



The District Wire

The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 9

“Keeping Members in Touch”

April 2012

Time for Change

There is a widely-held view in Masonry that no Brother should hold office for more than five years; this is to allow more Brethren to become involved in Lodge activities. So, having edited the Newsletter for the last six years, by my reckoning I'm well past my sell-by-date. I have, therefore, decided it's time to move on. The Newsletter was the idea of the previous President of the Board of Benevolence, W.Bro. John James, and was published in printed format. When W.Bro. Trevor Lace took over as President we changed over to electronic format, which has proved to be cost-effective and easier to distribute. It has been a pleasure working with the two Presidents and their advice and encouragement was most welcome. I would like to thank all those that have written to me saying how much they enjoy reading the Newsletter, and to my one and only critic – ah, well, you can't win them all! The new editor is W.Bro. Peter Baldwin of Apollo Lodge - he has put together this issue and I wish him all the best in his new role.

W.Bro. John Finney

Consecration of Lakeside Lodge

Saturday 24th March saw the Consecration of the newest Lodge under the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus, when Lakeside Lodge No. 9869 was Consecrated at Jerusalem Street in Limassol. This now reinstates Freemasonry into the Free Famagusta District of Cyprus where it has been missing for 59 years since Othello Lodge moved to Dhekelia Barracks and subsequently to Larnaca. Eighty-two Brethren attended what turned out to be a superb meeting, albeit a little warm as the air-conditioning malfunctioned in the Lodge room.



The District Grand Master, Deputy District Grand Master and Assistant District Grand Master were the three Principal Consecrating Officers who were ably assisted by the District Grand Director of Ceremonies and the District Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies who performed half of the ceremony each. The District Grand Chaplain carried out all of the Orations and Prayers accompanied beautifully by music from the District Grand Organist. One thing that was evident was the commitment and practise that the founders had put into

the Consecration ceremony with rehearsals taking place the week before in the Lodge rooms in Paralimni with the District Grand Director of Ceremonies. This had never been done before but was of great benefit as everyone knew their part and the Ceremony looked well drilled, smart and polished.

Following the Consecration, the 1st Master, W.Bro. Dennis Hawkins, was installed into the Chair of King Solomon by W.Bro. Simon Barter. After the DGM had presented the Warrant, W.Bro. Dennis held it triumphantly aloft to show the Brethren of the Lodge that they had finally achieved what they had set out to do more than three years previously.

Lakeside Lodge meets at the James Greenwood Masonic Rooms in Ayia Triada, Paralimni, on the fourth Monday of every month excluding July, Aug and Dec. All masons are invited to attend. They have their own purpose built 80-seater permanent Temple, own Bar, own Dining Room and their own toilet and changing facilities. The LOI takes place every Monday (excluding July and August) and visitors are more than welcome. Lakeside already has 7 candidates who will be voted for at the first regular meeting on 23rd April as well as joining members waiting to come in.

Some interesting facts about Lakeside Lodge:

- The name 'Lakeside' comes from the literal translation of the Greek name of the town where they meet, Paralimni (*para*-next to and *limni*-lake)
- Famagusta area is the only District in Cyprus (there are 5 in total, Paphos, Limassol, Larnaca, Nicosia and Famagusta) to have only 1 Lodge meeting in it, under any Constitution.
- Lakeside Lodge has the most number of Founders who are not already members of any other Lodge in Cyprus, 24. This emphasised the need for a Lodge in the Famagusta Area to enable Masons to practice their craft.

The District Grand Master is pleased to inform you that the Grand Secretary, V.W.Bro. Nigel Brown, will attend the Annual Communication at Jerusalem Street, Limassol, on the 19th May 2012. Details of the Annual Communication & Convocation have been sent to all Lodge Secretaries.

