

The background of the entire page is a dense, low-angle shot of pink cherry blossoms against a bright, overcast sky. The branches are dark and crisscross, with numerous small, five-petaled pink flowers in various stages of bloom.

THE NEWARK PASSWORD

Spring 2024

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Company Limited**

NEWARK ON TRENT

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Front cover: Blossoms of spring - from the editor's album

Sunday Lunch at Newark Masonic Hall

It's too good to miss!

A friendly gathering of Masons, family and friends
Everyone welcome - Four courses plus Tea/Coffee only £12



Next Lunch
7th April, 6th October,
3rd November and
1st December
12 noon for 12.30pm
For bookings, please contact
Pearl Holmes
Telephone: 01636 682939

We are looking for more volunteers to join the group in organising Sunday lunches, Please contact Pearl Holmes if you can help

Over 20 years
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Weight loss, motivational talk and chair-based exercise suitable for all (women and men), and in one place.

I currently hold meetings at the places shown below and would love you to join me.

Monday 09.30am Manthorpe Church Hall, Manthorpe

Monday 11.45am The Pavilion, Long Bennington

NEW Monday 6pm Newark Masonic Hall, The Avenue, London Rd, Newark.

Wednesday 6pm Millgate Community Centre

Thursday 9am Pelham Street, Newark



CONTACT TRACY FERGUSON
07871 950256 (m)



The chairman writes . . .

Brethren

Hopefully the persistent bad weather will have abated by the time you are reading this article but it did leave its mark!

Water ingress via a dilapidated window above the museum on the 2nd floor caused some minor damage in the museum and requiring replacement of the window. The gales caused a hole in the roof above the temple but thankfully there was no collateral damage but a faulty guttering on the front wall of the bar room caused water damage to the decoration above the newly refurbished bar.

There is always some part of the building where attention and refurbishment are required and your continued support to keep on top of these is requested either by donations directly to the Hall funds, via lodge raffles or the W&M's events in particular.

All the dining room tables have been repaired but for one where inexplicably two plastic corners of the leg supports have disappeared! All the missing table leg rubber inserts have been replaced and it is asked that care be taken in putting up and taking down the tables and in particular moving them as damage was caused to the floor when a table without rubber inserts was dragged down the dining room at a recent event. Two tables had been dropped on a corner and the laminate snapped off.

There has been the offer to purchase trolleys to make movement of both the tables and chairs easier.

A recent Health and Safety inspection found chairs stacked in front of the fire escape door in the extension at the end of the dining room and brethren are reminded of the need to observe regulations which includes ensuring that all fire doors are closed and not remain chocked back when exiting the building.

On a brighter note, the appeal for the purchase of a new carpet in the Temple is progressing well and it is hoped that sufficient funds will be available to fit it during the summer.

The question of when sufficient funds will be available for decoration of the Temple, foyer, dining annexe, stairs and landing, and which has priority, will determine whether the very effective 'strippers' of the bar room last year will be required this.

Despite the present financial and overcast climates there is optimism that better times are ahead!

Chairman



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CIPHE





Reflections *by the editor*

Talking to a friend of mine the other day he mentioned to me that he had watched an episode of Inspector George Gently on television and it had shown a man being initiated into Freemasonry and asked; "was it all true"? I happened to watch the same episode and was able to tell him that the ceremony on television did not accurately depict what in reality took place but it did touch on certain parts that bordered on accurate. So why do you have to have such ceremonies? he then asked and why, on that programme, did Freemasonry have such a bad reputation and was virtually mocked in the script.

I was at a loss to give him, substantially, answers that, as a non mason, he could understand other than saying that Freemasonry has a long standing ceremonial history that many people and especially television script writers seem to take a pleasure out of running the craft down, and for no apparent reason.

Which leads me to ask: "What should we do about it? We have to go back decades or even further to get to the root of any present day problem. We go back to when our forefathers wrapped the craft in such a wad of secrecy that the general public could only guess what Freemasonry was all about and inevitably they thought the worst. They debated; was Jack the Ripper a freemason"? Were the leaders of Freemasonry the actual rulers of the country? And so it went on.

It has only been in recent years, under our present Grand Master, that the craft has become a more open book and even his comment that we are not a "Secret Society" but a "Society with Secrets" has not gone the full way to opening our portals to the public. The word secret needs to be shelved as it does no good.

I was recently reminded that each Lodge is an entity in its own right and although UGLE is the supreme head of the craft it must be acknowledged that each Lodge has its own highs, lows and problems and there is not a cure-all that can be sent out with a "you must obey" doctrine. It just doesn't work.

Membership is at the forefront of present thinking but what may be a good recruiting scheme for one lodge may not suit another. They all have their individual characteristics so they must tailor their recruitment around that.

But the one thing we lack is simple. We do not shout loud enough. As someone who has been in advertising, marketing and public relations for most of my business life, there is one adage that stays in my mind, "The more you tell the more you sell".

The one office missing in the lodge hierarchy is that of publicity officer. The person who tells the public what his lodge is doing, Not just how much money they have raised for a particular charity but news also of what an individual member may be doing. That a member has been a member of his lodge for 50 years is news. That a member is celebrating a notable wedding anniversary is news. And when you can relate that member to another local club or organisation then that can also be the basis of a news story. We will only get new members if we shout loud enough for them to become interested. It's simple. No high tech software recruitment systems can ever be the full answer. It's just common sense approaches at a local level that will prevail.

Letters

THE WIDOWS MITE

I recall a letter during the last Festival that pointed out the various degrees of giving and the rewards depending on the amount given. That letter pointed out that a donation of £100 by one brother could well be as demanding on his finances as £1,000 would be to another, yet the essence behind both donations would be the same - to give what they considered was within their financial ability. But, he argued, there should be no difference in their reward. It would appear the lesson has not been learned.

The 2029 Festival has four honorifics for brethren ranging from Steward to Grand Patron, depending on how much money you promise.

I am well able to afford to become a Grand Patron but why should I have a different title to advertise my status when a simple medal to show that a brother has donated to the Festival by whatever amount, whether it be large or small should suffice. To offer different status depending on an amount of money does not strike me as a truly Masonic principle. On our initiation we were invited to partake in charity "as his circumstances in life may fairly warrant" and carries on with "whatever therefore you are disposed to give you will deposit etc". There is no indication that whatever he gives there will be a separate reward depending on the amount and that is how it should be.

This system of honorifics is divisive and really has no place in an organisation

Eight

which boasts "A Force for Good". It should also remember that equality is also a maxim that is well worth considering.

THR, name and address submitted.

ABOUT THE CARPET

We Launched the Temple Carpet Appeal following discussions at the Ways & Means meeting on the 27th January and the proposition to the Hall AGM on the 31st January, where the suggestion was enthusiastically welcomed and endorsed at that meeting.

A Flyer was produced and the banking arrangements tested and within three days donations started to be made.

As I write, six weeks later we have received donations from individual Masons, wives, Lodges and side Orders totalling 188 squares.

This also includes a number of requests 'In Memorandum' for well-remembered Brethren who have passed to the Grand Lodge above.

There are still a number of Masonic units still to meet and there is an expectation that the 200 square mark will be passed within the next couple of weeks.

Looking ahead, our aim is to obtain sponsorship for all 348 squares on the current carpet. This will provide enough money to replace the carpet and the surrounding blue carpet, allowing unworn parts of the existing blue carpet to be used to recarpet the threadbare stairs.

A good start has been made and there is now enough cash available to purchase the new temple carpet. However there is still some way to go if we are to

achieve our overall vision, and we do urge Brethren who have yet to respond to our appeal to do so as their means will allow.

Ideally, we would hope to raise the funds to complete this work during the summer break.

And should a Brother know of a past Brother who they would like remembered on the Donations Board, £25 will secure their place.

See page 29 for details of how to donate

Bryan Spilsbury

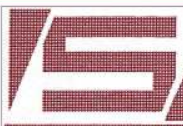
On behalf of the Ways & Means Committee.

END THOUGHT

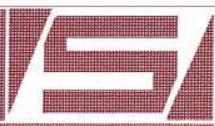
Freemasons are catalysts for positive change, continuously making meaningful impacts at community, local, national, and global levels. Whether participating in events, fundraising for a charitable cause or volunteering for public or community organisations, Service is at the very heart of Freemasonry

DISCLAIMER

Whilst the editor believes in allowing and encouraging free speech for any brother who may contribute to Password it must be emphasised that such views are not necessarily the views shared by the editor or Freemasonry in general.



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I aim for a happy, friendly atmosphere which is non – competitive.

By attending my dance fitness class your suppleness, strength, stamina, coordination and posture (qualities we all need in our everyday lives) will be improved.

The class is low impact and so does not contain jumping or jogging sequences which can be harmful to joints. Mats are provided for floor exercises and there is a stretch and relaxation session at the end of the class.

Monday 2pm – 3.15 pm Masonic Hall, The Avenue, Newark, NG24 1ST

I am a qualified fitness, exercise and dance teacher with many years' experience within the industry if you have any queries just ring me on 01636-812121

fdickins141@gmail.com

Come and join us – you will be made welcome and your first class is FREE



Other lodge offices

In Craft Freemasonry, sometimes known as Blue Lodge Freemasonry, every Masonic lodge elects or appoints Masonic lodge officers to execute the necessary functions of the lodge's life and work. The precise list of such offices may vary between the jurisdictions of different Grand Lodges, although certain factors are common to all, and others are usual in most.

