



The District Wire



The Newsletter of the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus

Issue No. 14

“Keeping Members in Touch”

Spring 2014

The District of Cyprus Education Programme

Every newly admitted member of a lodge within the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus, or a more experienced freemason who joins any of these lodges, is entitled to have access through their Lodge Mentor to an extremely comprehensive programme of Masonic Education. With the relatively recent creation of the office of Mentor at every level within the United Grand Lodge of England and the www.masonicmentoring.co.uk website, the Cyprus programme has been re-branded as the District of Cyprus Mentoring Programme. The purpose remains unaltered – to enable brethren to become confident and effective members of their lodges by means of a thorough understanding of what we do and why we do it and to discover the history and development of what we refer to as ‘the Craft’.



W Bros Dave Hubbard MBE, John Finney and Ian McLean worked tirelessly for several years in order to devise, compile and co-ordinate the materials for this purpose and to present them in a manageable and fully supported package which is easy to understand. All three of these brethren are joining members of the District of Cyprus and brought with them their own individual experiences, interests and approaches to the task they set themselves. Whilst there has been for many years a presumption that the Proposer and Secunder of a candidate for Freemasonry would provide the support that their nominee required, it was plain to Bros Finney, Hubbard and McLean that this was not always the case. These brethren have a keen interest in extending their personal researches beyond the ritual procedures and day-to-day practises of the Craft and wish to promote a spirit of enquiry in every brother. Hence, they agreed to

undertake what became a very lengthy task – to devise both the materials for a programme of Masonic Education and the mechanism by which it would be delivered and monitored. In this respect, they were ‘ahead of their time’ and the package they devised remains exceptional in content, style and method of delivery. W Bros Hubbard and McLean will continue to monitor the content of the programme and make changes as and when this appears to be appropriate or beneficial – in this respect feedback from Lodge Mentors is vital. W Bro Finney has recently ‘stepped back’ from direct involvement in the programme – we thank him for his leadership and guidance throughout the project, and for the meticulous manner in which it was approached.

The *post* of Lodge Education Officer has now been succeeded by the *Office* of Lodge Mentor – but the purpose of the scheme and work to be undertaken remains unchanged, as was mentioned earlier.

The role of Proposer and Secunder remain vital – in the majority of cases it would be hoped that these individuals would become Personal Mentors to their candidate (or joining member) and would assist them in working through the appropriate Fact Sheets which are the essential building blocks of the programme. These are neither lengthy nor complex, but they are thorough in their treatment of each relevant topic. They are available to every Master Mason through the District website www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy and Lodge Mentors would be delighted to give the necessary password to those suitably qualified to receive it.

At the conclusion of each degree ceremony the appropriate pack of materials should be presented to the candidate who will then be able to work with his Personal Mentor in studying the information contained therein. Support, encouragement and further explanation, where needed, can then be offered in an informal setting.

We have every reason to feel proud of the support the District Mentoring Programme is able to lend to those commencing their own personal Masonic Journey, and we owe a great debt of gratitude to W Bros John, Dave and Ian who gave freely of their time in devising the programme. However, they would be the first to point out that the journey does not end there. A glance at the UGLE website will reveal how we can all extend our knowledge of, and interest in, the whole topic of Freemasonry – each according to his own particular interests.

Rob Cowin PJGD

District Grand Mentor

Visit to Supreme Grand Chapter for the Royal Arch Bi-Centenary Celebration on Wednesday 16th October 2013

A report by E Comp R Cowin

The District of Cyprus was represented on this most important occasion by the Grand Superintendent and Deputy Grand Superintendent, accompanied by E Comps Theocharous, Dr Vorkas, Hubbard, James and Cowin – with E Comp Colin Cheshire (Wilts) joining the group on the day.

The morning session saw the **Metropolitan Grand Stewards' Chapter** demonstrate the Exaltation Ceremony according to the Permitted Alternative Version of the Aldersgate Ritual, which proved to be little different from the Complete Workings version. This was an excellent performance of the ceremony in which a great deal of the work was shared by several officers, clearly illustrating the ease with which a greater number of companions can be involved without any loss of impact in the ceremony.

The afternoon session was a regular Quarterly Convocation of Supreme Grand Chapter, with the M E The First Grand Principal, HRH The Duke of Kent, KG and a large gathering of very senior companions in attendance.

The historical explanation of events leading to the creation of the Supreme Grand Chapter in 1813 was delivered by E Comp John Hamill, followed by an Oration by E Comp Rev Dr Railton.

Somewhat disappointing addresses were delivered by the First Grand Principal of Scotland and the Grand King of Ireland, followed by an interesting address by ME First Grand Principal. The significant addresses were published in **'Freemasonry Today'**, available through the District Website at www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy.