St Hilarion Lodge No 9851

Banner Dedication & 1st Ladies Festival

On Sat 25th February, under Dispensation, a Ceremony of Dedication of St. Hilarion Lodge's new Lodge Banner was held at the Semeli Hotel in Nicosia. The Ceremony was conducted by the DGM, R.W.Bro. Theodosios S. Theodossiou, assisted by the DepDistGM, V.W.Bro. Eric S. Williams and the AsstDistGM, W.Bro. Andrew Theocharous accompanied by a further 10 Acting District Grand Officers. Also present the WMs of Lord Kitchener, Othello, Lusignan and Apollo Lodges as well as Brethren



of St Hilarion Lodge and other Lodges under the District of Cyprus, a total of over 70 Brethren.

The Ceremony was a great success, thanks to the sterling

work of the Banner Committee led by W.Bros. Peter van de Pol, Secretary, John Kirk, SW, and John Searle, who with grateful thanks to Othello Lodge, allowed their Lodge Furniture to be used, transforming the "Semeli" Dining Room into a Temple for the Ceremony and organized proceedings.

After the Ceremony, the first St Hilarion Lodge Ladies Festival was held in adjoining rooms for W.Bro. Said Muhyi and Engin. This was attended by the DGM and Zenia, the DepDist GM and Loretta and Brethren of the Lodge with their ladies and guests.

Grateful thanks again to the same 3 stalwart Committee Members and to Jacky Kirk for the floral and table decorations and to W.Bro. Said Muhyi for the beautiful ladies gifts.

The Evening was a tremendous success with a truly sumptuous buffet in the superb settings of the new Semeli Hotel. Music was provided by W.Bro. Ian McLean and his "Minidisco", with dancing until the early hours.

These 2 occasions marked a very important event in the history of St Hilarion Lodge, which will long be remembered by those present, but were tinged with great sadness, following the later sad and premature Passing to the Grand Lodge Above on Monday 12th March, of W.Bro Said Muhyi. At this time, our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Engin and his son, Fikret.

In Memoriam

W.Bro. Said Muhyi

Passed to the Grand Lodge Above

12th March 2012

Aged 59



**Worshipful Master and Founder Member of
St Hilarion Lodge No. 9851 and Master Elect of
King Tefkros Lodge No. 9786**

Charity

**Part 3 of a Series by W.Bro. Trevor Lace PGStB,
President of the District Board of Benevolence**

For your information, "the central Masonic charities" have now been regrouped in the UGLE and are now referred to as "FREEMASONRY CARES". They all basically act in their own capacity but instead of contacting each individual charity with requests there is only one contact point who directs all applications and requests to the correct department within the organization. This in no way will affect help if you require it. As in the past, your first point of call should be the Lodge Almoner, or if inappropriate for personal reasons, the President of the Board himself who will always be willing to discuss any matters related to charity.

Brethren, this will be my last entry in The Wire as the President of the District Board of Benevolence. As of the Annual Communication, the President of the Board will be W.Bro. Brian Brown. I wish him well in his new appointment.

As a parting gesture I thought I would leave you with this Masonic poem.

By Brother Charles L. Mead

Can you say tonight in parting
With the day that's slipping past
That you helped a single brother
Of the many that you passed?

Is a single heart rejoicing
Over what you did and said?
Does the man whose hopes are fading,
Now with courage look ahead?

Did you waste the day or lose it,
Was it well or poorly spent?
Did you leave a trail of kindness,
Or a scare of discontent?

As you close your eyes in slumber,
Do you think God will say,
You have earned one more tomorrow,
By the work you did today.

Memorial Service for W.Bro. Albert Bright

A Memorial Service for the late W.Bro. Albert Charles Bright, PPrJGD(Berks), organised by Apollo Lodge was held at St. Barnabas Church, Limassol, on Thursday 8th December 2011. The service was conducted by Canon Derek Smith in a very commendable manner. There was a reading by W.Bro. Simon Barter, DistGChStwd, and an excellent tribute was delivered by W.Bro. Rob Cowin, PJGD, PDepDistGM, DistGORat. The service was well attended by Brethren from various Lodges across the Island, particularly Apollo Lodge, Dionysos Lodge, Agapinor Chapter and Kypros Mark and Royal Ark Mariner Lodges, all of which Albert had been a member of. A collection was held after the service in aid of the Masonic Samaritan Fund which raised € 219.