But there are certain offices which exist only in particular lodges, or only in the lodges of one particular jurisdiction. The following taken from articles on the web explain some of those offices held by some lodges and the responsibilities entrusted to them

Historian

Some lodges have a senior member who holds a particular interest in the lodge's history. In some jurisdictions, this interest may lead to appointment to formal office as the lodge's 'Historian'. The office involves the archiving of documents and ar-

tifacts, and the publishing and updating of historical information. In some jurisdictions, a 'Librarian' procures Masonic reading material for Members of the Lodge and maintains a small Library where books and magazines may be borrowed.

Orator

The Orator in a Masonic Lodge is a highly respected role often given to a Past Master or an experienced brother. They serve as the guardian of Masonic law and traditions and play a pivotal role in upholding Lodge values and unity. Key duties include preparing and delivering speeches for various Lodge events, welcoming new members, conducting research, and ensuring harmony during Lodge discussions and debates. The Orator is also responsible for maintaining order, mentoring fellow brothers, and embodying wisdom and integrity within the Lodge. This position is typically reserved for Past Masters due to their experience and wisdom

Poet Laureate

This rare office was first created by the 'Lodge Canongate Kilwinning' No 2 in Edinburgh. In 1787 the lodge appointed Robert Burns as 'Poet Laureate', an investiture later immortalised in a painting by Stewart Watson, the original of which hangs in the Grand Lodge of Scotland building in Edinburgh. The painting incorporates a certain amount of artistic license, which may possibly extend to the presence of Burns himself, for although he was certainly a member of the Lodge, it is not clear that he was present at the meeting at which he was appointed Poet Laureate. In 1843, David Wardlaw Scott is recorded as the Poet Laureate of the St. David's Lodge of Edinburgh. In 1884, Rob Morris was crowned 'the poet Laureate of Freemasonry' in New York. In 1905, the office of Poet Laureate in the Canongate Kilwinning No 2 lodge was awarded to Rudyard Kipling, who was made an honorary member for that purpose.

Master of Banquets

The Master of Banquets is a role within some Masonic lodges responsible for organizing and overseeing meals under the supervision of the Junior Warden. This position involves co-ordinating the preparation

Other lodge offices

of food and supplies for Lodge gatherings, working with apprentices and overseeing financial matters related to the meals. The Master of Banquets also plays a symbolic role, with their attire featuring Masonic symbols like compass and pomegranates, representing precision, abundance, and fraternity. This position reports to the Junior Warden and supervises senior and junior stewards, as well as instructing the entered apprentices in setting-up Table, Lodges and traditions.

Marshal

The office of 'Marshal' is quite common in the United States, but not in other countries. In some jurisdictions where it is found, the title is simply an alternative for 'Director of Ceremonies'

However, there are jurisdictions in which the office is distinct from any other, in which cases the duties of the office revolve around the organisation of processions and ensuring the correct precedence and etiquette in formal proceedings, including the introduction of visitors to the lodge. This is distinct (in such jurisdictions) from the role of the Director of Ceremonies in supervising the ritual of the lodge's degree ceremonies.

In many jurisdictions of the United States, the Marshal is also in charge of performing the flag ceremonies,

including the posting of the flag, leading the Pledge of Allegiance, and retiring the flag. In the case of lodges that use the flags of other countries, in addition of the US flag for special meetings or events, the Marshal is responsible for designating another brother to perform the appropriate similar ceremony for that flag, as the US flag

Masters of Ceremony

The offices of 'Senior and Junior Masters of Ceremony' appear in some of the jurisdictions. Their primary duty is to prepare the candidates prior to each of the three degrees and conduct the candidates during the degree conferrals. They also maintain order during special circumstances at the discretion of the Worshipful Master. In some jurisdictions, the Masters of Ceremony are responsible for answering alarms at the preparing room, examination room or outer doors.

In most constitutions the Deacon performs the Master of Ceremony duties.

Merit

Officers with proven dedication and capabilities are recognized and rewarded with either provincial certificates of merit or honorary membership of the lodge to which they belong.

THE FESTIVE BOARD

"The Festive Board is an important part of any Masonic meeting. It affords the Brethren the opportunity to enjoy the social side of Freemasonry as well as the more formal ritual side. That said, the Festive Board is also a "formal" affair, with its structure and rules of deportment, although giving plenty of time for Brethren to chat amongst each other and enjoy each others' company. After leaving the Temple the Brethren may well have a few minutes "refreshment" before the Director of Ceremonies calls them to take their places at the Festive Board. The announcement "To order, Brethren, to receive your Worshipful Master." prompts the Brethren to applaud in an enthusiastic manner. Traditions and practices of individual Lodges vary and are one of the aspects that make Freemasonry so interesting.

Most of the early Lodges, here in England as well as across the waters, held their meetings in taverns; probably for the convenience of centrality and also securing refreshments. This resulted in by-laws dealing with excess and insobriety. Fines for inebriation, indecent language (probably the result of excess liquor), for quarrelling and dispute, or for disturbing a Lodge meeting were rather severe. Another by-law of many earlier Lodges was that part of the initiation fee was to be for food and liquor; or the initiate may even have had to furnish a banquet at his own expense. Not any more!

Miscellany

Join the Cavalry

Brethren, we need your help!

We have a team of "Regulars" who help with all sorts of events and activities within the Newark Masonic Hall and they do a fantastic job, but occasionally we could do with an extra pair of hands. Could you help your Hall by joining a volunteers list?

There is no commitment to help out on any specific date or event, but if you think you might be able to lend a hand occasionally when circumstances allow, please sign up for the Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry so we can call upon you when all other options have failed and you can ride in and save the day!

We would ask you to be part of an email Group and/or Whats App Group who we could ask for help when we need a hand.....there is no commitment other than to be on the list.....

It's also a great way to get involved with the Hall more generally as well as widening your social circle.

If you can be a member of the Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry, please contact Paul Simpson on 07538958750 or paul92.simpson@outlook.com

Rediscovering

This piece from the "First Rising Special Edition" in January is worth repeating in Password as a reminder of this strategy.

The Strategy for Freemasonry, 2022 and Beyond was launched at the December 2022 Quarterly Communication. Since then, Brethren of all ranks and from across our Constitution have embraced the need to tackle our Membership Challenge - introducing many new members to our organisation and, as importantly, making sure they remain engaged and fulfilled by their Freemasonry as they progress through the Lodge.

Over the past 15 months, a number of new initiatives have been launched and guidance provided, to support our members in this endeavour, including:

- Reinforcing the importance of the Members' Pathway in helping Lodge's to attract new members and retain them
- Introducing Archway to support Royal Arch Chapters in building and sustaining their membership - reinforcing our 'One Organisation' commitment
- Rolling out a new Multiple Candidates initiative, with a supporting video providing guidance to Lodges, so members feel confident in delivering a successful and meaningful ceremony

Grand Lodge in session



Miscellany

- Sharing best practice from Brethren, as they have successfully turned around their Lodges - including presentations in front of over 1,000 Brethren at the September QC in Wales

- Establishing Service as a core principle of the organisation, to reflect all we do in our communities

And many more...

As we enter 2024, we wish to provide Brethren with a reminder of all that we have accomplished so far - and give them the tools to keep delivering the successful change we need to ensure that Freemasonry prospers.

Provincial Appointments

The Provincia Grand Master has made the following statement. Admiral William Leavy stated - "You may be the boss but you are only as good as the people who work for you".

During my time as Provincial Grand Master, I have been fortunate to have had the support of colleagues of the highest calibre and within that small cadre, W Bro Peter Gregory, PSGD has been an outstanding contributor to promoting the modernising agenda for English Freemasonry.

In the nearly five years that he has been an Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Peter has sought to contribute to the life of the Province at all levels. However, he now feels that it is time to step away from his leadership role and he has asked me to accept his resignation as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master with effect from the Annual Meeting of the Province on Friday 3rd May 2024.

It is with regret that I have decided to accede to his request.

I am grateful that W Bro Peter will continue to contribute to the Provincial Executive through the framework which enables Past Leaders to assist with the development of the Province.

"Following W Bro Peter's decision to retire, I can confirm that he will be replaced by

WBro Graham Michael Green, PAGReg who will be appointed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the Annual Meeting in May 2024. WBro Graham is a member of Notts. Installed Masters' Lodge No.3595 and many Brethren will be aware that he is Chairman of the Board of the Nottinghamshire Masonic Hall Co. Ltd., a position he has held for some years.

I am sure that the Province as a whole will wish W Bros Peter and Graham well as they embark on the next stages of their respective Masonic journeys. "Freemasonry is a thriving organisation"

.90 not out



Congratulating one another on their 90th birthdays are Magnus Lodge members W Bro Ken Purslow and W Bro Philip Ingall. The latter celebrated his 90th in November last year and W Bro Purslow a couple of weeks later. W Bro Ingall has been Worshipful Master of Magnus on two occasions and W Bro Purslow three times as well as occupying the same office in his, Byron Lodge at Mansfield.

Masonic Yearbook

The next edition of the Masonic Yearbook, 2024-2025 will be available in the Autumn.

Thirteen

Miscellany

The charge will be £15 per copy, plus postage and packing where appropriate. Copies will be available from The Shop in Freemasons Hall. It is now proposed to produce a new edition of the Directory of Lodges and Chapters during 2024 and copies of the 2023-2024 version will still be available at The Shop at Freemasons Hall.