Masonic Samaritan Fund

District Grand Lodge thanked for its Donation



From: Richard Douglas – Chief Executive

Mr RP Moren
PO Box 58049
3730 Limassol
Cyprus

11 November 2013

Dear Sir,

On behalf of the Masonic Samaritan Fund I am delighted to confirm receipt of the latest very generous donation from the District Grand Lodge of Cyprus. The second instalment of the £10,000 has now been received with a total of £8,365.26 being credited into the MSF account.

Please pass my sincere thanks to all those involved in generating and processing this very welcome contribution to the work of the Fund. Please assure all those involved that it is gratefully received and will be faithfully applied in support of those in need.

Yours sincerely

Richard Douglas

Permanent Jewel

W Bro Brian Brown, President of the Board of Benevolence asks "Have you got yours yet?" – the permanent jewel that is. The Masonic Samaritan Fund is a charity funded by Freemasons and their families. It provides grants to eligible beneficiaries who have an identified health or care need and, faced with a long wait for treatment, care or support, are unable to afford their own private care.

Details of the eligibility criteria, the application process and how to support its work are available at:

www.msfund.org.uk



Since the Masonic Samaritan Fund (MSF) began, we have improved the lives of over 9,500 people by providing health and care grants.

The MSF is the only Masonic health and care charity. Funded entirely through voluntary contributions from Masonic families, we rely on the support of the Masonic community to continue our work for the Masonic community.

By making a donation today you can help us support even more Freemasons and their families who face a long wait or unmanageable expense for treatment, care or support.

Your donation has the potential to transform lives and protect the future of the charity for the next generation of Freemasons.



Permanent Jewel and Honorifics

To thank you for your donation, we have our own permanent jewel and higher honorifics.

If you donate a total of £100 or more you are entitled to purchase the Masonic Samaritan Fund jewel at a cost of £5.

When your contributions reach the following levels you will achieve the corresponding honorific status.

Honorific Level	Freemasons	Lodges/Chapter
Vice Patron*	£300	N/A
Patron	£600	£1200
Grand Patron*	£1200	£2400

* These additional honorific will be denoted by a Bar for the Jewel for Freemasons and by a certificate for Lodges/Chapters and Non-Freemasons.

Count me in

Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Lodge: _____

I wish to make a donation to the Masonic Samaritan Fund of:

£ _____

☐ I would also like to purchase a permanent jewel at an additional £5 cost.

A cheque (made payable to the Masonic Samaritan Fund) for £ _____ enclosed.

Masonic Samaritan Fund, 60 Great Queen Street, London - WC2B 5AZ - UK
Email: info@msfund.org.uk Telephone: +44 20 7404 1550
Website: www.msfund.org.uk Fax: +44 20 7404 1544
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Teddy Loving Care (TLC) in the District

W Bro Maurice Stephenson, DJGW, has been the District Coordinator for TLC since its inception in October 2006 and has provided The District Wire with a reminder of how the provision of teddy bears to our local General Hospitals operates. The continued success of the Appeal requires not only money but also a good relationship with the A & E Units.

Raising Funds

There are a number of ways that Lodges raise funds for the purchase of teddies for their local A & E Units, e.g.

1. The sale of TLC badges in their respective Lodges and at local fetes.
2. Collection boxes that go round at Festive Boards.
3. Contributions from Lodge Benevolent Funds
4. Locally arranged functions.

As an example, Agapinor and Dionysos Lodges hosted the Annual Quiz Night at the Gustoso Restaurant in Paphos on Wednesday 20th of November. The usual combination of brethren and regular non Masonic supporters of the Appeal dined on the choice of fish and chips or chicken and chips. A total of one hundred and twelve competitors ensured that the kitchen staff were kept very busy. Twelve donated gifts which ranged from alcohol to complimentary meals helped to raise €1,600 ensuring that teddies would be available to the Paphos General Hospital A & E Unit for the year. It is pleasing to report that this event draws a large number of local non Masonic supporters. The Quiz Master who has travelled from the U.K. for the past two years!

Hospitals and their Supporting Lodges

Currently the General Hospitals in the District are assisted by the following Lodges:

Paphos General:	Agapinor and Dionysos
Limassol General:	Apollo, St.Paul's, Peace and Harmony
Larnaca General:	Lord Kitchener
Paralimni General:	Othello and Lakeside
Nicosia Children's:	Phoenix Lodge

This shows that eleven of our sixteen Lodges are actively supporting the District TLC scheme. In the event that any of the Lodges not listed wish to be involved in supporting their local General Hospital, W Bro Maurice Stephenson (msteve@cytanet.com.cy) is always available to provide all relevant information.

