

# **THE FIRST FIFTY YEARS**

of

## **THE METHUEN CHAPTER No. 631.**

**Royal Arch Province of Buckinghamshire.**

20th of October 1966

to

20th of October 2016

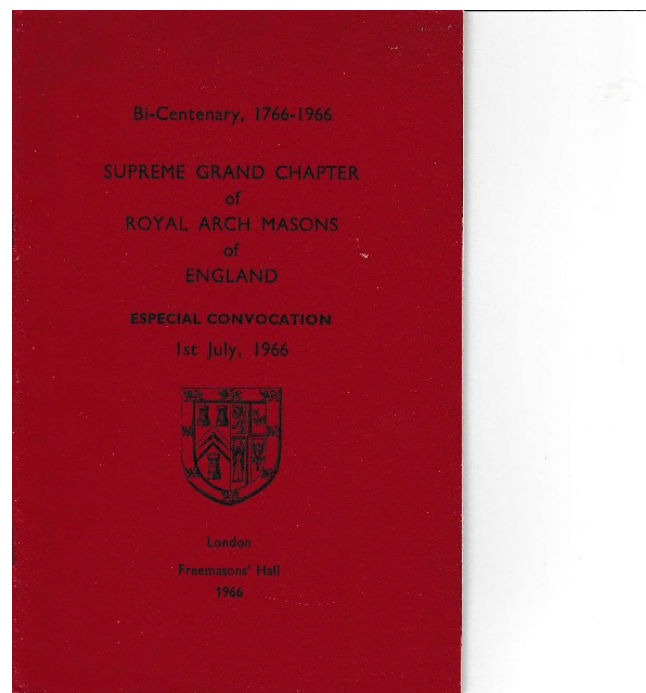
**Acknowledgements**

All the Scrib E's of the Metuen Chapter 1996 – 2017.

The History of Freemasonry in Berkshire and Bucjkinghamshire,  
by Leslie R. Harborne and Robin L.W. White.

The History of The Royal Arch Province of Buckinhamshire 1891 – 1991  
by R.W.G. Dunbabin.

History of the Royal Arch E. Comp. Roger Perry, PGStB.



Bi – Centenary 1766 – 1966 of Supreme Grand Chapter  
1<sup>st</sup> of July 1966.

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## Introduction

At a recent convocation of Methuen Chapter which was held on Thursday the 20th of October 2016, the companions enthusiastically agreed to celebrate at our next meeting, as this would be the 100 convocation, to which end a champagne reception before the festive board would be arranged and a Chapter history would be compiled to celebrate.

Having analysed our minute books and records to compile this history of The Methuen Chapter, I can now confirm our hundredth convocation was actually held on Thursday 16th of April 2016, an error in the recording of the minutes starting on Thursday 15th of April 2010, the eighty eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was Incorrectly minuted as the eighty sixth, this error subsequently being compounded upon. Therefore we are today (20th of April 2017) celebrating at our one hundred and second meeting. Fifty years of the Chapter history was achieved at our last convocation in October 2016.

E. Comp John Stribling



## The Beginning

The Methuen Chapter was formed in the year 1966 from a number of distinguished Royal Arch Freemasons who were also members of the Methuen Lodge No 631.

The Methuen Lodge had been formed in the year 1854, in the Province of Wilshire, Sir Daniel Gooch, was the consecrating officer, he was later to become the last Provincial Grand Master for the combined Province of Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. Lord Methuen, the Provincial Grand Master of Wiltshire, was the first Master of the Lodge. There were twenty founders, mainly from the Royal Sussex Lodge of Emulation No. 355 of Wiltshire and Middlesex Lodge No 143.

The main idea was to provide a lodge with a standard of comfort, dignity and good-living comparable with some of the best of the London lodges, promoters are reputed to have said "We do not want a lot of Masonic work in our new Swindon lodge, the Royal Sussex Lodge will attend to that. We will have a first-class civilized dinner, with good wine to drink, even cigars to smoke. No more small beer and at the June meeting, our Annual Festival, we will really let ourselves go at the Orkney Arms, Maidenhead (later, in 1979, to be known as Skindles), with punting and rowing, winding up by feasting regally".

In 1867 attendance at meetings began to fall dramatically and members became restive and inclined to welcome a change venue. In 1869 Sir Daniel Gooch suggested that the Lodge move to Maidenhead, this was agreed. The Lodge subsequently moved to Marlow.

As the year 1966 begins, members of the Methuen Lodge, with E. Comp Alexander Stewart Frere, C.B.E., **PGSupt.**, Buckinghamshire at the forefront, were desirous of forming their own Royal Arch Chapter for which purpose they petitioned Supreme Grand Chapter of England to form a new Chapter. On the 28th of April 1966, the petitioners were granted a Charter of Confirmation to be held with and attached to the Warrant of The Methuen Lodge.

**Friday the 1st of July 1966** Supreme Grand Chapter held an “Especial Convocation to the celebration of the Bi-Centenary of Supreme Grand Chapter of England”, held at Freemasons Hall, Queen Street, London. (See Page 65, A brief history of the Royal Arch).

**The 23rd of July 1966** - England defeated West Germany in the World Cup final at Wembley, watched by 93,000 people in the stadium and 400 million people around the world on television. Geoff Hurst became the first, and thus far only, player to score a hat-trick in a World Cup final when he powered home his third goal in the final moments of extra time, giving England a decisive 4-2 victory.

**Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1966**, the consecration and first regular convocation of the Methuen Chapter was held at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London. There were present twelve petitioners, nine visiting companions. The consecration team was led by Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L. MEGS of Buckinghamshire, accompanied by a consecration team consisting of six Provincial Executives.

### **Consecration**

The consecration and first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at Freemasons Hall, Great Queen Street, London on Thursday the 20<sup>th</sup> of October 1966 by dispensations from SGCE and The Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire.

There were present twelve petitioners and nine visiting companions.

### **Petitioners :-**

- E. Comp Alexander Stewart Frere, C.B.E., **PGSupt**, Z Designated.
- E. Comp The Right Hon Lord Rathcreedan, T.D., **GSupt** Oxfordshire. H Designated.
- E. Comp Sir Gilbert Davies, Bt., **PGTreas**, J Designated.
- E. Comp Frances John Trumper, O.B.E., T.D., **PGStB**,
- E. Comp Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C., TD, **PGStB**.
- Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C.
- E. Comp Lawrence John Verney, T.D.
- Comp The Rt Hon. Lord Burnham.
- Comp Maurice H. Carpmael.*
- E. Comp Latham S.V. Gedge, **PGStB**.*
- E. Comp Walter.B. Franklin.*
- E. Comp Gilbert H.S. Edgar, C.B.E. **GSoj**.*

*\* Not on Charter of Conformation as Petitioners but recorded in the minutes..*

Apologies were give for Petitioners who were unable to be present at the Consecration-  
Derek Hamilton Mays-Smith  
Robert Hennery Vivian Sivewright, D.S.C., R.N.

### **Visiting Companions :-**

- E. Comp. Howard Potts, **PGSupt**, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.
- E. Comp. James W. Stubbs, **GSE**, Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.
- E. Comp. W.J. Thompson, **PAGSE**, Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.
- E. Comp. Bernard Davies, **PASGSE**, Grand Masters Chapter, No 1.
- E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.
- Comp. J.R. Cormack, Chapter of St James, No 2.

Comp. Andrew Felix Verney, Addington Chapter, No 1787.  
Comp. J. Oaker-Evans, Graves Inn Chapter, No 4938  
Comp. J. Wilder, St Hilda Chapter, No 1887.

#### **Consecration Team :-**

Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L. **GSupt**, Installing First Principal.  
E. Comp R.E. Harris, **PAGDC**, Second Principal.  
E. Comp S.A. Cayzer, **PAGDC**, ProvJ, Third Principal.  
E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.  
E. Comp H.G. Keith, ProvGSN.  
E. Comp J.R. Everett, **PGStB**, ProvDC.  
E. Comp E.J. Moss, ProvGJanitor

#### **Installation of the Principals :-**

E. Comp. Alexander Stewart Frere	Z.
E. Comp. The Right Hon Lord Rathcreedan	H.
E. Comp. Sir Gilbert Davies	J.

#### **Chapter Officers Installed and Invested :-**

E. Comp. Arthur Richard Cormack,	Scribe E.
Derek Hamilton Mays-Smith,	Treasurer. (Invested at the next meeting)
Vacant	Director of Ceremonies.
E. Comp. Frances John Trumper,	Principal Sojourner.
Comp. The Rt Hon. Lord Burnham,	First Assistant Sojourner.
E. Comp. Lawrence John Verney,	Second Assistant Sojourner.
E. Comp. E.J. Moss,	Janitor.

E. Comp. Alexander Stewart Frere, presented to the Chapter a beautiful set of Principals Robes and other regalia, The robes were not only to be used for Methuen Chapter meetings they were also for use at Provincial meetings by the Provincial Principals.

The Chapter proposed that the members of the consecration team and E Comp Harold S. Carter, **PGStB**, ProvGH, (He would have been the consecrating H, but for illness at the time) should be invited to become Honorary Members of the Chapter to mark this happy event, The M.E. Grand Superintendent replied on behalf of the consecration team expressing gratitude for so kindly thought.

#### **Thursday 20th of April 1967.**

The second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

#### **Visiting Companions :-**

E. Comp. James W. Stubbs, **GSE**, Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.  
E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

#### **Joining Companions :-**

E. Comp. Howard Potts, **PGSupt**, Bucks., PZ of Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.  
Company Director of Addington Manor, Winslow, Buckinghamshire.  
Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L. **GSupt**, PZ of Addington Chapter No 1787. Land owner of Claydon House, Bletchley, Buckinghamshire.  
Comp. John Herbert Wyndham Wilder, of St Hilda Chapter No 1887, an Agricultural Engineer of St Lucians, Wallingford, Buckinghamshire.

E. Comp. The Right Hon Lord Rathcreedan

Installed as Z.

**Thursday 19th of October 1967.**

The third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions :-

E Comp Rt Hon Lord Justice Edmund Davies **PGSN**, Old Kings Arms Chapter, No 28.

E. Comp James W. Stubbs, **GSE**, Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.

E. Comp Robert Alistair Ingham Clark, **PDepGDC**, Evening Star Chapter, No. 1719.

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

Comp. A.F. Verney, Addington Chapter, No 1787.

**Thursday 18th of April 1968.**

The fourth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Honorary Members Present :-

E Comp Harold S. Carter, **PGStB**, ProvGH.

E. Comp S.A. Cayzer, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ.

E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.

E. Comp J.R. Everett, **PGStB**, ProvDC.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. R.H. Chinn, **PAGSoj**, Grand Masters Chapter, No 1.

E. Comp. A.R. Higginson, ProvGSN, Misbourne Chapter, No 3375.

E. Comp. L.S. Clinton, PProvGJ, St Georges Chapter, No 3065. (Nigeria )

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

E. Comp. Sir Aubrey Ward, Inglefield, No 4238

E. Comp. J.S. Savile, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.

The death of E. Comp Walter B. Franklin a founding member, which had occurred on the 5th of March was reported, the companions expressed their sorrow, great affection and stood in silence in his memory.

E. Comp Sir Gilbert Davies, Bt., **PGTreas**,

Installed as Z.

At this meeting was the first time a Director of Ceremonies was appointed and Invested

E. Comp. Howard Potts, **PGSupt**.

**Thursday 17th of October 1968.**

The fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. D. Whinney, **PGSN**, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.



Joining Companion :-

Comp. Andrew Felix Verney, Addington Chapter No 1787. Age 47, a Physician residing at Thames Bank House, Mortlake, London

**Thursday 17th of April 1969.**

The sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

Comp. J.R. Worboys, Buckingham Chapter No 591.

Comp. J.R. Cormack, Chapter of St James, No 2.

E. Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C.,

Installed as Z.

**Thursday 16th of October 1969.**

The seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Honorary Member Present :-

E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp James W. Stubbs, **GSE**, Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

Comp. Heston Christopher Bathurst, Felicity Chapter, No 58.

The Companions stood in memory of the late Pro First Grand Principal The Rt Hon The (Lawrence) Roger Lumley, 11th Earl of Scarbrough, KG GCSI GCIE GCVO TD PC DL he had been known personally by a number of members.



The Cavalry and Guards Club

### **The Seventies**

June 1970 - The Conservatives won the general election by 330 seats to 287 for Labour. This unexpected result appears to have reflected doubts about Labour's economic management, a view focused by a poor set of trade figures. The failure of Labour to motivate its own supporters was also important. Evidence suggested that voters had turned against Harold Wilson, rather than towards the uncharismatic Edward Heath.

February 1971 - The first British soldier, Gunner Robert Curtis (aged 20), was killed in Northern Ireland's 'Troubles' by the self-styled 'Irish Republican Army' (IRA). He was shot while on foot patrol in North Belfast. British troops had been sent to Northern Ireland in 1969 in a 'limited operation' to restore law and order.

February 1971 - The old sterling denominations of pounds, shillings and pennies were phased out over a period of 18 months, and replaced with decimal pounds and pennies. The decimalisation of the pound came to be blamed for an increase in inflation.

January 1972 - British troops opened fire on a crowd of civil rights protestors in Londonderry, Northern Ireland, killing 13 civilians and injuring a further 17. The crowd of between 7,000 and 10,000 people had been marching in protest at the policy of detention without trial. The sequence of events on 'Bloody Sunday' remains highly controversial, with accusations that senior IRA figures were present on the day and shot at British troops.

August 1972 - Ugandan President Idi Amin gave his country's Asian population just 90 days to leave, claiming god had told him to do it in a dream. Over half of the 55,000 Asians expelled from Uganda came to Britain and many settled permanently. Their resettlement came to be viewed as a success story. In 1991 the President of Uganda, Yoweri Museveni, invited them to 'return home' to help the Ugandan economy.

January 1973 - Britain, Ireland and Denmark joined the European Economic Community (EEC), bringing the total number of member states to nine. The three countries, together with Norway, signed an accession treaty in 1972, but Norwegians rejected the treaty in a referendum. Britain held a referendum on the matter in 1975 after renegotiating its terms of entry and 67% voted in favour of staying in the EEC.

February 1974 - The Conservatives won more votes than Labour (37.9% of the popular vote to 37.1%), but Labour won more seats (301 to 297). Neither party had achieved an outright majority, resulting in a 'hung parliament'. The Liberals, with 19.3% and 14 seats, held the balance of power. Edward Heath initially held on to office in the hope of persuading the Liberals to enter into a coalition, but the Liberals rejected this idea and Harold Wilson returned to head a minority administration.

October 1974 - In order to tackle his party's minority status following the 'hung parliament' produced by the general election of February 1974 Harold Wilson called a new election, which he won with a small overall majority. Labour's percentage of the vote went up from 37.1 to 39.2, while Conservative percentage fell from 37.9 to 35.8.

March 1976 - Harold Wilson's resignation after 13 years as Labour leader and nearly eight as Prime Minister was completely unexpected and has never been properly explained. It was probably related to his awareness of the early onset of Alzheimer's disease and a feeling that he was losing control. On 5th April James Callaghan was elected Labour Party leader and became the new Prime Minister.

September 1976 - A crisis in sterling forced the Labour government to turn to the International Monetary Fund (IMF), making Britain the first major Western state to be forced into this humiliating course of action. In return for the loan the IMF demanded cuts in government spending. After a political battle within the British government the IMF terms were accepted and imposed in December.

July 1978 - Louise Brown, the first 'test-tube baby', was a success for 'in vitro' fertilisation (IVF), a method by which egg and sperm are mixed in a glass dish, and the embryos inserted into the womb. By the end of the 20th century about 1,400 IVF babies were being born each year.

