



The District Wire



The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 11

“Keeping Members in Touch”

Winter 2012/13

District Seminars

In October 2012, the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus held two seminars at the Kapetanios Hotel in Limassol.

On Saturday 6th W.Bro. Rob Cowin, District Grand Mentor, ably supported by W.Bros. David Hubbard and Ian McLean, led the Mentoring Seminar which was attended by 19 brethren.



He emphasised that mentoring was not new in Freemasonry, explaining that conscientious Proposers and Seconders as well as caring Lodge members have always acted as ‘wise and trusted guides’. However, he added that what is new is the emphasis now being placed upon what needs to be done in order to enable individuals to get as much enjoyment, satisfaction and personal fulfilment from their membership of the United Grand Lodge of England. W.Bro. Cowin made reference to the Grand Secretary’s August circular letter to Lodge Secretaries and to the letters to Lodge Mentors and Personal Mentors which were to be sent to Lodge Secretaries.

The Grand Secretary’s recommendation was that the two letters should be circulated to all Lodge members. At UGLE’s Fourth Mentors Conference held in March 2012, the Grand Secretary read a paper on behalf of the Pro Grand Master, which summarised Grand Lodge’s mentoring strategy as follows:



- To promote a positive image of the Craft.
- To remove discrimination towards members.
- To encourage the right men to join.
- To help them enjoy their membership.
- To encourage them to talk positively about Freemasonry.

W.Bro. Cowin then invited W.Bro. Ian McLean, District Webmaster and Mentoring Scheme team member to advise on Information Technology and Internet Security. W.Bro. Ian emphasised the importance of protecting our computers and confidential files with passwords. He continued by highlighting the need for good and updated anti-virus software on all computers to prevent infections and his willingness to assist if your computer begins to behave badly.

W.Bro. David Hubbard then gave a comprehensive description of the wealth of material available through the Mentoring Scheme and how it can be accessed via the District Website (www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy).

The Seminar concluded with a lively and wide-ranging debate which included the following topics:

- The need to avoid undue haste in proposing candidates and the importance of utilising social or informal meetings to assess suitability.
- The importance of achieving ‘professional’ standards in the initial interview – both in setting, composition and the conduct of the interview.
- The usefulness of ‘white meetings’ in promoting greater understanding in the wider community.
- The need for sensitivity towards cultural differences and the importance of winning confidence through interpersonal relationships.
- The necessity for ‘follow-up’ when a brother fails to attend lodge.
- The importance of accompanied inter-visitation between lodges – both as a social tool and as a teaching aid – especially for inexperienced brethren.
- The recognition and acceptance of ‘diversity of practise’ – the ritual is the core but custom and practise within Lodges will inevitably lead to variations in procedures and presentation.
- The availability of Freemasonry Today electronically and at no cost.

On Saturday 13th October, W.Bro. Bob Humphries, District Grand Secretary, led the Secretary's/Scribe Ezra's Seminar which was attended by 20 brethren.



Those attending were fortunate in that W.Bro. Lister Park of the Registration Department of the United Grand Lodge of England, here seen with the District Grand



Secretary, was in Cyprus to highlight key issues from the perspective of UGLE and to respond to questions from the Brethren. In addition, W.Bro. Humphries

highlighted key issues from the draft version of 'Secretaries Aide Memoire', to be published by the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus. A lively debate completed the Seminar.

Dionysos Lodge No. 9716

Dionysos Lodge is to be congratulated on becoming a Grand Patron of the Masonic Samaritan Fund.

To learn more about this Fund visit:
www.msfund.org.uk

Installation Meeting of Lord Kitchener Lodge No. 3402

On Wednesday 28th November, Bro. Richard Earl Phillips was Installed as Worshipful Master of Lord Kitchener Lodge. In attendance were the Deputy District Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Eric Williams, and the Assistant District Grand Master, W.Bro. Andrew Theocharous. The official photographer was the DistGDC.



