



The District Wire

The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 13

“Keeping Members in Touch”

Summer 2013

Annual Communication

The Annual Communication was held on Saturday 18th May at the Masonic Centre, Jerusalem Street, Limassol, and was followed by a festive board at the Kapetanios Odysia Hotel.

District Grand Lodge

Below is the picture taken after the Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge Administration for 2013/14.



Address by the District Grand Master

“Distinguished Visitors and Brethren, it gives me great pleasure to welcome you all to the 33rd Annual Communication of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus. I am confident that you will enjoy the warmth and welcome of our hospitality.

I am delighted to say Grand Lodge continues to be impressed with the performance and organisation of the District. To highlight this, they invited W.Bro. Lister Park, the Registrations Officer, to attend a very successful Secretaries Seminar, which was organized and run by the District Grand Secretary. At the Seminar, W.Bro. Lister delivered a very informative lecture on Registration of Candidates and Joining Members and on Secretarial duties in general.

We continue functioning in an extremely difficult financial situation and I do not need to remind you that we must keep a constant watch on our Lodge expenses, while being vigilant regarding the welfare of those whose circumstances may have been affected by this.

The Mentor scheme, set up by Grand Lodge, is now operational in nearly all of our Lodges. The office of a Lodge Mentor is very important and I would like to thank W.Bro. Rob Cowin for his sterling efforts within the District in promoting this scheme.

I would like to thank all those who have assisted in raising funds for the District Charities, especially W.Bro. Brian Brown. I would like to see the same effort encouraged in the raising of money for the Masonic Samaritan Fund which would enable us to make a worthwhile contribution, on behalf of the Lodges, and the District.

Once again we were fortunate in having the Band of the Royal Air Force to play at a Concert in Paphos. This year we will be able to hold another Concert, which will be on the 6th June at the same venue. Our thanks go to W.Bro. William Mills and W.Bro. Trevor Lace for their considerable efforts in making the last Concert a great success; ably assisted by members of Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges.

I would also like to thank W.Bro. George Convey and his team from the Masonic Golf Society, for their tremendous efforts in raising money at the Annual District Golf Meeting. My thanks also go to all Brethren for their involvement and support in the aforementioned fund raising events and I hope that I can count on your continuing endeavors during the next difficult twelve months!

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. He has conducted the Committee meetings very ably with a considerable amount of business being transacted.

Again, I have been very well served by those acting officers appointed for the year. My thanks in particular go to my Deputy, V.W.Bro. Eric Williams and my Assistant, W.Bro. Andrew Theocharous, for their continuing outstanding support. I take this opportunity to thank all the District Officers for the manner in which they have supported both me and the District of Cyprus in the past twelve months.

I would like, just before I finish, to congratulate W.Bro. Gerry Goldsack on his promotion in Grand Rank and also to W.Bro. Brian Brown on his first appointment to Grand Rank. To all those I have invested, promoted or re-appointed this year, I look forward to working with you in the coming year. Appointment and promotion to District rank is a result of the efforts you have contributed to Freemasonry in the Lodges and District. Please continue to do so.

I look forward to another year with you all and hope that it will prove interesting and beneficial to all.”

District Grand Chapter

The Annual Convocation of the District Grand Chapter was held prior to the Annual Communication when the District Grand Chapter Officers were invested by the Grand Superintendent who gave the following address:

"Companions, I have much pleasure in welcoming you all to this our Seventeenth 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 you 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 what is expected of you in the future and I look forward to seeing you at our Chapter meetings.

I am very pleased with the number of new Exaltees which all of the Chapters have been able to attract with a number of Chapters performing double ceremonies. I am sure that the appointment of a representative in each Craft Lodge has assisted in achieving these numbers. The Most Excellent First Grand Principal at each Grand Chapter meeting emphasises the importance of the Brethren taking the next step after the 3rd degree in their Masonic career by joining the Royal Arch and completing Pure Antient Freemasonry and we should encourage Master Masons to join.

There are many Royal Arch Companions who reside in our District, who are members of one of our Craft Lodges, 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 enjoy this beautiful degree.

In accordance with Grand Chapter recommendations we should encourage more companions to participate in our ceremonies by sharing the work where appropriate, especially the Principal Sojourners work and the Lectures and I am pleased to see that this is being done by some Chapters.

I would again request all Principals to join Cyprus Principals Chapter to share their experiences with likeminded Companions. This Chapter was consecrated to encourage discussion and to learn more about the Holy Royal Arch and to this end a demonstration of the "Veils Ceremony" will be performed by its members in Paphos at their November meeting and a further announcement will be made. I encourage you to attend as this ceremony is not allowed to be performed very often.

All Chapters in the District have been visited by me or my Deputy together with the District Grand Principals and other District Officers. The warmth of the reception during these visits is very much appreciated. Visiting is a very important part of Freemasonry and all companions should be encouraged to visit to see the different ceremonies performed by our Chapters.