Every Lodge is supplied with online versions of both the Masonic Year Book and the Directory of Lodges and Chapters free of charge and this information should be available to all members of private Lodges and not regarded as for the exclusive use of the secretary.

Grand Lodge

As part of the "one organisation" element of the *Strategy for Freemasonry 2022 and beyond* the Committee of General Purposes and the Board are both considering ways in which the financial administration of the Craft and the Royal Arch can be harmonised to achieve greater efficiency and potential cost savings. As a first step, they have concluded that the introduction of a single registration fee to cover both Initiation into the Craft and subsequent Exaltation into the Royal Arch would simplify the process, and also have the benefit of encouraging Brethren to complete their journey in pure Antient Masonry by not requiring the payment of a further fee to the fund of Grand Chapter. The Board has no hesitation in recommending such a change and expects that the Committee of General Purposes will make a similar recommendation in respect of the Royal Arch.

Provincial honours

CRAFT

W Bro VN Boot St John's 8972	PPrJGW
W Bro CP Dring Magnus 3441	PPrJGW
W Bro CP Keast Magnus 3441	PPrGReg
W Bro J Barrie Corinthian 5528	PPrGSwdB
W Bro AC Black Newark 8332	PPrGSwdB
W Bro AM Crampton Corinthian 5528	PPrGSwdB
W Bro DM Holmes St John's 8972	PPrGSwdB
W Bro PD Simpson St John's 8972	PPrSGD
W Bro A O'Hagan St John's 8972	PPrJGD
W Bro D Twells Magnus 3441	PPrAGDC
W Bro WM Wilhelm Corinthian 5528	PPrAGDC 69a

ROYAL ARCH CHAPTER

E Comp B Spilsbury Newark Vernon Bussell 8332	Provincial Grand Almoner
E Comp PD Simpson Alexander 1661/8332	Provincial Grand Membership Officer
E Comp AM Crampton 1661	PrGSoj
E Comp SW Haberton 1661	PrGrStwd
E Comp JG Mascard 8332	PPrGReg
E Comp RH Hamilton 1661	PPrGSoj
E Comp JB Quibell 8332	PPrAGSoj

MARK

W Bro PD Simpson Fleming 265	PrDGSec
W Bro LI English Fleming 265/1972	PrGrSD
W Bro AM Crampton Trent 1526	PrAGDC
W Bro JWF Molloy 265	PPrGJW

RED CROSS OF CONSTANTINE

Newark Castle Conclave 359

P Kt R Woodall	re appointed to Divisional Warden of Regalia
P Kt TT Price	promoted to Past Divisional Sword Bearer
P Kt A O'Hagan	promoted to Past Divisional Standard Bearer (Labarum)
W Kt PD Simpson	re appointed to Divisional Sepulchre Guard
W Kt VN Boot	appointed to Divisional Sepulchre Guard

ROYAL AND SELECT MASTERS

III. Comp TD Ward	Prince Rupert Council 335/230
Promoted to	V.III Comp Past Grand Lecturer

HOLY ROYAL ARCH KNIGHT TEMPLAR PRIESTS

Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire District	
V III Kt Pt TD Ward	Nottinghamshire Tabernacle 32
Promotion to Past Grand VII Pillar	8th June

Ways & Mean's Fish & Chip Quiz Night

Sat. 11th May 2024 – 6.30pm The Avenue **£14 Only!**

- Friends, Family & Fratres Welcome!
- Iconic British Fayre!
- Salt & Vinegar provided!
- Huge Haddock!
- Alcohol available at the Bar!
- No mobiles!
- Delightful company!
- Competitive Banter & Crispy Batter!
- Healthiest Takeaway option on the High Street!
- Intellectual stimulation guaranteed!
- Peas (Mushy) included!
- Sign up by contacting Chris Ward kryssy48@gmail.com 07904841999.
- Max 8 to a Team or come on your own! (We will create Teams based on confirmed bookings). Proceeds to the W&M Committee.
- Prepayment required as meals will need to be preordered!
- **Payment by BACS: The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee**
Sort Code: 050641. Account No: 29611983. Ref: FC (your surname)



Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry



Brethren, we need your help!

We have a team of "Regulars" who help with all sorts of events and activities within the Newark Masonic Hall and they do a fantastic job, but occasionally we could do with an extra pair of hands.

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It's also a great way to get involved with the Hall more generally as well as widening your social circle.

If you can be a member of the **Newark Masonic Hall Cavalry**, please contact Paul Simpson on 07538958750 or paul92.simpson@outlook.com.

Know your Newark

Newark has five craft lodges with something like 300 members but how many know the history of the town in which they practise their Freemasonry. But what of its history. Here are some of the moments through the years.

The origins of the town are possibly Roman, from its position on an important Roman road, the Fosseway. In a document which purports to be a charter of 664AD Newark is mentioned as having been granted to the Abbey of Peterborough by King Wulfhere of Mercia.

An Anglo-Saxon pagan cemetery used from the early fifth to early seventh centuries was found in Millgate where cremated remains were buried in pottery urns.

In the reign of Edward the Confessor, Newark belonged to Godiva and her husband Leofric, Earl of Mercia, who granted it to Stow Minster in 1055. After the Norman Conquest, Stow Minster retained its revenues but under the control of the Norman Bishop Remigius de Fécamp, then passing to the Bishops of Lincoln from 1092 until the reign of Edward VI.

Newark Castle

Newark Castle was originally a fortified manor house founded by the Anglo-Saxon King Edward the Elder. In 1073, Remigius de Fécamp, Bishop of Lincoln, put up

an earthwork motte-and-bailey fortress on the site. The river bridge was built about this time under a charter from Henry I, as was St Leonard's Hospital, (the St Leonard's Trust still remains in the town).

Newark became a local centre for the wool and cloth trade – by the time of Henry II a major market was held here. Wednesday and Saturday markets in the town were founded in the period 1156–1329, under a series of charters from the Bishop of Lincoln.

One of the biggest

Around the time of Edward III's death in 1377, "Poll tax records show an adult population of 1,178, excluding beggars and clergy, making Newark one of the biggest 25 or so towns in England.

In 1457 a flood swept away the bridge over the Trent. Although there was no legal requirement to do so, the Bishop of Lincoln, John Chaworth, funded a new bridge of oak with stone defensive towers at either end.

During his reign Henry VIII had the Vicar of Newark, Henry Lytherland, executed for refusing to acknowledge the king as Head of the Church.

Royalist stronghold

In the English Civil War, Newark was a Royalist stronghold, besieged on three occasions and finally surrendered only when ordered to do so by the King after his own surrender." It was attacked in February

1643 by two troops of horsemen, but beat them back. The town fielded, at times, as many as 600 soldiers. In 1644 Newark was besieged by forces from Nottingham, Lincoln and Derby, until relieved in March of that year by Prince Rupert.

Final siege

The final siege began in November 1645, by which time the town's defences had been much strengthened. Two major forts had been built just outside the town, one called the Queen's Sconce to the south-west, and another, the King's Sconce, to the north-east. Much of the defences was destroyed, including the Castle, which was left in essentially the state it can be seen today. The Queen's Sconce was largely untouched; its remains are in Sconce and Devon Park.

Smeeton's Arches

About 1770 the Great North Road around Newark (now the A616) was raised on a long series of arches, known as Smeeton's Arches, to ensure it remained clear of the regular floods. A special Act of Parliament in 1773 allowed the creation of the town hall in the Market Place. Designed by John Carr of York and completed in 1776, Newark Town Hall is now a Grade I listed building, housing a museum and art gallery. In 1775 the Duke of Newcastle, at that time the Lord of the Manor and a major landowner in the

Know your Newark

area, built a new brick bridge with stone facing to replace a dilapidated one next to the Castle. This is still one of the town's major thoroughfares.

Politics

Even in those days politics raised its head in a milieu of parliamentary reform. the Duke of Newcastle evicted over a hundred Newark tenants whom he believed to support directly or indirectly the Liberal /Radical candidate (Wilde), in the 1892 elections rather than his candidate, (Michael Sadler, a progressive Conservative).

Many buildings and much industry appeared in the Victorian era. The buildings included the Castle Railway Station (1846), the Corn Exchange (1848), W. N. Nicholson Trent Ironworks (1840s), Northgate Railway Station (1851), St Leonard's Anglican Church (1873), Newark Hospital (1881), Ossington Coffee Palace (1882), Gilstrap Free Library (1883), the Market Hall (1884) and the Fire Station, then in Victoria Street (1889).

Temperance

The Ossington Coffee Palace was built by Lady Charlotte Ossington, daughter of the 4th Duke of Portland and widow of a former Speaker of the House of Commons, Viscount Ossington. It was designed to be a temperance alternative to pubs and coaching inns.

These changes and industrial growth raised the population from under 7,000 in 1800 to over 15,000 by the

end of the century.

The ONS Mid Year Population Estimates for 2007 indicated that the population had risen to some 26,700. And in 2021 almost 30,000 with major housing development on the towns outskirts set to increase it even more.

On the industrial front today includes British Sugar PLC opened in 1921 has some 130 permanent employees and processes 1.6 million tonnes of sugar beet produced by about 800 UK growers. A bearings factory (part of the NSK group) with some 200 employees, and Laurens Patisseries, now part of the Bakkavör food group since May 2006, employing over 1,000.

