - so:

Please - 'Come up and see us some time'. (Lütfen – 'Gel ve bize biraz zaman görmek'.)

Contact: W. Bro Peter J. van de Pol – Secretary Tel: 99 637285 & 24 815650 E-Mail: sthilarion@live.co.uk and t.c.c@cytanet.com.cy

Annual Communication/Convocation – a close call for setting up

On Saturday 21st May the 15th Annual Convocation for Chapter and the 31st Annual Communication for Craft were held at the Crown Plaza Hotel, Limassol. The preparatory work started the day before when members of Apollo Lodge stripped their Temple of furniture and loaded it onto a truck for transportation to the hotel. Then, early on Saturday morning the furniture was due to be unloaded and the Chapter set up. Unfortunately, the room set aside for the meetings was still littered with the aftermath of a wedding reception, held the previous evening, and which should have been cleared away. So, it's a credit to a few, hard-working Brethren that they were able to clear the room and transform it into a lovely Chapter room in the space of a few hours.

That's not the end of it; after the Convocation the room had to be rearranged for the Communication and following the Communication the furniture was then loaded back onto the truck in preparation for unloading on the Sunday morning by Apollo Lodge members. All in all it became very stressful at times and it is no wonder that tempers became frayed and voices were raised – Brethren were hot and sweaty, tired and the back pains were getting worse. Still, it was worth all the effort to see the room finally transformed. During the Communication 'Call Off' the President of the Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society, Mr V Shiarly, with Dr Andrea Koufou gave a very interesting address to the Brethren on the work of the Anti-Cancer Society of Cyprus. The DGM then presented them with a cheque for €5,000, part of the money raised at the Band Concert.

Masons hijack crew on Cruise!

Not quite, but it's got your attention. Whilst on a recent 3 months cruise with P&O on the MV Artemis, W.Bro George Convey of Apollo Lodge did not waste much time in gathering support from fellow Masons to raise money for charity. Together with other Masons and their wives, and widows of Masons, they 'hijacked' the Captain, Executive Purser and Entertainments Director into holding 6 Masonic cocktail parties, which raised a total of £1,261; this was distributed to the following:

Magic Wand Foundation (P&O designated charity)	£555
RNLI SOS Event	£200
New Zealand Earthquake Appeal	£165
Japan Earthquake Appeal	£110
New Samaritan Fund	£116
General Marine Charities	£115
Well done, W.Bro George.	

The politics of travel

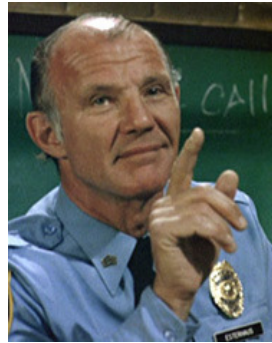
"You suddenly realise you're no longer in government when you get into the back of your car and it doesn't go anywhere."

Malcolm Rifkind

"It's great to be back on terra cotta."

John Prescott

Freemasonry on TV



Michael Conrad played Sgt. Philip Freemason Esterhaus for the first four seasons of the award winning TV show "Hill Street Blues" in the 1980's. His character was a kindly man, displaying a deep caring attitude towards the men and women in the squad (he was aptly named); represented most forcibly by the admonition which he used as he dispersed the officers each day to go about their duties. As they leave,

suddenly he breaks their movement by shouting, "Hey! Let's be careful out there." His full name is used only once, in Season 1, Episode 13, when he got married (1981/03/25).

Retribution

In Fulda, Germany a dispute arose about the name to be given to a new high school. The first name suggested was Professor Karl Ferdinand Braun, inventor of the TV picture tube, and a Nobel prize winner. A protest arose on the ground that he was a Freemason. Finally the school was named after Baron Von Stein, who is known as the father of local self-government. He was a devoted Freemason. It was later discovered that Professor Braun was not a Freemason.

Some useful links:

cyprus-freemasons.org.cy

The official website of the District of Cyprus. Contains details of all Lodges in the District, meeting dates, social calendar, education material and useful contact addresses.

www.ugle.org.uk

The official website of the United Grand Lodge of England. Contains amongst other things reports of Quarterly Communications, addresses by rulers of the Craft, a pdf file of the complete Book of Constitutions, and information on the Masonic charities.

www.freemasonrytoday.com

The official publication of UGLE which contains news about Freemasonry in the UK and overseas, many articles related to Freemasonry, a book review section, and an interesting Letters column.

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

Editing team

V.W.Bro Eric Williams **PGSwdB**, DepDistGM

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Make YOUR daily advancement in Masonry

One way to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge is by reading the many excellent publications that are available. One of the best on the market is "Masonic Etiquette Today" by VW Bro Graham Redman PGSwdB, Assistant Grand Secretary. Written in a free-flowing style it is a modern guide to Masonic protocol and practice. One area covered is how to address Officers in Lodge in which he makes the following observations. There is a growing tendency, unfortunately both from some senior Brethren and some newer Brethren, to address the WM by his first name. This is totally unacceptable, even if the WM may be your best friend. The only address that should be used is 'Worshipful Master' as a matter of simple respect for the high office he holds (which is the highest a Lodge has in its power to confer on any of its members). Also, he should not be referred to as a 'reigning Master'; he is not royalty and does not reign over anyone. No other office has 'Worshipful' as a part of its title - a Past Master who is appointed, say, Charity Steward is simply addressed as Bro Charity Steward. This book is well worth having in your library.