Letter of Appreciation from St. Stefanos Foundation

The District Grand Master received this letter of appreciation.



From our own DGDC

In Issue No. 10 of The District Wire we were left with the following question:

'As the Lodge Director of Ceremonies you see four Brothers sitting together, they are all wearing Installed Masters Aprons, but no Collars. Only one is the current Master of a Lodge, so who are the other three?'

We should all be able to recognise Brethren by a quick glance at their Aprons and Collars. But the following brethren could be a trap for many of us; so never be afraid to ask.

The first Brother wearing the Badge (Apron) of an Installed Master without a Collar is the Master of a neighbouring Lodge and is correctly dressed.

The second Brother wearing the Badge (Apron) of an Installed Master without a Collar is a Past Master, but he has forgotten, or lost his Collar. After checking that he is a Past Master perhaps you can lend him a Collar for the evening. I have encountered at least 6 such Brethren in my travels around the District. Not for this publication but can you prove an Installed Master? This is another exercise that can be carried out by the Master and Past Masters within the Lodge of Instruction.

The third Brother wearing the Badge (Apron) of an Installed Master without a Collar is a Past Master of another Constitution. In Cyprus we have a number of such Brethren. They were Past Masters in their own Constitution but have transferred to the English Constitution (See Book of Constitutions Rule 163) and although correctly dressed with an Installed Masters Apron they cannot wear a Past Master's Collar until they have passed through the Chair in an English Constitution Lodge. So Brethren in this category are correctly dressed. The fourth Brother wearing the Badge (Apron) of an Installed Master without a Collar is more complicated and I have only ever met one in this category. He was installed into his Lodge as the Master, but due to a serious family problem wished to resign from his position. Unfortunately, that is not allowed - the only way out is to resign from the Lodge, which, in this particular case he did, until the family problem had been resolved. During this time he was 'Unattached' and allowed, under Rule 127, to visit as many Lodges as he wished - but once, and once only to each Lodge. He later re-joined his Lodge, but never went through the Chair.

Breast Jewels - The Holy Royal Arch

It's always rewarding to see Brethren in a Craft Lodge wearing the 'Jewel of the Order'. We are told in the Symbolical Lecture (Permitted Alternative Version) that you must always wear this Jewel in your Craft Lodge as a visible sign of the indissoluble link between Royal Arch and Craft Masonry. But do we fully understand the inscriptions that are on the obverse and reverse sides of the Jewel? We will take one inscription in this issue of the 'Wire' and the other inscriptions in a future issue. The most important inscription is on the downward pointing Triangle on the obverse side - and refers to mankind - in this case - You, the wearer of the Jewel. It states *Cultor Dei Civis Mundi* meaning Worshipper of God, Citizen of the World. The responsibilities of a Freemason as a Citizen of the World are outlined in the Charge to the Initiate - As a Citizen of the World I must enjoin you etc. You will notice there is a gap left on one side of this Triangle. It is there that your name should be engraved so that the sentence on this Triangle makes true sense. My Jewel reads '**D Hubbard a Worshipper of God, Citizen of the World**'. Have you had your name or initials engraved on your Jewel?

Perhaps at the Annual District Convocation we should examine all the 'Jewels of the Order' and fine those not so engraved!

Homework - Look at the Book of Constitutions (2012 edition) page 182 Plate 47 and page 2 Rule 5 and 6 - do you notice something not quite right? Answer in the next edition. However, if you have the answer - there is a prize!

New Kyrenia British Cemetery Benefits from local Masonic Charity

The two British Cemeteries in the Kyrenia District of Cyprus are now 'full'! So the Cemetery Committee had a real problem on its hands in providing appropriate burial services (in both senses of the word) for the departed and indeed the bereaved.

Stepping up to mark in rapid order came the Mayor with a donation of land in a mountainside location above the village of Karaoglanoglu (Agios Georgios or Ayorgi) under the shadow of St. Hilarion Castle. Now named Green Hill Cemetery, there is space for 84 plots and landscaping is happening apace.