In 2007, Currys opened a £30 million national distribution centre and moved its national distribution operation there with over 1,400 staff employed at the site at peak times.

The Brunel and other Industrial Estates within the town have many other national and local companies giving varied skills employment and apprenticeships ranging from information technology to the motor trade, from metal working to sportsfield construction and recently the Air and Space Institute .

But on the down side it has also seen the demise of clothing factories, agricultural machinery manufacture, two major breweries and the closure of the Marks & Spencer stores which has created a major gap in popular clothing.

Antiques

Since 1985, Newark has been host to the biggest antiques outlet in Europe, the Newark International Antiques and Collectors Fair, held bi-monthly at the Newark Showground.

Newark has a national treasure. The Newark Torc, a silver and gold Iron Age torc, was the first found in Nottinghamshire. It resembles that of the Snettisham Hoard. Uncovered in 2005, in a field on the town's outskirts, and in 2008 acquired by Newark and Sherwood District Council. And is now displayed at the National Civil War Centre and Newark Museum in Ap-pletongate.

Newark, as we know it today, is a thriving town and despite some people saying that it has lost its way and there are too many shops empty there is still a good choice of fashion shops, menswear, jewellery, food and hardware merchandise available in both multiple and single owned businesses as well as a almost daily market offering both food, clothing and other items well worth a browse.

Not to mention the variety of charity shops where many bargains can be sort,

Newark has always been an important town on the main routes to both north and south. The LNER East Coast Mainline gives direct and fast access to London (some 80 minutes) and with direct trains as far north as Edinburgh

The A1, one of the first designated major roads in the country's network, gives access for goods transportation to all parts of the country which is why so many companies have made Newark their chosen headquarters over the years.

FREEMASONRY IN SWITZERLAND

The oldest Grand Lodge Alpina Switzerland lodges date back to the 18th century, such as L'Union des Cœurs in Geneva, founded in 1768, La Discrétion in Zurich, founded in 1772, dormant since 1786, to be reactivated in 1811 as Modestia cum Libertate, Les Vrais Frères Unis in Le Locle, founded in 1774, La Vraie Union in Nyon, founded in 1787, and Zur Freundschaft und Beständigkeit in Basel, founded in 1808.

Roots are in the 18th century freemasonry; and at that time, many Helvetic lodges, often short-lived, were independent. But the hold of the Napoleonic empire led the Grand Orient of France to create several lodges under its leadership in the early 19th century.

After the Congress of Vienna, the French influence having ebbed away, lodges of French-speaking Switzerland created in 1811 a first umbrella structure, the Grand Orient Helvétique Romand. Then, these same lodges got closer to a lodge in Bern, Zur Hoffnung, still active, which had received a patent from the United Grand Lodge of England a friendly relationship that remains in place. As a result, the Swiss National Grand Lodge was born in 1822. In 1844, after many attempts to rally more lodges, the Society of Swiss Alpina Lodges was born and covered a larger area of Switzerland. In 1913 this body became the Grand Lodge Alpina of Switzerland. During these years, the number of lodges increased, either by existing lodges joining or by the foundation of new lodges. Some were even founded in tiny towns in the French-speaking Switzerland.

Jonas Furrer was a founding member of the Swiss Confederation and President of the Confederation.

The GLSA never influenced Swiss politics on its own, but it inherited the values of the Enlightenment of the

18th century from the very beginning.



Elie Ducommun (1833-1906), Grand Master of GLAS, 1902 Nobel Peace Prize

The repositioning of the Radical Party, resulting from the rise of the Swiss Socialist Party, led to a gradual distancing between the changing values of this party and those of the GLSA membership, whose philanthropic, pacifist and moral contents increasingly became preeminent.

The proof is the Genevan pacifist activist and 1902 Nobel Peace Prize winner Elie Ducommun, born on 19th February 1833 in Geneva and died on 7th December 1906 in Bern, former Grand Master of the GLSA from 1890 to 1895. In the same vein, between the two wars, the GLAS supported the creation of the League of Nations in Geneva. It also endeavoured, from 1921, in the same spirit of universal brotherhood for peace, inspired by Swiss neutrality, to build bridges between the world's Grand Lodges by the creation of a light ad hoc body, the

FREEMASONRY IN SWITZERLAND

International Masonic Association (IMA). However, Anglo-Saxon Freemasonry, which was in the majority, did not join, because it did not approve of the French presence in the IMA.

After the First World War its membership increased significantly but this was short-lived. The economic crisis (the Wall Street Crash of 1929) at the end of the 1920s affected the financial resources of the members, and the rise of fascism was accompanied by virulent anti-Masonicism; there was mention of a "Judeo-Masonic conspiracy", and Freemasons were accused of all the evils. Many of them were arrested or interned in camps.

Supported by certain Catholic factions, it was aimed at restricting the rights of association and to ban freemasonry. The resulting prejudices among part of the population, together with the effects of the Second World War had a deleterious effect on membership, which fell by 50%.

From 1945 onwards, GLAS became more active and Masonic life resumed, with modest but steady growth, until the pre-war membership was restored and even slightly exceeded. Nevertheless, like all societies, it now had to fight against the decline of voluntary associations and make its added value better known by making its values of the training of a upright human being, activity in society, with a spiritual underpinning rooted in tolerance, as a long-term task...

To strengthen its links with so-called universal Freemasonry (which respects the landmarks of the Old Charges), often referred to as regular Freemasonry, GLAS distanced itself from other French-speaking Grand Lodges

From the 1970s onwards, like many other Masonic bodies, the number of lodges within the GLAS increased

more rapidly than the number of members, with the result that lodges had fewer members. The influences of the analytical psychology led Freemasons to reconsider and deepen their tradition, as well as their symbolic toolkit. English-speaking lodges of the British Emulation Rite were also created. One of them, Rosslyn No. 87, is itinerant, like the old military lodges.

On 6th June 2009, at its General Assembly, following the policy of the United Grand Lodge of England, GLAS adopted a declaration concerning its relations with women's freemasonry in Switzerland, which recognises the judicious activity of the latter. It welcomes the sharing of joint actions, lectures, lectures or colloquia, except for its ritual activities and ceremonies, which remain strictly monogamous.

Through its adherence to these values, GLAS has recognized a wide network of Grand Lodges in other countries and in return is recognized by them, which allow its members to visit lodges throughout the world. It is governed as an association under Article 60 of the Swiss Civil Code and has its own constitution, statutes and regulations.

GLAS aims at the moral and ethical improvement of the members of its lodges by working on themselves, aided by ad hoc initiatory and symbolic ceremonies and close harmony between its members. More generally, the aim is to adopt a moral position and committed ethical behaviour within society. GLAS offers a broad spiritual approach and an initiatic pedagogy which retains a stance of privacy to its rituals, even if all the information on the arcane and the functioning of Freemasonry is easily accessible on the web and in specialized books. GLAS brethren belong mostly to the middle class.

Recently the Zurich lodge has tried to dispel prejudice and to present itself to the public in a different light. "The public still wrongly perceives us as a secret society," "By addressing the public directly, we wish to convince them that this image is wrong, that we have no secrets and nothing to hide".

Collecting medals

The first collection of medals in England that can be in any way associated with the Craft was made by Bro. Elias Ashmole, who, initiated at Warrington in 1646, formed the link between the Old and New Freemasonry. In 1679 he lost a collection of 9,000 pieces by a disastrous fire that had consumed his Chambers in the Middle Temple.

But he was fortunate enough to preserve his gold medals, and, in the long run, to present to the University of Oxford the collection that formed a nucleus of the Ashmolean Museum, second only to the British Museum in its accumulation of objects of interest.

In this Oxford Collection, inaugurated by the first English Speculative Freemason of whom we have no note, are to be found two specimens of the first Masonic medal. The Museum owes much to another famous Brother, Dr Richard Rawlinson, who served the office of Grand Steward of the Grand Lodge of England in 1734, and who bequeathed to the University a fine collection of Ancient and Modern Medals. A third famous Freemason of that day, whose name cannot be omitted from any history of medals, is Martin Folkes, who served the office of Deputy Grand Master, under the Duke of Richmond, in 1724—1725. He provided in his own person the subject of the second oldest Masonic Medal in existence.

Twenty



Grand Lodge was fully represented, from its earliest days, among the scholars and artists who cultivated the study of medals. But years elapsed before collections of medals exclusively devoted to Freemasonry became possible.

An interval of more than half a century had passed, from the time when the first Masonic Medal was struck, before we find any attempt to gather and classify the pieces themselves, and more than a hundred years passed before any literary effort was made to describe and catalogue them. It is not easy to determine which nation has gathered the first cabinet of Medals of Freemasonry.

On the whole, it seems probable that German Brethren were the first in the field. The number of these collections in Germany is probably larger than in any other country.

In England, the collections recently formed by the Grand Lodge of England, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Worcestershire, and the Provincial Grand Lodge of West Yorkshire, are in no way inferior to the corre-

sponding Continental collections, while the Cabinets of the Quatuor Coronati Lodge, London, and the Lodge of Research, Leicester, possess many rare and valuable specimens.

The private collections of Bro. Fred. J. W. Crowe, of Torquay, and Bro. Geo. W. Bain, of Sunderland,

are large and well-selected, while the small but choice Cabinet of Bro. W. J. Hughan, of Torquay, in point of rarity, will stand comparison with all save the very best private collections in Europe or America.