Winter 1978 to 79 - Strikes paralyse Britain during the so-called 'Winter of Discontent'. Industrial action by petrol tanker and lorry drivers was followed by hospital ancillary staff, ambulance men and dustmen going on strike. Hospitals were picketed, the dead left unburied, and troops called in to control rats swarming around heaps of uncollected rubbish. The large number of simultaneous strikes, the violence and perceived mean-

mindedness of the picketing (which included the turning away of ambulances) created a sense of alarm in the electorate about the decline of British society.

March 1979 - The referenda required the support of 40% of the electorate, not simply the majority of votes. This was not obtained in Scotland, although the majority of votes were in favour of devolution. Devolution was heavily defeated in Wales. As a result of the referenda, the Scottish Nationalists joined the Conservatives and Liberals in passing a vote of no confidence in the government, and Labour lost control of the House of Commons - a bad prelude to the general election.

May 1979 - Margaret Thatcher, party leader since 1975, became Britain's first female Prime Minister with a majority of 43 seats. The Conservatives won 43.9% of the votes and 339 seats, Labour 36.9% and 269 seats and Liberals 13.8%. She came to power on the promise that the Conservatives would cut income tax, reduce public expenditure, make it easier for people to buy their own homes and curb the power of the unions.

August 1979 - Elizabeth II's cousin, Lord Louis Mountbatten, one of his teenage grandsons and two others were killed by a bomb on his boat at Mullaghmore in county Sligo, Ireland. On the same day the IRA also killed 18 soldiers at Warrenpoint in County Down.

### **The Nineteen Seventies and Methuen Chapter**

From 1970 to 1980 Methuen Chapter held its April Installation Convocations at Marlow Masonic Centre, St Peter Street, Marlow, dining at The Leander Club, Henley. The October meeting was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London by dispensations from SGCE and Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire, dining at The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**April 1970** E. Comp. Lt. Col. William Edward Harry Lawson, 5th Baron Burnham, was Installed as Second Principal and then as First Principal of the Chapter.

Joining member E. Comp. Sir Gilbert Samuel Inglefield, G.B.E., T.D., PGSN, Chapter of St James, No 2, he was an Architect who was the chairman of the Barbican Committee, responsible for building the Barbican Estate, he was Lord Mayor of London from 1967 to 1968, Sir Gilbert appeared as a castaway on the radio programme Desert Island Discs on the 1st of July 1968.

**April 1972** the first visit to Methuen Chapter of E. Comp. Lt. Col. George St. Vigor John Vigor, GSupt, Berkshire, during the second world war he was in command of the 1st Battalion Welsh Guards from July 1942 to March 1944, after which he was appointed command of the Westminster Garrison Battalion until 1946.

**May 1973** E. Comp His Honour Judge Lawrence John Verney, was installed as First Principal.

**April 1976.** E. Comp Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C.,T.D. having been Scribe E for ten years, since the founding of the Chapter was Installed as First Principal.

**October 1977** E. Comp. Sir Austin Strutt, K.C.V.O., C.B., Assistant Under-Secretary of State became a joining member.

**October 1978** Methuen member E. Comp. Edward Benjamin Pearce, PGStB., Prov G.H. (Berks) was announced as Grand Superintendent in and over Berkshire Designate.

Chapter membership in 1970 stood at sixteen by 1979 twenty two.



The Leander Club, Henley

**Thursday 16th of April 1970.**

The eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Honorary Members Present :-

E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.

E. Comp J.R. Everett, **PGStB**, ProvDC.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Sir Gilbert Samuel Inglefield, G.B.E.,T.D., **PGSN**, Chapter of St James, No 2, Company Director of 49, Lowndes square London SW1.

E. Comp. Col. Roland Stephen Langton, M.V.O., M.C. Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26, a member of Lloyds, of Dial House, Peppard Common, Henley-On-Thames.

E. Comp The Rt Hon. Lord Burnham Installed as H and then as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 18th of October 1970.**

The ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Honorary Member Present-

E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.

The Companions stood in memory of their late Treasurer and Founding member E. Comp. Derek Hamilton Mays-Smith, **PGTeas** who had died in May.

The companions dined at The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 15th of April 1971.**

The tenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

E. Comp. J.L. Savill, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.

E. Comp. Y.B. Langton, **PDepGDC**, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.

E. Comp. M.J. Langton, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.

Dispensations for :-

E. Comp Frances John Trumper, O.B.E., T.D., **PGStB**, to serve a third term as H.

E. Comp. John Herbert Wyndham Wilder,  
to be Installed as Z as he had not held office as H.

E. Comp. John Herbert Wyndham Wilder,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 21st of October 1971.**

The eleventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

E. Comp. E.E. Hallam, PZ of Caveac Chapter, No 176.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Stanley William Gilson Morton Savage residing at No 28, of 105 Century Court, St John's Wood, London, Deputy Chairman, Managing Director of The Abbey National Building Society. P.Z. of Club Chapter No. 28.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 20th of April 1972.**

The twelfth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Lt. Col. George St. Vigor. J. Vigor, **GSupt**, Berks.

E. Comp. E.B. Pearce, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ, Berks.

The M.E.Z invited E. Comps. G. St. V.J. Vigor to act as J and E.B. Pearce as D.C. .

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Norman Delamain Ouvry, **PGSoj**, St James Chapter, No2, a retired Civil Servant, of 27, Kings Avenue, Bromley, Kent.

E Comp. Rev Gerald William Norris Groves, O.B.E., **PGStB**, Sanctuary Chapter, No 305, of The Vicarage, West Hoathly, Sussex.

E. Comp Frances John Trumper, Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 19th of October 1972.**

The thirteenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp Robert Alastair Ingham Clark, **PDepGDC**, Evening Star Chapter, No. 1719.

E. Comp. J.L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter No.1610.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their late E. Comp. E. Comp. Howard Potts, PGSupt, their first joining member who had recently died.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 3rd of May 1973.**

The fourteenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

L. Ralto, **PGStB**, Inns of Court Chapter, No 1610.

E. Comp. M.J. Langton, Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26

Comp. Rev, P.Tracey, Gladsmuir Chapter, No 1385.

Joining Companion : -

E. Comp. Edward B. Pearce, **PGStB**, age 64 a retired Agronomist of High Tree House, 114 Oxford Road, Abbingdon, Berkshire.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their late member and Founder, E. Comp Sir Gilbert Davies, Bt., **PGTreas**, who had recently died.

E. Comp Frances John Trumper enquired as to the meaning of the word "Agronomist" (the profession of a newly elected companion). Scribe E thought it was derived from the two words "Agro" meaning in violence and "nomist" an ancient religious set, which when conjoined indicates a follower of a profession qualified to ascertain the yearly consumption of concrete by an agricultural worm.

E. Comp His Honour Judge Lawrence John Verney, Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 18th of October 1973.**

The fifteenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Honorary Member Present :-

E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their late, Treasurer and Founder, E. Comp L.S.V. Gedge, **PGStB**. who had recently died.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 18th April 1974.**

The sixteenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. C.M. Redman-Brown, Apollo University Chapter No. 357

E. Comp Gilbert H.S. Edgar, C.B.E.,

Installed as Z.

The Chapter donated £25 towards the new Masonic Hall at Marlow in which the Chapter was meeting for the first time since the rebuilding of the extension.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 24th of October 1974.**

The seventeenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Gordon Meredyth Hasler of Gordon Place, London, W8. P.Z., of Chapter of St James, No 2.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 17th April 1975.**

The eighteenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Col. Raymond Arthur Francis Smith, P.Z. of London Scottish Rifles Chapter No 2310, a Director of The Wakefield Institution London, of White gate, Knotty Green, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

£25 donated to The Bucks Masonic Home Appeal.

As The Principals Elect were by reason of personal duties and their absences in South Africa were not present no Installation of Principals took place, however the officers were invested by the acting M.E.Z.

E. Comp Maurice H. Carpmael. Z Elect.



E. Comp Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., **GSupt.**, H Elect.  
E. Comp. Col. Roland Stephen Langton, M.V.O., M.C. J Elect.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 23rd of October 1975.**

The nineteenth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions : -

E. Comp. (unreadable) **DepGDC**, St Christopher's Chapter No 4170.

Joining Companion :-

Without entrance fee or subscription- E. Comp Robert Joseph Weatherhead, PGStB, PProvGSE of Aylesbury Chapter No 4534, of The Beeches, Whitchurch, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

All Three Principals who were absent at the Installation meeting are Installed.

E. Comp Maurice H. Carpmael, Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 8th April 1976.**

The twentieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. D. Stokic, Chapter of St James, No 2.

E. Comp Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C., T.D. having been Scribe E for ten years, since the founding of the Chapter was:- Installed as Z.

E. Comp R.J. Weatherhead was appointed and Invested as Scribe E.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Raymond Arthur Francis Smith, P.Z. of London Scottish Rifles Chapter No 2310, a Director of The Wakefield Institution London, of White gate, Knotty Green, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire.

£25 donated to The Bucks Masonic Home Appeal.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 21st of October 1976.**

The twenty first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp L.Paul Cleminson **PGStB**, Royal-Summerset House & Inverness Chapter, No 4.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at Wycombe Abbey School on the 22nd of April 1977.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 21st April 1977.**

The twenty second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. G. St. V.J. Vigor, O.B.E. **GSupt**, (Berks) of Bard of Avon Chapter No.778.  
E. Comp. L.R. Harbourne, ProvGJ. Of Cestreham Chapter No. 6674.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Lionel .Paul. Cleminson, GStB, Chartered Accountant of Field Cotage, St Lenonard's, Tring, Hertfordshire, a member of Royal Somerset House and Inverness Chapter, No 4.

E. Comp Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., **GSupt.**, Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 20th of October 1977.**

The twenty third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Kenneth Dod, L.G.C.R, Mount Moriah Chapter No.143.

Joining Companion:-

E. Comp. Sir Austin Strutt, K.C.V.O., C.B., of 51, Sussex Place, Slough, Buckinghamshire. A member of Chapter of St James, No 2.

It was reported that at the meeting of Supreme Grand Chapter of England, held on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April, 1977, E Comp Lt. Col. Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham had been declared and appointed **GSN**.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at The Civic Hall, Aylesbury, on the 18th of April 1978.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 20th April 1978.**

The twenty fourth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey, ProvGDC, Herschel Chapter No 1894.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their late Founder, E. Comp Gilbert H.S. Edgar, C.B.E. PGSoj who had recently died.

The First and Second Principals were confirmed in Office for a second year :-

E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., **GSupt.**, Installed as Z.  
E. Comp Edward Benjamin Pearce, **PGStB.**, Prov G.H. (Berks), Installed as J.

E. Comp. Col. Roland Stephen Langton, M.V.O., M.C. H Elect, was absent, he had been elected to the office of H for the previous (1977 – 1978) year however was unable to attend any of the meetings.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 19th of October 1978.**

The twenty fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions:-

E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey, ProvGDC, Herschel Chapter, No 1894.  
Comp. Eric Lowe of Welwyn Garden City Chapter, No 5748.

The forthcoming retirement of E. Comp. Lt. Col. George St. V.J. Vigor, as Grand Superintendent of Berkshire was announced, followed by the news that the M.E. Grand First Grand Principal had been pleased to appoint, E. Comp. Edward B. Pearce, **PGStB.**, Prov G.H. (Berks) as Grand Superintendent in and over the Province of Berkshire with effect from the 16th of December 1978. News of the appointment brought great joy to all members of the Chapter, who united in hearty congratulations.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at Stowe, on the 20th of April 1978.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 19th April 1979.**

The twenty sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companions:-

E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey, ProvGDC, of 72, Buckland Avenue, Slough, Berkshire.  
Chartered Accountant, P.Z. of Herschel Chapter, No 1894.

E. Comp. Charles Gordon Hutchins, **PAGsoj**, of Long Hedge, Loudwater Lane, Rickmansworth, Hertfordshire. Produce Broaker, P.Z. of British Chapter, No 8.

E. Comp. Edward Benjamin Pearce, **PGStB.**, Prov G.H. (Berks), Installed as Z.  
The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

### **Thursday 18th of October 1979.**

The twenty seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. John Henry Harry, **PGStB**, ProvGSE, of Aylesbury Chapter, No 4534.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their E. Comp. Sir Arthur Strutt, K.C.V.O., C.B., who had died on the 29th of May.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, on the 22th of April 1980.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

## **The Eighties**

April 1981- Serious rioting in Brixton following the arrest of a local coloured man marked the start of violent unrest across England, in London's Southall, Toxteth in Liverpool, Moss Side in Manchester, and to a lesser extent other centres such as Derby, crowds rioted, looted, and fought the police.

June 1981 - The Humber Bridge was built between 1972 and 1980. At the time, it was the longest single-span bridge in the world at nearly 2,200m.

January 1982 - Unemployment breached the psychologically significant barrier of three million as manufacturing was hard hit by a deep economic recession.

April 1982 - Three days after the invasion of the Falkland Islands in the South Atlantic., by Argentina, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher sent a naval task force to liberate the Islands. The subsequent conflict cost the lives of 655 Argentine and 255 British servicemen. The conflict ended on 14 June when the commander of the Argentine garrison at Port Stanley surrendered to British troops.

June 1983 - The Conservatives were re-elected with 379 seats and an enormous majority of 144 seats. The Conservatives benefited from division among their opponents and doubts about Labour's competence on the economy and defence. Thatcher's government

used its majority to embark on a radical programme of privatisation and deregulation, trade union reform and tax cuts.

March 1984 - A local strike on over a threatened pit closure in Yorkshire had, within a week, broadened into a national miners' strike. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher pitted her personal authority against that of the militant socialist president of the National Union of Mineworkers, Arthur Scargill. There were violent clashes between striking miners and policemen. The strike failed and was called off after a year, allowing the pit closures to go ahead. The strike left a legacy of deep bitterness.

October 1984 - The bombing by Irish Republican Army terrorists of the Grand Hotel Brighton during the Conservative Party conference killed five and left more than 30 injured. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher narrowly escaped the blast. It was the closest the IRA had come to killing a British prime minister.

June 1987 - Margaret Thatcher was re-elected for an historic third term, with an overall majority of 101 - less than in 1983, but still significant. The Conservatives had 376 seats (42.3 % of the vote), Labour 229 (30.8%) and Alliance 22 (22.5%). It paved the way for Thatcher to become the longest serving prime minister for more than 150 years. Signs of a Labour recovery appeared in Scotland, where they won 50 of the 72 seats.

1989 - While working at CERN, the European Particle Physics Laboratory in Switzerland, Tim Berners-Lee came up with the idea of the World Wide Web, a new way of using existing internet technology to share information.

### **The Nineteen Eighties and Methuen Chapter.**

From 1980 to 1990 Methuen Chapter continued to hold its April Installation Convocations at Marlow Masonic Centre, St Peter Street, Marlow, dining at The Leander Club, Henley. The October meeting was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London by dispensations from SGCE and Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire, dining at The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**October 1981**, two Joining Companions, E. Comp. Major General, Sir Leonard Atkinson, K.B.E., President of the Committee of General Purposes. Retired Army Officer residing at Pound Cottage, Silchester, Reading, Berkshire, a member of Connaught Army & Navy Chapter, No. 4323., and St. Eligius Chapter, No. 8295 and E. Comp. Richard Stainton. Edward Sandbach, **G Supt.**, of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire a Solicitor, of 91 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, a member of St. Peter's Chapter, No. 442 and Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3422.

**April 1982**, E Comp. Rev (C of E) Gerald William Norris Groves, O.B.E., **PASGSoj** was Installed as First Principal, he had served in the R.A.F., he held the rank of Squadron Leader.

**April 1983**, saw a "Pride of Verneys inaugurated:-

E. Comp. Dr. Andrew Felix Varney, PProvGOrg.,	Installed as J.
E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., <b>GSupt.</b> ,	Installed as H.
E Comp. His Honour JUDGE Lawrence J. Verney, T.D., D.L., <b>PAGSoj.</b> ,	Installed as Z.

**October 1984** the Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of E. Comp Alexander Stewart Frere, C.B.E., PGJ, **PGSupt**, Founder and Primus Z., whose death occurred on the 3rd of October.