Teddy Loving Care (TLC) in the District of Cyprus

**W.Bro. Maurice Stephenson, DistGSuptWks
District TLC Coordinator**

On the 4th December 2011, TLC celebrated five years of donating teddy bears to the A & E Units of General Hospitals within the Masonic District of Cyprus. In that time over six and a half thousand teddy bears have found their way into the grateful arms of injured and distressed children. A teddy bear not only provides comfort for a child but also aids medical treatment by creating a more relaxed environment.

Teddy bears are currently being donated to the General Hospitals in Paphos, Limassol, Larnaca, Paralimni and the Children's Section of Makarios Hospital. As Paphos Hospital was the first to receive our teddy bears, the fifth anniversary was celebrated with a meeting of all available staff and the Agapinor and Dionysos Lodge TLC



representatives. The staff marked the occasion by providing the cake shown in the adjacent picture.

On the day, I received some written thanks from members of the Paphos A & E staff and I believe their thoughts provide ample proof of how useful the

TLC scheme is to their work. The letters were translated into English for the benefit of this article.

Dr. Marios Philippou (Senior Doctor of A & E Unit)

"Five years have passed since the start of the teddy bear giving programme, providing smiles at the Paphos Hospital A & E Department. With the great help from our friends and sponsors, the Freemasons of Cyprus, we have managed on a daily basis to provide happiness and laughter to our little patients who often come to us with pain etched on their faces. I want to thank the Freemasons of Cyprus from the depths of my heart for this practical example of humanity and kindness."



Senior Doctor, Marios Philippou and the Lodge Reps, Bro. Ray Hynes (Dionysos) and myself (Agapinor)

Dr. Nectarios Sidiropoulos

"The gesture of giving a child a teddy bear is important, but above all it is human. In combination with the pleasant environment of the emergency room the child feels more comfortable and pleasant towards the nurses and doctors during the examination and treatment. When they leave the child feels the teddy bear is a reward for being a good patient".

Nurse Stavroula Constandinou

"A teddy bear somehow eases the pain and agony of the small patient."

Grand Charity Concert

**The Grand Charity Concert by the Royal Air Force College Band, Cranwell
(with the Royal Air force Swing Wing) will be held on Saturday 9th June 2012 @ 7.00 pm in the Castle Square,
Paphos Harbour, in aid of the Cancer Patient Support Group, Paphos, & other charities.
See details on attached poster**

The Present and Future of TLC in the District

Currently, nine Lodges are actively involved in fund raising and/or donations and the District TLC is grateful for their efforts. Fund raising has resulted from a combination of selling lapel badges, stalls at fetes and pub quizzes. Involving the public does of course have some benefit in that they become more aware of who we are and what we provide in the community. Donations of Euros 250 have been received from St. Paul's, Lord Kitchener, Apollo, Agapinor, Phoenix, Zenon 18 and Peace and Harmony Lodges and these donations provide a secure financial base. In the last five years we have concentrated on most of the A & E Units within the District. The one major absentee from the list is Nicosia General Hospital. To include this hospital in the TLC programme would require a great effort from all the Lodges in the capital. In the future, it may be that the TLC could be extended to other public services, such as the Fire Services, as they also meet distressed children when attending emergencies. Of course, any addition to the current activities would have to be approved by the District Board of Benevolence.

TLC Postscript

Pages 41, 42 & 43 of "Freemasonry Today", which was published on 14th March 2012, includes a feature in celebration of the fact that TLC has given over **1 million TLC Teddies** to severely distressed children.

Ian Simpson, Chairman of the TLC Appeal writes:

"Thank you one and all for helping us achieve this magnificent milestone. It would not have been possible without the dedication and support of you and your teams.