Ceremony of Passing the Veils

On Monday the 18th November 2013 the Cyprus Principals' Chapter No. 9655 demonstrated the Ceremony of 'Passing the Veils'. This was the first time that the Ceremony had been presented in Cyprus and for many Companions, including those taking part, the first time that it had been seen.

The Ceremony was held in the Masonic Rooms of the Greek Constitution Lodge Kinyras at Pano Paphos and was attended by the Grand Superintendent, the Deputy Grand Superintendent, the Second and Third District Grand Principals and Companions of the remaining four Royal Arch Chapters in the District of Cyprus.

The script for the Ceremony is authorised by the Committee of General Purposes of Supreme Grand Chapter and is solely for demonstrations at a District or Provincial level held under the authority of the respective Grand Superintendent.

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 the 1834 changes the Ceremony of Passing the Veils was practised as a preliminary to the Exaltation Ceremony. This was particularly true in Lodges under the former Ancients Grand Lodge which worked the Royal Arch within the Lodge, but there is little evidence

of it being worked in Chapters under the original Excellent Grand and Royal Chapter.

At the time that the Passing the Veils Ceremony was being worked in England circa 1770 – 1834 the Opening of the Chapter was restricted to the three Principals and the Past Principals of, and in, the Chapter, and they would enter and open the Chapter in a manner very similar to the opening of a Craft Lodge. Once the Chapter had been opened the remaining Companions would enter in two columns, led by Scribe Ezra down the North side and Scribe Nehemiah down the South side, they would then form groups of three to prove themselves (Share the Word) as Royal Arch Masons. Once this had been completed the First Principal would then ask each of the Officers of the Chapter, in ascending order, for their stations and duties within the Chapter. The Minutes of the last Convocation would be read and confirmed and, if necessary, a ballot would take place for the Candidate for Exaltation. The Veils would be drawn and the Janitor informed that all was ready.

For those Companions wishing to 'delve' further into the history of the 'Passing the Veils', they would be advised to read some of the older versions of Quatuor Coronatorum, particularly Volume 85 for the year 1972 which provides an article on 'Passing the Veils' by Sir Ernest Henry Cook, Provincial Grand Superintendent of Bristol 1920-1941 (NB: *The Provincial Grand Superintendent and not the Grand Superintendent in and over*) and an article entitled 'A brief History of the Royal Arch in England' by Excellent Companion Aubrey J.B. Thomas. Also the book, 'Royal Arch Matters' by Roy A Wells which provides some interesting notes on the Opening and Closing of Chapters during the period 1770 – 1834.

The Director and Coordinator of the Ceremony was E Comp John James, who manufactured the 'furniture', the Ark, the Table, and the Menorah. The stands for the Veils were manufactured by members of the Lodges and Chapters and the Veils expertly made by their wives.

E Comp Dave Hubbard was responsible for choreographing the movements of the demonstration team and ensuring a high standard of ceremonial presentation. The whole production took some 8 months to put together with as many rehearsals as could be arranged. The evening concluded with a Festive Board at the 5th Floor Restaurant, Paphos.

Permanent Home for St Hilarion Lodge

St Hilarion Lodge No. 9851 is now meeting on a permanent basis in a new Lodge Room in the "Semeli"



Hotel in Nicosia which is located off John Kennedy Avenue opposite the Central Bank Building, close to MTN and to the rear of the grounds of the Hilton Hotel. The new Temple has been created and furnished in this new

5 star hotel by the brethren of the Lodge. The very first meeting there was held on Tuesday 3rd December 2013



and Regular Meetings are on the 1st Tuesdays of February, March, April, May (Installation), September and December. The Lodge Facilities can be made available to other Lodges for Meetings, Lodges of Instruction and Social Functions. There are

adjoining dining and conference rooms which can accommodate up to 200.

The accompanying pictures were taken at the first Meeting which was attended by the Deputy District Grand Master, V W Bro Eric Williams and the Assistant District Grand Master, W Bro Andrew Theocharous.



Masonry at Paralimni – A Profile of Lakeside Lodge No 9869



Based on an article by W Bro Ray Clark – Chaplain

The emergence of Lakeside Lodge some two years ago marked the return of mainstream Freemasonry to the Famagusta area. The vision of two very influential and knowledgeable Worshipful Brethren, James Paterson

Greenwood and Duncan John Moore foresaw the potential for a new Masonic facility and they can be rightly identified as the prime instigators of Lakeside Lodge.

The name Lakeside is derived from the direct Greek translation of the local town Paralimni, which when translated into English means 'by the lake'. With three years of endeavour by Bros Greenwood, Moore and others (ex UK and existing local Brethren) the Lodge was finally awarded its warrant and consecrated in 2012 in Limassol.



