

Visit From Grand Lodge Of Finland

The February meeting of Wynberg lodge will long be remembered as a truly memorable event and a milestone in the history of the Western Division. The meeting was the culmination of many months of preparation and planning. Early in 2008 the District Grand Lodge of Finland contacted the District Grand Secretary expressing the wish that a visiting group to South Africa, attend a lodge meeting in Cape Town on 26th February 2009.

As Wynberg Lodge would be meeting that evening, they agreed to arrange a special evening. Lodge secretary W Bro Hugh Farge started the ball rolling and after many emails, letters and phone calls the details of the visit were finalized and planned to the Nth degree.

The group of 15 Freemasons with their partners and led by R W Bro Iikka Hietaniemi of the Grand Lodge of Finland arrived



at the Masonic Centre, Pinelands by luxury coach from their hotel at 6.30pm after a day of site seeing in the City.

The British Temple was filled to capacity with many visitors, a full compliment of District Grand Lodge, 2 Past DGMs, R W Bros Commander Herbert Carter and Peter Duckworth, the Past Deputy DGM V W Bro Basil Starke and the DPGM of the GLSA, Southern Division, W Bro Malcolm Lotter.

W Bro Steve Huchtings was in the chair and conducted an outstanding ceremony of Passing Bro Brian McPherson of Rondebosch Lodge. The working of the Wynberg lodge before such a distinguished group of Masons, young and old, in the high East and in the Columns brought stature and and honour to English Freemasonry in the Western Division.

The Festive Board that followed with its speeches, toasts and exchange of gifts between the Finnish and Capetonians, demonstrated the Freemasonry is truly universal.

May the visit of the group from Finland mark the start of international friendship exchange visits with the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Western Division .

First RA Meeting In Hermanus

History was made when the first ever RA meeting was held in Hermanus last November. Robertson Chapter (based in Worcester) held its meeting in Hermanus on 15th November 2008 to assist in recruiting members of the Hermanus Lodge into the RA and to Exalt new members into the Chapter. A double working was performed and a second double was planned for February 2009 once again in Hermanus.

Through this initiative the Hermanus Lodge has swollen the beleaguered Robertson Chapter with nine new members (5 joining and 4 exaltees) with another 3 in the pipeline.

For the time being 2 meetings per year will be held in Hermanus and 2 in Worcester.

Hermanus Lodge members are extremely grateful to the Companions of Robertson RA for the excellent working relationship that has been established.

E Comp Peter Dagg

Support to Local Community

The Siyabonga Hospice and Care Village, situated just outside Vredenburg, was adopted some years ago by Columbine Lodge as a benefactor of their Charity endeavours. Siyabonga provides a home and care for physically disabled and terminally ill persons. Not only does Siyabonga provide health care but also has a workshop where those that are cared for are taught skills to generate an income and contribute towards the community. Siyabonga was introduced to Columbine by W Bro Rodney Richards through his association as a Rotarian with the Centre. In 2008 Columbine Lodge had a lockable medicine trolley built for Siyabonga at a cost of R10,000.

Some two years ago the WM of Columbine was discussing the charitable work of the Lodge with his financial adviser who mentioned that she was a member of the committee of an overseas trust with money to donate to worthy causes.

After much planning W Bro's Joe Surkont and George Poulson

accompanied two members of this committee to visit Siyabonga on Thursday 2 April and together with W. Bro. Rodney Richards we were all treated to an excellent presentation by their staff of what has been achieved as well as their plans for the future. Their most urgent need is for a new building to house 13 terminally ill and severely handicapped individuals as the house they are currently using has been sold.

The facility run by Sister du Plessis, is spotless, runs like clockwork with all her staff taken from the local community and trained by her. On their return to Cape Town, the two trust committee members reported back to their main committee and the very next day an amount of R500, 000 was approved and construction of the new home has already begun.

Footnote: Thanks to W Bro George Poulson for sending details of Siyabonga and CONGRATULATIONS to Columbine Lodge

DGL NEWS



JUNE 2009

DISTRICT GRAND LODGE OF SOUTH AFRICA, WESTERN DIVISION

Country Lodges Lead With New Members

Since late last year the Country Lodges have taken the lead in Initiations and we extend a warm welcome to the initiates.