The article entitled "Bringing it to Bear" has been penned by a professional journalist on behalf of Freemasonry Today and I think it is stunning. It also features a picture of our Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro. Peter Lowndes, sitting at a table with a 5 foot tall TLC Teddy.

This is an undoubted opportunity for local publicity and promotion of TLC amongst the brethren and lodges.

I hope that the 5 foot TLC Teddy, which currently is occupying an armchair in my lounge (and always seems to have the TV Remote!) can make his way around the Provinces in the TLC scheme for particular events or annual Provincial meetings – would you be interested?

Thank you again for your past support and I hope that this will continue so that TLC can go from strength to strength, helping children and destroying some of the unfounded myths about masonry.

Yours sincerely & fraternally,
Ian"

Please send your articles and pictures (small jpeg please) of charity events or special occasions for inclusion in The District Wire to the Editor, W.Bro. Peter Baldwin - thedistrictwire@gmail.com

Editing Team:

DeoDistGM & PresDistBBen

120th Anniversary of St. Paul's Chapter



At its Installation Meeting on 22nd March 2012, St. Paul's Chapter No. 2277 celebrated its 120th anniversary. The picture shows the Grand Superintendent with Demetrios Savva, M.E.Z., George Hadjiconstantinou, 2nd Principal, Leandros Zachariades, 3rd Principal, and Andreas Stavrinides, I.P.Z.

The Masonic Open

Thursday 24th May 2012

This Charity Stableford Competition is open to all male & female golfers & is played off full playing handicap to a maximum of 36.

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

Entry Forms from W.Bros. Cowin
(chrisrob@cytanet.com.cy) or Convey
(georgeconvey@hotmail.com)

Entries to be received by 20th May

Presentation to Apollo Lodge

W.Bro. R W Cowin, PJGD, PDepDGM, DistGORat

On Tuesday 13th March, W.Bro. Ian McLean, WM of Apollo Lodge No. 7886, made a presentation to the Lodge of two tokens presented to him by his Mother Lodge, to



commemorate his attaining the chair of Apollo Lodge on 10th January 2012. The tokens were struck in 2007 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Cumberland Kilwinning Masonic Temple, the oldest purpose-built Masonic temple in the world, the foundation stone of which

was laid on 26th July 1757. The work was completed in 1758 at a cost of £134-1s-4d – equivalent to £210,000 in today's currency! The photograph shows the framed tokens being received on behalf of the Lodge by W.Bro. "Lefty" Georgiou, the longest standing resident member of Apollo Lodge.

John Percy White – Helping to Bring Freemasonry to Cyprus

W.Bro. Theodore Eddie Kalogeropoulos

Translated by W.Bro. Ioannis Kolias

The Centenary books of *St. Paul's Lodge No. 2277* and *St. Paul's Chapter No. 2277* record that Sergeant Major Bro. John Percy White was a major force behind the introduction of Freemasonry into Cyprus. White was born in October 1858, in Dorchester, in the county of Dorset, England.

On 10th November 1876 he became a Sapper in the British Corps of Engineers and rose through the ranks becoming a Quartermaster Sergeant on 18th August 1892. His military postings included England (1876-1879, 1882-1886 & 1894-1897), India (1879-1882) and Cyprus (1886-1894). During 1879 and 1880 he participated in the Second Anglo-Afghan War and was decorated with the clasp for his efforts in the Battle of Ahmed Khel (19th April 1880). He received further honours in April 1895 for long service and good conduct. On 2nd September 1893, he suffered an eye injury and on 10th November 1897 he retired on health grounds with the rank of Quartermaster Sergeant.

His Masonic career started with his Initiation on 17th January 1881 into the *Kyber Lodge No. 582 E.C.* in Peshawar, Punjab, India. He was Passed on 17th March 1881 and on 4th June 1881 he was Raised in the *Light in the Himalayas Lodge No. 1448*.

During his posting to India, White was Advanced in *Ramsay Lodge of Mark Master Masons No. 180* under the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England in Murree in the Punjab on 21st June 1881.