But the great glory of English Masonic Numismatics is the magnificent cabinet formed by Bro. Geo. L. Shackles, of Hull. It is not only the largest in number, but the richest in choice, that has ever been got together, comprising more than one thousand separate specimens.

The collection is all the more remarkable, owing to the stringency enforced that no specimen shall be admitted to the collection unless it fully complies with the definition of a Masonic Medal.

We can therefore see that the collection of medals in Newark's Masonic Hall Museum can in no way compare with the collections listed in this article and for those interested there are many more collections in an article on the web by W. J. Chetwode Crawley to whom the editor is grateful for information gathered therefrom.

Newark Charity committee

Have you ever wondered where your offertory goes or what it's used for? Or your donations to Festival? It's only when one becomes more involved in our charitable activities at Lodge, Hall and Provincial levels that you start to see the good our donations do in society in general and in Newark in particular.

For instance, in 2022, Newark Masons got involved with the, Newark Dementia Carers Group through one of its members, WBro Bernie Bosson, a much loved member of Newton Lodge 1661 and Trent Mark Lodge .1526.

NDCG meets in Balderton several times a week, to provide support, friendship, activities, exercise and meals or snacks, to anyone suffering from dementia and their carers, and the demand is rising. NDCG is run solely by volunteers. They also arrange five, or six, outings to local places of interest per year, plus an annual holiday. Whilst activities are paid for out of members' subscriptions, outings and holidays are funded separately and heavily subsidized. Because most of their members are elderly, frail and infirm, and living on a pension, fundraising is very difficult which is why NDCG approached Newark Masons for support in the first place.

Sadly, Bernie passed to

the Grand Lodge above before a donation could be made but, with the agreement of Bernie's daughter, Jenny, and the trustees of NDCG, an application was made to Newton Lodge for a donation in Bernie's memory and the members agreed to give £500 with Trent Mark giving a further £500. Realising this would only pay for one outing, in September 2022 a successful application was made to Provincial Grand Lodge which donated £5,000 after an assessment of their needs by Provincial Case and Finance Committee, and endorsed by the PCC committee.

Having received a £5,000 donation from Province, an application for matched funding was

submitted to the Masonic Charitable Foundation, is the central charitable fund administered by UGLE into which all Festival donations are paid. The committee is pleased to announce that MCF provided £5,000 in matched funding in February 2024, which lets NDCG book a year's outings and a holiday confident that these are fully funded.

Whilst each lodge has its own Charity Steward and charity account, Newark Masonic Hall Charity Committee was set up to act on behalf of Newark Masons collectively, so it could make larger, more significant donations to worthy local



Pictured left is Elaine Ellison group fund raiser, Kevin Hyland Chairman PGL Case and Finance committee, Ken Daubney Chairman of the Dementia Carers Group and Ken Purslow Chairman of the Newark Hall Charity Stewards Committee.

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Newark Charity committee

causes whether or not these are registered charities. At a committee meeting on 2nd March, the committee received a presentation from the trustees of Newark Mencap which runs a day centre in Newark four days a week supporting local adults with a mental im-

pairment or learning disability, with a very similar remit to NDCG. Whilst the income from its members covers day-to-day running costs, the trustees would like to arrange regular outings plus a subsidized annual holiday for members which they can't afford

out of their limited Disability Living Allowance. Newark Hall Masonic Charity Committee members voted on 2nd March to give £500.

If you have a local cause you'd like us to support, discuss it with your Lodge Charity Steward.



Mrs Julie Crampton, a committee member, presents a cheque for £500 to Mr Neal Allen chairman of Newark Mencap, on behalf of Newark Masonic Hall Charity Committee, with some users of the Mencap services looking on.

Newark Mencap is an independent charity, self-funding without aid from national or local government. It is currently able to offer 15 self-funded places per day, so it was with great pleasure that Newark Freemasons were able to present a cheque for £500 to enable the staff to take their clients on a fun weekend away to a specialist hotel in Huddersfield.

Password editor required

It is some 15 years since I took over the editorship of Password but I would like to stand down and I have indicated to the Masonic Hall directors that I would like them to be looking for a replacement.

At the same time it is immediately essential for a brother to take on the responsibility of looking after the advertisements for Password. This is a very important and not too onerous a

task as the revenue from advertising makes the publication possible rather than it being a burden on other funds.

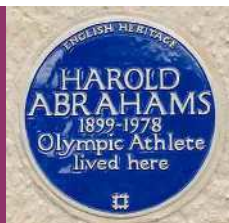
The Newark Password provides an important link for Newark Freemasons and I hope we will see brethren coming forward. Interested? Then please contact the Masonic Hall secretary, W Bro Fraser Macintyre who will be able to take matters further.

Philip Ingall

FAMOUS FREEMASONS

Harold Abrahams

1899 to 1978



Harold Abrahams's father, Isaac, was a Jewish immigrant from Polish Lithuania, then part of the Russian Empire since the Partitions of Poland. He worked as a financier, and settled in Bedford with his Welsh Jewish wife, Esther Isaacs. Harold was born in Bedford in 1899. His eldest brother was the physician Sir Adolphe Abrahams (1883–1967), the founder of British sport medicine. His middle brother was another British Olympic athlete, long jumper Sir Sidney Abrahams (1885–1957).

Harold Abrahams, was initiated into Oxford and Cambridge University Lodge No.1118, and was a founding member of Athlon Lodge No. 4674.

He attended Bedford School, Repton School and then Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, from 1919 to 1923. Before attending university, Abrahams served as a lieutenant in the British Army. He afterwards trained as a lawyer. At Cambridge, he was a member of the Cambridge University Athletics Club (of which he was president 1922–1923), Cambridge University Liberal Club, the University Pitt Club, and the Gilbert and Sullivan Society.

Abrahams was also a



member of the Achilles Club, a track and field club formed in 1920 by and for past and present representatives of Oxford and Cambridge universities. One of the club's founding members was Evelyn Montague, who like Abrahams is also portrayed in the 1981 film *Chariots of Fire*.

Ultimately, Harold Abrahams went on to become the elder statesman of British athletics. He passed away in Enfield, England, on January 14th, 1978, at the age of 78, and he was buried in St John the Baptist Churchyard in Great Amwell, beside his wife Sybil Evers. His many honours include being appointed a Commander of the Order of the British

Empire (or CBE) in 1957, an English Heritage Blue plaque at his former home in Golders Green in northwest London, England, which was unveiled by his daughter Sue Pottle and nephew Tony Abrahams. He lived at Hodford Lodge, 2 Hodford Road, from 1923 to 1930, years during which he achieved his greatest successes, which was being inducted into the International Jewish Sports Hall of Fame in 1981, and being inducted into the England Athletics Hall of Fame in 2009. A plaque from the Heritage Foundation was also unveiled at his birthplace, Rutland Road in Bedford, England, on July 8th, 2012. This coincided with the Olympic torch relay passing through the town. A lifelong Freemason and a lover of Gilbert and Sullivan, his story and those along with his wife and several of his early friends and fellow Olympians were depicted in the motion picture *"Chariots of Fire"* in 1981. He was portrayed by actor Ben Cross in the film and the film was nominated for seven Academy Awards and won four Academy Awards including Best Picture, Best Original Screenplay, and Best Original Score. It is also ranked 19th in the British Film Institute's list of the Top 100 British films.

FAMOUS FREEMASONS

Buzz Aldrin

1930 -



Famous astronaut, Buzz Aldrin, the second man to step on the moon was a Freemason.

He was the second person to step on the moon after Neil Armstrong. He was a devoted mason who took a Masonic flag with him on the Apollo 11 spacecraft. He had special permissions from the Freemasons to claim a part of the moon for the Freemasons.

He claimed 'Masonic Territorial Jurisdiction for The Most Worshipful Grand Lodge of Texas, Ancient Free and Accepted Masons' on the moon. He was the first man to take communion on the moon as a Presbyterian with a home communion kit.

Aldrin was born Edwin Eugene Aldrin Jr. on January 20th, 1930, at Mountainside Hospital in Glen Ridge, New Jersey. His parents, Edwin Eugene Aldrin Snr. and Marion Aldrin (née Moon), lived in neighboring Montclair. His father was an Army aviator during World War I and the assistant commandant of the Army's test pilot school at McCook Field, Ohio, from 1919 to 1922, but left the Army in 1928 and became an executive at Standard Oil. Aldrin had two sisters: Madeleine, who was four years older, and Fay Ann, who was a year and a half older. His nickname, which became his legal first name in 1988 arose



as a result of Fay's mispronouncing "brother" as "buzzer", which was then shortened to "Buzz". He was a boy scout, achieving the rank of Tenderfoot Scout.

Aldrin initially applied to join the astronaut corps when NASA's Astronaut Group 2 was selected in 1962. His application was rejected on the grounds that he was not a test pilot. Aldrin was aware of the requirement and asked for a waiver but the request was turned down. On May 15th, 1963, NASA announced another round of selections, this time with the requirement that applicants had either test pilot experience or 1,000 hours of flying time in jet aircraft. Aldrin had over 2,500 hours of flying time, of which 2,200 was in jets. His selection as one of fourteen members of NASA's Astronaut Group 3 was announced on October 18th, 1963. This made him the first astronaut with

a doctoral degree which, combined with his expertise in orbital mechanics, earned him the nickname "Dr. Rendezvous" from his fellow astronauts

Aldrin retired from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in 1971 to become commandant of the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards Air Force Base in California. In March 1972 he retired from the air force to enter private business. In 1988 he legally changed his name to Buzz Aldrin. ("Buzz" was his lifelong nickname.) In 1998 he founded the ShareSpace Foundation, a nonprofit organization to promote the expansion of crewed space exploration.