I am pleased to report 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 unofficial and I thank him for his support during the year and I am sure you would all like me to congratulate him on his promotion in Grand Rank – and agree that it was most well deserved. E.Comp. Gerry Goldsack, my 2nd District Grand Principal and E.Comp. Andrew Theocharous, my 3rd District Grand Principal, have also visited many Chapters and I thank them also. E.Comp. Rob Cowin, President of the Committee of General Purposes, has carried out his duties in an excellent manner and has been instrumental in the purchase and making of our new banners and stands, and I also thank him.

The Acting District Officers during the year have visited the Chapters and discharged their responsibilities in an exemplary manner and I wish to record my thanks for their support to myself and the District.

The District performed a banner dedication ceremony in February for Othello Chapter and I am pleased to see it displayed here today.

On October 16th the Royal Arch will celebrate its Bi-Centenary with a meeting of Grand Chapter at Great Queen Street and I and other Companions of the District hope to be present.

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."

Below is the District Grand Chapter Administration for 2013/14.



Unique Opportunity for Royal Arch Companions – Passing the Veils Ceremony

On Monday 18th November at 6pm, a team of officers drawn from the Cyprus Principals' Chapter will present a recreation of "The Passing of the Veils" ceremony in the Agapinor Chapter premises at Hermes Street in Paphos.

The basis of the current Royal Arch ceremonies worked in England was established and agreed by Supreme Grand Chapter in 1834. There is some evidence that before 1834 the ceremony of Passing the Veils was practised as a preliminary to the Exaltation Ceremony. Today in England the Ceremony is solely authorised for use in Chapters in Bristol but it is still very much part of the Royal Arch system in Ireland, the United States of America and Scotland, where it is known as the Excellent Master Degree. Supreme Grand Chapter, being mindful of the significance of the ceremony, has approved its presentation in Provinces and Districts in an agreed format, but on a very infrequent and carefully controlled basis.

The demonstration script, to be seen on 18th November, is not the Ceremony as practised in Bristol, Ireland, Scotland or the United States of America but necessarily includes material which appears in the Ceremonies worked in those Constitutions. It has been devised from manuscripts in the Library and Museum of Freemasonry and published sources.

E.Comps. John James and David Hubbard MBE have completed all the necessary planning and preparation in order to ensure that the evening will be both a colourful and fascinating insight into this intriguing ceremony. This will be the first time that this precursor to the ceremony of Exaltation has been witnessed within the District and all Companions are entitled to attend and enjoy what is sure to be an impressive and memorable evening. Please make a note of the date and in due time, register your intention to attend by contacting Ken Hart at kenhart@cytanet.com.cy. The evening will conclude with a Festive Board.

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.

thesupremecouncil33cyprus.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.

Cyprus Masonic Golf Society 2013 Open Tournament - Aphrodite Hills Golf Club

You will be aware that we decided to cancel the 2013 Masonic Golf Tournament planned for May which was to be hosted by JSGC(E). The decision to cancel was taken by the Cyprus Masonic Golf Society and not by JSGC(E), because of what was believed to be a potential 'fixture overload' within the Club following the tunnel closure from January to April. The Episkopi Club Committee has been asked to include the Masonic Golf Tournament in the 2013-2014 Fixture List and they have kindly agreed.

Thanks to Mr Andrew Darker, Golf Operations Manager at Aphrodite Hills Golf Club, there is the opportunity of a **bargain day-out at Aphrodite Hills on Monday 23rd September**, with 18 four ball tee times between 11.46 and 14.02hrs; all this at a cost of €50 per participant (to include a BBQ meal at the Apollo Lodge Gardens). This allows 18 groups of 4 to take part in a tournament aimed at enjoying a great day's golf whilst at the same time raising funds for Cyprus Charities.

All are too well aware of the problems currently being encountered by those in the Cyprus community who have suffered as a consequence of the recent financial collapse and associated events. It is hoped to offer support to the **'Volunteer Doctors of Cyprus'** charity, which will ensure that the funds raised on the day will reach those who are genuinely in need of assistance.

However, before proceeding, **some assurance is needed from the Cyprus golfing community that 23rd September will be a viable fundraising day**. Please 'sound-out' those whom you know in order to provide motivation to proceed with this venture. As on previous occasions, both Cyprus Golf Clubs and Masonic Lodges are being circulated in order to ensure that the maximum number of potential participants is made aware of this exciting opportunity to play one of the premier golf courses in Cyprus at a very special price.

It would be greatly appreciated if some indication could be provided **by the 23rd August**, of the level of interest amongst members. Please contact Rob Cowin direct at rob44cowin@gmail.com before this date and give some indication of those who wish to take part on 23rd September.