W Bro Greenwood, PJGD, retired to Cyprus from the Province of Yorkshire where he had been initiated in Lightcliffe Lodge No 3332 over 60 years ago. The adjacent picture shows him on the occasion of him receiving his Certificate

for 60 years in masonry. He sadly passed to the Grand Lodge Above just prior to Lakesides Lodge's Consecration. A mason of immense distinction, his masonic pedigree was impeccable. He held Grand Rank in the Craft, Royal Arch, Mark, Knights Templar and Rose Croix.

W Bro Duncan Moore, PAGDC, (right) was also a vastly experienced and articulate mason, a Grand Officer and masonic author. He was a member of over 30 other Lodges and side Orders. He sadly passed away recently after a long and courageous battle against cancer.



Freemasonry is surprisingly buoyant in Cyprus. Under The United Grand Lodge of England, a central District office in Limassol administers 17 Craft Lodges and 5 Royal Arch Chapters. There are also 4 Mark Lodges and 1 Royal Ark Mariner Lodge under The Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England and Wales and its Districts and Lodges Overseas, 9 Rose Croix Chapters under The Supreme Council 33^o of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite for Cyprus and 1 Knights Templar Preceptory under The Great Priory of the United Religious, Military and Masonic Orders of the Temple of St John of Jerusalem, Palestine, Rhodes and Malta of England and Wales and its Provinces Overseas. After the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in 1974, the eastern city of Famagusta lost its masonic representation in the form of Othello Lodge No 5670 which was relocated in Larnaca. Some forty years elapsed before Lakeside Lodge became a reality, meeting at the aptly named 'The James Greenwood Masonic Centre'. Being a newly formed Lodge, it afforded the opportunity for like-minded brethren to introduce their own unique traditions. Senior brethren hailing from all parts of the UK brought with them knowledge of many different variations of ritual and traditions. Visitors to the Lodge can observe a ceremony primarily based on emulation with additional ritual not generally practiced in Cyprus. The Lodge in its short existence has established a reputation for the excellence of its work.

The Lodge has a very busy schedule of work and holds Lodges of Instruction twice a week led by W Bro Len Probert (right), Lodge Mentor and Treasurer. Recently, it has not been unusual to see young Entered Apprentices not only practicing the Master's work, but also in



every other office.

The facilities at Lakeside are impressive and comprehensive. The building was formally the Loukiana Restaurant and Bar and

required extensive modification. An initial work-party of Master Masons led W Bro by Peter Moore, PDGSuptWks, (no relation to Duncan) drew their plans for conversion to a Masonic facility, including construction of an inner Temple, changing rooms and dining area.



Lodge furniture including the Master and Wardens' chairs, pedestals and tracing boards were beautifully hand-crafted by master carpenters W Bros Peter Moore (left) and Ade Berry (right) who along with many other

keen brethren created a Masonic Centre of which to be proud. Apologies must go to all those not mentioned. Every contribution was invaluable.





The reigning Lodge Master W Bro Simon Barter (left) is a noted 'wordsmith' whose enthusiasm inspires all. Simon's support and dedication to the Lodge cannot be underestimated.

In its Consecration year of 2012, the Lodge raised over €3,000 with donations being made to local

Alzheimer and Cancer charities and to the District Samaritan Fund. The current years' activities are in good shape with the lodge charity account standing in excess of €2,700. The Worshipful Master has embarked on a 21 day walk round the island with two other brethren. A projected target of € 10, 000 has been set and recent activities by the master have already yielded € 1,200. A proposal has been approved in open lodge to set up a separate charity fund for Lakeside Brethren who may find themselves in immediate need. Such a fund will allow swift local action and alleviate pressure on the District charity. The picture on the right is of W Bro Tony Gross, SLGR, PPrJGW (Bucks), who proposed the initiative, has been heavily involved with the Lodge's charitable work.



Lakeside Lodge was recently much honoured by the visit of the District Grand Master, his Deputy and Assistant District Grand Master. A wonderful evening was enjoyed by all. The District Grand Master was moved to congratulate the Lodge on its rapid development since 2012.

In conclusion the list of membership applications due for processing and a current workload on processed and approved candidates awaiting initiation bodes well for the future. Thus the original concept by W Bro's Greenwood and Moore for a new Masonic Centre of excellence has been fully justified.

A very warm welcome is always assured at Lakeside Lodge. The Lodge meets on the fourth Monday of each month (excluding July, August and December). The festive board comes highly recommended - an experience not to be missed.

For further information, contact the Secretary, W Bro Terry Pinnell, PProvGSuptWks (Monmouthshire).

Installations

On 5th November 2013, W Bro Les Munday was Installed as the Worshipful Master of Agapinor Lodge No. 8905. He is seen here with the District Grand Master, the Deputy



and Assistant District Grand Masters and Officers of the Lodge.