INITIATED

| | | |
|--------------------------------------|----------------|----------|
| Bro David John Kinleyside | Lord Roberts | 11 Feb. |
| Bro Alexander John McLeod | Mowbray | 16 March |
| Bro Helmut van Dalen | Ceres | 12 Feb. |
| Bro Stephen James Robinson | Columbine | 21 March |
| Bro Zetef Du Plessis | Ceres | 12 March |
| Bro Kim Leslie Bell | Citrus | 14 Feb |
| Bro Michael Clive Mendelson | Table Mountain | 4 March |
| Bro Brian Peter McPherson | Rondebosch | 26 Feb |
| Bro Michael Kavanagh | Phoenix | 9 March |
| Bro Coenraad Johannes Bierman | Hermanus | 12 March |
| Bro Haman Franklin | Hermanus | 12 Feb. |
| Bro Daniel Johannes Steyn | Hermanus | 14 May |
| Bro Mervyn Keith Bezuidenhout | Columbine | 7 April |

The total membership of the District Grand Lodge of South Africa, Western Division stood at 694 on 31 December 2008 and this represented a nett

decline of 3% for the past year. With the present trend of young candidates joining we hope at the end of 2009 to report a nett growth in membership of the District.

It is encouraging to report an improved attendance and support by many visitors at each ceremony of Initiation and much of this stems from the example set by our District Grand Master and his team of District Officers most of whom are normally present.

Keeping Our New Members

Membership development is not only about attracting new members, but also about keeping them, especially during their first 3 years of being a Freemason. Although the mentoring of new members is very much the responsibility of the Proposer and Seconder, it must be seen as an important responsibility of each member of the lodge and more so of all Past Masters.

It is generally expected or rather assumed, that all who become Freemasons, are gifted with the ability to do charges and office duties which requires word perfect reciting of the Ritual from memory. It is the duty of the Past Masters of any lodge to assess early in the Masonic career of each EA their ability to do charges and to take due consideration of such before allocating charges to new members. There are some that will never be able to do a charge but are committed to the principals of Freemasonry, inside and outside of the Lodge. Can we afford to loose such members because of forcing them to be word perfect with the Ritual, something which they do not enjoy doing?

There are others that need extra

one on one guidance before they can master doing a charge. Once again, it is the responsibility of the Past Masters to assess the need and to provide such assistance.

Take the Lead in Mentoring

New members to the Lodge should also be encouraged from a very early stage in their Masonic career to participate in activities outside the Lodge on a regular and frequent basis, eg, visits to other lodges, attendance at practice meetings, participation in evenings of instruction, fellowships, and support of fund raising events. For this to happen it often means that members of longstanding should do the same and invite the newcomers to come along. New members need to bear witness that Freemasonry is not just about performing ceremonies in the Lodge.

It is common procedure that a committee interview a candidate before being proposed. Do we do this only once or again before the EA is Passed and again before the FC is Raised, to get his views on Freemasonry? Do we assess whether Freemasonry is meeting the expectations that he had before his Initiation?

All too often we do not pay enough attention to new members to the Lodge during their early years. Mentoring new members is of utmost importance and more so, if the new member is much younger than the average age of the other members of the lodge.

It seems difficult to attract new members in great numbers and we certainly cannot afford to loose any member other than because of UNAVOIDABLE circumstances.

Readers are invited to send any items for the DGL News to the Editor – John Ackermann

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Looking Back on 50 years in Freemasonry

Bro. Peter Duckworth was made a mason at the age of 26 in The Travellers Lodge No. 3166 at Freemasons' Hall, Mill Street, Cape Town (the present site of the Garden's Shopping Centre) on Saturday 21 March 1959.

His proposer was Bro. Brian Stredder, JW, who later moved to the Transvaal where he subsequently was appointed an Assistant District Grand Master and later also held the office of Provincial Prior for the Transvaal of the Knights Templar. His seconder was the WM, W. Bro. Cornelius van der Westhuizen Kotze, who had taught Bro. Duckworth Afrikaans at St George's Grammar School, the oldest Private School in South Africa.

WM Does Complete Ceremony of Initiation

The complete ceremony of his initiation was conducted by the WM. from the Chair, a ceremony not often witnessed today. His proposer took him to Lodge that evening and before leaving him that night, Bro. Duckworth knew the answers to the questions he would be asked at his Passing.

Bro. Duckworth, from his initiation onwards was a very keen and enthusiastic Mason and after serving virtually all of the floor and administrative offices in the Lodge, was installed in the Chair in 1969, only ten years after his initiation. He was installed by Asst DistGM, W. Bro. Bertie Zuckermann, PAGDC. Installation meetings were well attended in those days and 106 Brethren sat down at the festive board.