Members support is essential in to organise a challenging, yet fun day, and at the same time raising a worthwhile amount for the selected charity.

Grand Charity Military Band Concert



The District Grand Lodge of Cyprus sponsored the tenth "Annual Charity Band Concert" which was held on Thursday 6th June in the Castle Square, Paphos Harbour, in front of an audience in excess of 1200. The Band of the Royal Air Force Regiment, Cranwell, England, under the direction of Flight Lieutenant Matthew Little and Bandmaster Warrant Officer Neil Warrillow provided excellent entertainment for the appreciative audience. All 41 highly skilled musicians displayed their talents with a varied programme of classic military and popular band music, coupled with "Shades of Blue", a brass section of the band who played various well known "swing" pieces.

In addition the Musical Director delighted the audience by his singing of extracts from Les Miserables. Various programme pieces were arranged by the Musical Director.



As is the custom the "Trumpeters" played from the battlements of the Castle Keep during the Evening Hymn and Sunset.



The ever popular playing and community singing of the Pomp and Circumstance No. 1 coupled with the RAF March Past closed what can only be

described as the most successful charity band concert to date. The Royal Air Force Bands remain dedicated to delighting the residents of Cyprus with their particular brand of music, giving their time freely in support of local charitable causes. There continues a long and close association between the RAF Bands and the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus. Over forty volunteers from the Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges in Paphos help to make these concerts the success that they are.

Support also came this year from the Bellapais Lodge, Larnaca, and Apollo Lodge, Episkopi.

The annual Grand Charity Band Concerts are the single largest charity drive of the Cypriot Masonic year. This year the concert raised over €10,000, of which €5000 was in aid of "The Paphos Municipal Social Store" and was presented to the Mayor of Paphos, Savvas Vergas



in the Paphos Town Hall. The remainder was donated to other local Cypriot charities.

We are indebted to the Mayor, the Cultural and Public Relations Department of Paphos, the Department of Antiquities, Nicosia, the Chief of Police and his Officers, Paphos, the Paphos Harbour Master and Staff of the Port Authorities plus the Keo Company and Pambis Diner, all of whom assisted in completing another worthy fund raising event.

More photographs can be viewed at:

<http://cyprus-freemasons.org.cy/BenovelenceandCharity/bandconcert13.html>

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

District Grand Master's Certificate Presented to Cyprus Mason in Wiltshire

The following is based on a feature which appeared on the website of the Provincial Lodge of Wiltshire.

To mark 60 years of service to Freemasonry, Bro. Kenneth (Ken) Ashton was presented with the District Grand Master's Certificate by R.W.Bro. Francis Wakem, Provincial Grand Master for Wiltshire. Bro. Ken is a



resident at Ridgeway House, Royal Wootton Bassett and celebrated his 100th birthday on 5th August. The picture shows Bro. Ken with Mrs. Naomi Ashton and R.W.Bro. Wakem. Bro. Ken is not a

Wiltshire Freemason but was Initiated in Moascar, Egypt, into Lord Kitchener Lodge No. 3402 on 11 April 1953. Sadly, due to his failing health, Bro. Ken is not able to attend Lodge meetings but was able to enjoy a good chat about his Masonic life with the Provincial Grand Master. Ken met his wife, Naomi, in the British Military Hospital in Fayed while serving with the army during what became known as the "Suez Crisis". Bro. Ken is a former Mayor of Wootton Bassett and Naomi continues to live in the town, now known as Royal Wootton Bassett.

W.Bro. Redvers Webber, PAGDC, a member of Lord Kitchener Lodge who now lives in Somerset, was delighted that the Province of Wiltshire undertook this very important presentation and expressed the thanks of Lord Kitchener Lodge to R.W.Bro. Wakem for his kindness in making the time in a busy schedule to visit Bro. Ken and Naomi.

R.W.Bro. Wakem in presenting Bro. Ken with his certificate said "I am so honoured to have been asked by the District Grand Master to make this presentation. To have been an active Freemason for 60 years is something worth celebrating and I am delighted to share the moment with you and Naomi today".

Apollo Lodge's Golden Anniversary

This year saw **Apollo Lodge No. 7886** celebrate its 50th anniversary. Various events were held to mark this very important milestone including a "Meet and Greet Night", Ladies Festival and the Actual 50th Anniversary Meeting which was followed by a special festive board.



The following is an address compiled and given by given by W.Bro. Rob Cowin. PJGD. PDepDGM, DGMentor at the 50th Anniversary Festive Board on 14th May 2013:

The Golden Jubilee of Apollo Lodge - a glimpse of the past and a glance toward the future.....

