



PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

Tercentenary Review

At a Cabinet meeting in early 2013 the Tercentenary was raised as a subject that would need to be addressed and Ian Preece was asked to prepare a briefing. Subsequently a **Tercentenary committee** was formed and a whole range of potential events were explored. This resulted in a presentation in November that year and projects were selected for detailed analysis.

A family fun day was seen as a great event that would provide all members with the opportunity to involve children and grand-children in a special event. Several venues and formats were investigated and eventually **Marwell Zoo embraced our suggestions and became a very enthusiastic partner**, offering substantial discounts, special access and additional entertainment.

The Marwell committee was formed and have worked tirelessly over the last 3 years to ensure that a fantastic day would be arranged and this has culminated in all 2,500 tickets being sold in just 19 days! The team responsible for making this a success are still working to make it go smoothly on the day. They are **Sean Whelan, James Sampson, Rob Wilson, Paul Davis, Ash Bennett, Andy Venn, Gary Fouch and latterly Dave Smith under the leadership of Ian Preece** who commented that *working with such a committed and positive team has been a real pleasure*. The value of social media is undoubted. Our own internal communications methods, the Info Service, posters, leaflets, the Tercentenary brochure and *Insight* all played their part but a special website, Facebook page and Twitter postings accelerated the interest beyond even the team's imaginings. Perhaps there is a lesson here for lodges – marketing, advertising and social media work!

In addition –

Our **Grand Ball** will be a spectacular event and this was sold out within 8 days of going on sale.

The **H&IoW 250th anniversary-themed Special Investiture in February** saw the Novotel 'lodge room' full to capacity.

The largest congregation we have had assembled at **Winchester Cathedral for our annual service of thanksgiving** with well over 900 brethren and their families present.

The electronic 'History Book' is planned for publication in May with many new entries from lodges formed since 1991 and others that have updated their entries. **Brett Clark** is leading this project with great assistance from **Brian Crane** and they will continue to ensure that lodges will, into the future, be able to submit fresh or revised texts. It will be a wonderful resource for all members and masonic researchers. **Is your lodge one of those still to send an entry?**

Square Bear, created and donated by Fabb Bros, the regalia maker, has been a great success and continues to travel throughout the province. **Clive Dobson** is very happy to arrange his visit to you. There are a few dozen **H&IoW 250th anniversary mugs** still available at cost being just £5 and these will be available at the AGM. Thanks for this project go to **Colin Upton, Paul Hillyard and Jason Foster**.

A **Tercentenary Challenge** is underway, being led by **Dave Ryan**, collecting provincial ties and logos from around the country with a view to a 'museum-piece' later this year.

The Tercentenary Banner produced by the Province of Devonshire will be received from the Province of Guernsey on 9th June and exhibited at our **Annual Meeting at the Guildhall on 5th July** after which it will be passed to the Province of Wiltshire to continue its journey across all Regional Communication Group 9 Provinces. Details of the 9th June handover will be announced in



due course.

All brethren will be aware of the **Sky series “Inside the Freemasons”** now underway and promoted by **David Lallana** under the direction of Sky and Grand Lodge – watch out in particular for **Episode 5 – the Future, which features the Consecration of the Football Lodge No. 9921 at the Novotel in Southampton.**

A full review of our Tercentenary year will appear in the autumn 2017 version of *Insight* but in the meantime I wish to thank all those involved mentioned above and all those too numerous to mention who have played their part in promoting our Tercentenary celebrations.

R W Bro Mike Wilks
Provincial Grand Master
April 2017