**October 1985** it was reported that the Grand Superintendent had appointed 30th of May 1986 for the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter which was to be held in his own home Claydon House. How many Grand Superintendents can hold their Annual Convocation in their home?

**October 1988** a joining member E. Comp. Eric James Deung, PProvGReg., Retired Company Treasurer of Long Gables, Portway, North Marston, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter, No. 2420, and of Wolverton Trinity Chapter, No. 7917. Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No. 3350.

**October 1989** a joining member E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne, **PGStB.**, PProvJ., Retired Company Director (Furnishings), of "Stocks" Ashburn Drive, Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Bowen Chapter, No. 948, Hampden Chapter, No. 6483, Cestreham Chapter, No. 6674 and of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3350.

Chapter membership in 1980 stood at twenty two by 1989 twenty two.

#### **Thursday 17th April 1980.**

The twenty eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. (Jack) John Henry Harry, **PGStB**, ProvGSE, of Two Ways, Watts Green, Chearsley, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire, Retired Divisional Manager (Printing) of Buckinghamshire First Principal's Chapter, No. 3305, P.Z. of Aylesbury Chapter, No. 4534, Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter, No. 2420 and Hampden Chapter, No. 6483.

It was noted that the Robes, Surplices and Officer's Collars then in use by the Chapter, formed part of the gift made to the Chapter at its consecration by E. Comp Alexander Stewart Frere, C.B.E., **PGSupt** Buckinghamshire. With his blessing and full approval all the equipment could be made available for use by Provincial Grand Chapter and E. Comp Free hoped this would be with the agreement of the M.E. Grand Superintendent. It was then proposed that the principals robes and other property be made available for use by Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire. The M.E. Grand Superintendent replied accepting with gratitude the Chapters kind offer, he also referred to the very great care taken by E. Comp. F.J. Trumper, in whose custody the robes and equipment had remained since the consecration of the Chapter. All had been kept in immaculate condition in a locked chest which he had been specially made and marked with the chapters name and number. He felt that the thanks of the Chapter should be made known to E. Comp. F.J. Trumper, and at the requested of the M.E.Z., Comp Scribe E. Undertook to write suitably to E. Comp. Frere and E. Comp. Trumper.

E. Comp. Gordon Meredyth Hasler, **PGStB.**,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 16th of October 1980.**

The twenty ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions:-

E. Comp. Richard Walters, **PAGSoj**, of the Chapter of St James, No 2.

E. Comp. S.W. Hoskins, **PAGDC.**, of Stephens Chapter, No. 3089.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their E. Comp. Sir Arthur Strutt, K.C.V.O., C.B., who had died on the 29th of May.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at The Royal Masonic School for Girls, on the 7th of April 1981.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 22nd April 1981.**

The thirtieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions:-

E. Comp. Richard Stainton. Edward Sandbach, **GSupt.**, of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, a member of St. Peter's Chapter, No. 442.

E. Comp. Major General Sir Leonard Atkinson, K.B.E., President of the Committee of General Purposes. of Connaught Army & Navy Chapter, No. 4323.

E. Comp. W.E.G. Woods, of Peregrins Chapter, No 6501.

It was noted that the M.E. Grand Superintendent had consecrated Princes Risborough Chapter on the 13th of March and that he had appointed the 8th of May 1981 as the date for the consecration of Wexham Park Chapter bring the number of chapters in the Province to thirty eight.

E. Comp. Col. Raymond Arthur Francis Smith.

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 15th of October 1981.**

The thirty first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Major General Sir Leonard Atkinson, K.B.E., President of the Committee of General Purposes. Retired Army Officer of Pound Cottage, Silchester, Reading, Berkshire, a member of Connaught Army & Navy Chapter, No. 4323., and St. Eligius Chapter, No. 8295.

E. Comp. Richard Stainton. Edward Sandbach, **G Supt.**, of Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire, Solicitor, of 91 Lincoln Road, Peterborough, a member of St. Peter's

Chapter, No. 442 and Northamptonshire and Huntingdonshire Chapter of First Principals, No. 3422.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Richard Walters, **PAGSoj**, of The Chapter of St James, No 2.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at St Mary's Church, Aylesbury, on the 23rd of March 1982.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 15th April 1982.**

The thirty second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. J.S. Savile, PDepGDC, of Castle of Harmony Chapter, No 26.

E. Comp. Dr O.C. Wilkinson, PProvGSN (Berks) of St Hilda Chapter, No 1887.

E Comp. Rev Gerald William Norris Groves, O.B.E., **PASGSoj**., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 21st of October 1982.**

The thirty third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of two of companions:-

E Comp. Rev Gerald William Norris Groves, O.B.E., **PASGSoj**. Z., who had died on the 26th of September.

E. Comp. Gordon Meredyth Hasler who had died on the 27th of April.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, on the 8th of April 1983.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 21st of April 1983.**

The thirty fourth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions:-

E. Comp. James W. Stubbs, K.C.V.O., **PGSE**, Apollo University Chapter, No 357.

E. Comp. Martin Foss, M.E.Z. Westminster Keystone Chapter, No. 10.

E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre, PAGDC., PPGReg., Herschel Chapter, No 1894.

E. Comp. C.P.C. Talbot, P.Z. of Richard Eve Chapter, No. 2772.



This meeting saw a "Pride of Verneys inaugurated:-

E. Comp. Dr. Andrew Felix Verney, <b>PProvGOrg.</b>	Installed as J.
E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., <b>GSupt.</b>	Installed as H.
E Comp. His Honour JUDGE Lawrence J. Verney, T.D., D.L., <b>PAGSoj.</b>	Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 20th of October 1983.**

The thirty fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre, **PAGDC.**, PPGReg., Herschel Chapter, Company Director, of 30, Brackenforde, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, a P.Z. of Herschel Chapter, No 1894. Member of Old Paludians Chapter, No. 7181 and Buckinghamshire First Principals, No. 3305.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at Wycombe Abbey School Stantonbury Campus, Milton Keynes, on the 12th of April 1984.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 9th April 1984.**

The thirty sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Rev. Raymond S.K. Lance, **PGStB.**  
E. Comp. J.E. Morgan, **PGStB.**, of Thynne Chapter, No. 1478.  
E. Comp. Eric James Deung, PProvGReg of Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter, No 2420.

E. Comp Frances John Trumper, O.B.E., T.D., **PGSN.**, Founder and P.Z., of Dormy Cottage, 20, Wodehouse Road, Old Hunstanton, Norfolk, elected as an honorary member.

E. Comp. L. Paul Cleminson, **PGStB.**, Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 18th of October 1984.**

The thirty seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Bernard Edgar Annetts, ProvgSE. of Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter, No 2420.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of E. Comp Alexander Stewart Frere, C.B.E., PGJ, **PGSupt** , Founder and Primus Z., whose death occurred on the 3rd of October.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at Berkshire Masonic Centre, Sindlesham, Berkshire on the 30th of April 1985.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 18th April 1985.**

The thirty eight regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Bernard Edgar Annetts, ProVGSE. Retired Local Government Officer, of "Enodoc", 9, Caldicot Close, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire of Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter, No 2420. Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey, ProVGDC., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 17th of October 1985.**

The thirty ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. R.W.G. Dunbabin, **PAGDC.**, ProVGJ., of Wolverton Trinity Chapter, No 7917.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Geoffrey Michael Redman – Brown, **GSupt.**, Oxfordshire, Member of the Stock Exchange, residing at Priestfield, Hook Norton, Oxfordshire, P.Z. of Apollow University Chapter, No. 357, and a member of Bard of Avon Chapter, No. 778.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of E. Comp Maurice H. Carpmael, PProvGSN , Founder and P. Z., whose death occurred on the 3rd of August.

It was reported that the Grand Superintendent had appointed 30th of May 1986 for the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter which was to be held in his own home Claydon House.

It was noted that the Grand Superintendent would be consecrating Bourne End Chapter at Marlow on 26th November 1985, bring the number of Chapters in the Province to forty four.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 17th April 1986.**

The fortieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. John Hooker, PProvGSoj.(Berks), of Abbey Chapter, No. 945.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C., PProvGSN., of Villa Santa Cruz, Puigmolins, Javen, Alicante, Spain, Founder and P.Z. of Methuen Chapter, No 631.

E. Comp. Robert William George Dumbain, **PAGDC.**, ProvJ., Retired Chief Executive of "Greystones" Sherington, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Cowper & Newton Chapter, No. 2244 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3305 and a member of Wolverton Trinity Chapter, No. 7917.

E. Comp. Charles Gordon Hutchins, **PAGsoj.**, who had been elected as Z., was not present to be installed due to health issues. (he was again absent at the next meeting).

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 16th of October 1986.**

The forty first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Jeremy Pemberton, **PGSN**, member of Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No. 10.

The Companions stood in fond memory of E. Comp. Bernard Edgar Annetts, ProvGSE, who had died in Office on the 27th of August.

It was reported that the Annual Convocation of Provincial Grand Chapter was to be held at Berkshire Masonic Centre, Sindlesham, Berkshire on the 30th of March 1987. . (From this date to the present Provincial Meetings have been held at Berkshire Masonic Centre). It was noted that E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre, had been appointed to the Office of ProvGSE., the members congratulated him.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 7th April 1987.**

The forty second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Jeremy Pemberton, **PGSN**, of I, 6 Albany, Piccadilly, London, W1V 9RP. P.Z. of Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No. 10.

E. Comp. (Jack) John Henry Harry,

Installed as Z.

Congratulations were offered to E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., **GSupt.**, who had been a member of the Royal Arch for forty years and Grand Superintendent for twenty years. He had consecrated Wraysbury Chapter, No. 8689 in January, hoped to consecrate Manor of Swanburn Chapter at Bletchley later in the year.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 15th of October 1987.**

The forty third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Peter Jackson Waedill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S., D.L., **GSupt.**, of Bedfordshire a member of St John the Baptist Chapter, No 495..

The Companions stood in fond memory of their companions :-

E. Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C., PProvGSN., Founder and P.Z. who had died on the 11th of April.

E. Comp. Charles Gordon Hutchins, **PAGsoj**, P.Z. who had died on the 19th of May.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 21st April 1988.**

The fortieth forth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Harold Peter Hartley, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ., L.G.C.R. a member of Isma Chapter, No. 5009.

E. Comp. Gordon Cleminson, L.G.C.R., a member of The Royal Somerset House & Inverness Chapter No 4.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Peter Jackson Waedill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S., D.L., **GSupt.**, of Bedfordshire. Retired Dental Surgeon, of Stoneheaps Farm, Kimpton Bottom, Hitchin, Hertfordshire, P.Z. of St John the Baptist Chapter, No 495 and P.Z. of Bedfordshire First Principals Chapter, No. 7301.

The Companions stood in fond memory of their companions :-

E. Comp. E. Comp. Norman Delamain Ouvry, **PGSoj**, P.Z. Elect., who had served the Chapter as Treasurer for fourteen years, who had died on the 23rd of November 1987.

Fifty pounds was donated to the New Hospice at stoke-mandeville.

E. Comp. (Jack) John Henry Harry, due to the death of M.E.Z. Elect, continued in office as First Principal.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 20th of October 1988.**

The forty fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Harold Peter Hartley, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ., L.G.C.R., of Isma Chapter, No. 5009.

Joining Companion:-

E. Comp. Eric James Deung, PProvGReg., Retired Company Treasurer of Long Gables, Portway, North Marston, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Ferdinand de Rothschild Chapter, No. 2420, and of Wolverton Trinity Chapter, No. 7917. A member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3350.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 20th April 1989.**

The forty sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Gordon Cleminson, **PAGDC**, L.G.C.R., of The Royal Somerset House & Inverness Chapter No 4.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Harold Peter Hartley, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ., L.G.C.R., Retired Chairman and Group Director, of "Deccan", Springfield Lane West, Marlow, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Isma Chapter, No. 5009 and Fairway Chapter, No. 8614, a Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3350.

E. Comp. Richard Stainton. Edward Sandbach, **G. Supt.** (Northants & Hunts). Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 19th of October 1989.**

The forty seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of E. Comp. Col., Raymond Arthur Francis Smith, PProvGSN.. who had died on the 27th of September 1989.

Joining Companion:-

E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne, **PGStB**., PProvJ., Retired Company Director (Furnishings), of "Stocks" Ashburn Drive, Walters Ash, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Bowen Chapter, No. 948, Hampden Chapter, No. 6483, Cestreham Chapter, No. 6674 and of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3350.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

### **The Nineteen Nineties**

March 1990 - The Conservative plans for a 'poll tax', introduced in England and Wales on 1 April 1990, provoked vocal opposition across Britain in the form of anti-poll tax rallies and acts of civil disobedience. A largely peaceful march in London, attended by 70,000 people, degenerated into serious rioting centered on Trafalgar Square. The unpopularity of the tax contributed to the downfall of Margaret Thatcher. Her successor John Major replaced the poll tax with the council tax.

November 1990 - Faced by large-scale opposition within her own parliamentary party, Margaret Thatcher, who was widely seen as remote and autocratic, resigned as Prime Minister. The crisis of confidence in her leadership had been sparked by her attitude to Europe, while her support for the so-called 'poll tax' had undermined her standing with the electorate. Five days later, John Major succeeded her as party leader and prime minister.

January 1991 - Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered the invasion of Kuwait. Following a massive military build-up, US led forces backed by a United Nations mandate launched 'Operation Desert Storm' to liberate Kuwait. A huge aerial bombardment preceded the ground attack on 24th February. The Iraqi army fell into headlong retreat and on 27th

February, US President George Bush declared that Kuwait had been liberated. Saddam Hussein remained in power in Iraq.

April 1992 - A poor Labour campaign by leader Neil Kinnock squandered significant support for the opposition and helped Conservative John Major to a surprise general election victory, with a slim overall majority of 21.

May 1992 - The Channel Tunnel provided an unprecedented rail link between London and Paris, something that had been planned for over a century. The tunnel became the longest undersea tunnel in the world, 50km in total, with 39km of it under the sea.

16 September 1992 - 'Black Wednesday' forces withdrawal of sterling from the ERM; under strong financial pressure from speculation on the money markets it was pulled out of the European Union's Exchange Rate Mechanism. This was a major blow to the Conservatives' reputation for economic competence.

May 1997 - Tony Blair had become leader of the Labour Party in 1994 after the sudden death of John Smith. Blair continued the modernisation of the party begun by Smith. Voters responded to 'New Labour' in the 1997 election, giving the party a huge majority of 179 seats. One of the new Labour government's first acts was to give the Bank of England control of interest rates.

July 1997 - After more than 150 years of British rule, Hong Kong was returned to Chinese control. Britain had held the New Territories north of Hong Kong under a 99-year lease that expired in 1997, requiring the 'handing back' of the colony to China. Under the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy, Hong Kong retained its own legal system, currency, customs policy and immigration laws for a minimum 50 years after the handover.

August 1997 - Diana the ex-wife of the heir to the British throne, HRH Prince Charles, Prince of Wales, a controversial figure in life was killed in a car crash in Paris and provoked widespread public mourning. On 6th September one million people lined the streets of London for her funeral.

September 1997 - In two referenda, a large majority in Scotland (74.9% of those who voted), and a smaller one in Wales (50.3%), provided the basis for the creation of national assemblies with legislative powers. The assemblies first met in 1999 with the Scottish Parliament, but not the Welsh Assembly, gaining tax-varying powers.

April 1998 - An agreement between Northern Ireland's nationalists and unionists was reached after 30 years of conflict, as a result British government negotiations and US pressure on Sinn Féin, the political wing of the Irish Republican Army. It set out plans for devolved government and provided for the early release of terrorist prisoners and the decommissioning of paramilitary weapons. Referenda in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland endorsed the agreement on 22nd May. The assembly met on 1st July.