"**Apollo Lodge No. 7886** on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of England was consecrated on 13th May 1963 in St. John's School Hall, Royal Air Force Episkopi in the Western Sovereign Base Area of Cyprus. Apollo is the daughter of **Lord Kitchener Lodge No. 3402** which arrived in Cyprus in October 1956 from its birthplace in Egypt and resided at Polemidia Camp, north of Limassol, until moving to Dhekelia in November 1962. **Apollo Lodge** was consecrated in order to provide Masonic facilities for servicemen and civilians working and living within the Western Sovereign Base Area. Apollo became the 6th Lodge meeting in Cyprus under the United Grand Lodge of England and those Brethren who were appropriately qualified could further extend their Masonic experience by joining **St Paul's Chapter No. 2277** which continues to meet in Nicosia.

Fifty years later we see 17 Craft Lodges and 5 Royal Arch Chapters meeting throughout the length and breadth of the Republic of Cyprus and additional orders such as Rose Croix, Mark, Royal Ark Mariner, Knights Templar and Knights of Malta are also in evidence.

1980 saw the formation of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus and 1997 witnessed the birth of our District Grand Chapter. We now have a District Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons and the Supreme Council 33rd Degree of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite. The administration of these organizations depends heavily upon the time and energy given voluntarily by their members.

Apollo held its first two meetings in the premises of **St. Paul's Lodge** in Jerusalem Street, Limassol, and returned there briefly in 1974 following the Cyprus coup and

subsequent Turkish invasion of northern Cyprus. All other meetings have been held in the Masonic Rooms in Episkopi. Initially and until the mid-1980s, **Apollo** met in the hall of St Barnabas Church of Scotland and the Free Churches premises - all that now remains of that church is the hard standing to the west of our existing building. Ironically, the Scots Guards were serving in Cyprus at this time and several of them became joining members of the Lodge. The current home of **Apollo** had lain unused for many years and a great deal of work had to be undertaken to render it fit for habitation. Both at that time and ever since, it has been necessary for volunteers to work tirelessly to maintain and improve the facilities that we consider to be the envy of all other Lodges in Cyprus. Of the 49 Worshipful Masters to have previously occupied the chair of **Apollo Lodge**, 39 have departed these shores or died and only 8 remain as members resident in Cyprus (2 of them having served for 2 years as Master). In the light of these figures we can appreciate the true value to the Lodge of the joining members who have brought Apollo a wealth of experience from many places. Enough of the past - what of the future? Our membership numbers are more than healthy and we continue to serve the needs of the servicemen and attached civilians posted to the Western Sovereign Base Area. We also welcome many ex-service applicants and those within the community who share our values. We continue to enjoy the support of Episkopi Station in that we have a secure tenancy of our current premises and, thanks to the very generous support of a member now living abroad, we have the means to find and develop a new home should the need arise.

Finally - I must tread warily when I mention the lack of a printed 'history' such as was compiled after our first 20 years. Brethren, we have full and detailed Minutes of our meetings, both regular meetings of the Lodge, Standing Committee meetings and even Lodge of Instruction meetings - and our in-house 'Oracle' magazine - plenty of sources to satisfy the inquisitive nature of any potential historian. My belief is that what matters most is not what is written in minute books but what is recorded and retained in our individual experiences. I have been fortunate enough to have met and developed friendships with many wonderful Brethren during my 32 years as a member of **Apollo Lodge**. We have shared experiences that have marked us as people and which will never be forgotten. The volume that sits unread upon the bookshelf would not reflect the true history of **Apollo Lodge**, but the relationships, qualities and deeds of its Brethren, whether still resident on the island or long gone from its shores, will testify to the worth of the Lodge and the shared joys and sorrows experienced within its walls. May we work diligently in the years to come to maintain and promote a caring and concerned fraternity providing wonderful opportunities for personal improvement and fulfillment - and a bit of fun along the way!"

More photographs can be viewed at:

<http://www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy/ApolloLodge/page2.html>

Lakeside Lodge No. 9869 Host Charity Concert

On Saturday 25th May Lakeside Lodge arranged and hosted the 1st Paralimni Charity Big Band Concert which was held in the Municipal Amphitheatre in Paralimni. This was a milestone in Paralimni as it was the first time that such an event was ever held in English in the Municipal Amphitheatre. The Mayors of Paralimni, Frenaros, Dherynia and Ayia Napa and the Mughtars of Sotira, Desachi, Achna and Liopetri were there to support the event.



The Education Minister for Cyprus, Kyriakos Kenevezos, attended and addressed the audience as did the Mayor of Paralimni, Theodoros Pirillis and Mr Adamos, the Chairman of the Anti-Cancer Society (Famagusta Branch). The concert was arranged by the Brethren of the Lodge to raise money for the Anti-Cancer Society of Cyprus (Famagusta Branch) and the Cyprus Alzheimer's Association (Famagusta Branch). These are the two charities nominated by W.Bro. Simon Barter who was Installed as the 2nd W.M. of Lakeside Lodge on Monday 2nd March.