John Percy White in Chapter Regalia

White moved to Cyprus on 14th December 1886 and with other British soldiers was a Founder of the first Masonic Lodge in Cyprus, namely, *St. Paul's Lodge No. 2277 E.C.* which was Consecrated on 21st November 1888. He served as its Worshipful Master in 1889. He was also a Founder of *St. George's Lodge No. 2402 E.C.* in Larnaca on 14th November 1891. The 29th November 1892 saw the Consecration of *St. Paul's Lodge of MMM No. 455*, the

first Mark Lodge in Cyprus, White being a Founder and the first Worshipful Master.

Whilst in Cyprus, he travelled to Alexandria in Egypt where he was Exalted on 15th December 1892 in *Zetland Royal Arch Chapter No. 1157 E.C.* Then on 15th January 1892 and in the same Chapter, he was Installed as First Principal of *St. Paul's Chapter*, the first Royal Arch Chapter in Cyprus, which was subsequently Consecrated in Nicosia on 15th April 1892.

He left Cyprus on 4th April 1894 to settle in England where on 15th May 1894 he joined *Freedom Lodge No. 77* in Gravesend.

In 1905, White was appointed as Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies for the Province of Kent and in 1910 he was appointed Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in the United Grand Lodge of England.

Bro. John Percy White was clearly a prime mover in the introduction of Freemasonry into Cyprus. He was Called to the Grand Lodge Above on 24th August 1916 aged only 58.

Link to British Freemasons in Germany:

We have received a letter from R.W.Bro. Phillip John Hebel, who was Initiated into Kitchener Lodge in 1974 and who is now Deputy Grand Master (we believe) of the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany. R.W.Bro. Hebel remains a valued member of Lord Kitchener Lodge. He writes: "I have noted in the District Wire that there is no mention of a link to the website of the Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany (www.gl-bfg.com) which is a pity as there are several members of Lodges in Cyprus who have been, or still are, members of our Grand Lodge".

A Fascinating Evening at St. Paul's Lodge

W.Bro. R W Cowin, PJGD, PDepDGM, DistGORat

Those fortunate enough to attend the regular meeting of St. Paul's Lodge No 2277 on Wednesday 21st March witnessed a most fascinating presentation by Bro. Angelos Kyriacoudes of Allegoria Lodge No 9865. His talk, entitled "Some new information for the first days of the Lodge and generally for Freemasonry in Cyprus", was compiled after many months of painstaking and arduous examination of materials found in the Lodge Rooms in Jerusalem Street, Limassol.

During his research Bro. Kyriacoudes was able to unearth a great deal of documentation and a large number of photographs dating back to the very earliest days of the establishment of the Mother Lodge of all Cyprus Freemasonry. The documents included many significant elements, including early financial records which cast a most interesting light on the founders of the Lodge, predominantly British Military personnel, their relationship with the local population and the nature of Limassol society in the late 19th century.

The role of SSgt John Percy White RA, has always been known to be of great significance, but his attention to detail – especially in financial matters – reveals a most diligent, caring and educated personality behind the name. Those present were entranced by the documents revealed by Bro. Kyriacoudes and by the careful research evident in the content of his presentation. A bonus was the presence of W. Bro. Andros Soteriou, now aged 93, and having been initiated in 1948, a Mason of 64 years dedication to the Craft. Bro. Soteriou was able to comment on much that was stated about the social and physical fabric of Limassol in the early twentieth century.

Bro. Kyriacouides was thanked by all present for a captivating presentation and urged to continue his good work. He has established the **"Scientific Centre of Freemasonic Studies"**, located within the John Percy White Masonic Rooms in Limassol – the home of Allegoria Lodge. The task ahead is daunting, such is the volume of archive material unearthed within Jerusalem Street premises, and Bro. Kyriacouides is keen to hear from those who share his enthusiasm for preserving the archives of Cyprus Freemasonry and thus expanding and illuminating our knowledge of the social and Masonic history of the island.