January 1999 - Widespread British unease about the European single currency obliged Prime Minister Tony Blair, who was keen on the project, to stay out. The 'euro' was

launched as an electronic currency used by banks, foreign exchange dealers, big firms and stock markets in 1999. Euro coins first hit the streets of the 12 'euro zone' countries on 1st January 2002.

### **The Nineteen Nineties and Methuen Chapter**

From 1990 to 2000 Methuen Chapter continued to hold its April Installation Convocations at Marlow Masonic Centre, St Peter Street, Marlow, dining at The Leander Club, Henley. The October meeting was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London by dispensations from SGCE and Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire, dining at The Cavalry and Guards Club from 1990 to 1995 and from 1996 to 1999 at the Dyers Hall, Dowgate Hill, London due to The Cavalry and Guards Club being unavailable, The new dining arrangement was made for the companions by E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L., **GSupt.**, who was a member of The Worshipful Company of Dyers.

**October 1990** a Joining Companion E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, **GSupt.**, of Berkshire. Retired Personnel Manager of Merriebank, Bank Green, Bellingdon, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of Sandhurst Chapter, No. 8505 and of Berkshire First Principals' Chapter, No. 3684.

**April 1991** it was reported that the Grand Superintendent of Buckinghamshire who had appointed in 1966 was to retire from Office at the end of April 1991 and E Comp. Eric J. Deung had been appointed to succeed him.

**April 1993** a joining member E. Comp. Eric Walter Hall, **PAGDC** a Retired Physicist of 8 Turner's Wood Drive, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Misbourne Chapter, No. 3305, Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3305.

**October 1993**, A joining member John Anthony Hawthorne West, **DepGDC**, a Solicitor residing at Remenham Manor, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, P.Z. of Westminster & Keystone Chapter, No 10.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp.Lt. Col. Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham, **PGSN.**, who's death occurred on the 18th of June, 1993.

**April 1994**. A joining member E. Comp. Robert Faulkner, **PAGDC.**, **DepGSupt.**, Berks., Retired Bank Manager, residing at 8 Lancaster Close, Allcroft Road, Reading, Berkshire. P.Z., of Shanghai Tuscan Chapter, No 1027, Martin Chapter, No. 3202 and Reading Old Boys Chapter, No. 3345. Founder of Berkshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3684.

E. Comp. Geoffrey Michael Redman – Brown, **GSupt.**, of Oxfordshire:- Installed as Z.

**April 1995** E. Comp. Eric James Deung, **GSupt**, installed as First Principal.

**April 1997** E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne, **PAGSoj.**, **PProvGJ** Installed First Principal.

**April 1998** the Scribe E read a letter informing the Chapter that the M.E. First Grand Principal had been appointed E. Comp Dr Eric Hall, **PGSwdB**, **DepGSupt** to succeed



E.Comp. Eric James. Deung as Grand Supt with effect from the v31st of May 1998. Congratulations on his appointment were offered by the M.E.Z, on behalf of all the Companions.

**October 1999** a joining member E. Comp. The Rt Hon Lord Hugh John Frederick Burnham , **AGSoj**,. Peer of the Realm, residing at Woodland Farm, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, M.E.Z. Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.

Chapter membership in 1990 stood at twenty two by 1999 twenty eight.

**Thursday 19th April 1990.**

The forty eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, **GSupt.**, of Berkshire, a member of Sandhurst Chapter, No. 8505.

E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre, **PGStB**, ProvGSE.

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 18th of October 1990.**

The forty ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, **GSupt.**, of Berkshire a Retired Personnel Manager of Merriebank, Bank Green, Bellingdon, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of Sandhurst Chapter, No. 8505 and of Berkshire First Principals' Chapter, No. 3684.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of two companions:-

E. Comp. The Right Hon Lord Rathcreedan, T.D., **GSupt** of Oxfordshire.  
E. Comp.. Major General Sir Leonard Atkinson, K.B.E., Past President of the Committee of General Purposes. who had died on the 14th of May and the 27th of June respectively.

The Scribe E., reported that to celebrate the centenary of the Royal Arch Province of Buckinghamshire, a service of thanks giving would be held in the Chapel of Stow School on the 14th of April 1991. The address would be given by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 18th April 1991.**

The fiftieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Gordon Cleminson ,**PAGDC**, L.G.C.R., of The Royal Somerset House & Inverness Chapter No 4.

E. Comp.Dr. Royston Gray Fender of Shelburne Chapter, No. 7719.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Peter Hanns Erlen, ProvGDC., retired Accountant, of 129, Whalley Drive, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Campbell Chapter, No. 1415 and of Watling Street Chapter, No 1639. Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter, No. 3350,. Middlesex First Principals Chapter, No. 3420 and of Manor of Swanburn Chapter, No. 8647.

E. Comp. Robert William George Dumbain, **PAGDC**., PProvH. Installed as Z.,

It was reported that the Grand Superintendent who was appointed in 1966 was to retire from Office at the end of April 1991 and E Comp. Eric J. Deung had been appointed to succeed him. The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 17th of October 1991.**

The fifty first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of two companions:-

E. Comp Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C., TD, **PAGSoj**..

E. Comp. Sir Gilbert Inglefield, G.B.E.,T.D., **PGSN**.

Their deaths occurred on the 9th of July and the 14th of October respectively.

E. Comp. Richard Stainton Edward Sandbach, **G. Supt.**(Northants & Hunts).addressed the companions on the subject of the development of Nos. 10 and 11 Duke Street, it was hoped that support would be given to this worthy project.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 16th April 1992.**

The fifty second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Harry Charles Alfred Benford, **PAGDC**., a member of Christopher Wren Chapter, No 4855.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Dr. Royston Gray Fender, **PGStB.**, ProvGJ. Retired Medical Practitioner of 69, Marlow Road, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. P.Z., of Shelburne Chapter, No. 7719. Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3305 and a Member of Marlow Chapter, No. 2752.

The companions were reminded that on the 16th of May 1992, the Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter, No. 9222 would be consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Bletchley.

E. Comp. Jeremy Pemberton, **PGSN.**,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 15th of October 1992.**

The fifty third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Gordon F. Cleminson, **PAGDC.**, L.G.C.R., Retired Company Secretary of Broadview, The Vale, Chesham, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of The Royal Somerset House & Inverness Chapter No 4.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Eric Walter Hall, **PAGDC.**, a member of The Misbourne Chapter, No. 3305.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of:-

E. Comp. Robert William George Dumbain, **PAGDC.**, ProvJ., who's death occurred on the 20th of May 1992.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 15th April 1993.**

The fifty fourth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. F.D. Funnell, **PAGDC.**, a member of Marlow Chapter, No 2752.

John Anthony Hawthorne West, P.Z. of Westminster & Keystone Chapter, No 10.

Harry Charles Alfred Benford, **PAGDC.**, a member of Christopher Wren Chapter, No 4855.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Eric Walter Hall, **PAGDC.**, a Retired Physicist residing at 8 Turner's Wood Drive, Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Misbourne Chapter, No. 3305, Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3305.

E. Comp Peter Jackson Waedill, M.R.C.S.,L.D.S.,D.L.,**GSupt.**,Bedfordshire Installed as Z.

Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L. **GSupt.**, paid tribute to the great services rendered to the Chapter by E. Comp. Robert J. Weatherhead over many years having been appointed Scribe E IN 1976, who had expressed a wish to retire from that office. Sir Ralph B. Verney reminded the companions that the Chapter had not as yet conferred upon E. Comp. Weatherhead the highest honour it had in its power to confer, that of election to the First Principal's Chair, he felt sure that it would be the unanimous wish of all the Companions that E. Comp. Weatherhead be duly elected as MEZ., in the near future.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 21st of October 1993.**

The fifty fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion:-

Robert Edward Faulkner, **PAGDC**, DepGSupt (Berks)

E. Comp. M. Foss, P.Z. of Westminster & Keystone Chapter, No 10.

Joining Companion :-

John Anthony Hawthorne West, **DepGDC**, a Solicitor residing at Remenham Manor, Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire, P.Z. of Westminster & Keystone Chapter, No 10.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp.Lt. Col. Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham, **PGSN.**, who's death occurred on the 18th of June, 1993. The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 21st April 1994.**

The fifty sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp Robert William Resier Lieberman, **PAGSoj.**, DepGSupt. (Oxon)., P.Z. OF Alfred Chapter No. 340.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Robert Faulkner, **PAGDC.**, DepGSupt., Berks., Retired Bank Manager, residing at 8 Lancaster Close, Allcroft Road, Reading, Berkshire. P.Z., of Shanghai Tuscan Chapter, No 1027, Martin Chapter, No. 3202 and Reading Old Boys Chapter, No. 3345. Founder of Berkshire First Principals Chapter, No. 3684.

E. Comp. Geoffrey Michael Redman – Brown, **GSupt.**, of Oxfordshire:- Installed as Z.  
The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 20th of October 1994.**

The fifty seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. R. Heskett, **GSupt.** (Herts).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp Robert William Resier Lieberman, **PAGSoj.**, DepGSupt. (Oxon)., a retired university administrator of 5 Fitzherbert Close, Iffley, P.Z. OF Alfred Chapter No. 340 and of Oxfordshire First Principals' Chapter No. 7770.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 20th of April 1995.**

The fifty eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp John Jefferson Mitchell, **PGStB.**, ProvGDC..P.Z. of Marlow Chapter No. 2752.

E. Comp. Eric James Deung, **GSupt.**,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 19th of October 1995.**

The fifty ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp John Jefferson Mitchell, **PGStB.**, ProvGDC., a retired Civil Engineer residing at Piercefield, Bovington Green, Marlow, Buckinghamshire .P.Z. of Marlow Chapter No. 2752. Member of Bourne End Chapter No. 7943 and Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 18th of April 1996.**

The sixtieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp R J. Head, **PAGDC.**, ProvGDC (Berks) a member of Martin Chapter No. 3202.

E. Comp. Harold Peter Hartley, **PAGSoj.**, PProvGH., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 17th of October 1996.**

The sixty first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

The companions dined at the Dyers Hall, Dowgate Hill, London as The Cavalry and Guards Club was not available.

**Thursday 17th of April 1997.**

The sixty second convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp Donald George Varney, **PGStB.**, ProvGJ a member of Shelburne Chapter, No. 7719.

E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne, **PAGSoj.**, PProvGJ., Installed as Z.

The Chapter made a donation of £100 to the Grand Charity for the 1999 Festival.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 16th of October 1997.**

The sixty third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp Donald George Varney, **PGStB.**, ProvGJ a retired Railway Officer, residing at 49, High Street, West Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Shelburne Chapter, No. 7719,

Thames Schools Chapter No 6216, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No. 3305.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 16th of April 1998.**

The sixty fourth convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp Harry Charles Alfred. Benford, **PGSoj**, DepGSupt, (Berks),. P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter, No. 4855.

E. Comp. John Charles Luker, **PGStB.**, a member of Thames Chapter, No 1895.

E. Comp. Peter Hanns Erlen, **PGStB**, PProvGH., Installed as Z.

The Scribe E, read a letter informing the Chapter that the M.E. First Grand Principal had been appointed E. Comp Dr Eric Hall, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt to succeed E.Comp. Eric James. Deung as Grand Supt with effect from the 31st of May 1998. Congratulations on his appointment were offered by the M.E.Z, on behalf of all the Companions.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 15th of October 1998.**

The sixty fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Horatio Nelson Hall, **PAGDC.**, ProvgSE., a member of Hall Barn Chapter, No 8480.

E. Comp. D. Reed, I.P.Z. of Courteway Chapter, No. 7529.

The companions dined at the Dyers Hall, Dowgate Hill, London.

**Thursday 15th of April 1999.**

The sixty sixth convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. The Rt Hon Lord Hugh John Frederick Burnham, M.E.Z., a member of Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Horatio Nelson Hall, **PAGDC.**, ProvgSE, residing at 52, Ashley Drive, Tylers Green, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of St. Mary's Chapter No. 63 and Hall Barn Chapter, No 8480. A member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No. 3305, and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter, No. 9222.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of E. Comp. Edward Benjamin. Pearce, **PGSupt** (Berks) who's death occurred on the 12th of November, 1998.

Dispensation from SGCE was read to enable E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, **PGSupt** (Berks) to be installed as M.E.Z. as he was currently M.E.Z. of Chapter of Rectitude, No 335.

E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, **PGSupt** (Berks),

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 21st of October 1999.**

The sixty seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion:-

E. Comp. The Rt Hon Lord Hugh John Frederick Burnham , **AGSoj**,. Peer of the Realm, residing at Woodland Farm, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire, M.E.Z. Westminster and Keystone Chapter, No 10.

The companions dined at the Dyers Hall, Dowgate Hill, London.



The Worshipful Company of Dyers

**2000 - A New Millennium**

There were widespread celebrations of the new millennium and relief that the 'millennium bug', which had been predicted to cause global computer meltdown, failed to materialise. Queen Elizabeth II and Prime Minister Tony Blair joined a party at the ill starred Millennium Dome in Greenwich, east London. The controversial dome was considered a massive flop and only stayed open until December 2000.

March 2000 - The late 1990s saw a profusion of start-up companies selling products or services either using or related to the internet. There was a speculative frenzy of investment in these 'dotcom' companies, much of it by small investors. The bursting of the 'dotcom bubble' saw the collapse of many of these companies and marked the beginning of a mild yet lengthy recession.

2001 - The nine-month epidemic of 'foot-and-mouth' disease resulted in the culling of millions of animals and devastated large sections of the rural economy. The crisis brought the countryside to a virtual standstill and the cost to British farming was put between £800

million and £2.4 billion. The Labour government was heavily criticised for its handling of the crisis.

June 2001 - Labour won a commanding majority of 167 seats. Prime Minister Tony Blair's second term came to be dominated by controversial foreign policy issues, mainly the 'war on terror' begun after the terror attacks in the United States on 11th September. The Conservative leader, William Hague, resigned after the party showed little sign of electoral recovery.

September 2001 - Nineteen, mainly Saudi Arabian terrorists, used hijacked planes to destroy the twin towers of the World Trade Centre in New York and part of the Pentagon building in Washington. A fourth plane crashed in Pennsylvania, killing all on board. Among the approximately 3,000 people killed in the attacks were 67 Britons. In response US President, George W. Bush, declared a worldwide 'war on terror'.

October 2001 - British forces contributed to the initial US military strikes against the Islamic fundamentalist Taleban regime in Afghanistan - the first retaliation to the terrorist attacks of "9/11". The Taleban, who had allowed the terrorist organisation al-Qaeda to use Afghanistan as a base, was overthrown and replaced with a US-backed administration. Coalition forces, including British troops, remain in Afghanistan. Osama Bin Laden, the al-Qaeda leader responsible for the "9/11" attacks, was not found.

March 2003 - Despite significant opposition at home, the British government gave military support to the controversial United States-led invasion of Iraq. Crucially, the action was not backed by a United Nations mandate, sparking debate over the legality of the invasion. Iraqi President Saddam Hussein was overthrown and captured. Iraq now has a democratically elected government, but the country remains deeply unstable as a result of the deliberate stoking of sectarian tensions by terrorist groups.

May 2004 - Ten new states from eastern and southern Europe joined the European Union, making it the largest trading bloc in the world by population. Their inclusion sparked fears, stoked by lurid media stories, of a huge influx of 'economic migrants' from the poorer eastern countries to the wealthier western countries such as Britain.

February 2005 - The agreement required countries to cut emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases by 5.2% by 2012. The treaty was signed by 141 countries but the world's largest economy - and largest polluter - the United States, did not ratify it. Climate scientists argued that the 5.2% target was far too low, and a 60% cut was needed to make an impact on climate change caused by human activity.

May 2005 - Labour won, but with a substantially reduced majority. Tony Blair joined Margaret Thatcher as the only post-war prime ministers to have won three successive general elections. Nonetheless, he quickly announced his intention not to stand for a fourth term, sparking ongoing speculation about when he would hand over to his anointed successor, Chancellor of the Exchequer, Gordon Brown. Conservative leader Michael Howard resigned to make way for a younger leader.