Aldrin wrote two autobiographies, *Return to Earth* (1973), which told the story of his experience with depression following the Apollo 11 mission, and *Magnificent Desolation: The Long Journey Home from the Moon* (2009, with Ken Abraham). He also wrote a history of the Apollo programme, *Men from Earth* (1989, with Malcolm McConnell); two children's books, *Reaching for the Moon* (2005) and *Look to the Stars* (2009); and two forward-looking works, *Mission to Mars: My Vision for Space Exploration* (2013) and *No Dream Is Too High: Life Lessons from a Man Who Walked on the Moon* (2016).

THE FESTIVAL

Since the Provincial Grand Master launched the Nottinghamshire 2029 festival at the AGM on 5th May 2023, there has been lots of activity around and including the festival.

- We have had many launch events at the Masonic centres around the Province, at which we served 383 members, family and friends with an excellent selection of culinary fare.

- There has been a red and white Festival wine launched that should now be on sale in all Masonic halls

- We have launched a festival website www.fest2029.co.uk that gives updates of what's happening and where, as well as links to make donating easier.

- Lodge festival stewards have been invited to and took part in training.

- Hall co-ordinators have been appointed and trained..

- The Festival committee keep working hard to come up with new ideas to engage the members of the province in fun ways to raise money.

- Some individual members are organising fundraising events with great enthusiasm and enjoying taking part

Brethren what can I say, but thank you for your efforts so far, Lodges are embracing the festival as only Nottinghamshire masons know how, by digging deep and getting involved, to date we have 17% of the members of the province signed up to regular given over the six year period of the festival, with more signing up on a weekly basis to support the excellent work carried out by the MCF, please visit the website or speak to your festival steward to see how you can join in.

No target

Not having a target for the festival has had a mixed reaction, some Lodges and brethren miss not having a goal to achieve, whilst others believe that not having a target takes pressure off those lodges with smaller numbers and struggling attendances. Please use the festival to reconnect with members that are not coming regularly, get them involved in social events and hope that these will encourage them back into the fold, also by reconnecting we might find a brother or brothers that need some help either from other members or the MCF, let this festival be the vehicle to help.

We have received figures from the MCF to say that in 2023 they directly sup-

ported this province with £127,000.00 in personal grants for daily living, health care and education and £72,000.00 direct to charities that benefit people in this county, and a direct grant of £95,000.00 for breast cancer research at the QMC

This is way more money than we as a province could provide if we were making direct donations, remember that the MCF is our charity, we can't get any help from them without applying, so work with the festival stewards, Almoners and Charity Stewards to get the charity working for our members.

Please continue to sign up to regular giving, it is the easiest, and best way to support the 2029 festival.

Highly regarded

Together Nottinghamshire will prove why it is so highly regarded, and don't forget to look out for the fundraising events, like the up and coming Magic night, there is also going to be an Indian themed evening, a St Patrick's day Luncheon and Auction, and in the summer a garden party with entertainment food and drink.

Keep up the good work!
Sincerely and Fraternally
Martin Johnson
Festival Director



**Come Dine With Us – St George's Day Celebration
Newark Masonic Hall – Saturday 20th April 2024 –
6.30pm**

Hear Ye, Hear Ye,

Come ye all to celebrate a St George's Day themed dining experience at the Newark Masonic Hall, with the emphasis on traditional fun & frivolity!

Dress code is smart/black tie and the wearing of national costume/accessories is strongly encouraged!

A host of worthy Knights will be on hand to protect you from passing dragons and of course to rescue any damsels in distress.

"Jerusalem" will be sung, parcels may be passed & the Fayre will be hearty!

*Don't miss it! Book early to avoid disappointment! **£25** per person. Details below.*

Board of Fayre

*Dragon's **Blood** Soup or Dragon's **Fire** Soup (for only the bravest)*

Home Cooked Roast Beef & Yorkshire Pudding

St George's English Scones or Dragon's Nest Merengue

A selection of English Cheeses – served with "Martyr's Port"

Tea/Coffee served with Baby Dragons' Eggs

Please book your St George's tickets by contacting Paul Simpson:

paul92.simpson@outlook.com or 07538 958750/01636 821260.

Payment to be made ideally by BACs to: The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee

Sort code 05-06-41 Account No: 29611983 Ref: St George (your surname)

A Newark Masonic Ways & Means event. All profits to the Newark Masonic Hall Improvement Fund

They're off



Valentines Race Night 2024 drew record crowds this year for another wonderfully successful night!

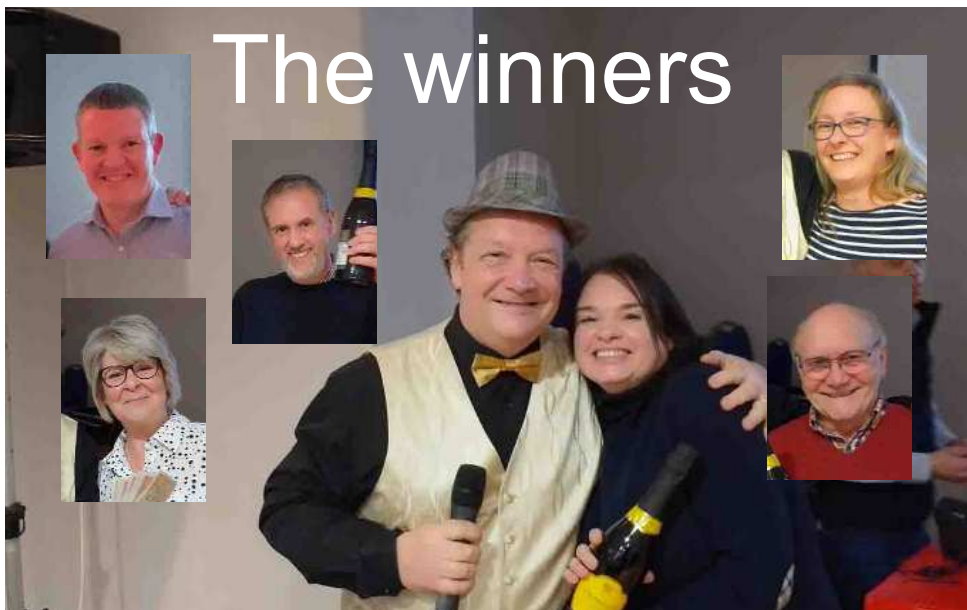
With 88 bookings, the 2024 event was the best attended in its 11 year history and the sausage, mash & mushy peas menu remains as popular as ever!

The event realised a magnificent £1,800 for the Ways & Means Committee which raises funds for improvement works to the Newark Masonic Hall.

Our photo gallery indicates that a good time was had by all.

Make a note of next year's date – Saturday 15th February 2025 – don't miss it!

The winners



Twenty-seven

Ways & Mean's Fish & Chip Quiz Night

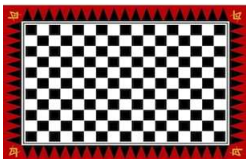
Sat. 11th May 2024 – 6.30pm The Avenue - £14 Only!

- Friends, Family & Frates Welcome!
- Iconic British Fayre!
- Salt & Vinegar provided!
- Huge Haddock!
- Alcohol available at the Bar!
- No mobiles!
- Delightful company!
- Competitive Banter & Crispy Batter!
- Healthiest Takeaway option on the High Street!
- Intellectual stimulation guaranteed!
- Peas (Mushy) included!
- Sign up by contacting Chris Ward-kryssy48@gmail.com 07904841999.
- Max 8 to a Team or come on your own! (We will create Teams based on confirmed bookings). Proceeds to the W&M Committee.
- Pre-payment required as meals will need to be pre-ordered!
- Payment by BACS: The Newark Masonic Hall Ways & Means Committee
Sort Code: 05-06-41. Account No: 29611983. Ref: FC (your surname)

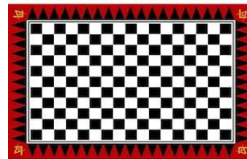


PRONTO
EXECUTIVE
TAXI
07534065496

info@prontotaxis.co.uk
www.prontotaxis.co.uk



PAVING the Way for the Future



**Brethren, many of you will recognise that our
Temple carpet is in a poor state of repair and
requires replacement.**

Following the significant Phase 1 works to the Hall, this is not a project that the Newark Masonic Hall Co. Ltd. can prioritise in the short term and so a different plan is required!

We are launching an appeal to all Newark Masons and Masonic Units to consider "purchasing" a square or more of the mosaic pavement which we all walk upon at £25 per square.

You will not physically own a square but your donation will be recognised in perpetuity and graphically illustrated on a bespoke diagram displayed in the Temple Anteroom.

Lodge names and Corporate Sponsors will be treated similarly.

Carpet squares will be allocated by random draw and in the event of multiple donations adjoining squares will be connected.

Brethren, it's time for action!

Can you help "Pave the Way for the Future"?