Worshipful Brother David Naylor was Installed into the chair of Lord Kitchener Lodge No. 3402 on 27th November 2013 after which, some 50 brethren enjoyed a traditional Lord Kitchener Lodge festive board.



On 14th January 2014, W Bro Brian Walker was Installed as Master of Apollo Lodge No. 7886 at the Apollo Rooms, Episkopi Garrison. The meeting was followed by a heavily subscribed festive board.

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.

Revision and Expansion of the District of Cyprus Website

The District Website - www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy - has been considerably expanded and boasts many new and exciting sections and additions. Perhaps the most important element is the **District Yearbook**. The current Yearbook is now available on the Website as a "living document" and is constantly updated by its Editor, W Bro George Convey (regalia@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy). It is in "flip book" format and at the end of each Masonic Year it will be archived and a new book started. Secretaries and Scribes are asked to inform District of any changes so that the Yearbook can be kept up to date.

The **District Archives** are being steadily expanded with the aim of providing Brethren and other interested parties with an official history and archived records of the District Grand Lodge and Chapter and its Lodges and Chapters. It includes Newsletters, Departed Brethren, District Yearbooks, Craft and Chapter Summonses, Annual Communication and Convocation pamphlets, District Grand Lodge and Chapter Administration photographs, Miscellaneous Documents, District, Lodge and Chapter Histories - and there is room for additional categories.

The current issue of **The District Wire** is also available in "flip book" format on the District Website and all previous editions can be viewed in the District Archives section.

All should be familiar with the appearance of the website and the resources there on offer. W Bro McLean invites the submission of appropriate material from your personal, lodge or chapter archives for inclusion on the Website This will help to build an extensive and easily accessible resource.

The District has previously published four Reference Books - in 1991/92, 1993/94, 1994/2000 and 2000/2005 - 872 pages or 1.85kg of Masonic history! W Bro Rob Cowin, PJGD, PDepDGM, DGMentor, has had the

privilege of being involved in all of these, yet finds the current development the most exciting of all, representing the arrival of a 'living archive' which will be useful and informative, to all whether within or outside the District.

The relevance and the usefulness of the new features on the website will depend entirely upon the manner in which the Brethren lend their support to the venture. There are many facets to Freemasonry and it would be wonderful if they could be incorporated within the website. For example, some of the highly respected members of our Lodges have written interesting articles, pamphlets or booklets on Masonic subjects. If a Brother has such treasures 'tucked away' please unearth them and submit them to W Bro Ian McLean at webmaster@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy for consideration – in a usable format, of course.

A considerable stride has been taken into the 21st Century, so Brethren are asked to lend their support in establishing a truly magnificent resource of which all can be proud.

Lodge Secretaries and Chapter Scribe E's are requested to send any old summonses which they have in electronic format to W Bro Ian McLean at webmaster@cyprus-freemasons.org.cy

Donation to Orthopaedic Disability Foundation

On 3rd February 2014, a formal presentation was made to KTOOD the Cyprus Turkish Orthopaedic Disability Foundation in Lefkosia of € 1,000. This sum came from donations from King Tefkros Lodge No. 9786, Bellapais Lodge No. 9847 and St Hilarion Lodge No. 9851. The adjacent picture shows Ms. Meltern, the Administrator for the KTOOD Association for Disabled Persons, and Bros Firuz Fehmi (Treasurer) and Tamer Zaim (Senior Warden)



both of St Hilarion Lodge.

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

Othello Lodge's 75th Anniversary - The Continuing Story

On Saturday 28th September 2013, a Dinner and Cabaret was held at The Postcards MacKenzie Beach, Larnaca. Following a reception with canapés washed down by sparkling wine, all enjoyed a superb buffet. The Worshipful Master, Tony Gross, and his dancing partners



and the remaining cake survived until the next Lodge Festive Board. It was an excellent night with entertainment provided by Bern Mills and €464 was raised for the Lodge Charity Account.

Apollo Lodge's Donation to Friends for Life

On Friday 7th March 2014, W Bro Stewart McMahon Immediate Past Master of Apollo Lodge No. 7886 presented the Chairman of Friends for Life, a Limassol based charity which has recently amalgamated with the Cyprus Anti-Cancer Society, with a cheque for €600, part of his Master's List for 2013. The picture shows W Bro Stewart presenting the cheque to Mr Michael Nanson.



Military Band Concert

The Charity Military Band Concert will be held on Sunday 1st June 2014 at Paphos Harbour Square at 7.00 p.m.



Featuring the Royal Air Force Central Band, Northolt.