Bro. Duckworth informed me that, including his own installation as District Grand Master in 2001, he has been present at the installation of all seven District Grand Masters of the Western Division since 1967. He also had the privilege of installing his successor in both the Craft and Royal Arch.

Bro. Duckworth had the honour of being installed as DistGM by the Past Pro Grand Master, the Most Hon. the Marquess of Northampton, DL. The

Director of Ceremonies was Jonathan Spence who was installed as Deputy Grand Master in March 2009.

200 Years of English Freemasonry

Bro. Duckworth's installation coincided with the Bicentenary Celebration Meeting of English Freemasonry in South Africa (1801-2001). Thirteen of the fifteen District Grand Masters of the Districts on the continent of Africa attended the meeting.

In talking to Bro. Duckworth, he related to me some of the events leading up to the building of the Masonic Centre, Pinelands, and some of his early recollections.

market and the two sites were later sold to a developer, Sorec. The gross amount received by District amounted to R429,000, a considerable amount of money in those days. After paying off the bond, the District received a nett amount of R250,000.

Not many Brethren know or may remember that Freemasons' Hall, Mill Street, was demolished before it was completed. The Main Temple was never built. A large winding staircase in the foyer led up to a pair of large wooden doors. If one opened these doors, you faced a brick wall, this was to have been the Main Temple, but was never built due to lack of funds.

The Editor recently interviewed R.W. Bro. Peter Duckworth, Past District Grand Master on celebrating 50 years as a member of the Craft.



As early as 1967, the Cape Town City Council considered the widening of Mill St, Cape Town, which would involve the total demolition of the shops owned by the District and this would result in a considerable loss of revenue to the District. The road widening included the construction of a dual carriage way which would affect access to Freemasons' Hall and the Cranston Hall, which adjoined the building.

Fortuitously for the District, the site of the International Hotel, next to Freemason's Hall, came onto the

All tenants vacated the building at the end of 1969. The majority of Lodges and Chapters moved to Piers Road, Wynberg, whilst a few relocated to the Suburban Masonic Temple in Rondebosch.

Move To Pinelands

A search for a new site then began. The first disappointment was when some residents of Pinelands objected to the building of a Masonic Centre on Links Drive. Negotiations between the District, the Municipalities of

Cape Town and Pinelands were protracted over four years. In 1973 the Pinelands Municipality then offered an alternative site, slightly smaller, in Ringwood Drive at a cost of R10,500. Simcor Construction Co were awarded the contract. The Foundation Stone was laid on 24 April 1976 and the Official Opening and Dedication Ceremony took place on 29 April 1978. Both these ceremonies were conducted by the District Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Finlay McIntyre.

The Masonic Centre, Pinelands, has been the headquarters of English Freemasonry in the Western Division for the last 31 years. The Centre has been greatly admired by local and overseas Brethren and we are indeed fortunate to be able to carry out our Masonic duties in such magnificent surroundings.

Decline in Membership

Membership of the District at 31 December 2008, numbered 694, including Brethren with multiple memberships. For over 40 years the District has been faced with an annual decline in membership and District Grand Masters have referred to this regularly over the years. The decline in our numbers has become a perennial item in their annual address to District Grand Lodge. The extent of the decline is reflected in a comparison with the statistics for the year 1966. Most Brethren will be amazed to see the membership of their respective lodges 42 years ago.

Masonry Has Been an Inspiration

I asked Bro. Duckworth for some final thoughts of the years he has been a mason.

"Freemasonry has always played an important part of my life since I was initiated. It has given Herlene and I the opportunity of meeting many interesting and wonderful people and forging lasting friendships. Had it not been for her love, loyalty, encouragement and support, none of this would have happened. I am most

grateful to her for making it all possible.

For myself, I believe it has enabled me to be a better man and a better person, by endeavouring to live up to and practice the Principles and Tenets that Freemasonry teaches."

We thank Bro. Duckworth for his services to Freemasonry in the Western Division and for the high standards he has set. We wish him and Herlene a long and happy retirement.