Burials are already taking place at Green Hill, but as is often happens in these circumstances, there is a paucity of funds for the construction of retaining walls, footpaths, trees, shrubs and especially seating, thus preventing the bereaved from sitting awhile in quiet contemplation in a beautiful setting.

Hearing of the need for the Cemetery to be made fit for purpose as soon as possible, members of Bellapais Lodge



No. 9847 responded to the call by donating a teak bench to be securely located in an appropriate spot, where families and friends of the departed can sit in peace, pray and give thanks that their loved ones are resting in a stunning

and beautifully adorned location.

On a bright Wednesday morning, the W.M. of Bellapais Lodge, W.Bro. Les Evans, PPrGStdB (East Kent), accompanied by P.M. W.Bro. John Goodison, PPrGStdB (Middlesex), presented the bench to Green Hill Cemetery Committee Chairman Harry Fellows and Burials Organiser Col. Tim Harris as shown below.



CHARITY JAZZ BAND DINNER & DANCE

The District Board of Benevolence will be holding a Charity Jazz Band Dinner/Dance at the Poseidonia Beach Hotel, Limassol on Friday 15th March 2013 from 8.00 pm until midnight. Reservations with payment of €35.00 per person to be received before 10th March should be sent to W.Bro. George E. Convey at the District Office, P.O. Box 55526, 3780 Limassol.

Further details and reservation form available from Lodge Secretaries

Peace and Harmony Lodge Aim High in Fund Raiser!

Looking to provide a fund raising event, with a difference, Peace and Harmony Lodge No. 9852 staged a clay shoot (it is no longer politically correct. to use the



expression 'clay pigeon') at the Episkopi Garrison Gun (EGG) Club, on Friday 16th November. The event was open to all-comers, Masons and non-Masons alike, as well as ladies, all regardless of experience. Markspersons (now that's p.c.!) were able to have both a trial shoot as

well as compete in the main fifty shot event, all under the watchful eye and careful instruction of the EGG Club members. More than three dozen tried their hand and eye in the main shoot with varying degrees of success and the main prizes for the best man and best lady went respectively to Mark Emmanuel and Deborah Emmanuel. The W.M. of Peace and Harmony Lodge, W.Bro. Barry Walker reported that all those attending declared the event an unqualified success and the Lodge was able to put over €450.00 into its Benevolent Fund. Asked whether it would be become an annual event W.Bro. Barry replied that "it remained to be seen but that its success made the idea tempting."

Plans are well underway for Peace and Harmony's Ladies Festival at the Aquamare Hotel, Paphos on 16th February when the Lodge is looking forward to greeting old and new friends alike.



Peggy MacAlpine Celebrates Her 105th Birthday

It was a bright sunny Sunday when members of the Bellapais Lodge No. 9847 joined in the Birthday Luncheon Party, held in the courtyard of the Levant Restaurant in Karaman (Karmi), to help Peggy MacAlpine celebrate her special day.

Peggy has lived with her daughter Elizabeth in the charming hilltop village for nearly ten years, within close proximity of St Hilarion Castle, moving in when she was well in to her nineties.



Presenting Peggy with a beautiful bouquet of roses, W.M. of Bellapais Lodge, W.Bro. Les Evans, PPrGStdB (Kent), reminded those present that Peggy is almost certainly the

oldest widow in English Freemasonry, her husband Thomas Somerville MacAlpine having been a member of Endeavour Lodge No. 5497 in the Province of Cheshire where he was Initiated in 1938. At the time Thomas was working with Barnes Wallace and went on to be a member of team that developed the famous Dambuster bombs.

She is also the oldest member of The Royal British Legion worldwide, being a founding member of the recently formed Kyrenia Branch.

Peggy is immensely proud of her entry in the Guinness of Book of Records for being the oldest person to have completed a thirty minute tandem paraglide from the top of the Kyrenia Mountains down to the landing ground at Karaoglanoglu (Ayorgi). She completed this adventure in the late summer of 2012 to celebrate her 105th and to regain her 'title', which she first achieved in celebration of her Centenary.