For more details or information:
www.cyprus-freemasons.org.cy



Agapinor Lodge Donation to Three Local Charities

The Brethren of Agapinor Lodge No. 8905 have donated €12,000 to three local charities in Paphos.

On Thursday the 21st November the first of the three cheques was presented to the Solidarity Charity. This Charity provides food and clothing to extremely desperate families, some with babies and very young children who would go hungry but for charitable donations and willing helpers. The Chairperson, Mrs. Pavlina Patsalou received the cheque in her shop, which



also doubles as a collecting point for any donations. The photograph shows Mrs. Pavlina Patsalou accepting the cheque for €4,000 from the Worshipful Master, Les Munday and W Bro Colin Evans, the Lodge Charity Steward.

The second cheque for €4,000 was presented to The Friends Hospice at St George's Polyclinic. The Hospice has supported the community for many years. Chris Jones, President of the Hospice, was unable to accept the donation on the day but it was gratefully accepted by Dr Lorna Morrish its Medical Director. Dr Lorna was kind enough to show the brethren round the new facility and explain fully the work that they undertake. Dr Lorna is pictured with some of the nursing staff accepting the cheque from the Worshipful Master, Les Munday, and W Bro Colin Evans.



The third cheque for €4,000 was presented to the Cancer Patients Support Group. This Group undertakes wonderful work in transporting patients on a daily basis to Nicosia for treatment, at no cost to the patient. The Group also carries out a lot of community work such as caring for patients in their own homes as well as in the clinic. The cheque was received by the Chairman, Mr Tom Handley, who is pictured with W Bro Les Munday and W Bro Colin Evans.



Bellapais Lodge's Race Day

In September 2013, the Charity Steward of Bellapais Lodge No. 9847, W Bro Eddie Hollely, SLGR, and his wife Maureen hosted over 60 members and guests for a fun race day in their beautiful garden located in a rural setting 5 miles east of Kyrenia. The Brethren of the Lodge and their spouses provided all the food, drinks and prizes.

Race goers had the chance of becoming owners by buying a 'horse' and all thirty six runners entered in six races on the day were snapped up at TL25 each. The seventh race involved all previous six winners in a Champions Sprint with the winning owner collecting a

prize of TL500. Dorothy Flint generously donated half of her winnings to the charity pot.

The Bookies Office, staffed by W Bro John Smith and his wife Joy, had a very busy afternoon taking hundreds of TL10 punts, then handing out handsome amounts of cash to winning betters.

The afternoon featured two Ladies Races when the volunteer lady 'jockeys' rolled their tubes to



wind up the string thus pulling their 'mounts' to the winning post. It was great fun which was thoroughly

enjoyed by all.

This was the second year of the September Lodge Race Day, which according to W Bro Eddie Hollely, will become an annual event.

Regalia Presentation at Apollo Lodge

At the Regular Meeting of Apollo Lodge No 7886 on Tuesday 11th March 2014, the Principal Officers were presented with new Lodge Regalia by the Deputy District Grand Master, V W Bro Eric Williams and W Bros Rob Cowin and John James.



Deadline for articles for Issue No. 15 is the end of July. 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. Please try and limit your articles to less than 2 columns at Cambria 10 pt. Articles in excess may need to be divided over 2 issues.

Editing Team: DepDistGM & PresDistBBen

The Early Days of Freemasonry in Cyprus - A Presentation

by Loizos C. Harakis PGStB

"This presentation reflects on the circumstances and the individuals concerned in bringing into being what we know as regularly organised Freemasonry within Cyprus. It will not be a talk focused upon historical data but one which will, I hope, bring about an appreciation of the determination and resourcefulness displayed by a small handful of brethren in establishing Freemasonry here in Cyprus.

There is no definitive evidence to support the existence of any properly organised Masonic activity in Cyprus prior to the consecration of St. Paul's Lodge on 21st November 1888, although eminent scholars, including W Bro Costas N. Nicolaides in his book "A Series of Short Talks on Freemasonry and Other Miscellany", have referred to some degree of Masonic activity stretching back to the mid-18th Century. References from a variety of sources suggest that some Masonic activity might have taken place, but there is no substantiated evidence to suggest that a Lodge ever existed in Cyprus prior to 1888. Under the Treaty of Defence signed between

Turkey and Great Britain on 4th June 1878, Turkey ceded to Great Britain the island of Cyprus, then under Ottoman Rule, to be occupied and administered by it. British troops were then stationed in Cyprus. In consequence of that arrangement some ten years later, included amongst their number was one Staff Sergeant John Percy White, serving with the Royal Engineers and stationed at Polemidhia Camp, three miles outside Limassol. Bro White was 29 years of age and a Master Mason of Portsmouth Temperance Lodge No 2068 EC.