July 2005 - Three men blew themselves up on London Underground trains, while a fourth exploded his bomb on a double-decker bus. Fifty two people were killed and more than 700 injured. On 21st July there were four more attempted suicide bombings in London, but none of the devices exploded. Islamic terrorist organisation al-Qaeda claimed responsibility, but it is thought that the bombers, all British Muslims, acted alone.

May 2007 - Leaders of Northern Ireland Assembly sworn in, ending five years of direct rule from London. Pro-independence Scottish National Party (SNP) becomes the largest party in the Scottish Parliament following elections.

June 2007 - Gordon Brown succeeds Tony Blair as premier.

February 2008 - The government nationalises the troubled mortgage lender Northern Rock. Funding problems at the bank in the second half of 2007 triggered the first run on a British bank in more than a century.

May 2008 - Ruling Labour Party suffers its worst local election results in 40 years. In the contest for Mayor of London it loses to the candidate of the main opposition Conservative party, Boris Johnson.

October 2008 - The government part-nationalises three leading UK banks with a 37 billion pound rescue package. It also pumps billions into the UK financial system after record stock market falls precipitated by the global "credit crunch".

The financial crisis which began in 2008 plunged the UK into a deep and long recession

December 2008 - The FTSE 100 ends closes down by 31.3% since the beginning of 2008, the biggest annual fall in the 24 years since the index was started.

January 2009 - The Bank of England cuts interests rates to 1.5%, the lowest level in its 315-year history. The government announces a second package of measures to help Britain's ailing banks, amid surging unemployment and deepening economic gloom.

November 2009 - Britain withdraws bulk of its remaining troops in southern Iraq, leaving only a small force tasked with training the Iraqi military. Iraq inquiry chaired by former civil servant Sir John Chilcot opens. Its stated aim is to "learn the lessons" of the Iraq conflict. The UK economy comes out of recession, after figures show it grew by 0.1% in the last quarter of 2009, following six consecutive quarters of economic contraction - the longest such period since quarterly figures were first recorded in 1955.

### **Methuen Chapter at the start of the New Millennium**

From 2000 to 2010 Methuen Chapter continued to hold its April Installation Convocations at Marlow Masonic Centre, St. Peter Street, Marlow, dining at The Leander Club, Henley. The October meeting was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London, by dispensations from SGCE and Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire, dining at Dyers Hall, Dowgate Hill, London, returning for dining to The Cavalry and Guards Club from 2001 to 2009. The October meetings were held by dispensation from SGCE and from Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Chapter until 2004 when SGCE dispensation was replaced by Metropolitan Grand Chapter dispensation until 2009.

**April 2000** a joining member, E. Comp. Lt.Col. Brian Hilton, **PGStB**, residing at "Sakyikrom" Nag's Head Lane, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Marlow Chapter, No. 2752. A member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

**October 2000** a joining member, E. Comp. Norman George Bliss, PProvGReg., a retired farmer residing at Upper Dean Farm, Stewkley, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. P.Z. of Watling Street Chapter No. 1639, Wineslai Chapter No. 2435 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

**April 2001**, a joining member, E. Comp. John Charles Luker, **PGSoj.**, residing at Bell House, Station Road, Shiplake, Nr. Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Deputy Grand Superintendent (Oxfordshire), P.Z. Thames Chapter, No 1895 and Caversham Chapter, No. 3831.

**October 2001**, a joining member, E. Comp Harry Charles Alfred. Benford, **PGSoj**, DepGSupt., (Berks), a retired Master Printer residing at "Greystones" 69b Bagley Wood Road, Kennington, Oxon, OX1 5LY. P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter, No. 4855, St Swithun's Chapter No. 8550, Wilder Chapter No. 9471 and a member of Rectitude Chapter No 335.

M.E.Z. announced the death of **Sir Ralph Verney, Bt., KBE** Companions, it is with great regret that I have to inform you that since our last meeting our well respected Companion, Sir Ralph Verney, Bt., KBE, has passed to the Grand Lodge above. Sir Ralph was a child of the first world war, having been born on 18th January 1915. He was educated at Ca n f o r d , and Balliol College Oxford, and during World War Two served in the army. He was initiated into Caterham Lodge, No 2095 in Surrey on 1st of March 1937, but resigned from that one in December 1941. Subsequently he joined many others including Lodge of Antiquity No 2.

**April 2002**, E. Comp. Dr. Eric Walter Hall, **GSupt.**, Installed as Z.  
**April 2003**, a joining member, E. Comp. Thomas Dunn, **PAGDC**, ProvGH., residing at 16 Maypole Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire a P.Z. of Light from the East Chapter No. 4186 and Old Paludians Chapter No. 7181., a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305. North Surrey First Principals' Chapter No. 5905 and Quetta Chapter No. 2333.

E. Comp. John Anthony Hawthorne West, PDepGDC., Installed as Z.

#### **Thursday 16th of October 2003.**

The seventy fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Cdr. Ian Wellesley-Harding, R.N, residing at Calstock House, Old Oaks Drive, Biddenham, Bedfordshire. P.Z. of Navy Chapter No. 2612, founding member of Paviers & City Livery Chapter No. 5646.

A donation of £100 made to the Buckinghamshire Benevolent Fund.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**April 2004**, a joining member, E. Comp. Richard John Horace Neale, ProvGJ. Residing at Three Hollies, Cherry Tree Road, Farnham Royal, Slough, Berkshire. P.Z. of Inglefield Chapter No 4238 a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305 and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No. 9222.

E. Comp. Robert Edward Faulkner **GSupt.** (Berkshire)., Installed as Z.

**April 2005**, a joining member, E. Comp. Kenneth Leslie Benford, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt. (Berkshire), residing at 90 Brands Hill Avenue, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter No 4855 and St. Swithun Chapter No.8550, a member of Berkshire First Principals Chapter No. 3684, Rectitude Chapter No. 335 and Cockfosters No. 6883.

E. Comp. Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, **GSE.**, residing at 102 Parkway, Harrow, Middlesex, P.Z. of Kensington Battalion Chapter, No 3624. Apollo University Chapter No.357 a member of Fidelity Chapter No. 125 (IC) and Westminster & Keystone Chapter No 10 and Abbey Chapter No 47.

E. Comp. Robert William Rosier Liebermann, **PGSoj**, PDepGSupt.(Oxon)., Installed as Z.

**October 2005.** The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club. The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of one of our Country's greatest leaders and heroes, **Admiral Lord Nelson**. To mark this very significant occasion, E. Comp. Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding, who served in the Royal Navy for 24 years, gave an inspired talk and proposed the traditional Naval toast to :- "**The Immortal memory of Admiral Lord Nelson**". (on the day before the anniversary).

**April 2006**, a joining member, E. Comp. Ray Reed, PProvGSN. Residing at, "Bagsters" Kings Lane, Cookham Dean, Berkshire a P.Z. of Bourne End Chapter No 7943, a member of Thesaurus Chapter No. 3891 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

**October 2006**, a joining member E. Comp. Wg Cdr.Gary Donald Mitchell, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt. (Berkshire) residing at The "Chestnuts" 14 Woodhurst Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. P.Z. of Resurrection Chapter No. 515, Ellington Chapter No. 1566, a member on Berkshire First Principals Chapter No. 3684 and Chapter of Rectitude No. 2000.

**April 2007**, a joining member E. Comp. Arthur Charles Driver, **PGStB.**, ProvGSE., residing at 79 Huberts Close, Gerards Cross, Buckinghamshire, a P.Z. of Taplow Chapter No. 3111, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

**October 2007**, a joining member, E. Comp. Roger Bashford, **PGStB**, ProvGJ, residing at "St Giles", Western Avenue, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire. P.Z. of Iver Chapter No. 5254, Five Points Chapter No. 8197, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No. 3305.

**April 2008**, E. Comp. Lt Col Brian David Hilton, **PGStB**, PProvGH., Installed as Z.

**April 2009**, a joining member, E. Comp. Ronald Lawrence Everett, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ, residing at 32, School Drive, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, P.Z. of Cedars of Lebanon Chapter No. 4317, Manor of Swanburn Chapter No 8647, Longville Chapter No.9322, Roman Way Chapter No.9533 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp. Norman George Bliss, **PGStB**, PProvGReg., Installed as Z.

**October 2009**, a joining member, E. Comp. John Lionel Keeble, **PGStB**, ProvGDC, residing at 49 Manor Park, Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Bevan Chapter, No 2458., a member of Buckinghamshire Stewards Chapter, No 9222, and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

Chapter membership in 2000 stood at twenty eight by 2009 twenty eight.



**The Most Excellent Grand Superintendent John Lionel Keeble**

**Thursday 20th of April 2000.**

The sixty eighth convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion:-

E. Comp. Lt.,Col. Brian Hilton, **PGStB**., residing at "Sakyikrom" Nag's Head Lane, Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Marlow Chapter, No. 2752., a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E Comp Dr Andrew Felix Verney, **PGStB**, PProvGSN., who's death occurred on the 26th of February, 2000. E. Comp. Harold Peter Hartley, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ., L.G.C.R who's death occurred on the 10th of March, 2000.

E. Comp. Dr Royson Gray Fender, **PGSwdB**., DepGSupt., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 19th of October 2000.**

The sixty ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp Harry Charles Alfred. Benford, **PGSoj**, DepGS (Berks) P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter, No. 4855.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Norman George Bliss, PProvGReg., a retired Farmer residing at Upper Dean Farm, Stewkley, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire. P.Z. of Watling Street Chapter No. 1639, Wineslai Chapter No.2435, Member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No.3305

The companions dined at the Dyers Hall, Dowgate Hill, London.

#### **Thursday 19th of April 2001.**

The seventh convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. John Charles Luker, **PGSoj**., residing at Bell House, Station Road, Shiplake, Nr. Henley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire. Deputy Grand Superintendent (Oxfordshire), P.Z. Thames Chapter, No 1895 and Caversham Chapter, No. 3831.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Peter Jackson Wardill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S.,D.L., **GSupt.**, Bedfordshire,P.Z. who's death occurred on the 21st of January, 2001. E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, PGSupt. (Berks). who's death occurred on the 2nd.of February, 2001.

M.E. Comp. Rt. Honourable Lord Farnham, Past Pro First Grand Principal who's death occurred on the 22nd of March, 2001.

E. Comp. Gordon F. Cleminson ,**PAGDC**., L.G.C.R., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 18th of October 2001.**

The seventy first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp Harry Charles Alfred. Benford, **PGSoj**, DepGS (Berks) a retired Master Printer residing at "Greystones" 69b Bagley Wood Road, Kennington, Oxon, OX1 5LY. P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter, No. 4855, St Swithun's Chapter No. 8550, Wilder Chapter No. 9471 and a member of Rectitude Chapter No 335.

M.E.Z referred to the lamented death on March the 22nd 2001 of our M.E.Comp. Rt. Honourable Lord Farnham, Past Pro First Grand Principal, an event which has occasioned sorrow to every member of the Order.

M.E.Z. announced the death of **Sir Ralph Verney, Bt., KBE** Companions, it is with great regret that I have to inform you that since our last meeting our well respected Companion, Sir Ralph Verney, Bt., KBE, has passed to the Grand Lodge above. Sir Ralph was a child of the First World War, having been born on 18th January 1915. He was educated at Balliol College Oxford, and during world war two served in the army. He was initiated into Caterham Lodge, No 2095 in Surrey on 1st of March 1937, but resigned from that one in December 1941. Subsequently he joined many others including Lodge of Antiquity No 2.

He was exalted in Addington Chapter, No 1787 in Buckingham in March 1947, and subsequently joined, among others, the Chapter of St. James No 2. In our province, he was Provincial Grand Master from 1970 to 1976, and Grand Superintendent from 1966 to 1991. He Consecrated this Chapter on 20th October 1966, his first consecration, and joined on 20th April 1967. He was First Principal in 1977 and 1978. He had a great love for this chapter right up to the end, and even in his later years when his health was failing, he hardly ever missed a meeting, and it was a tradition that he finished the evening by giving the Tyler's Toast. Apart from his Masonic interests he was involved in all aspects of public life. He was High Sheriff of Buckinghamshire in 1957, a Deputy Lieutenant in 1960, and Vice Lieutenant in 1965. In addition he was, among other posts, involved with the Forestry Commission, and the Country Landowners Association, serving as it President in 1962/3, and many government advisory posts, and was a member of The Dyers' Company. His hobbies are given in Who's Who as "Trees and Wine". These are but the bare facts, but to us he was a much respected and loved member of this Chapter. He took a very keen interest in everything, concerned with it, and until the early nineties his name appeared on all applications for membership. We all enjoyed his presence at our meetings and the festive boards at the Leander Club in April, and at the Cavalry Club, or on some occasions at Dyers Hall in the City, and his tradition of giving the Tyler's Toast at the end. We shall all miss his guidance and help, and kindness, and we are the poorer for his death. We extend our sympathy to his family. Companions I ask you to be upstanding in tribute to his memory.

Scribe E. Read a letter he had received from E. Comp. Sir Lawrence Verney, confirming that our dining arrangements after this Convocation would be duly honoured by the Cavalry and Guards Club and in appreciation of Sir Ralph's 57 years membership the port be served but not invoiced.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

### **Thursday 18th of April 2002.**

The seventy second convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion:-

E. Comp. Patrick Arthur Langston, **PGStB.**, residing at "Primrose Cottage", 20 William Smith Close, Little Woolstone, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. Retired Company Secretary, Provincial Grand Scribe E. P.Z. Thames Schools' Chapter No. 6216. Founder of Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter, No. 9222 and Roman Way Chapter No. 9533. a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

E. Comp. Dr. Eric Walter Hall, **GSupt.**,

Installed as Z

The companions dined at the Marlow Masonic Centre.

**Thursday 17th of October 2002.**

The seventy third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Alan John Englefield, **GSupt** (Oxfordshire), a member of Apollo University Chapter, No. 357.

E. Comp. J. Frank. J. Faulkner, **PGStB**, a member of Triune Chapter, No 114.

E. Comp. Thomas Dunn, **PAGDC.**, a P.Z. of Old Paludians Chapter No. 7181.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp Roy King Holton, **PAGSoj.**, residing at 25 Deashanger Road, Old Stratford, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of St. George's Chapter No. 840 and Wolverton Trinity Chapter No. 7917, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

A donation of £100 made to the Buckinghamshire Benevolent Fund to support the Provincial Grand Masters year of celebration.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

**Thursday 17th of April 2003.**

The seventy fourth convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Thomas Dunn, **PAGDC**, ProvGH., residing at 16 Maypole Road, Taplow, Maidenhead, Berkshire a P.Z. of Light from the East Chapter No. 4186 and Old Paludians Chapter No. 7181. A member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305. North Surrey First Principals' Chapter No. 5905 and Quetta Chapter No. 2333.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Cdr. Ian Wellesley–Harding R.N., P.Z. of Navy Chapter No. 2612

E. Comp. Richard John Horace Neale, ProvGJ. P.Z. Inglefield Chapter No 4238.

E. Comp. John Anthony Hawthorne West, **PDepGDC**,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

**Thursday 16th of October 2003.**

The seventy fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Cdr. Ian Wellesley–Harding R.N, residing at Calstock House, Old Oaks Drive, Biddenham, Bedfordshire. P.Z. of Navy Chapter No. 2612, founding member of Paviors & City Livery Chapter No. 5646.

A donation of £100 made to the Buckinghamshire Benevolent Fund.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 15th of April 2004.**

The seventy sixth convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Richard John Horace Neale, ProvGJ. Residing at Three Hollies, Cherry Tree Road, Farnham Royal, Slough, Berkshire. P.Z. Inglefield Chapter No 4238 a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305 and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No. 9222.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Lionel Paul Cleminson, **PAGSoj.**, P.Z. (1984) who's death occurred on the 15th of February 2004. E. Comp. Gordon Foster Cleminson, PGStB.,P.Z. (2001), who's death occurred on the 26th of March 2004. E. Comp. John Herbert Wyndham Wilder, C.B.E., **PGSN.**, who's death occurred on the 13th of April 2004.

