



Hermes Lodge N^o5532

A MASONIC LODGE IN THE PROVINCE OF HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Welcome



Thank you for taking the time to visit our site. Hermes is a Masonic Lodge that operates under the constitutions of the United Grand Lodge of England, and resides in the Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. The Lodge is based at the Fareham Masonic Centre, and meets on the second Friday of:

- September
- October
- November
- December
- January
- February
- March
- April
- May

Our meetings typically start at 6:00pm.

We are a growing Lodge, and have a healthy balance of age ranges within our Civilian and Service membership currently standing at 68. Its Ritual is based on an adapted form of the Nigerian Ritual as taught in the Emulation Lodge of Improvement.

If you are interested in the ongoing activities of our Lodge.

Please contact the Lodge Secretary for further information – <mailto:hermessecretary@gmail.com>

WELCOME TO THE INFORMATION OF HERMES LODGE N^o. 5532 E.C.

The Worshipful Master, Past Masters, Officers and Brethren hope that you find this information interesting and informative.

The installation meeting takes place in September usually at 5.30 pm, all other meetings begin at 6.00 pm.

The General Purposes Committee meets at 7.00 pm on the Friday of the week prior to the Regular Lodge meeting.

The Lodge is open for Candidates for Initiation and offers a warm welcome to visitors from other Lodges.

The Lodge holds its own Lodge of Instruction usually on the 4th Wednesday of the month (Sep-Apr) at 20:00, to which members of other Lodges are welcome to join us.

Acknowledgements

The vast majority of the contents of this document has been obtained from the 60th Anniversary booklet researched and produced by the late W. Bro Ray Reeves P.A.G.D.C. This historical account of the formation of Hermes Lodge N°5532 stands as a tribute to the dedication and commitment of Worshipful Brother Ray.

OUR HISTORY

SCENARIO

Picture the scene; the year is 1934, the place is the RAF Station at Fort Grange, Gosport, still clinging to that hard earned reputation as an air crew training school built up during the Great War. In an office overlooking the Solent some Servicemen are talking, as was their wonted custom, of general things like the fact that Pompey had lost in the Cup Final for the second time 2 - 1 to Manchester City. Would the world airspeed record of 340 M.P.H. be beaten - were they going to cut Service pay again - and other topics which seemed so important at the time.

But there was one problem which was uppermost in the minds of these men, as it had been for some time now, what to call the Lodge which they hoped to form in the near future. They had already carried out the seemingly one hundred and one things that had to be done but the name still eluded them. "What we need" said John Arnold, an RAF Education Officer already nominated to be the Founding Master, "is a name which has a sort of RAF sound about it, after all we want the Lodge for Officers and Senior NCO's, so at least it ought to be clear to those it is meant to represent. "

Swinging at anchor out in the Solent was one of the Royal Navy's aircraft carriers whose aircraft, with their distinctive colour bands, were at that moment parked in a neat row out on the Gosport airfield. Someone whose name has not survived the years noticed the ship and said "What about calling it HERMES"?



Initially this caused much humorous comment, but after a while it was generally agreed that the name did have a certain aerial ring about it. A check on Grand Lodge subsequently revealed that no other Lodge was using it as a name; there was a Lodge in Lincolnshire using the name Daedalus, and another at Farnborough called Mercury, both of which had strong RAF associations, so the decision was taken to use the name "HERMES".

The foregoing, which bears a certain amount of "author's license" and is thus not strictly accurate, concerns a meeting which did in fact take place and the name **was** taken from the carrier which bore that name and was later sunk by enemy aircraft action in 1942, with considerable loss of life during the 1939 - 1945 War. The meeting took place in the office of Bro. F.L. Harrison, and to whom we are Indebted for this vital link in our Lodge history. There is now, one other Lodge in the E.C. which shares the name, the HERMES Lodge No. 6861 which meets in Louth, Lincolnshire and by an almost incredible coincidence at the Masonic Hall, QUEEN'S STREET, Louth.