I hope to persuade Bro. Duckworth to share with us more of his memories at a later date. In the meantime I invite any Brother to submit articles of interest of "by gone days in the District" which I might include in future issues of the "DGL News."

| MEMBERSHIP AS AT 31 DECEMBER 1966 TOTAL 2333 | | | |
|---|-----|------------------------|----|
| British (334) | 105 | King Edward V11 (2969) | 34 |
| Worcester 1603 | 68 | Mowbray (2993) | 77 |
| Carnarvon (1735) | 86 | Britannia (3117) | 87 |
| Phoenix (1860) | 137 | Outeniqua (3125) | 61 |
| St Blaize (1938) | 31 | Rondebosch (3141) | 75 |
| Beaufort West (1946) | 50 | Travellers (3166) | 62 |
| Phoenix of Namagualand (2082) | 60 | United Service (3285) | 86 |
| Cango (2088) | 101 | King George V (3630) | 36 |
| Unity (2181) | 48 | Rebunie (4279) | 14 |
| Woodstock (2379) | 65 | Strand (4812) | 38 |
| St Georges (2537) | 59 | Ceres (5156) | 41 |
| Metropolitan (2538) | 57 | Brimra (5176) | 33 |
| Wynberg (2577) | 61 | Montagu (5430) | 57 |
| Stellenbosch (2646) | 75 | Citrus (5441) | 45 |
| Israel (2691) | 112 | Jubilee (5597) | 57 |
| Lord Roberts (2827) | 72 | Table Mountain (6824) | 66 |
| Alfred Milner (2833) | 86 | Hermanus (7015) | 47 |
| Robertson (2850) | 46 | Camps Bay (7418) | 79 |
| TOTAL as at 31 DECEMBER 2008 | | 694 | |

MASONIC CV: PETER RANSOM DUCKWORTH

- 1959 Initiated, Travellers Lodge No 3166
 - 1962 Exalted, Travellers Chapter No 3166
 - 1969 Master, Travellers Lodge No 3166 (1)
 - 1972 First Principal, Travellers Chapter No 3166
 - 1976 District Assistant Grand Pursuivant
 - 1976 District Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies (RA)
 - 1977 District Grand Standard Bearer
 - 1977 District Principal Grand Sojourner
 - 1978 District Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies
 - 1978 District Grand Director of Ceremonies (RA)
 - 1979-82 District Grand Treasurer
 - 1979-81 District Grand Scribe Ezra
 - 1981 Third District Grand Principal
 - 1982 District Senior Grand Warden
 - 1982 Second District Grand Principal
 - 1983 Past Grand Standard Bearer (RA)
 - 1983-95 Grand Superintendent
 - 1984 Past Junior Grand Deacon
 - 1986 Founder, Cape of Good Hope Lodge of Installed Masters No 9212
 - 1986-94 President of the District Board of General Purposes
 - 1989 Past Senior Grand Deacon
 - 1992 Master, Travellers Lodge No 3166, 275th Anniversary UGLE (2)
 - 1994 Assistant District Grand Master
 - 1995-01 Deputy District Grand Master
 - 1995-01 President of the District Board of Benevolence
 - 1996 Past Grand Sword Bearer
 - 2001-08 District Grand Master, South Africa, Western Division
 - 2006 Centenary Master, Travellers Lodge No 3166 (3)
 - 2007 Joined, King Edward VII Lodge No 2969
 - 2009 District Grand Chaplain
- Bro. Duckworth has had Honorary Membership conferred on him by a number of Lodges and Chapters in the District.
- In addition to Bro. Duckworth's services to the Craft and Royal Arch, he has been a member of other Masonic Orders in the Western Division and holds senior rank/office in all, except The Royal Order of Scotland where he has been a member since 1984.
- 1970 **Degree of Mark Master**
 - 2008 Past Grand Senior Overseer
 - 1971 **Degree of Royal Ark Mariner**
 - 2000 Holder of Royal Ark Mariner Grand Rank
 - 1973 **Ancient and Accepted Rite**
 - 1993 Sublime Prince of the Royal Secret, 32°
 - 1974 **Knight of the Order of the Temple**
 - 1991 Past Great Aide-de-Camp
 - 1986 **Holy Royal Arch Knight Templar Priests or Order of Holy Wisdom**
 - 1999 Grand Superintendent, South Africa (No 28) Cape
 - 1993 **Red Cross of Constantine**
 - 2005 Past Grand Warden of Regalia
- Bro. Duckworth is well known in the other Districts in South Africa, including Namibia, having represented this District at the installation of numerous District Grand Masters and Grand Superintendents over many years.