In the weeks prior to the event, W.Bro. Tony Gross and his wife Margaret and W.Bro. Simon Barter and his wife Lynn planned the event with representatives of the two charities, including sales and marketing, advertising and logistics and organizing with the local Municipality and emergency services. Twenty of the Lodge members and their wives worked tirelessly on the day as stewards to ensure its success and 618 people



attended on the night to see a show called "The Great American Songbook" played by The Barrie Rowe Big Band, featuring vocalists W.Bro. Simon Barter and Alice Zawadski. Songs by Gershwin, Irving Berlin, Jimmy Van Heusen, Cole Porter, Duke Ellington and Glen Miller from the heady days of the Big Band Era of the 30's, 40's and 50's, had feet tapping and the audience singing along as well as dancing in the Amphitheatre.

Just over €3,000 was split between the two charities and the money was presented to them shortly after the event by W.Bro. Simon Barter and W.Bro. Tony Gross. The Mayor of Paralimni was so impressed with the organisation and presentation of the Concert that he has asked Lakeside Lodge to repeat a similar concert next

year which the Lodge has agreed to do. "In 2014, the Lodge hopes to arrange six of these Charity Concerts all around the Island" said W.Bro. Simon Barter.

Deadline for articles for Issue No. 14 is the end of December. Please send your articles and pictures (small jpeg please) items of interest for inclusion in The District Wire to the Editor, W.Bro. Peter Baldwin - thedistrictwire@gmail.com

Editing Team: [DepDistGM](#) & [PresDistBBen](#)

Bellapais Lodge No. 9847 Supports Gambian Medical Charity

A substantial sum has been donated to the Ardingly Old Jeshwang Association from Bellapais Lodge's 2012/13 Master's List. Established 14 years ago, this small U.K. Registered Charity prides itself in ensuring that 100% of monies given are put to work on the project. The



Management Committee, largely made up of retired professionals, gives its time, expertise and energy to secure funds to support, build, sustain and develop the facility "Old Jeshwang Health Centre". The aim is to relieve sickness and

promote the preservation of good health in The Gambia through the provision of Health Centre facilities and the establishment of primary health care programmes.

The Gambia is a poor country lacking funds to develop modern health centres. Infant and maternal mortality are high. Several years ago The Development Committee of Old Jeshwang, an urban village in a conurbation near the capital city Banjul, sought help to build a child and maternity health centre in their village. Temporary buildings were ready in 1998 which now form the maintenance block, pathological lab and a Gambian Health Authority office. A purpose-built health centre was completed in 2002.



To date well over 5,000 women and 30,000 children have been treated at the clinic and a move to achieve greater self-help and sustainability is progressing. The Centre is a fine building, designed for African tropical conditions. The offices, two wards, delivery room etc. are now ten years old and showing signs of being well used. An excellent team of local qualified staff carry out an excellent job.



The Establishment of British R.A. Chapters in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean during the 19th Century

By **W.Bro. Theodore-Eddie S. Kalogeropoulos**,
IPM of King Tefkros Lodge No. 9786 E.C.,
member of St. John & St. Paul R.A. Chapter No. 349 E.C.
Translation into English by **W.Bro. George Poulimenos**,
PM of King Tefkros Lodge 9786 E.C.,
ProvGSupt (West. Greece) GC RAM of Greece

After the first Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons of England was established in 1817, it was inevitable that the British would be the driving force behind the expansion of Royal Arch Masonry because of the expanding British Empire. Growth was rapid and Chapters were soon established in most parts where British Lodges operated.

The first Constitution of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England, prepared by a specially appointed committee, directed on 15th April 1817 that Royal Arch Chapters could no longer be warranted autonomously but must be annexed to, named and numbered after existing Craft Lodges. Thus during the 19th century the supreme English authority for Royal Arch Masonry warranted 12 Chapters in South-Eastern Europe and the Mediterranean. These are listed below in order of year of establishment:

Melita No. 673. Founded in Valetta, Malta, in 1819 by the Provincial Grand Master of the Ionian Islands and later of Malta, Waller Rodwell Wright, and annexed to Lodge *St. John and St. Paul* No. 673. It was given the number 349 in 1863 and later renamed *St. John and St. Paul Chapter* in 1978. It is still operating today and is considered the first ever R.A. Chapter in the area.



Waller Rodwell Wright

Union No. 588. Founded in Valetta, Malta, in 1834. It operated until 1873 when its warrant was returned to England and it was erased from the Register in the same year.

Pythagorean No. 654. Founded in Corfu in 1842. It operated until 1864 and was erased in 1895.

Zetland No. 756. Founded in Valetta, Malta, in 1847. It operated until 1857 but it returned its warrant in 1873 and was erased the same year.

Oriental No. 988. Founded in Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1862. It operated until 1869. It was erased in 1898 but reopened in 1930 and functioned until 1935 when it was closed by the Turkish Government and finally erased in 1949.