On 6th April 1888 Bro White sent a circular to the 23 known British Masons in the Island, inviting them to join him in his efforts to form a Craft Lodge in Cyprus. He was responsible for calling all subsequent preliminary meetings and he also acted as Secretary. On the grounds of civil and Masonic seniority only, he was chosen to be the Senior Warden rather than Master Elect. The sponsoring Lodges were Gosport Lodge No. 903, Hampshire, and St John's No. 1343, Grays Essex.

R W Bro George Harriott, Past Provincial Grand Master of Wigton and Kircudbright under the Scottish Constitution, at that time a resident of Larnaca, assisted Bro White in many ways and was the Consecrating Officer of St Paul's Lodge. He was to prove an invaluable source of guidance in the years to come.

Following the establishment and Consecration of the Lodge on 21st November 1888 – St Paul's Lodge No. 2277 EC – Bro White became its second Master and later Secretary and Treasurer, until his departure from the Island. His name appears in all the Minutes of the meetings during the first few years, as proposer of Motions and generally he was the centre of all the Lodge activities.

Copies of the letters exchanged between Bro White and the United Grand Lodge of England are held by St. Paul's Lodge and contained within the centenary publication prepared by W Bro Phivos Zachariades and others in 1988. They record that St Paul's Lodge started purely as a Service Lodge but very quickly began to accept into its ranks members of the local Cypriot community. By the year 1889 the Secretary and Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge were Greek Cypriots. However, as English was not widely spoken in those days and as the language of St. Paul's Lodge was English, there were great limitations on the numbers of local people who could join St. Paul's.

W Bro White viewed with sympathy the determination of an enthusiastic Cypriot member of his Lodge, W Bro Dr. John Karageorghiades, to establish a Greek speaking Lodge under the Greek Constitution. On 20th January 1890 we find John Percy White writing, in English, to Grand Secretary Stefanou of the Grand Orient of Greece (later to become the Grand Lodge of Greece) enquiring if there would be any difficulty in establishing a Lodge in Cyprus under the Greek Constitution and stating that that was the wish of a number of Greek speaking members of his Lodge on the grounds that the restriction of speaking English "precluded many useful citizens from joining the Royal Art." To that letter the Grand Secretary of the Grand Orient of Greece replied in English,

suggesting that the name of an ancient philosopher be adopted by the proposed Lodge "to alleviate the distrust which some people had for Masonry." Thus the name of Zenon was adopted – after Zenon the ancient Greek Stoic Philosopher from Kitium of Cyprus.

All this happened in 1890, yet it was not until 1893 that Zenon Lodge came into being. This three year delay was due to the difficulty presented by the Principal of Nationality of 1875, which required that all Lodges established in a country should come under the Grand Lodge of that Country and no other. Thus when John Percy White wrote to the Grand Lodge of England about the establishment in Cyprus of a Lodge under the Greek Constitution, the Grand Lodge replied that that could not be allowed, nor would the Grand Lodge agree to the use of the Greek Language if the new Lodge was registered under the English Constitution. W Bro White was disappointed, but continued his efforts, and his name appears among those of the fourteen founders of Zenon Lodge No 18 Greek Constitution, which was eventually established in May 1893 and Consecrated in 15th November, even though approval from the Grand Lodge of England had not been received. Indeed, for the first two months of Zenon's life there was no communication whatever between the two Lodges of St Paul's and Zenon. However, as a result of further approaches in London (and a change of Grand Secretary!) the matter was settled and W Bro John George Karageorghiades was able to attend a meeting of St Paul's Lodge wearing the insignia of Master of Zenon Lodge. Since then the two Lodges have worked side by side, in close cooperation and harmony, sharing the same premises.

Bro. White was also the one who thought about forming a Royal Arch Chapter to be attached to St Paul's Lodge, although he was not a Royal Arch Mason at the time. He worked very hard in this respect from as early as January 1889 and he finally succeeded in seeing his dream come true with the Consecration on 15th April 1892 of St Paul's Chapter No 2277 EC, of which he was the first First Principal at the age of 33 and by then a Company Sergeant Major of the Royal Engineers. He went to considerable personal expense and difficulty to achieve this aim. It can only be imagined how difficult it was to obtain Petitioners' signatures and to complete all the requirements of The Supreme Grand Chapter and at the same time awaiting the Consecration of the required second Craft Lodge to allow a Chapter to be brought into being. This was achieved when St George's Lodge No. 2402 was consecrated in Larnaca on 14th November 1891. Sadly, this Lodge ceased working in 1904.