Masonic Etiquette Today by Graham Redman. Hardback 200 pages A5 size Published by Ian Allen Publishing. ISBN 978 0 85318 297 0

District Grand Master's Address
given at the Annual Communication held on 21st May 2011

Distinguished Visitors and Brethren, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 31st Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus. In particular, our Visitors. I am once again confident that they will today enjoy the warmth of Cypriot hospitality. This year I have had the pleasure of Consecrating two new Lodges in the District – the St Hilarion Lodge and the Peace and Harmony Lodge, and I welcome both these new Lodges to the District. I hope that they will contribute to the growth of freemasonry in the District of Cyprus. Also during the year, Grand Lodge has recognised the Grand Lodge of Cyprus and we welcome some of their representatives here today. I hope they enjoy themselves. I have visited Grand Lodge in London several times in the past year and I am delighted to say that Grand Lodge is pleased with the efforts of the District. In March this year I was accompanied by the Grand Master of Greece and his Deputy who received a very warm welcome from Grand Lodge.

Whilst we still continue, like the rest of the world, to recover from the financial situation many countries find themselves in, we must ever bear in mind those less fortunate than ourselves and continue to follow one of our principles, Charity. I am sure that all Lodges do their best in this respect. In this respect my thanks go to W Bro Trevor Lace and his team for their efforts again in organising the Band Concert at Paphos. Last year it almost did not happen, as due to the economic situation the R A F Band was cancelled, but thanks to the efforts of W Bro Bob Humphries, the band of the Northern Signals Regiment, that was here on their summer training, stood in and we were again treated to an excellent evening. Thus helping us to raise €6,000 for local Charities. Remember Brethren that this event is the biggest fund raiser for Charity in the District and without it we could not support the local Charities as we do.

I would like to thank W Bro Leandros Zachariades as President of the Board of General Purposes and his committee for their recommendations and advice over the past year. It was W Bro Leandros's first year as the President and I am sure he has enjoyed it. He has conducted the Committee meetings very ably and a considerable amount of business was transacted.

Once again I have been very well served by those acting Officers appointed for the year. My thanks to my Deputy, V.W Bro Eric Williams and my Assistant, W Bro Andrew Theocharous for their support and I take this opportunity to thank all of the District Officers for the manner in which they have supported both myself and the District of Cyprus during the past twelve months. I would also like to mention W Bro David Hubbard who took over the Education programme from W Bro John Finney.

The programme is now well and truly established and the amount of information the Brethren can obtain is growing all the time. For those of you who have not visited the Web site, I recommend you do for you will find it very interesting. W Bro Rob Cowin, the District Orator has given his first talk, at St Paul's Lodge, and it was very interesting. I also recommend any Lodge that would like a change from working a degree to contact W Bro Rob and they will receive a very interesting talk, but please make sure he has some notice, as they do take time to prepare.

You are all now receiving the District 'Wire'. Please assist W Bro John Finney by sending him contributions and any photos about your Lodge and any activity that concerns Masonry within the District. You will be surprised to find what you may consider normal events, a number of other Brethren would be delighted to know about. So please help in spreading good news.

At this year's Band Concert by the Central Band of the Royal Air Force, organised by Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges in Paphos, I am pleased to announce that it raised the sum of €10,654 for Charities. This is the main fund raising event in the District. My thanks go to all members of those Lodges who assisted with the event. Especially to Roy Newman for all his hard work in organising it. Thank you.

Finally I would like to thank the members of Apollo Lodge for the loan of the Lodge and Chapter furniture and to those that arranged the transportation and setting up of the Lodge room. I look forward to another year and hope that it will prove interesting and beneficial to all. Thank you very much.

Grand Superintendent's Address
given at the Annual Convocation held on 21st May 2011

Companions, I have much pleasure in welcoming you all to this our Fifteenth Annual Convocation of the District of Cyprus. I am very encouraged by the number of Companions present today. I extend a very warm welcome to our visitors and hope that they have a very enjoyable stay with us. I congratulate the Companions I have invested this afternoon and I wish them a very enjoyable year. Honours are earned and are not only for the work you have already done in the District or your Chapter but are recognition for the continuation of the work in the future.

I am very pleased with the number of new Exaltees which most of the Chapters have been able to attract with a number of Chapters performing double ceremonies. I trust that now we have a representative in each Craft Lodge this pattern will continue, as it is important that the Brethren take the next step in Antient Freemasonry by joining the Royal Arch.

There are many Royal Arch Companions who reside in our District, who are members of one of our Craft Lodges, who are Royal Arch Companions, but have not as yet joined a Chapter in the District. I urge you to encourage them to join a Chapter in the District so that they may continue to enjoy this beautiful degree.

In accordance with Grand Chapter recommendations we should encourage more participation in our ceremonies by sharing the work where appropriate, especially the Principal Sojourners work and the Lectures. I would again request all Principals to join the Cyprus

Principals Chapter to share their experiences with like minded Companions. This Chapter was consecrated to encourage discussion and to learn more about the Holy Royal Arch and we are looking into ways of making the meetings more interesting.

All Chapters in the District have been visited by myself or my Deputy together with the District Principals and other District Officers. These visits have proved to be very useful and the reception received from the Companions was most encouraging. I am pleased to hear that the Administration of the District is running smoothly and I thank my District Grand Scribe E and all Chapter Scribe E's for their continued support in this respect. My Deputy, E Comp Eric Williams has made a number of visits during the year both Official and un-Official and I thank him for his support during the year. E Comp Rob Cowin, President of the Committee of General Purposes has carried out his duties in an excellent manner and I also thank him. The Acting District Officers during the year have visited the Chapters and discharged their responsibilities in an exemplary manor and I wish to record my thanks for their support to myself and the District.

Companions I am sure that we shall all continue to enjoy our Royal Arch Masonry during the coming year and I urge you to continue to support your Chapters. Companions enjoy the rest of the day and I hope that I will see many of you at the Festive Board this evening. Thank you.