A similar treasure trove of documentation may well exist in the other senior Lodges of the District – have you looked in your Lodge cupboards recently?

District Regalia Officer

The Cyprus District Regalia Officer is W.Bro. George E. Convey, DGStwd. He is responsible for ordering regalia for Brethren in Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Mark Master Masons Lodges, Royal Ark Mariner Lodges and any other Regalia or Lodge Banners. This can be quite involved especially when it is time for the Annual Communication and Annual Convocation. He receives regular regalia orders from Lodge Secretaries, Chapter Scribes, Mark Secretaries and RAM Scribes, from Brethren who are to receive appointments/promotions in District Grand Lodge and from Brethren who require new items of regalia. The regalia is sourced so as to obtain the highest quality and value for money and is obtained from both the U.K. and overseas.

If you have a regalia requirement, please contact W.Bro. Convey in good time at regalia@cyprus-freemasonry.org.cy

Brother Ian Cameron

W.Bro. R D Clark

Lord Kitchener Lodge No. 3402 is deeply rooted in the British armed forces although it is not classified as a Military Lodge. Meeting at the Dhekelia Military Garrison it has a general membership of ex-servicemen.

We see a variety of servicemen of different units, ranks and levels of keenness. It gives me great pleasure to write about the progress of one such Lodge member. Brother Ian Cameron (Army Major) and ex Quarter Master was Initiated into Lord Kitchener Lodge in 2006. His generosity and personality marked him out from his very first steps. For example, he returned from Canada at his own expense to attend the Lodge Centenary celebrations in 2009. He has also made personal gifts to the Lodge, having tracked down Lodge property lost for many years, often as a result of relocation. We have many reasons to remember our Brother and have over the years received his greetings at regular meetings.

A letter from R.W.Bro. Ken Montgomery of the Freemasons of Medicine Hat, Alberta, Canada advised that a Canadian farewell tribute for Bro. Ian Cameron had taken place on 30th June 2011. Written in glowing terms of our esteemed Brother as he once again prepares to move on to pastures new. Ian proves to us all that a true Masonic spirit, a selfless love of his fellow men and,

above all, a real fairness in dealing with others, wins the respect that many can never claim.

His stay in Canada was based at the British Army Training Unit Suffield (BATUS), Alberta where the British Army does tank warfare training. It is a thoroughly remote place, well into thousands of square miles of



pinetrees and moose Country! Ian once told me that one could drive for days and see little else.

Our Canadian Brethren decided to honour Brother Ian with one huge Pig Roast (see adjacent picture). I

understand that this celebration is something that does not happen often in those parts. Clearly, a special character like Ian has gained British Freemasonry the love and respect of his Canadian counterparts. The Medicine Hat Masons call themselves the "Jolly Beggars" and wear a peculiar Scottish hat (Tam) as an identification feature.

I am informed that Bro. Ian has been made an Honorary Member and Club Piper of the Freemasons of Medicine Hat Burns Club and has been presented with a custom made Quaich – Masonic motifs and all. What is a Quaich? Pass.



Albert Fyfe presenting Ian with Honorary Membership Certificate



Angie with Ian holding the custom made Quaich

In conclusion, I am told he has now retired from the Army. He was last seen by his Canadian friends in the company of his wife, Angie, leaving for Florida, from where they intend to take a cruise around South America. Good luck to you my dear Brother Ian. Maybe

one day we will see you again in Dhekelia sitting in your Mother Lodge.

Useful Masonic Links:

cyprus-freemasons.org.cy: The official website of the District of Cyprus. Contains details of all Lodges and Chapters 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.

**GRAND CHARITY CONCERT BY THE
ROYAL AIR FORCE COLLEGE BAND, CRANWELL
(With the Royal Air Force Swing Wing)**



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AND THE ANTIQUITIES DEPARTMENT, NICOSIA, FOR THE USE OF THE CASTLE

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