Ancient Carthage No. 1717. Founded in Tunis, Tunisia, in 1878. It operated until 1880 and was erased in 1898.

Zetland No. 1157. Founded in Alexandria, Egypt, in 1879. It operated until 1956 and was erased in 1966.

William Kingston No. 407. Founded in Valetta, Malta, in 1880. It operated on the island until 1985 and then moved to Petersfield, East Hampshire, where it still meets.

Resurrected No. 515. Founded in Valetta, Malta, in 1881. It operated on the island until 1984 and then moved to Aldershot, Hampshire, where it still meets.

Bulwer No. 1068. Founded in Cairo, Egypt, in 1886. It operated until 1956. It moved to London in 1959 and when in 1983 the Lodge to which it was annexed moved, it moved again, this time to Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, and was amalgamated with Royal Arch Chapter **Grecia No. 1105**, it was then erased from the Registry. The **Grecia** Chapter is still in operation.

Star of the East No. 1355. Founded in Cairo, Egypt, in 1891. It operated until 1956 and was erased in 1966.

St. Paul No. 2277. Founded in Limassol, Cyprus, in 1892. It is still working today. This Chapter was founded by Sergeant Major (Royal Engineers) **John Percy White**, who introduced a broad spectrum of Masonry to Cyprus.



THE ST. PAUL'S CHAPTER, No. 2277, E.C.
MEMBERS AND VISITORS AT THE FOURTH REGULAR CONVOCATION HELD AT LIMASSOL ON THURSDAY, THE 16th MARCH, 1893
Seated (Left to Right): A. Jones (Ag. Scribe E.), G.R. Harriott (H.), J.P. White (Z), F.O. Harvey (J), J.C. Karageorgiades (Scribe N),
Standing (Left to Right): A. Greenwood (Ag. Janitor), C. Hamilton (Member), G. Meyer (2nd Ast. Sojr.), W. Kiddle (Prin. Sojr.),
G. T. James (Ag. 1st Ast. Sojr.), W. Ismay (Visitor from Chapter 515 E.C.), G. Th. Rossides (Treasurer).

(Photograph by J.P. Foscolo)

In 1857 another R.A. Chapter was established in Valetta, Malta. **Leinster No. 387** under the aegis of the Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Ireland. It operated until 1956.

The Supreme Grand Royal Arch Chapter of Scotland established the following two Chapters in the area:

Thistle of the East No. 107. Founded in Constantinople (Istanbul) in 1865. It operated until at least 1877 and was erased in 1884

Homer No. 132. Founded in Smyrna (Izmir), Turkey, in 1869. It operated until 1881 and was erased in 1893. Finally, it should be noted that corresponding to the operation of the first of the Royal Arch Chapters listed above, three Military Lodges under the Grand Lodge of Ireland were also meeting in the area. They also contributed to the expansion and spread of Royal Arch Masonry especially in the Ionian Islands. These Military Lodges, which were working as Chapters or had Chapters attached to them, were as follows:

Lodge Royal Arch No. 510. Founded within the 28th Foot Regiment (*The Gloucestershire Regiment*) on 2nd December 1773 and meeting on the Ionian Islands between 1818 and 1829. It operated until 1832 and was erased on 2nd December 1858.

Lodge/Chapter Busaco No. 176. Founded within the 88th Foot Regiment (*Connaught Rangers*) on 7th June 1821 and meeting on the Ionian Islands between 1825-1836. It operated until 1840 and was erased in 1871.

Lodge/Chapter Hibernia No. 42. Founded at the end of the 18th century within the 42nd Foot Regiment (*The Black Watch*) and meeting on the Ionian Islands between 1834-1836. It operated until 1840 and was erased on 17th November 1858.

Should any Brother wish to discuss any article with its author, the Editor would be pleased to forward your comments to the contributor. Please email the Editor, W.Bro. Peter Baldwin - thedistrictwire@gmail.com

Installations



On 25th March, W.Bro. Simon Barter was Installed as the 2nd Worshipful Master of Lakeside Lodge No. 9869 in Paralimni.

On 3rd April, W.Bro. Tony Gross, SLGR, PPrJGW (Bucks) was Installed into the chair of Othello Lodge No. 5670 in Larnaca. Othello Lodge celebrates its 75th Anniversary this year and W.Bro. Tony is looking forward to leading the celebrations.



On Monday 8th April, Bro. Mike McSweeney was Installed as Worshipful Master of Bellapais Lodge No. 9847 and is seen here with his Senior Warden, Bro. Mike Lonergan, and Junior Warden, W.Bro. Peter Austin.

Bro. Petros Droussiotis, who was Installed as Worshipful Master of St. George's Lodge No. 3135 on 10th April, is seen here with the Senior Warden, W.Bro. Manoug Hagopian and Junior Warden, Bro. Nicos Paschali.