Asked what she puts her longevity down to, Peggy reported that, "I eat well, sleep well and always have a wee dram of a night time." Sounds like a great formula!

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:

DepDistGM & PresDistBBen

Freemasonry in the Community

On the 21st of December, representatives of Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges continued with their custom of providing presents for disadvantaged young children in the Paphos and Polis areas.



This was the tenth year in which brethren of both Lodges



have provided gifts to the Welfare Department in order to assist families experiencing severe financial difficulties. Special thanks must be given to Santa Claus (Bro. Ray Hynes) who collected the gifts from the donors for presentation to each

child. He was assisted by a "visiting elf" Magda, an employee of Bro. Jeff Towers.

It is worth noting how the annual presentation of gifts originated. A question from a female employee of the Social Services who was a guest at a Lodge function, asked if Freemasonry could provide any assistance to poor families. This prompted a discussion between the Masters of Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges who agreed



that as Christmas was approaching a present for a child would be a way of helping families experiencing financial difficulties. It is now a well established combined effort by the two Lodges and long may it continue.



With Santa Claus in the adjacent picture is Elena of Social Services and W.Bro. Maurice Stephenson, two of those involved in the original discussions some ten years ago.

Installation Meeting of Apollo Lodge No. 7886

On Tuesday 8th January, Bro. Stewart Marshall McMahon was Installed as Worshipful Master of Apollo Lodge. In attendance was the Deputy District Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Eric Williams.



The official photographer was the DistGDC.

Teddy Loving Care

W.Bro. Maurice Stephenson reports that the Quiz Night hosted by Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges at the Gustoso Restaurant on the 21st of November 2012 proved to be not only enjoyable but also financially rewarding for the T.L.C. appeal.

A total of ninety-seven potential "Master Mind" contenders ate the required brain food of fish and chips although in some cases it had not been fully digested when the questions started flowing. As well as the Quiz, there was a raffle and a sale of dolls and teddies. In total, €886 was raised to purchase teddies for the A. & E. Unit of the General Hospital.

The organisers thank all those who donated prizes and purchased items. Without their generosity the event would not have been such a success.

Six years have passed since the first teddy was given to an injured child so bringing some relief to the unfortunate child as well as parents and staff. During those six years, a total of three thousand teddies have been gifted. Whilst that may appear a large number it is only slightly in excess of one a day.

Once again, thank you to those Lodge members who attended and special thanks to all the friends of T.L.C.

District Regalia Officer

The Cyprus District Regalia Officer is W.Bro. George Convey. He is responsible for ordering regalia for Brethren in Craft Lodges, Royal Arch Chapters, Mark Master Mason Lodges, Royal Ark Mariner Lodges and any other Regalia or Lodge Banners. If you have a requirement, please contact W.Bro. Convey in good time at regalia@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy

Waller Rodwell Wright, first Provincial Grand Master of the Mediterranean Area [the Ionian Islands, and Malta & Gozo]

*A paper authored by
W.Bro. Theodore-Eddie S. Kalogeropoulos,
W.M. of King Tefkros Lodge 9786 E.C. and
member of the St. John & St. Paul R.A. Chapter 349 E.C.
Translation into English by W.Bro. George Poulimenos,
P.M. of King Tefkros Lodge 9786 E.C. and
PrGSupt (West Greece) R.A.-York Rite*



Waller Rodwell Wright has been awarded a well-earned place at the top of English Masonry as one of the most important characters in the English masonic history of the 19th century. His main qualification was that he was one of the warmest supporters of Royal

Arch Freemasonry which he introduced to the Mediterranean area. He was perhaps the most popular high-ranking Companion of the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England of all time.