Principal amongst those supporting Bro White in his determination to introduce the Royal Arch to Cyprus was W Bro John George Karageorghiades. This eminent member of the Limassol community had studied medicine in Athens and established a medical practice in Limassol in 1869. He was Initiated into 'Panellenion A' Lodge in 1865 whilst in Athens and into the English Constitution in St. Paul's Lodge on 2nd January 1889. He was a linguist, conversant in Greek, English, French and

Italian and was appointed to the post of District Medical Officer in Limassol in 1880. He also served as Mayor of Limassol from 1885 to 1887 and again from 1896 to 1908. He was a founder and Honorary Member of many Lodges of both Greek and English Constitutions and was, interestingly, honoured by both Greece and Turkey for his services to the Cypriot community.

W Bros White and Karageorghiades had together journeyed to Alexandria in order to be Exalted into Zetland Chapter No. 1157 on 15th December 1889 and it was in Zetland Chapter that Comp White was subsequently Installed as First Principal of St. Paul's Chapter on 15th January 1892. The Royal Arch Regulations allowed this, as Zetland Chapter was operating under the auspices of the Supreme Grand Chapter of England.

On his return to Cyprus, Comp White sought and obtained the necessary Dispensation to Consecrate St. Paul's Chapter as well as the Dispensation to permit H and J Designates, who were not installed Principals, to assist him during the Consecration Ceremony.

The continued involvement of John Percy White had only been made possible when, in October 1891, at his request and on the recommendation of a Brother Officer "given in the interests of the Craft", his tour of duty was extended for a period of two years!

No sooner had the Consecration of the St. Paul's Royal Arch Chapter been accomplished than Bro White set himself the task of forming a Mark Lodge under the auspices of the Grand Lodge of Mark Master Masons of England. He was successful in this venture also and St. Paul's Mark Lodge No. 455 was consecrated in Limassol on 30th January 1893. He was its first Master. This Lodge, as well as its offspring, St George's Mark Lodge No. 492, founded in Larnaca in 1896, eventually ceased to work – St Paul's in 1908 and St George's in 1900. The former was 'reopened' in 2006 and plans to 'reopen' St George's Lodge of MMM are currently in hand.

E Comp. White attended his last convocation of St. Paul's Chapter in March 1894, when he was present at the Installation of E Comp Harvey as First Principal of the Chapter. His departure from the Island marked 'the end of the beginning' of Freemasonry in Cyprus, and of a period of quite outstanding Masonic activity as a result of which many forms of organized Freemasonry were introduced into Cyprus by him.

W Bro John George Karageorghiades in his ardent determination to introduce Chapters in Cyprus under the Supreme Council of the 33rd of Greece and with considerable personal expense of time and money, went to Athens where he was advanced from the 4th to the 30th Degree. Later, on a new visit he was further advanced by the Supreme Council of Greece to the 31st and 32nd Degrees. Being himself deeply acquainted with Philosophical Freemasonry, 'Plato Chapter' No.6 was Consecrated on 30th November 1899. An approval was obtained to inaugurate a Consistory of the 30th degree, dated 31st October 1918 "without prejudice to their own rights of establishing the Ancient and Accepted Rite in

Cyprus in the future," when the Supreme Council of Greece submitted a request dated 14th September 1918 to the Supreme Council for England and Wales. Thus "Arios Pagos Kypros" No.3 was Consecrated on 2nd December, 1918. In 1902, after an invitation by the Supreme Council of Greece, he again went to Athens and the 33rd Degree was ceremoniously conferred on him.

As mentioned at the introduction the intention of this presentation was not simply to acquaint many of you with an outline of the early development of regularly organized Freemasonry in Cyprus, nor was it intended solely as a celebration of the tremendous work undertaken by those responsible for this development – in particular W. Bros. White and Karageorghiades. The real aim of this talk is to remind all that we are only able to enjoy our Freemasonry as a consequence of the application of the principals embodied in every Masonic Ritual – Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth. Let us never take for granted the work undertaken by those who have gone before us and may we all remember the importance of showing a determined personal commitment to preserve and maintain the Masonic structures that they, and their successors, worked so hard to establish."

Bibliography:

The above is mainly based on a presentation delivered by the WM of the 'Cyprus Masters Lodge' W Bro R. W. Cowin PJGD, PDepDistGM on the 19th January 2009.

'St Paul's Chapter No. 2277, EC – Historical Records and Other Royal Arch Themes' by Costas N. Nicolaides – 1974

'St Paul's Lodge No. 2277, EC – 100 Years 1888-1988', by The Steering Committee Chaired by Ph. V. Zachariades.

'St Paul's Chapter No. 2277, EC – The First 100 Years 1892-1992', by R. G. B. Day

'The Masonic Union of Cyprus with Greece since 1893' – a paper prepared by Christos Rizopoulos, Past Dep Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of Greece.

'A Series of Short Talks on Freemasonry and Other Miscellany' by W Bro Costas N. Nicolaides.

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.