W.Bro. John Goodison was Installed as Worshipful Master of St Hilarion Lodge No. 9851 at the San Remo Hotel Temple, Larnaca, on 7th May. Invested as Senior

Warden was Bro. Savvas Zeidan and as Junior Warden, Bro. Tamer Zaim. The subsequent Festive Board was enjoyed at the "Postcards" Restaurant on McKenzie Beach.

The Installation Ceremony of King Tefkros Lodge No. 9786 took place in the Masonic Rooms, Nicosia, on Saturday 13th April 2013, when the outgoing Master, W.Bro. Theodore E. Kalogeropoulos Installed Bro. Anastasios Denedios. Many Honorary Members were present including Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Greece, M.W.Bro. George Vasilogeorgis, the District Grand Master, R.W.Bro. Theodosios S. Theodossiou, DepDGM, V.W.Bro. E.S. Williams, and AsstDGM, W.Bro. A. Theocharous, as well as numerous Past Grand Officers and District and Provincial Grand Officers.



A Festive Board followed at the Semeli Hotel, Nicosia, attended by more than 70 Brethren at where gifts from the Lodge were presented to commemorate the occasion.

If you would like a photograph of your Lodge or Chapter Installation to be published in The District Wire please forward it to thedistrictwire@gmail.com along with a brief description.

Bellapais Lodge Banner Dedication

The Deputy District Grand Master, V.W.Bro. Eric Williams, PGSwdB, conducted the Banner Dedication Ceremony for Bellapais Lodge No. 9847 at the San Remo Hotel, Larnaca, on Friday 7th June 2013.



Apollo Lodge Donates to Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society

On Friday 14th June, Apollo Lodge No. 7886 donated €1,700 to the Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society. This was one third of the total raised for the 2012 Master's List while W.Bro. Ian McLean was W.M. Unfortunately, W.Bro. Ian was in the U.K. at the time of the presentation and unable to present the cheque personally.

The picture shows W.Bro. Russ Moren, DGTreas, somewhat casually attired, presenting the cheque to Mr Michallis Christofides of the Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society. Cheques for €1,700 have also been presented to 'Friends for Life Limassol Cancer Care' and the District Benevolent Fund.



Othello Lodge Visits Famagusta

On Saturday 15th June, Brethren of Othello Lodge No. 5670 together with wives, family and friends travelled on a nostalgic trip to Famagusta to visit the former meeting places of the Lodge. The original idea for the excursion was suggested as part of the 75th Anniversary Celebrations of the Lodge by the late W.Bro. Duncan Moore. Some travelled by coach, organised by Bro. Polys Kyriacou, from the McKenzie Beach car park in Larnaca, whilst others joined en route and followed by car.

We arrived safely in Famagusta and made our way to the



Twin Churches. In addition to being used by Othello Lodge, it was said to have once been occupied by the Knights Templar and the Knights of Malta. The smaller

Church is now a café which W.Bro. Kyriakos Andreou arranged to be open as it is normally closed on Saturdays.

Interestingly, Othello met there using oil lamps and candles. It was not until 1946 that electricity was installed. The ladies kept out of the sun for this photograph



but the whereabouts of W.Bro. Dave Hubbard and W.Bro. Bob Wilding from Agapinor Lodge is anyone's guess! Is W.Bro. Bob Wilding searching for the mythical Rough Ashlar that was allegedly lost when Othello Lodge was exiled from Famagusta in 1964?



The adjacent picture shows the Grand Hall of Othello Tower which was the meeting place of Othello Lodge from 17th February 1938 until the 5th September 1940. We then went on to the Iskele Balik Restaurant in Salamis for a sumptuous lunch. Unfortunately a visit to the Othello Tower was omitted. Whether this was because we were running late or that the Master, W.Bro. Tony Gross had discovered that the Department of Antiquities of Northern Cyprus was charging €3.5 per person to look at a pile of stones is unclear!



Deadline for articles for Issue No. 14 is the end of December. Please send your articles and pictures (small jpeg please) items of interest for inclusion in The District Wire to the Editor, W.Bro. Peter Baldwin - thedistrictwire@gmail.com

Editing Team: DepDistGM & PresDistBBen

Lakeside Lodge Plans Charity Walk

On 3rd October this year 4 intrepid walkers will set out from Paralimni Town Hall and embark on a "Round The Island Sponsored Walk" and as the name suggests it will be all the way around the Island of Cyprus including the Occupied Area of Northern Cyprus, the aim being to raise money for the Master's, W.Bro. Simon Barter, two nominated charities, namely, The Anti-Cancer Society of Cyprus and The Cyprus Alzheimer's Association. The walkers will be W.Bro. Simon Barter and his wife, Lynn, Bro. Ade Berry, S.D. and Bro. Tony Shaw who is one of the newest E.A's in the Lodge. The group plan to take between 19 and 21 days to cover a total distance of 525km, averaging between 25 and 40 km per day depending upon the terrain. Planning and the hard training for such an enterprise are well underway.