On a major scale, he created significant innovations always having constructive ideas on the relations between the Grand Lodge and the Grand Chapter. He was also responsible for important changes in the rituals of both Craft Freemasonry and those of the Royal Arch. Given the wide popularity of his ideas at the time, he contributed significantly to the development of English Freemasonry and he played an important role in the creation of the United Grand Lodge of England as he was a close friend of both the last Grand Masters, the Duke of Kent (Grand Lodge of the Antients) and the Duke of Sussex (Grand Lodge of the Moderns and consequently first GM of the United Grand Lodge of England). That is why he was one of the three Masons who prepared the actual text for the Union of the two Grand

Lodges of England. It is only proper that his name appears among the five representatives of the Moderns who signed the unification act on December 1st 1813 immediately after that of the Duke of Sussex.

Waller Rodwell Wright, Esq. was born in Bury St. Edmunds, Suffolk, in 1775. He was educated at the King Edward VI School in Bury and in 1791 was admitted to Trinity College, Cambridge, where he studied law, specialising in civil law. For unknown reasons he did not complete his studies but nevertheless was admitted to the Lincoln's Inn Society on November 23rd 1793 and on February 7th 1800 he was called to the Bar.

In 1801 he was appointed Recorder in his hometown of Bury, an appointment that lasted until June 25th 1803 when he was sent as the British Consul General to the Septinsular Republic (the Republic of the Seven Ionian Islands), first based in Corfu and then in Zante. In 1805 he finally departed from the Ionian Islands and returned to his original position in Bury. On June 24th 1813 he was appointed by the Prince Regent as Assessor to the Governor General of Malta Sir Thomas Maitland, or Superintendent over the laws of that island, with a view to their assimilation to the British code, but he did not settle on the island until later the following year (1814). On December 3rd of that year he became a member of the Supreme Council of Justice of Malta, a position he held until his death. On December 14th 1814, he became the King's Assessor to consult and assist the government on legal matters, a position created especially for him. On October 25th 1817, he was appointed one of the General Magistrates and on January 1st 1819, he succeeded Sir Giuseppe Borg Olivier as President of the High Court of Appeal in Malta when his functions as His Majesty's Assessor ceased. From these positions he succeeded in revising the legal system and abolishing the torture of prisoners. At the same time he dwelled on poetry, writing plays and novels, nourishing a deep love for classical languages which is particularly evident in his poetic works (the most important one being *Horae Ionicae*). Wright was a Mason like his father Mathew. He was initiated on August 30th 1794 in Royal Edwin Lodge 193 in Bury St. Edmunds, in the roll of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns). In 1801 he joined Antiquity Lodge No. 1 (London) of which he was elected an Honorary Member in 1811 and an Honorary Member 3rd Class in 1819. On December 18th 1801, he joined the Prince of Wales Lodge No. 412 in which he served for several years as Deputy Master and finally on February 20th 1806, he joined the Nine Muses Lodge No. 330. On April 15th 1815, Wright with 28 other Masons founded the St. John and St. Paul Lodge No. 673 in Valletta, Malta, which he served as Master in 1815 and 1816 and also in the years 1819, 1823 & 1824. On April 7th 1813, Wright attended the Quarterly Communications of the Grand Lodge of England (Moderns) as the Provincial Grand Master of the Ionian Islands. This appointment, which he had honoured with distinction, had been awarded to him during the immediately previous period and lasted until early 1815 when he was appointed as Provincial Grand Master of the provinces of Malta and Gozo, a post he held until his death.

On November 29th 1795, he was exalted in the Royal Arch in the Royal Brothers Chapter No. 64 in Bury St. Edmunds. On March 9th 1797, he joined St. James Chapter No. 1 in London, where he was elected as First Principal for the periods 1800-1803 and 1806-1813 and remained a lifelong member. On May 15th 1801, he was appointed to the Grand Chapter (Moderns) as Grand Steward. On December 17th of the same year he was elected as Third Grand Principal, a position that he held re-elected in 1802, 1806, 1807 and 1809 until early 1810. On January 30th 1810 he was elected as Second Grand Principal, but when the Duke of Sussex, Augustus Fredrick, accepted the position of First Grand Principal, on May 10th of that year, he returned to his former position of Third Grand Principal, a post that he held until mid-1813. In addition, on May 15th 1801 he was appointed as Grand Superintendent of Suffolk and of Cambridge on May 7th 1810. On March 10th 1812, he was appointed to the office of Trustee of the Grand Chapter of England. During his stay in Malta he founded on August 1st 1819 the Melita Chapter, later St. John & St. Paul No. 73, which he served as First Principal in 1820 & 1825. He is considered to be a stalwart and the first person to introduce Royal Arch in the Mediterranean area.