Donations of £25 or multiples of £25 can be made to:

Newark Masonic 200 Club

Account No.12301590 Sort Code 54-10-23

Please use the reference: CAR (Your surname).

This name will be used for the squares donated.

***Alternatively, cash and cheques can be given to your Lodge 200
Club collector – see below.***

Newton 1661- John Edis - Magnus 3441- Bryan Spilsbury

Corinthian 5528- Jim Barrie - Newark 8332- Geoff Quince

St. Johns 8972- Steve Haberton

Cheques can also be sent to

Bryan Spilsbury, 88A Main Street, Balderton, Newark NG24 3NU.

***In addition, squares may be purchased from any of the following
Ways & Means Committee Members:***

Paul Simpson, Jim Brackley, Nick Scott, Chris Ward.

TRAVEL TIME MALTA

Although Malta was featured in the December 2016 issue it is a striking little island, holder of King George VI's George Cross for its heroic resistance during World War II and of everlasting interest. Ancient sites, pretty towns and villages, miles of coastline, endless sunshine, friendly people and well worth another visit.

Approaching Malta by sea is an experience in itself. To sail into the



Grand harbour is to sail into history itself. Invaded by just about every major Mediterranean power from Moors to Napolian all of whom have made their mark on the island. The Grand harbour is surrounded by the battlements built by the Knights of Malta Hospitallers during their 16/17th century rule. Malta was also a British colony from 1800 to

1964 when it became a republic and there are still many signs of that period.

Flying in to Valetta airport you get a glimpse of the island from the air and on landing you are straight away transported into an air of both history and expectation. Whether staying in an hotel or self catering you are made more than welcome. The island is renowned for its affordable street food as well as fine dining (there are six Michelin starred restaurants on the island). Local food has to be tried and enjoyed. Rabbit stew takes one back to our past when this dish was a regular on British tables. Bragioli beef with olives and kapunata, and Maltese ratatouille are just three of the traditional dishes that have to be sampled to get the true Maltese favour of a range of dishes using fresh produce and the portions are generous.

For a snack, ask about pastizza, grab hobzbiz-



zeit and wash it down with a glass of local wine or beer.

Wander through the streets of Valetta, one



of Europe' smallest capitals, where there are 300 historic monuments and museums including the National War Museum and the Lascaris War Rooms from where General Eisenhower controlled the allied fight back. The Malta 50 experience is a journey which takes you into the islands past with some 30 special effects. Visit St John's Co-Cathedral to admire the Carvaggio



TRAVEL TIME

painting of John the Baptist and see a kaleidoscope of stunning Baroque decoration.

In addition to all its ancient and fascinating history Valetta has top class shopping with leading fashion labels and a wide and quality choice of native and other merchandise.

For a reflective time stroll through the streets of Mdina and



you are transported into the Middle Ages. Pass elegant houses in what was the island's former capital. And if you do not like to walk then a horse drawn carriage is perhaps your better idea of seeing this tiny town where you can dine at one of the Michelin – starred restaurants, the De Mondion.

Digging back into time are the Tarxian Temples dating between 3,800 and 2,200 BC to give you a sense of long gone history. Other such sites are the underground burial complex of Hal Saflieni



Hypogeum and the Ghar Dalam Cave which is the earliest evidence of a human settlement.

Back to the present time and getting a glimpse of all round the island is easy by taking a ride on one of the open top buses providing an hop-on hop-off facility that gives you time to spend at whichever stop takes your fancy. It may be to the fishing village of Marsaxlokk where multi coloured fishing boats idle on the water, quay-



side cafes abound with fresh fish and stall holders sell exquisite lace. Stop off too at Golden Bay for one of the best beaches on the island.



Sliema where the buses start and finish, together with St Julian and Mellieha Bay are where many of the island's best hotels are located, several of them where ac-



cess to the beach is through their own tunnel under the main coastal road.

Malta is a small island but on each visit there will always be something that has previously escaped you whether it is 2,000 or 20 years ago and with its many restaurants and attractions you will come away satisfied and with thoughts of another return visit.

Which magazine recommends Jet2 holidays as their flight provider with flights from East Midlands and seven other UK airports. Seven days all inclusive for two people at a four star hotel will cost around £2,500 at this year's prices. As an added bonus there are lodges in Malta that have UGLE recognition but seek permission through the Province if you contemplate visiting...



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SATURDAY SOCIAL

The Ways & Means Committee invites all Newark Masons, partners, friends & family to join them for the Saturday Socials at The Newark Masonic Hall.

The bar is now open from Midday to 3pm on the last Saturday of the month every month to provide the opportunity to hopefully catch up with friends you haven't seen for a while and they hope you may drop in and say hello

See you there!





The Ladies' Luncheon Club



Programme 2024

12th April – Pilots & Petticoats – David Skillen

10th May – Newark Operatic Society – Rita Crowe

Autumn/Winter Events tbc

Friday 13th September

Friday 11th October

Friday 8th November

Friday 13th December

3 Courses

£10 Members

£13 Guests

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recommendation



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Linda Simpson on 07942
861952 for more information.

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Looking back in Password

We look back at some of the happenings in Newark Freemasonry ten years ago.

This page recalls items from the Password of Spring 2014.

In this edition Hall Company chairman Terry Ward appealed to brethren to ask their business friends if they will consider an advertisement in Password, *(That appeal still applies - editor).*

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Alexander Chapter had a Ceremonial Visit late in 2013 when companions were reminded that the Chapter took its name from Alexander, Bishop of Lincoln who founded Newark castle in the mid 12th century. The Chapter was also reminded of its age and tradition and over the years has had many important members with currently three officers of Supreme Grand Chapter

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The late W Bro Chris Grant took a party of 37 masons on a World War One battlefields visit including the Flanders Fields Museum and the laying of a wreath at the Menin Gate. The party also visited the Tyne Cot cemetery, the biggest Commonwealth Graves Cemetery in the world. A visit to the Ypres Sunday market concluded the trip.

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A page launched the 2018 Nottinghamshire Festival and looked at the history of Festivals which started with the arrival in this country of an Italian dentist named Bartholomew Ruspini some 225 years ago. He was initiated into Bush Lodge. He *Thirty-four*

set up the Prince of Wales Lodge and in due time achieved the rank of Grand Sword Bearer. His first fund raising was by way of a church service followed by a dinner where he provided a wooden collection box into which he invited his Masonic friends to give donations. He called the event a festival and raised some £82 10s and six pence. There was some speculation as to who gave six pence but it was a fair amount in those days. In today's money the total was worth around £9,000.

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Newark Freemasons manned a stall at the town Christmas Market where W Bros John Edis, Nigel Parry and Steve Larimore introduced passers by to "Teddies for Loving Care" and provided a cut out of a TLC through which children could throw bean bags whilst parents were told all about this very worthwhile children's charity.

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A page was devoted to the origins of Mark and Royal Ark Mariner degrees. The article included a picture of the Rochester Masonic Temple where two of the founders of Trent Mark Lodge had started their Masonic journey

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Freemasonry in Canada occupied some four pages of the issue and took the readers through its history in the early 1800's with its firm connections with the military, police, railway entrepreneurs and other pioneers on to the present day where Freemasonry thrives in that country. The story told of a candidate rancher who had ridden some 62 miles on horseback

for his initiation and returned straight afterwards on a round trip of more than 120 miles to give an idea of just how big Canada is.

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The subject of "Notable Masters" was Robert Burns who was initiated into the Lodge of St David, Tarbolton in July 1781 and was made a Master Mason in October of the same year. In 1792 he was appointed senior warden and died four years later aged 37 without reaching the Worshipful Master's chair.

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The Ladies' Luncheon Club celebrated their 30th birthday in September 2013 with Bucks Fizz and entertainment by the Chuter Ede School Choir.

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Adrian Crampton was charged with selling polo shirts embroidered with "Nottinghamshire Freemasons" and costing £15 each plus p and p. *(interesting to know of anyone who still has one - editor).*

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Password Travel took readers to Majorca with non-stop partying in Magaluf, picturesque beaches around Cala D'or, the Orange Blossom railway line with its steam loco and age old carriages that takes you from Palma through the mountains and 37 tunnels to Soller. The busy Palma for the shopaholics and caves with one of the largest underground lakes in the world.

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Under "Do you know" it was noted that lemons contain more sugar than strawberries.

and finally

... about sayings

Here are a few examples of popular well known sayings and their origins.

BITE THE BULLET - meaning to grin and bear a painful situation. In the days before anaesthetics a soldier about to undergo an operation was given a bullet to bite.

CHOCK-A-BLOCK - meaning full. When pulleys or blocks on a sailing ship were pulled so tightly together that they could not be moved any closer together they were said to be chock-a-block.

COALS TO NEWCASTLE - meaning something not needed. Coal was mined all around Newcastle and transported all over the country so taking coals to Newcastle was obviously a pointless exercise.

CROCODILE TEARS - meaning an insincere displays of grief or sadness. From an old belief that a crocodile wept (insincerely!) if it killed and ate a man.

DIFFERENT KETTLE OF FISH - meaning something different. Nobody seems to know how this originated other than a kettle was also a vessel used for boiling fish - so it was a different kettle.

LET THE CAT OUT OF THE BAG - meaning to reveal something. Derived from the days when people who sold piglets in bags sometimes put a cat in the bag instead. If you let the cat out of the bag you exposed the trick.

