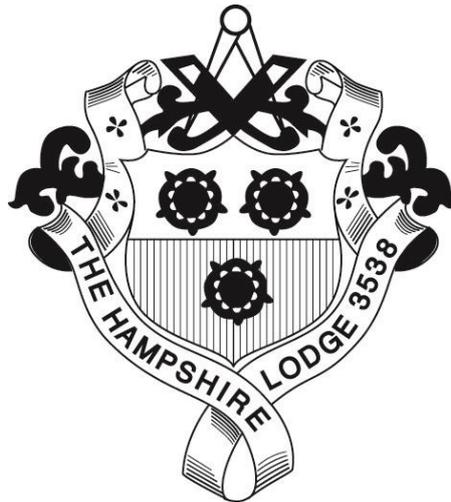




PROVINCIAL GRAND LODGE OF HAMPSHIRE AND ISLE OF WIGHT

February 2017

Hampshire Lodge rings the changes



After more than 100 years after it was founded, Hampshire Lodge 3538 that meets at Great Queen Street in London will hold its final meeting.

It has a planned amalgamation with The Telephone Lodge 3301; the lodges have had close links since their formation.

The brethren of Hampshire Lodge are hoping to attract as many visitors as possible to the final meeting in order to celebrate its proud history and look ahead to its future.

The lodge's last meeting will be held on Thursday, March 23. It is likely to begin at 3.30pm and it is acting as 'agent' for The Telephone Lodge and working a third degree ceremony.

Dining will be at The Imperial Hotel, Russell Square, and the usual fee is £32.

For further information and to book in, the Hampshire Lodge secretary Nils Farestvedt can be contacted on his email: nils.f@btinternet.com.

The lodge's Worship Master, Geoff Mackay, is a member and past master of Meyrick Lodge 7295 in the province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

He said: “We have lost several members over the last few years and decided that we would have to hand our warrant in unless we could amalgamate.

“We have always had close links with The Telephone Lodge – their minutes show members of Hampshire Lodge were visitors from the early days.

“We also have a shared Lodge of Instruction with them, called The Telephone and Hampshire Lodge of Instruction. Indeed the proposed name of the new lodge is the Telephone and Hampshire Lodge No. 3301.

“Amalgamation seemed the best course of action and although the necessary votes haven’t been taken, all indications are that The Telephone Lodge will receive us.

“For our final meeting it would be great to have as many visitors as possible – especially those from the county after which we’re named.

“It will not be a sad occasion but one of celebration and all visiting brethren will be made very welcome.”

The Hampshire Lodge was founded in 1911 by men who six years earlier had formed the London Hampshire Society.

They missed their home county and came together as ‘exiles’ to rekindle the county spirit and camaraderie of which they were so justly proud.

They went on to form The Hampshire Lodge, which traditionally votes honorary membership to the Provincial Grand Master of the province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Our current PGM Mike Wilks has maintained that tradition.

The Telephone Lodge was formed three years earlier than The Hampshire Lodge, in 1908.

It was created for those employed in, or associated with, the telephone industry and was conceived by nine brethren employed in the London Area of the National telephone Company Ltd (NTC).