During the period of British domination Freemasonry flourished in Malta and certainly the progress was due solely to Wright's work, knowledge, enthusiasm and influence. In his honour the Waller Rodwell Wright Lodge 2755 in the roll of the United Grand Lodge of England, was established in Valletta on April 8th 1899. The Lodge worked on the island until 1985, when it moved to Aldershot, Hampshire, where it is still functioning nowadays.

In parallel, in 1804 Wright was appointed Provisional Grand Commander of the Order of the Red Cross of Constantine in England. He was extremely interested in the reconstitution of the Order and it was he who wrote the ritual still in use today. On December 15th 1810, he was elected Grand Commander of the Order, a position he held until July 19th 1813, when he was succeeded by the Duke of Sussex, Augustus Fredrick. In 1804 he also reconstructed the Order of the Red Cross of Palestine which he led until 1812.



Wright's Grave in Msida Bastion Garden of Rest, Valetta, Malta

Finally, he was the Grand Master of the Masonic Order of Knights Templar for the period April 12th 1807 to May 5th 1812 when he was succeeded again by the Duke of Sussex. He married Mary Ann, daughter of the surgeon Thomas Bokenham of Norwich on November 14th 1805, and the couple raised a daughter by the name Isabel. He died in Malta on April 20th 1826, at the age of

51 and was buried in the Msida Bastion Cemetery in Valletta.

"The Malta Government Gazette" printed the following notice in its April 26th 1826, edition:

"DIED.- On Thursday last, of aneurysm, WALLER RODWELL WRIGHT, Esq., President of His Majesty's High Court of Appeal, and Senior Member of the Supreme Council of Justice in this Island.- His urbanity and benevolence of character had secured to him a general good will, so that the Maltese as well as his own Countrymen regard his loss with the deepest regret. He was the author of the Horae Ionicae, a work of correct classical taste, and of other poems of great merit".

Useful Masonic Links:

www.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.supreme-council-33rd-rose-croix-cyprus.org - Supreme Council 33^o of the Antient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Cyprus.

www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy/KT/kt.html - Knights Templar in Cyprus.

www.gl-bfg.com - Grand Lodge of British Freemasons in Germany.

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.

The Secretary

Anon

And so while great ones depart for their dinner,
The Secretary stays, getting thinner and thinner,
Racking his brain to record and report
What he thinks, that they think, or
What they ought to have thought.

Remember You're a Mason

By Robert W. Pinkerton

When the pressures of recession
Make us concentrate on greed,
Take heed, a worthy Mason
Cares about another's needs

Don't let pressures of the moment
Make your obligation sway,
Stop and help a fallen brother
Or another by the way

What you give is like a bubble
Whenever you assist,
What it costs in time and trouble
Is, soon after, never missed

Brother, bear that obligation
You accepted on your knee,
It's in direct relation
To your own security

Never hesitate, my brother
Square your actions now and say,
"I'll remember I'm a Mason,
And behave like that today"

"With regard to human kindness
And the *Golden Rule*, I pray,
I'll remember I'm a Mason,
And behave like that today"

The Treasurer's Dream

Anon

I fell asleep the other night
And while I had my snooze,
I dreamed each member
Stepped right up
And promptly paid his dues.
But when I found 'twas but a dream
I nearly threw a fit
It's up to you to make it true,
Suggestion.....Please remit.