E. Comp. Robert Edward Faulkner **GSupt.**, (Berkshire), Installed as Z.,

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 21st of October 2004.**

The seventy seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations) (from this date on London dispensations are from Metropolitan Grand Chapter).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, **GSE.**, P.Z. of Kensington Battalion, No 3624.  
E. Comp Martin Vincent Lush Foss GSupt. (Bedfordshire) a member of Westminster and Keystone Chapter No. 10. E. Comp. Kenneth Leslie Benford, PGSwdB, DepGSupt. (Berkshire). P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter No 4855.  
E. Comp. Joseph Frank James.Faulkner, **PAGSoj.**, P.Z, of Pangbourne Chapter No 4381.  
E. Comp. Robert J. Tile, **DepGSwdB.**, a member of Royal York Chapter, No 81.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 21st of April 2005.**

The seventy eighth convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Kenneth Leslie Benford, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt. (Berkshire), residing at 90 Brands Hill Avenue, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of Christopher Wren Chapter No 4855 and St. Swisuns No.8550, a member of Berkshire First Principals Chapter No. 3684, Rectitude Chapter No. 335 and Cockfosters No. 6883.



E. Comp. Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, **GSE.**, residing at 102 Parkway, Harrow, Middlesex, P.Z. of Kensington Battalion Chapter, No 3624. Apollo University Chapter No.357 a member of Fidelity Chapter No. 125 (IC) Westminster & Keystone Chapter No 10 and Abbey Chapter No 47.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp John Owen, **PAGDC**, Cookham Manor Chapter No. 4191.

E. Comp Dr Maj Roger Jago, **GSupt.**, (Hants & I. O. W.) a member of Connaught Chapter No. 197.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. The Right Hon. Lord Burnham, **DepGSwdB**, PProvGSN., who's death occurred on the 1st of February 2005. E. Comp. Dr. Eric Walther Hall **GSupt.**, P.Z (2002) who's death occurred on the 21st of March 2005.

E. Comp. Robert William Rosier Liebermann, PGSoj, PDepGsupt.(Oxon). Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 20th of October 2005.**

The seventy ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. Ray Reed, PProvGSN. (**PGM**), a P.Z.of Bourne End Chapter No 7943.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. John (Jack) Henry Harry, **PAGSoj**, PPGJ, who's death occurred on the 27th of May 2005.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

The 200th Anniversary of the Battle of Trafalgar and the death of one of our Country's greatest leaders and heroes, **Admiral Lord Nelson**. To mark this very significant occasion, E. Comp. Commander Ian Wellesley-Harding, who served in the Royal Navy for 24 years, gave an inspired talk and proposed the traditional Naval toast to :- "**The Immortal memory of Admiral Lord Nelson**". (on the day before the anniversary).

#### **Thursday 20th of April 2006.**

The eightieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Ray Reed, PProvGSN. Residing at, "Bagsters" Kings Lane, Cookham Dean, Berkshire a P.Z. of Bourne End Chapter No 7943, a member of Thesaurus Chapter No. 3891 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

E. Comp. John Jefferson Mitchell, **PAGSoj.**, PProvGH.,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 19th of October 2006.**

The eighty first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Wg Cdr. Gary Donald Mitchell, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt. (Berkshire) residing at The "Chestnuts" 14 Woodhurst Road, Maidenhead, Berkshire. P.Z. of Resurrection Chapter No. 515, Ellington Chapter No. 1566, a member on Berkshire First Principals Chapter No. 3684 and Chapter of Rectitude No.335.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Arthur Charles Driver, **PGStB**, ProvGSE, P.Z. of Taplow Chapter No. 3111.  
E. Comp. Raymond Moorin, **PGStB**, ProvGReg.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 19th of April 2007.**

The eighty second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp Raymond Moorin, **PGStB**, ProvGReg, residing at "Lyndale" 21 Coates Lane, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of Shelburne Chapter No. 7719, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305 and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No. 9222.

E. Comp. Arthur Charles Driver, **PGStB**, ProvGSE, residing at 79 Huberts Close, Gerards Cross, Buckinghamshire, P.Z. of Taplow Chapter No. 3111, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals' Chapter No. 3305.

E. Comp. Horatio Nelson Hall, **PGStB**, ProvGH, LGCR., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 18th of October 2007.**

The eighty third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Roger Bashford, **PGStB**, ProvGJ, residing at "St Giles", Western Avenue, Woodley, Reading, Berkshire. P.Z. of Iver Chapter No. 5254, Five Points Chapter No. 8197, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No. 3305.

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Richard Ludwik Glan, **PAGDC**, Globe Chapter No 23  
E. Comp. Barrie James Privett, ProvGReg. Manor of Swanburn Chapter No 8647.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 17th of April 2008.**

The eighty fourth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Richard Ludwik Glan, **PAGDC**, residing at Cadren House, 9 Hobbs End, Henley-on-Thames. P.Z. of Globe Chapter No 23, Stawberry Hill Chapter No 1980, a member of Grafton Chapter No 2006.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Robert William Rosier Liebermann, **PGSoj**, PDepGSupt. (Oxon), who's death occurred on the 18th of February 2008.

E. Comp. Lt Col Brian David Hilton, **PGStB**, PProvGH, Installed as Z.,

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 16th of October 2008.**

The eighty fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.

#### **Thursday 16th of April 2009.**

The eighty sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Ronald Lawrence Everett, **PAGDC**, ProvGJ, residing at 32, School Drive, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, P.Z. of Cedars of Lebanon Chapter No. 4317, Manor of Swanburne Chapter No 8647, Longville Chapter No.9322, Roman Way Chapter No.9533 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

Visiting Companion :-

E. Comp. John Lionel Keeble, **PGStB**, ProvGDC, P.Z. of Bevan Chapter, No 2458.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Jeremy Pemberton, **PGSN**, who's death occurred on the 23rd of November 2008.

E. Comp. Norman George Bliss, **PGStB**, PProvGReg: Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 15th of October 2009.**

The eighty seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at 10, Duke Street, St James, London (by dispensations).

Joining Member :-

E. Comp. John Lionel Keeble, **PGStB**, ProvGDC, residing at 49 Manor Park, Wooburn Green, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Bevan Chapter, No 2458. Member of Buckinghamshire Stewards Chapter, No 9222, Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

The companions dined at the The Cavalry and Guards Club.



E. Comp. Ian Richard Given Hopgood, **GSupt** (Berks)

**Two Thousand and Ten to the Present Day**

May 2010 - General election; Conservative Party wins most seats but fails to gain an absolute majority. Conservative leader David Cameron becomes Prime Minister at the head of a coalition with the third-placed Liberal Democrats.

November 2010 - UK concludes military and nuclear accord with France. Under the terms of the new treaty, the two countries will cooperate in the testing of nuclear warheads.

April 2011 - Prince William, eldest son of the Prince of Wales and second in line to the throne, and Kate Middleton marry in a ceremony watched by millions around the world. They receive the titles of Duke and Duchess of Cambridge.

July 2011 - One of the UK's biggest-selling newspapers, the News of the World, closes following revelations that journalists at the paper had hacked the phones of hundreds of public figures and ordinary members of the public. Prime Minister Cameron's director of communications, a former editor at the weekly tabloid, resigns and is later arrested in connection with the scandal.

August-September 2012 - Britain hosts the 2012 Summer Olympics and Paralympics, to widespread international acclaim.

May 2013 - Soldier, Drummer Lee Rigby, is hacked to death in south London by two Islamic extremists, causing widespread public revulsion.

July 2013 - The Duchess of Cambridge gives birth to a son, Prince George, who is third in line to the throne after the Prince of Wales and the Duke of Cambridge.

May 2014 - Support for the anti-EU, UK Independence Party (UKIP) surges in local and European elections. UKIP emerges ahead of Labour and the Conservatives after achieving a 27% share of votes cast for the European elections; the first time in over 100 years that a national election has been won by a party other than one of the two main parties.

September 2014 - Voters in a referendum in Scotland reject independence, with 55% opting to remain part of the United Kingdom and 45% favouring independence.

May 2015 - Conservative Party confounds opinion polls by winning majority in general election for first time since 1992; the Liberal Democrat coalition partners lose all but eight seats and the UK Independence Party wins nearly four million votes, but wins only one seat! The Scottish National Party wins all but three seats in Scotland, becoming third largest party in parliament and dealing heavy blow to opposition Labour Party

**2016** June - Political crisis after voters in a referendum opt to quit the European Union. David Cameron resigns, succeeded as prime minister by his home secretary, Theresa May.

**2017** January - Supreme Court rules that the government must seek parliamentary approval before invoking Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty to begin the process of leaving the European Union.

**Methuen Chapter Two Thousand and Ten to the April Two Thousand and Seven.**

From 2000 to 2010 Methuen Chapter continued to hold its April Installation Convocations at Marlow Masonic Centre, St Peter Street, Marlow, dining at The Leander Club, Henley. The October meeting was held at the Beaconsfield Masonic Centre, Beaconsfield, Buckinghamshire by dispensation from Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire, also dining at The Leander Club, Henley. In April 2010 The eighty eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was Incorrectly minuted as the 86th the error was compounded up until April 2017.

**April 2010**, E. Comp. John Charles Luker, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt, (Oxon) Installed as Z.

**April 2011**, joining member, E. Comp. Paul Alan Cawte, ProvGH, P.Z., residing at 12 Whitfield Road, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Crichton Chapter No. 1641 and Cestreham Chapter No, 6674, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

E. Comp Harry Charles Alfred Benford, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt, (Berks), Installed as Z.

**October 2011**, a joining members, E. Comp. Peter Nigel Isom Harbourne, **PGStB.**, residing at "Stocks", Ashbornham Drive, Buckinghamshire a P.Z. of Cestreham Chapter No 6674. Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222, Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp. Paul Reginald Savage, ProvGJ, P.Z. Herschel Chapter No 1984 and a member of Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

**April 2012**, a joining member, E. Comp. Raymond Ernest Cochrane, PProvGTreas, residing at 199A Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Buckinhamshire. P.Z. of Fairway Chapter No 8614 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp Thomas Dunn, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt., Installed as Z.

**April 2013**, joining members, Peter Nicholas Carter, **PGStB**, PProvGSN, residing at 52 Bletchley Road, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Oliver Chapter No 2823. Manor of Swanburn Chapter No 8647, Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp Ian Richard Wellesley-Harding PMetGSwdB., Installed as Z.

**October 2013**, E. Comp. Dr Richard John Horace Neale, in his capacity as MEGS, informend the Companions that the Province had raised the sum of £40,000 for the benefit of the 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons. He went on to say at the Bi-Centenary Celebrations held at Supreme Grand Chapter the day before, the First Grand Principal had announced that nationwide the figure of £2 million had been raised.

**April 2014**, E. Comp Kenneth Leslie Benford, **GSupt.**(Berks) installed as First Principal.

**October 2014**, joining members, E Comp John Arthur Stribling, **PGStB**, residing at 34 Gilmore Close, Langley, Slough, Berkshire. P.Z. of Neleus Chapter 3305, Stephens Chapter No 3089 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp. Ian Richard Given Hopgood, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Berks) residing at 8 Harding Close, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. PZ of Vale of White Horse Chapter No 1770. and a member of Berkshire First Principals Chapter No 3684.

E. Comp. Robert Victor Chaproniere, **PGStB**, ProvGJ., residing at 3 Foxhill, Olney, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Bromley St Leonard Chapter No 1805, Cowper and Newton Chapter No 2244 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

**April 2015**, E. Comp Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, **PGSE.**, :- Installed as Z. Scribe E reported that E. Comp. Cdr Ian Wellesley-Harding, RN was absent as he had that morning been appointed Metropolitan Grand Inspector, and was last seen by Scribe E., heading for the wine bar to celebrate!

**April 2016**, joining members, E. Comp. James Robert Guy Hilditch, **GSupt** (Oxon). residing at 18 Guildford Road, Fleet, Hampshire, PZ of Apoll University Chapter No. 357, a member of Oxfordshire Installed First Principals Chapter No. 7770.

E. Comp Mark Kenneth Harwood, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Oxon), residing at 23 Kestrel Road, Kempshott, Basingstoke, Fleet, Hampshire, P.Z. of Upper Thames Chapter, No 8696. a member of Oxfordshire Installed First Principals Chapter No. 7770 and The Chapter of Rectitude No.335.

E. Comp Dr Richard John Horace Neale, **PGSupt.**, Installed as Z.

**October 2016**, joining members, E Comp Michael Ralph Stephens, **PAGDC**, ProvGSE, residing at 18 The Lawns, Penn, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, HP10 8BH. Tel: 01494 817436. PZ of Thames School' Chapter No 6216, Seer Green Chapter No 9055 a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305 and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222.

E Comp Bernard Greenwold, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Berks) residing at 10 The Woods, Radlett, Hertfordshire, WD7 7HF, Tel: 01923 852868. PZ of Tamesis Chapter, No 2926, Berkshire First Principals' No 3684 a member of Wilder Chapter No 9471, Chapter of Rectitude, No 335 and High Barnet First Principals' Chapter No 8746.

Chapter membership in 2010 stood at twenty eight by 2017 thirty.



E. Comp. James Robert Guy Hilditch, **GSupt**, (Oxon).

**Thursday 15th of April 2010.**

The eighty eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 86th )

Visiting Companion:-

E. Comp Michael Anthony Alban Florey, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt. Windrush Chapter, No 1703.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

M.E. Comp. The Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis, O.B.E., D.L., Past First Pro. Grand Principal, who's death occurred on the 6th of April 2010.

E. Comp. John Charles Luker, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt, (Oxon),. Installed as Z.

A discussion ensued regarding the dining venue of the October meeting in London which in view of the distance of the walk to the Cavalry and Guards Club and the rising costs has lost some of its attraction. The majority of the members agreed to explore the possibility to meet at Beaconsfield but retaining the dining venue at the Leander Club at Henley on Thames.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 21st of October 2010.**

The eighty ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation). (Incorrectly minuted as the 87th )

Visiting Companion :-

Paul Alan Cawte, ProvGJ, P.Z. of Cestreham Chapter No. 6674.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Dr. Royston G. Fender **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt., who's death occurred on the 22nd of July 2010.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 21st of April 2011.**

The ninetieth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 88th).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Paul Reginald Savage, ProvGJ, P.Z. Herschel Chapter No 1984.

E. Comp. Peter Nigel Isom Harbourne, **PGStB.**, P.Z. of Cestreham Chapter No 6674.

E. Comp. David Eric Chisnall, **PAGSoj**, of Alfred Chapter No 340.

Joining Companion :-

E. Comp. Paul Alan Cawte, ProvGH, P.Z., residing at 12 Whitfield Road, Hughenden Valley, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Crichton Chapter No. 1641 and Cestreham Chapter No, 6674, a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter, No 3305.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-



E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt, who's death occurred on the 11th of January 2011. E. Comp. Patrick Arthur Langston, PGStB, PProvGSE, who's death occurred on the 3rd of February 2011.

E. Comp Harry Charles Alfred Benford, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt, (Berks): Installed as Z.

E. Comp. Dr Richard John Horace Neale proposed a vote of thanks to E. Comp. Peter Hannes Erlen on his retirement as Scribe Ezra and wished him well for the future.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 20th of October 2011.**

The ninety first regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation) (Incorrectly minuted as the 89th).