They are looking for sponsorship from individuals as well as accommodation and equipment from companies and are also encouraging people to come and join them on parts of the route. They already have interest from several Rambling and HASH groups.

A detailed route will be posted nearer the time but they will walk along the south coast from Paralimni via Aya Napa, Larnaca, Zygi, Limassol, Pissouri, Paphos, Peyia, Latchi, Polis, Potos, Kato Pyrgos, Guzelyurt, Kyrenia, Essentepe, Yenierenkoy, Famagusta and back to Paralimni.

You can follow their epic journey on Facebook via this link:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/147987318709903/permalink/180665872108714/>

Should you wish to sponsor them or offer assistance then please contact either:

Simon Barter 96529690

simonbarter1@yahoo.co.uk,

Ade Berry on 99250603

ade1fotografia@gmail.com or,

Tony Shaw on 99908632

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From our own DGDC

In the last edition of The Wire we looked at the main inscriptions on the obverse (front) side of the English Royal Arch Jewel. This article will complete the inscriptions on the obverse side. Within the Historical Lecture there is a phrase which is so pertinent to all aspects of Freemasonry: *So we should not expect to understand immediately all that we encounter, but try to comprehend its meaning by continued study and enquiry*, and with this statement in mind we come to what is probably the most difficult phrase on the Jewel which is engraved on the bottom scroll - *Nil Nisi Clavis Deest* - the meaning is straight forward 'Only the key is missing'.

However, many Masonic Scholars would challenge the four Latin words, but as basic Freemasons we look at our lectures and legends and go back to the early Masonic symbols, one of which is the Golden Key. Normally we would associate the Key with the Treasurer, but if you look at some of the very old First Degree Tracing Boards you will find that one of the symbols is a golden key. The keys symbolic meaning is explained in one of the oldest copies of the Rituals we possess, Pritchard's *Masonry Dissected* of 1730, I am also informed that it appears in the *Edinburgh Register House Manuscript* which is dated circa 1696. Nowadays it is to be found in the First Degree Lecture, of which the last few questions and answers are as follows:

Q. As Masons, how do we expect to arrive at them?

A. By the assistance of a Key.

Q. Where does the Key lie?

A. It does not lie it hangs.

Q. Why is the preference given to hanging?

A. It should always hang in a Brother's defence, and never lie to his prejudice.

So to us the Key is symbolised as the 'tongue of good report' and basically as Master Masons 'our conduct through life'.

So in conclusion, on the obverse side of the Jewel we are told 'if you were able to understand such things, it would be enough for you to know. Only the key is missing'. This is then completed by the three words on the upward facing triangle 'We have found [it]'. This last inscription reminds us of the essence of the Royal Arch Legend and is the cry of the three Sojourners when they discover the lost Word in the hidden vault: *EYRHKAMEN, INVERNIMUS, WE HAVE FOUND [IT]*.

In June I noticed a Visitor at a Craft Meeting with an 'Antients' Royal Arch Jewel dated 1801 and made by Thomas Harper, quite a collector's item. I asked him 'whence it came' he replied 'from a car boot sale for £2.50 in Croydon'. Guess where I am going next week. Have you seen any unusual Jewels in your Lodge? Please tell me if you have.

It's that Kid Again

Anon.

Why are you a Mason Dad?
Any why don't you take Mum?
Do you chop up lumps of stone?
Do you ever hit your thumb?

Why do you wear an apron?
(I've seen it in your case)
Do you have to do the washing up,
down at the Masons' place?

No son, I don't chop up stones
And Mummy doesn't mind
She knows I'm in good company
With others of my kind

The apron's not for washing up,
Though sometimes I may do it,
And help to serve the dinners
And put dry salt in the cruet.

But we learn about good fellowship,
And do things on the square,
And take the time to stop and think,
And above all to be fair.

One day Dad, I'll be like you,
And do the things I'm told,
And I will be a Mason too,
When I'm very old!

The Aged Mason

Anon.

He sits on the sidelines,
His hair has turned gray.
We pass him by, as if to say,
Sorry, Old Brother, you've had your day.

If we would stop and shake his hand
And tell him we are glad he came,
It would mean so much to a tired old man
Just to feel the warmth of a friendly hand.

He lays no claim to renown or fame.
Only a few remember his name.
We may not know from whence he came,
But he's our brother just the same.

He sowed the seeds for us to reap,
He paved the way so we could meet.
Ever humble yet somewhat proud,
Ever alert to keep his vows.

His stored up wisdom of many years
He leaves to us if we could only hear.
We are Brothers; Let's act as such,
For the years of the aged have seen so much.