LOCK, STOCK AND BARREL - meaning everything. From when guns used to have three parts, the lock

(the firing mechanism), the stock (the wooden butt of the gun) and the barrel.

MAD AS A HATTER - This phrase comes from the fact that in the 18th and 19th centuries hat makers treated hats with mercury and inhaling mercury vapour could cause mental illness.

KICK THE BUCKET - colloquially meaning to die. When slaughtering a pig its back legs were tied to a wooden beam (in French buquet). As the animal died it kicked the buquet.

NICKNAME - This is a corruption of eke name. The old word eke meant alternative.

ON TENTERHOOKS meaning being tensed or apprehensive. After being woven wool was pounded in a mixture of clay and water to clean and thicken it. Afterward, it was stretched on a frame called a tenter to dry. It was hung on tenterhooks. So if you were very tense, like the stretched cloth, you were on tenterhooks.

PULL OUT ALL THE STOPS - meaning do a proper job. This saying comes from church organs. Pulling out all the stop lets air flow through pipes to produce the entire tune.

RUB SALT INTO A WOUND - meaning aggravate an already bad situation. This is derived from the days when salt was rubbed into wounds as an antiseptic and could cause the patient further pain.

SWINGING THE LEAD - meaning feigning illness to avoid work. On board ships, a lead weight was attached to a long rope. A knot was tied every six feet in the rope. The lead weight was swung and thrown overboard. When it sank to the seabed you counted the number of knots that disappeared and this told you how deep the sea was. As this was an easy job 'swinging the lead' came to mean avoiding hard work.

SCOT FREE - meaning going without blame. This has nothing to do with Scotland. Scot is an old word for payment so if you went scot free you went without paying.

SET YOUR TEETH ON EDGE - meaning something that causes you agitation. From Jeremiah 'Every man that eats the sour grape, his teeth shall be set on edge'.

SPOIL THE SHIP FOR A HA'PENNY WORTH OF TAR - meaning don't skimp doing a job. Originally 'ship' was sheep and the saying comes from the practice of covering cuts on sheep with tar.

WINNING HANDS DOWN - meaning to win easily. From horse racing. If a jockey was a long way ahead and sure to win the race he could relax and put his hands down by his sides.

SHAMBLES - meaning a mess. Originally a shamble was a bench. Butchers used to set up benches to sell meat from. But because butchers used to throw offal into the street shambles came to mean a mess or something very untidy or disorganised..



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W Bro Christopher William Davis

PPrGSwdB, Hon Member - Magnus Lodge 3441

It is with sadness that Mangus Lodge mourns the passing to the Grand Lodge above of W Bro Chris Davis, their honorary member, aged 82 years.

W Bro Christopher William Davis was born in Chesterfield on 10th September 1942 educated in Derbyshire and joined his family's engineering company which was closely associated with railway rolling stock. He was a Lewis and was initiated into Freemasonry at the Magnus Lodge, meeting in Newark Town Hall on 8th April 1969 by his father in the presence of his uncle who was also a member of Magnus Lodge. Chris was duly passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft and then raised as a Master Mason on 9th February 1971. His progress through the Lodge was quick and he occupied the chair of King Solomon in 1977. His first Provincial honour



came in 1983 where he received an active rank of Prov Assistant Grand Standard Bearer. In 1984 he was promoted to PProvAGDC and over the years, reached the rank of PPrGSwdB

He was Junior Warden when I was initiated into Freemasonry as the first initiate when Magnus Lodge relocated to The Avenue and it was then that we realised we had met before – on the hockey field at Belper. He was a past player for Derbyshire and, as a former county player, I was making my progress

as an umpire in Lincolnshire which meant we had discovered two things in common.

Chris made the journey from Chesterfield to most lodge meetings and took an active part in the affairs of the Lodge in the temple until his health prevented him. He was a fine ritualist and the last ritual he performed was the address to the Wardens at installation.

In 2019 Chris marked 50 years membership in the Craft and his certificate was presented to him at his home in Chesterfield by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro David Wall who was accompanied by W Bro Ken Purslow, who interestingly enough was initiated by W Bro Chris Davis in 1978.

Magnus Lodge honoured him by making him an honorary member in 2020.

Philip Inghall

OBITUARIES IN PASSWORD

It has always being the custom to acknowledge the passing of a brother with an obituary in Password which gives those still remaining a reminder of the commitment they gave to the craft and side degrees during their membership. Also to let readers have a reminder of their life outside freemasonry for, as the Grand Director of Ceremonies said in a recent Freemasonry Today, "Freemasonry is first and foremost a hobby. That it is time away from our families and from our work".

Most of us regard it as that and a glimpse of a brothers "out of Masonry" life gives the reader a better idea of how that brother lived that life, often with a look at other charities and activities he may have taken part in.

The Diary

Red type denotes Installation meetings. Green type denotes social functions.

Dates etc are in accordance with information received

APRIL 2024

Tues 2nd Magnus Lodge (practice)

Wed 3rd Vernon Bussell (Install)

Thurs 4th Corinthian (Fest)

Fri 5th Good Friday

Sun 7th - Sunday Lunch

Mon 8th - Prince Rupert (Install)

Tues 9th Magnus Lodge

Wed 10th St. John's Lodge (practice)

Fri 12th - Ladies' Lunch

Mon 15th - Newark practice

Tues 16th St. John's Lodge

Wed 17th - Newark Festival practice

Thurs 18th Newark Lodge

Sat 20th - St George evening

Mon 22nd Fleming Mark (practice)

Tues 23rd Newark Festival

Thurs 25th Fleming Mark

Sat 27th W&M Social

May 2024

Mon 1st - RAM practice

Fri 3rd - Provincial Grand Lodge

Tues 7th - Pilgrim practice

Thurs 9th - RAM install

Fri 10th - Ladies' Luncheon

Fri 10th - Pilgrim (Install)

Sat 11th - Le Willows Lodge

Sun 12th - Festival Launch Lunch

Mon 13th - Corinthian practice

Wed 15th - Great Priory

Thurs 16th - Corinthian install

Fri 17th - Provincial Grand Chapter

Sat 18th - Fish and Chip Quiz

Mon 20th - Rose Croix practice

Tues 21st - Alexander practice

Fri 24th Rose Croix install

Sat 25th - Saturday Social

Tues 28th - Alexander Chapter

Wed 29th - Castle Conclave practice

June 2024

Tues 4th - Castle Conclave

Sat 29th - Saturday Social

July 2024

Sat 27th - Saturday Social

August 2024

Wed 28th - Vernon Bussell practice

Sat 31st - Saturday Social

SEPTEMBER 2024

Wed 4th - Vernon Bussell Chapter

Thurs 5th - RAM practice

Mon 9th - Pilgrim practice

Tues 10th - RAM Lodge

Thurs 12th - Mark L of I

Fri 13th - Pilgrim Priory install

Fri 13th - Ladies' Luncheon

Mon 16th - Newark practice

Tues 17th - Castle Conclave practice

Wed 18th - Corinthian PM's

Thurs 19th - Newark Lodge Install

Sat 21st Masonic Hall Open Day

Mon 23rd - Fleming practice

Tues 24th - Castle Conclave

Wed 25th - Newton practice

Thurs 26th - Fleming Mark Install

Sat 28th - Saturday Social

Mon 30th - St John's PMs

The Diary

OCTOBER 2024

Tues 1st - Magnus Practice

Wed 2nd - Corinthian L o I

Thurs 3rd - Newton Lodge Install

Sun 6th - Sunday Lunch

Mon 7th - Prince Rupert

Tues 8th - Magnus Lodge install

Wed 9th - St John's practice

Thurs 10th - Corinthian Lodge

Fri 11th - Provincial Grand Priory

Fri 11th - Ladies' Luncheon

Mon 14th - Corinthian practice

Mon 14th - Newark practice

Tues 15th - St John's Lodge

Wed 16th - Corinthian PM's

Thurs 17th - Newark Lodge

Mon 21st - Alexander Chapter practice

Tues 22nd - Newton practice

Fri 25th - Brian Rollitt Quiz Night

Sat 26th - Saturday Social

Mon 28th - Rose Croix practice

Tues 29th - Newton Lodge

Wed 30th - Vernon Bussell practice

Thurs 31st - Alexander Chapter

NOVEMBER 2024

Sun 3rd - Sunday Luncheon

Mon 4th - Corinthian Lodge practice

Tues 5th - Newark Festival

Wed 6th - Vernon Bussell Chapter

Thurs 7th - Corinthian L of I

Fri 8th - Ladies' Luncheon

Sat 9th - St John' Ladies' Night

Wed 13th - St John's practice

Thurs 14th - Corinthian Lodge

Mon 18th - Newark practice

Tues 19th - St John's Lodge

Wed 20th - Newton Lodge practice

Thurs 21st - Newark Lodge

Fri 22nd - Prince Rupert RSM

Mon 25th - Fleming practice

Tues 26th - Newton Lodge

Wed 27th - Corinthian L of I

Thurs 28th - Fleming Mark

Sat 30th - Saturday Social

DECEMBER 2024

Sun 1st - Sunday Luncheon

Tues 3rd - Magnus Lodge practice

Mon 9th - Corinthian practice

Tues 10th - Magnus Lodge

Thurs 12th - Corinthian Lodge

Fri 13th - Ladies' Luncheon

Fri 20th - Carol Service

Mon 25th - Christmas Day

Sat 28th - Saturday Social



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