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. Peter Nigel Isom Harbourne, **PGStB**, residing at "Stocks", Ashbornham Drive, Buckinghamshire a P.Z. of Cestreham Chapter No 6674. Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp. Paul Reginald Savage, ProvGJ, P.Z. Herschel Chapter No 1984 and a member of Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

Visiting Companion :-

Raymond Ernest Cochrane of Fairway Chapter No 8614.

aul Alan Cawte, ProvGJ, P.Z. of Cestreham Chapter No, 6674

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 19th of April 2012.**

The ninety second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 90th )

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. David Eric Chisnall, **PAGSoj**, residing at 24 Woodcroft, Kennington, Oxfordshire of Alfred Chapter No 340. Oxfordshire Installed First Principals No 7770, Saint Giles Chapter No 8904 and Rectitude Chapter No 335.

Raymond Ernest Cochrane, PProvGTreas, residing at 199A Aylesbury Road, Bierton, Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Fairway Chapter No 8614 and Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp Thomas Dunn, **PGSwdB**, PDepGSupt :- Installed as Z.

E. Comp. Dr Richard John Horace Neale, **GSupt**, requested that the thanks of the Chapter should be recorded for the valiant services of E Comp. Ken Pausey who had served as Director of Ceremonies for many years.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 18th of October 2012.**

The ninety third regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation). (Incorrectly minuted as the 91st)

Visiting Companion :-

Peter Nicholas Carter, **PGStB**, P.Z. of Oliver Chapter No 2823.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 18th of April 2013.**

The ninety fourth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 92nd)

Joining Companion :-

Peter Nicholas Carter, **PGStB**, PProvGSN, residing at 52 Bletchley Road, Newton Longville, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Oliver Chapter No 2823. Manor of Swanburn Chapter No 8647, Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp Ian Richard Wellesley-Harding PMetGSwdB.,

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 17th of October 2013.**

The ninety fifth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation) (Incorrectly minuted as the 93rd).

E. Comp. Dr Richard John Horace Neale, in his capacity as MEGS, informend the Companions that the Province had raised the sum of £40,000 for the benefit of the 2013 Bicentenary Appeal for the Royal College of Surgeons. He went on to say at the Bi-Centenary Celebrations held at Supreme Grand Chapter the day before, the First Grand Principal had announced that nationwide the figure of £2 million had been raised.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 17th of April 2014.**

The ninety sixth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 94th).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. Ian Richard Given Hopgood, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Berks) PZ of Vale of White Horse Chapter No 1770. E Comp John Arthur Stribling, **PGStB**, P.Z. of Neleus Chapter 3305.

E. Comp Kenneth Leslie Benford, **GSupt.**(Berks),

Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 16th of October 2014.**

The ninety seventh regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation). (Incorrectly minuted as the 95th).

Joining Companions:-

E. Comp John Arthur Stribling, **PGStB**, residing at 34 Gilmore Close, Langley, Slough, Berkshire. P.Z. of Neleus Chapter 3305, Stephens Chapter No 3089 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

E. Comp. Ian Richard Given Hopgood, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Berks) residing at 8 Harding Close, Faringdon, Oxfordshire. PZ of Vale of White Horse Chapter No 1770. and a member of Berkshire First Principals Chapter No 3684.

E. Comp. Robert Victor Chaproniere, **PGStB**, ProvGJ., residing at 3 Foxhill, Olney, Buckinghamshire. P.Z. of Bromley St Leonard Chapter No 1805, Cowper and Newton Chapter No 2244 and a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Roy King Cyril Holton, **PAGSoj**, PProvGReg., who's death occurred on the 2nd of July 2014.

E. Comp. His Hon Sir Lawrence Verney, TD, DL, **PGSN.**, PProvGSN., who's death occurred on the 25th of July 2014.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 16th of April 2015.**

The ninety eighth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 96th).

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne, **PAGSoj**, PProvGJ, who's death occurred on the 19th of November 2014.

The MEZ greeted E. Comp. John Lionel Keeble on his first visit as Grand Superintendent.

E. Comp Robert Anthony Henry Morrow, **PGSE.**, Installed as Z.

Scribe E reported that E. Comp. Cdr Ian Wellesley-Harding, RN was absent as he had that morning been appointed Metropolitan Grand Inspector, and was last seen by Scribe E., heading for the wine bar to celebrate!

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 15th of October 2015.**

The ninety ninth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation). (Incorrectly minuted as the 97th).

Visiting Companions :-

E. Comp. James Robert Guy Hilditch, **GSupt.**, (Oxon). PZ of Apoll University Chapter No. 357.

E. Comp Mark Kenneth Harwood, **PGSwdB.**, DepGSupt., (Oxon). P.Z. of Upper Thames Chapter No. 8696.

E Comp David Michael Wall, PProvGSwdB P.Z. of Stephens Chapter No 3089.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 16th of April 2016.**

The one hundredth regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow. (Incorrectly minuted as the 98th).

Joining Companions :-

E. Comp. James Robert Guy Hilditch, **GSupt** (Oxon).residing at 18 Guildford Road, Fleet, Hampshire, PZ of Apoll University Chapter No. 357, a member of Oxfordshire Installed First Principals Chapter No. 7770.

E. Comp Mark Kenneth Harwood, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Oxon), residing at 23 Kestrel Road, Kempshott, Basingstoke, Fleet, Hampshire, P.Z. of Upper Thames Chapter, No 8696. a member of Oxfordshire Installed First Principals Chapter No. 7770 and The Chapter of Rectitude No. 335.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. Peter Hannes Erlen, **PAGSoj**, PProvGH, who's death occurred on the 18th of March 2016.

The MEZ greeted E. Comp. John Lionel Keeble on his first visit as Grand Superintendent.

E. Comp Dr Richard John Horace Neale, **PGSupt.**, Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

#### **Thursday 20th of October 2016.**

The one hundred and first, regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Centre Beaconsfield (by dispensation). (Incorrectly minuted as the 99th).

Joining Companions :-

E Comp Michael Ralph Stephens, **PAGDC**, ProvgSE, residing at 18 The Lawns, Penn, High Wycombe, Buckinghamshire, PZ of Thames School' Chapter No 6216, Seer Green Chapter No 9055 a member of Buckinghamshire First Principals Chapter No 3305 and Buckinghamshire Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter No 9222.

E Comp Bernard Greenwold, **PGSwdB**, DepGSupt (Berks) residing at 10 The Woods, Radlett, Hertfordshire. PZ of Tamesis Chapter, No 2926, Berkshire First Principals' No

3684 a member of Wilder Chapter No 9471, Chapter of Rectitude, No 335 and High Barnet First Principals' Chapter No 8746.

The Companions stood in fond memory of the loss of :-

E. Comp. John Jefferson Mitchell, **PAGSoj**, PProvGH, who's death occurred on the 18th of August 2016.

E. Comp. Horatio Nelson Hall, **PGStB.**, PProvGH., who's death occurred on the 21st of September 2016.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley.

### **Thursday 20th of April 2017.**

The one hundredth second regular convocation of the Chapter was held at the Masonic Hall, Marlow.

E. Comp. Raymond Reed, **PGSwdB.**, PProvGN., Installed as Z.

The companions dined at the Leander Club, Henley :-

Champagne reception to celebrating fifty years:-

Digby Fine English "Leander Pink" Non-Vintage.

Leander's own exclusive pink English fizz is a blend that celebrates England's most vibrant Pinot Noir fruit, it is believed this home grown Champion is infinitely better than non-vintage Champagne.

The menu is :-

Wild mushroom risotto with Parmesan shavings & rocket salad.

Fillets of beef Wellington with chateau potatoes & Perigourdine sauce.

Fine selection of cheese with homemade chutney, red grapes & biscuits served with Port.

Wine :-

White: Sauvignon Blanc – Lanya 2015 Chile, Central Valley.

Red: Maison de la Paix, Old Vine Carignan 2015. Pays d'Herault, France.

Presentation of fifty years of Chapter History.

**First Principals of Methuen Chapter No. 631.**

- 1966** E. Comp. Alexander Stewart Frere
- 1967** E. Comp. The Right Hon Lord Rathcreedan
- 1968** E. Comp Sir Gilbert Davies, Bt.
- 1969** E. Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C.
- 1970** E. Comp The Rt Hon. Lord Burnham
- 1971** E. Comp. John Herbert Wyndham Wilder, O.B.E.
- 1972** E. Comp Frances John Trumper
- 1973** E. Comp His Honour Judge Lawrence John Verney,
- 1974** E. Comp Gilbert H.S. Edgar, C.B.E.,
- 1975** E. Comp Maurice H. Carpmael
- 1976** E. Comp Maurice H. Carpmael
- 1977** E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L.
- 1978** E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L.
- 1979** E. Comp. Edward Benjamin Pearce,
- 1980** E. Comp. Gordon Meredyth Hasler.
- 1981** E. Comp. Col. Raymond Arthur Francis Smith.
- 1982** E Comp. Rev Gerald William Norris Groves, O.B.E.
- 1983** E Comp. His Honour Judge Lawrence J. Verney, T.D., D.L.
- 1984** E. Comp. L. Paul Cleminson.
- 1985** E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey.
- 1986** E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey.
- 1987** E. Comp. (Jack) John Henry Harry.
- 1988** E. Comp. (Jack) John Henry Harry.
- 1989** E. Comp. Richard Stainton. Edward Sandbach.
- 1990** E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre.
- 1991** E. Comp. Robert William George Dumbain.
- 1992** E. Comp. Jeremy Pemberton.
- 1993** E. Comp. Peter Jackson Waedill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S., D.L.
- 1994** E. Comp. Geoffrey Michael Redman–Brown.
- 1995** E. Comp. Eric James Deung.
- 1996** E. Comp. Harold. Peter Hartley.
- 1997** E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne.
- 1998** E. Comp. Peter Hanns Erlen.
- 1999** E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham.

- 2000** E. Comp. Dr Royson Gray Fender.
- 2001** E. Comp. Gordon F. Cleminson.
- 2002** E. Comp. Dr. Eric Walter Hall.
- 2003** E. Comp. John Anthony Hawthorne West.
- 2004** E. Comp. Robert Edward Faulkner.
- 2005** E. Comp. Robert William Rosier Liebermann.
- 2006** E. Comp. John Jefferson Mitchell.
- 2007** E. Comp. Horatio Nelson Hall.
- 2008** E. Comp. Lt Col Brian David Hilton.
- 2009** E. Comp. Norman George Bliss.
- 2010** E. Comp. John Charles Luker.
- 2011** E. Comp. Harry Charles Benford.
- 2012** E. Comp Thomas Dunn.
- 2013** E. Comp Ian Richard Wellesley-Harding.
- 2014** E. Comp Kenneth Leslie Benford.
- 2015** E. Comp Robert Anthony Henry Morrow.
- 2016** E. Comp Dr Richard John Horace Neale.

**Scribe Ezras of Methuen Chapter No. 631.**

- 1966 - 1976** E. Comp. Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C., TD.
- 1976 - 1993** E. Comp Robert Joseph Weatherhead.
- 1993 - 2003** E. Comp. Peter Robert Sidney Renacre.
- 2003 - 2011** E. Comp. Peter Hannes Erlen.
- 2011 - 2014** E. Comp. Wg Cdr. Gary Donald Mitchell, O.B.E.
- 2014 -** E. Comp. John Arthur Stribling.

**Treasurers of Methuen Chapter No. 631.**

- 1966 - 1971** E. Comp. Derek Hamilton Mays-Smith.
- 1971 - 1987** E. Comp Latham S.V. Gedge.
- 1987 - 1991** E Comp. His Honour Judge Lawrence J. Verney, T.D., D.L.
- 1991 - 2000** E. Comp. (Jack) John Henry Harry.
- 2000 - 2008** E. Comp. Leslie Raymond Harborne.
- 2008 - 2011** E. Comp Ian Richard Wellesley-Harding.
- 2011 - 2014** E. Comp. Horatio Nelson Hall.
- 2014 -** E. Comp Ian Richard Wellesley-Harding.

**Director of Ceremonies of Methuen Chapter No. 631.**

- 1966 - 1967** No Appointment.
- 1966 - 1974** E. Comp. Alexander Stewart Frere.
- 1974 - 1997.** E. Comp. John Herbert Wyndham Wilder, C.B.E.
- 1997 - 2012** E. Comp. Kenneth John Pausey.
- 2012 - 2014** E. Comp. John Jefferson Mitchell.
- 2014 -** E. Comp. Paul Reginald Savage.

**Members of Methuen Chapter who acheived the rank of GSupt.**

- E. Comp. Alexander Stewart Frere, C.B.E.
- E. Comp. The Right Hon Lord Rathcreedan, T.D.,(Oxfordshire).
- E. Comp. Howard Potts.
- E. Comp. Sir Ralph B. Verney, Bt., K.B.E., D.L.
- E. Comp. Lt-Col. G. St. V.J. Vigor,O.B.E. GSupt, (Berkshire).
- E. Comp. Edward.B. Pearce, PGStB., Prov G.H. (Berkshire).
- E. Comp. Richard Stainton.Edward Sandbach, (Northants and Hunts).
- E. Comp. Geoffrey Michael Redman–Brown, (Oxfordshire).
- E. Comp. Peter Jackson Waedill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S.,D.L.(Bedfordshire).
- E. Comp. Eric James Deung.
- E. Comp. George Leslie Longbotham, (Berkshire).
- E. Comp. Eric Walter Hall.
- E. Comp. Peter Jackson Waedill, M.R.C.S., L.D.S.,D.L.,(Bedfordshire),
- E. Comp. Robert Edward Faulkner (Berkshire).
- E. Comp. Raymond Heskett, (Hertfordshire).
- E. Comp. Richard John Horace Neale.
- E. Comp Martin Vincent Lush Foss GSupt. (Bedfordshire)
- E. Comp. Kenneth Leslie Benford, (Berkshire).
- E. Comp. John Lionel Keeble.
- E. Comp. Ian Richard Given Hopgood (Berkshire).
- E. Comp. James Robert Guy Hilditch, (Oxfordshire).

## **FOUNDERS**



### **Alexander Stewart Frere :-**

E.Comp Alexander Stewart Frere, *CBE, MA* the Primus MEZ of Methuen Chapter was born at 1, Derby Villas, Grove Vale, Dulwich, London on 23 November 1892. During World War I he joined the Royal East Kent Yeomanry in 1914, fighting in the Gallipoli campaign in 1915. He transferred to the Royal Flying Corps in 1916 but he was invalided out in 1917, after crashing his aircraft. He attended Christ's College, Cambridge, where he read Economics and was editor of 'The Granta', the literary magazine of the University. He obtained a third class in economics in 1921.

He came down from University and worked on the London Evening News newspaper until he accepted a job at William Heinemann Ltd., publishers. In 1926 he was made a Director and in 1932 he became Managing Director. In the same year he married, Patricia Marion, the daughter of Edgar Wallace, as his second wife and they raised two sons and a daughter.

During World War II, 1939 to 1945, he served as Director of Public Relations at the Ministry of Labour and National Service. In 1944 he returned to the publishers, Heinemann as its Chairman, serving for seventeen years. He was appointed Commander of the British Empire in 1946 and a Chevalier of the Légion d'Honneur in 1953.

He was initiated in the Isaac Newton University Lodge, No. 859, Cambridge on 1st February 1921. became a joining member of Surrey Lodge No. 416, Redhill in 1930; Lodge of Antiquity No. 2, London in 1938, becoming WM in 1946; Methuen Lodge No. 631, Marlow in 1944, becoming WM in 1945 and 1946; Grand Stewards' Lodge, London in 1945, becoming WM in 1967; Buckinghamshire Masters Lodge No. 3305, Gerrards Cross in 1954, becoming WM in 1962, the year our Past Grand Superintendant EComp Eric J Deung joined! Royal Alpha Lodge No. 16, London in 1959, becoming WM in 1967; Bard of Avon Lodge No. 778, Hampton Court, Middlesex in 1961, becoming WM in 1965, and Jubilee Masters Lodge No. 2712, London in 1963, where he served as Worshipful Master in 1964.

He was appointed Grand Treasurer by the United Grand Lodge of England in 1953; Past Junior Grand Warden in 1964 and Past Senior Grand Warden in 1969. He served as President of the Board of General Purposes from 1959 to 1972 during which time he was overseer of and wrote the Foreword for the Masonic History Book "GRAND LODGE 1717 - 1967" issued to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of the Craft.

### **The Right Hon. Lord Rathcreedan**

The Right Hon. Lord Rathcreedan, T.D., GSupt. Oxfordshire was the Primus Haggai of Methuen Chapter, he was Provincial Grand Master of Oxfordshire, a member of Methuen Lodge No. 631, a member of The Old Wellingtonian Lodge No. 3404, in 1959 he was installed as Worshipful Master of The Old Wellingtonian Lodge by Sir James Stubbs, **GSE** to celebrate the Wellingtonian Lodge's Jubille, there were present 26 representatives of public school lodges.

### **E. Comp Sir Gilbert Davies, Bt., PGTreas, J Designated.**

Sir Gilbert Davies, Bt., PGTreas, was a member of Methuen Lodge No. 631.

**E. Comp Frances John Trumper, O.B.E., T.D., PGStB,**

Frances John Trumper, O.B.E., T.D., **PGStB** was a member of Methuen Lodge No. 631.

**E. Comp Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C., TD, PGStB.**

E. Comp Arthur Richard Cormack, M.C., TD, PGStB, was a member of Methuen Lodge No. 631.

**Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C.**

Comp. Arnold Wheatley Munns, M.C. was a Past Master (1955) of Methuen Lodge No. 631.

**E. Comp Lawrence John Verney, T.D.**

E. Comp Lawrence John Verney, T.D. was a Past Master (1961) of Methuen Lodge No. 631. He was born on 19 July 1924. He was the son of Lt.-Col. Sir Harry Calvert Williams Verney, 4th Bt. and Lady Rachel Catherine Bruce. He married Zoë Auriel Goodeve-Docker, daughter of Lt.-Col. P. G. Goodeve-Docker, on 9 September 1972. He died on 25 July 2014 at age 90.

He was educated at Harrow School, Harrow on the Hill, London, England. He fought in the Second World War. He gained the rank of Captain in the service of the Grenadier Guards. He graduated from Oriel College, Oxford University, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England, in 1950 with a Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) He was admitted to Inner Temple in 1952 entitled to practice as a barrister. He graduated from Oriel College, Oxford University, Oxford, Oxfordshire, England, in 1953 with a Master of Arts (M.A.) He was decorated with the award of the Territorial Decoration (T.D.) in 1955. He was Deputy Chairman of the Buckinghamshire Quarter Sessions between 1962 and 1971. He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.) of Buckinghamshire in 1967. He was Deputy Chairman of the Middlesex Quarter Sessions in 1971. He held the office of Circuit Judge between 1972 and 1990. He held the office of Bencher of Inner Temple in 1990. He held the office of Recorder of London between 1990 and 1998. He was invested as an Officer in the Most Venerable Order of the Hospital of St. John of Jerusalem (O.St.J.) in 1992. He was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Law (LL.D.) by London Guild Hall University, London, England, in 1992. He was invested as a Knight Bachelor in 1993. He gained the rank of Honorary Colonel in 1997 in the service of the 1 (Royal Buckinghamshire Yeomanry) Signal Squadron. He wrote the book Harrow School Register 1948-2001, published 2001, editor. He lived in 2003 at Windmill House, Church Lane, Oving, Buckinghamshire, England.

**Comp The Rt. Hon. Lord Burnham.**

Lt.-Col. William Edward Harry Lawson, 5th Baron Burnham was born on 22 October 1920. He was educated at Eton College, Windsor, Berkshire, England. He fought in the Second World War. He fought in the Malayan Campaign between 1950 and 1951, where he was mentioned in despatches. He succeeded to the title of 5th Baron Burnham, of Hall Barn, Beaconsfield, on the 4th July 1963. He succeeded to the title of 5th Baronet Levy-Lawson, of Hall Barn, Beaconsfield, also on the 4th July 1963. He retired from the military in 1968, with the rank of Lieutenant-Colonel, late of the Scots Guards. He held the office of Justice of the Peace (J.P.) for Buckinghamshire in 1970. He held the office of Deputy Lieutenant (D.L.) of Buckinghamshire in 1977. He was Provincial Grand Master for Buckinghamshire from 1976 to 1993. He was a member of Methuen Lodge No. 631.

**Comp Maurice H. Carpmael, PAGDC.**

Comp Maurice H. Carpmael was a member of Methuen Lodge No. 631.

**E. Comp Latham S.V. Gedge, PGStB.**

**E. Comp Walter .B. Franklin.**

**E. Comp Gilbert H.S. Edgar, C.B.E. GSoj.**

**History of the Royal Arch**, by E. Comp. Roger Perry, PGstB.

### **The Premier Grand Lodge:-**

The Premier Grand Lodge or the “Moderns” as they later became known was founded on St John the Baptist Day, 24th June, 1717 and did not officially accept that the Royal Arch was an integral part of Freemasonry or that it should be worked within their lodges. However, from 1760 onwards there is ample evidence of the Degree being worked within its Craft lodges, and members of the Premier Grand Lodge being received into the Royal Arch.

Minutes of a meeting held at the Turk’s Head Tavern, Gerard Street, Soho, London, record “Companions of the E.G. & R.C., commonly called the Royal Arch . . . this 12th day of June 1765, in full Chapter assembled.” The Chapter met regularly – at a meeting held one year later on 11th June 1766 it is recorded “This night the Rt. Hon. and Right Worshipful Grand Master, Lord Blayney passed the Royal Arch and became a member of the Excellent Grand and Royal Chapter.”

Lord Blayney was the Grand Master of the ‘Moderns’ and his admission into the Royal Arch and in particular his immediate election as First Grand Principal was of great significance.

Out of this Chapter in which Lord Blayney had been exalted and under his direction was formed the Grand Chapter of England by the signing, on 22nd July 1766, of the Charter of Compact. This new Grand Chapter was an autonomous body, issuing its own Charters to form Chapters in England, Wales, Scotland, Europe and other parts of the world and between 1769 and 1817 some 185 Chapters were formed.

Evidently many senior members of the ‘Moderns’ would not officially recognise the Grand Chapter formed in 1766 for there are letters available written by the Grand Secretary between 1774 and 1775 confirming “that many members of the Fraternity belong to a degree in Masonry which is said to be higher than the other and is called the Royal Arch. I have the honor to belong to this degree . . . but it is not acknowledged in Grand Lodge.”

This fact is borne out by the discovery made in the course of an investigation by J. R. Dashwood in 1951 that several quite deft alterations had been made to the details for the authorization of the Charter of Compact. At some time in the couple of years following the signing the date was changed with the final digit in 1766 becoming a 7 and the letters GM after Lord Blayney’s name becoming PGM with the addition of a P. Thus this important document had in some way ceased to be an act of Grand Lodge in 1766 but rather the act of a Past Grand Master in 1767, and thereby failing to carry the same significance.

### **The Antients’ Grand Lodge :-**

The rival ‘Antient’ Grand Lodge was founded on 17th July 1751 by mainly Irish Masons opposed to certain innovations made to the Craft ritual by the ‘Moderns’ and enthusiastically acknowledged the Royal Arch which was openly conferred in its Lodges with its full consent and approval. On 2nd March 1757, the ‘Antients’, in Grand Lodge “decided that a General Meeting of Master Masons be held on 15th inst. To compass and regulate several things relative to the Antient Craft; the Masters of the Royal Arch shall also be summoned to meet, in order to regulate things relative to that most valuable branch of the Craft.”

Until 1771 all matters relating to the Royal Arch under the 'Antients' were settled in the Antients Grand Lodge. As some of the members of the Grand Lodge were not Royal Arch Masons it was decided to set up a General Grand Chapter of the Royal Arch to regulate matters in that branch of Masonry. The General Grand Chapter formed in 1773 had no separate existence and its transactions had to be ratified by the Antients Grand Lodge.

Other Grand Lodges:

In 1770 three Royal Arch Lodges in Hull, Ripon and Knaresborough received Warrants from the Grand Lodge of York. The earliest York minute records a meeting of the Most Sublime or Royal Arch Lodge opened at the sign of the Punch Bowl in Stonegate, York on Sunday 7th February 1772, when fourteen brethren were "raised to the 4th degree of Masonry, commonly called the Most Sublime Royal Arch."

A Grand Chapter of All England was held at York Cathedral on Sunday 27th May 1778, the minutes of which read "The Royal Arch Brethren, whose names are under-mentioned, assembled in the Antient Lodge, now a sacred recess within the Cathedral Church of York and then and there opened a Chapter of Free and Accepted Masons in the Most Sublime Degree of the Royal Arch."

The Royal Arch was described generally in the York records as the fourth degree.

The various Grand Chapters apparently worked amicably side by side until 1817, when the Supreme Grand Chapter of Royal Arch Masons, as it exists today, was formed.

### **The United Grand Lodge of England:-**

Almost until the Union of the two Grand Lodges on St John the Evangelist Day, 27th December, 1813 the 'Moderns' held the opinion that Freemasonry was almost strictly confined to the three Craft degrees. On the other hand the 'Antients' were most ardent in their belief that the Royal Arch was indeed an integral part of Craft masonry. Fortunately, a compromise was eventually reached; the 'Moderns' agreeing to accept the degree as a part of true Freemasonry so long as it was worked separately from the Craft. The link between the two would be the discovery in the vault which, according to the legend had been constructed by the Grand Master who had built the first Temple; hence came the preliminary declaration at the head of General Laws and Regulations for the Government of the Craft in the *Book of Constitutions* - "By solemn Act of Union between the two Grand Lodges of Free-Masons of England in December 1813, it was 'declared and pronounced that pure Antient Masonry consists of three degrees and no more, viz., those of the Entered Apprentice, the Fellow Craft, and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch'."

### **Supreme Grand Chapter:**

Much effort was spent before and after the Union in settling a new ritual for the Craft; but no-one seems to have had the time, or perhaps by then the energy, to settle one for the Royal Arch; nor was it clear how the Order should be governed. Eventually in 1817 a new United Grand Chapter was brought into being; the name soon being changed to 'Supreme Grand Chapter', when it was realized that in fact there had never been two Grand Chapters to unite!

Following the union of 1813 a number of different Royal Arch rituals developed, but all had the same central message. It was not until 1835 that a new ritual for the Order was finally agreed by Supreme Grand Chapter. This ritual remained in use, unchanged, until the mid-twentieth century when an order was made for the removal of certain words, to which (under a misapprehension) certain religious bodies had taken exception.

Towards the end of the last century it is reported that some feelings had grown that an alternative, more in tune with modern thought than that adopted by our predecessors, was needed if the teachings of the Order were to be readily absorbed and questioned if the message at the most important part of the ceremony (the enlightenment) was in fact being made clear.

As a direct result of this 'reported unrest!' the preliminary statement in the *Book of Constitutions* was amended to include the following "At the Quarterly Communication of 10 December 2003 the United Grand Lodge of England acknowledged and pronounced the status of the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch to be 'an extension to, but neither a superior nor subordinate part of, the Degrees which precede it.'" Also, after full consultations, which necessitated many essential alterations to original draft, in 2004 Supreme Grand Chapter sanctioned an alternative ritual which Chapters were actively encouraged to adopt.

It is pleasing to note that the preliminary statement in the *Book of Constitutions* has since reverted to that agreed by our Antient brethren in 1813 and re-affirms the true status of the Holy Royal Arch in English Freemasonry.

### **Buckinghamshire:-**

The earliest reference to Royal Arch Masonry in Buckinghamshire can be found in the *Masonic Year Book Historical Supplement* of 1969 which indicates that James Baker Richards, a Governor of the Bank of England, was appointed Grand Superintendent for Berkshire and Buckinghamshire on 22nd December 1812, at a time there were no Chapters in either Province. This appears to have been an isolated appointment as there is no record of any successor until the appointment of Sir Daniel Gooch, *Bt, MP* in 1875.

The first Chapter was the St Barnabas Chapter No. 948 which was granted its Charter on 2nd August 1865 they met at the Elephant and Castle Hotel, Linslade. In the early 1870's another two Chapters were established in Buckinghamshire and in 1889, on the death of the much respected Sir Daniel Gooch, it was decided to divide the joint Province, as both Berkshire and Buckinghamshire had the minimum number of Chapters to entitle them to form an independent Provincial Grand Chapter.

On 16th February 1891 the First Grand Principal, HRH Albert Edward, Prince of Wales (afterwards HM King Edward VII), authorized the issue of a Patent of appointment as Grand Superintendent of Buckinghamshire to Very Rev John Studholme Brownrigg, *M.A.*, and is the effective date on which the Provincial Grand Chapter of Buckinghamshire came into existence. Since that date there have been a further nine Grand Superintendents.

## **METHUEN CHAPTER No 631**

### **Officers:- 2017 - 2018**

E Comp R Reed, <b>PGSwdB</b>	Z
E Comp A N Driver, <b>PGStB</b> , PProvGSE	H
E Comp R J Bashford, <b>PAGSoj</b> , PProvGH	J
E E Comp J A Stribling, <b>PGStB</b> , ProvGH	SE
E Comp Wg Cdr G D Mitchell, <b>PGSwdB</b> , PDepGSupt (Berks)	SN
E Comp Cdr I R Wellesley-Harding, RN, <b>PGSwdB</b> , AsstMetGSupt	Treasurer
E Comp P R Savage, <b>PGSwdB</b> , DepGSupt	DC
E Comp J L Keeble <b>GSupt</b>	PS
E Comp P A Cawte, <b>PGStB</b> , PProvGH	1st Asst Soj
E Comp P.N.I. Harborne, <b>PAGSoj</b> , PProvGSN	2nd Asst Soj
E Comp F S Lummes, ProvGJan (elected)	Janitor

## METHUEN CHAPTER No 631 Membership April 2017.

Given name	Family name	Join date	Grand rank
Eric James	Deung	20-Oct-88	PGSupt
John Anthony Hawthorne	West	21-Oct-93	PGSwdB
Robert Edward	Faulkner	21-Apr-94	PGSupt
Brian David	Hilton	20-Apr-00	PAGSoj
Norman George	Bliss	19-Oct-00	PAGSoj
John Charles	Luker	19-Apr-01	PGSwdB
Harry Charles Alfred	Benford	18-Oct-01	PGSwdB
Thomas	Dunn	17-Apr-03	PGSwdB
Ian Richard	Wellesley-Harding	16-Oct-03	PGSwdB
Richard John Horace	Neale	15-Apr-04	PGSupt
Kenneth Leslie	Benford	21-Apr-05	PGSupt
Robert Anthony Henry	Morrow	21-Apr-05	PGSE
Raymond	Reed	20-Apr-06	PGSwdB
Gary Donald	Mitchell	19-Oct-06	PGSwdB
Arthur Charles	Driver	19-Apr-07	PGStB
Roger John	Bashford	18-Oct-07	PAGSoj
Ronald Lawrence	Everett	16-Apr-09	PGStB
John Lionel	Keeble	15-Oct-09	GSupt
Paul Alan	Cawte	21-Apr-11	PGStB
Paul Reginald	Savage	21-Oct-11	PGSwdB
Peter Nigel Isom	Harborne	21-Oct-11	PAGSoj
Raymond Ernest	Cochrane	19-Apr-12	
Peter Nicholas	Carter	18-Apr-13	PGStB
Ian Richard Given	Hopgood	16-Oct-14	GSupt
Robert Victor	Chaproniere	16-Oct-14	PGStB
John Arthur	Stribling	16-Oct-14	PGStB
James Robert Guy	Hilditch	21-Apr-16	GSupt
Mark Kenneth	Harwood	21-Apr-16	PGSwdB
Michael Ralph	Stephens	20-Oct-16	PAGDC
Bernard	Greenwold	20-Oct-16	PGSwdB