THE FOUNDERS

WORSHIPFUL MASTER	J.F. ARNOLD
IMMEDIATE PAST MASTER	J.D.H. PRITCHARD
SENIOR WARDEN	W.H. KING
JUNIOR WARDEN	ET SYMONDS
CHAPLAIN	Not appointed
TREASURER	H. FREETH
SECRETARY	J. DAVIS
DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES	Not appointed
SENIOR DEACON	WA COCKBURN
JUNIOR DEACON	V.F. WHATLING
ASST.DIR. OF CEREMONIES	None appointed
ALMONER	None appointed
ORGANIST	None appointed
ASSISTANT SECRETARY	J. BOTTOMLEY
INNER GUARD	C.G. BIRCHAM
STEWARDS	E. HENNEN, D.J. ELLERY, E.R. HOCKADAY
BRETHREN	W. WESTGATE, JT MALONE, J.W. FOSTER
TYLER	H. BOWEN

THE FOUNDERS

Reference to the Warrant of the Lodge, which is for your inspection on this or any future evening (and how many of us do so ?) shows that among those who founded the Lodge were. John Falk Arnold, William Henry King, Edward Tindall Symonds, John Davis Home Pritchard, William Alexander Cockburn, Vernon Frank Whatling, Charles Graeber Bircham and others. There were in fact some 16 petitioners and their aspirations were made quite clear in both the petitioners' letter to the M. W. Grand Master, and in the preamble to the Lodge by-laws. The preamble states:-

"This Lodge is primarily established for the association and convenience of Officers, Warrant Officers and Non-Commissioned Officers of and above the rank of Sergeant in the Royal Air Force; for civilian staff of Officer Status in the Royal Air Force or Air Ministry, and for retired Royal Air Force or Air Ministry personnel in the above categories".

An examination of the professions of the Founders shows that these precepts were adhered to by three Education Officers (formerly Army Officers) in the RAF., three Flight Lieutenants, one Civil Engineer, two Warrant Officers, four Flight Sergeants, two Sergeants and one Corporal (whose promotion one assumes came through prior to the consecration!!) who Incidentally retired from the RAF. Some years later in the rank of Squadron Leader.

They decided to meet at Queen's Road, Fareham - strangely enough the first Lodge to be actually consecrated as a "Fareham" Lodge. The Lodge of Harmony No. 309 had originally formed in Gosport as Lodge No. 387 (round about 1796) and had then moved to Fareham in 1850. It is that fine old Lodge which

sponsored us on the 6th December 1934 and has provided us with our Masonic "home" ever since - hopefully 'Mother' is pleased with the way her 60 year old "offspring" has matured over the years.



The Founders asked to meet on the 2nd Friday from September to December and from February to May with the Installation Meeting to be held in September of each year. The Lodge did not meet in January until a proposal to do so was passed in open lodge in February 1949 - This date should be easy to remember in future years for the amendment to the by-laws is recorded in the same minute which refers to a congratulatory telegram sent to Her Majesty The Queen by the Lodge on the occasion of the birth of H.R.H. Prince Charles.

THE CONSECRATION

The Lodge was consecrated by the Rt. Wor. Prov. Grand Master of Hampshire and Isle of Wight the Earl of Malmesbury on Friday 12th July 1935. The meeting commenced at 5 p.m. and took place at the Masonic Hall in Highbury Street in "old" Portsmouth - this building was pulled down to make way for a housing development 1957/58.

The full consecrating team were:-

- | | |
|--------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| The Right Worshipful | The Rt. Hon. The Earl of Malmesbury |
| Provincial Grand Master | |
| The Very Worshipful Deputy | Commander H.G. Giles, RN. |
| Provincial Grand Master | |
| The Worshipful Assistant | Sir Thomas A Bramsdon |
| Provincial Grand Master | |
| Provincial Senior Grand Warden | W.Bro. W.S. Richardson |
| Provincial Junior Grand Warden | W.Bro. W.T. Muir |
| Provincial Grand Chaplain | W.Bro. Tev. Canon C R Stewart |
| Provincial Grand Secretary | W.Bro. Lt. Col L.W. Lewer |
| Provincial Grand Director of | W.Bro. Lt. Col F.W. Phillips |
| Ceremonies | |
| Provincial Senior Grand Warden | W.Bro. P.D. Blanch |
| Provincial Junior Grand Deacon | W.Bro. E.C. Smith |
| Provincial Grand Pursuivant (as IG.) | W.Bro. W.G. Symes |
| Provincial Grand Tyler | W.Bro. F.S. Havers |

Making his first engagement as a newly appointed Grand Officer was W.Bro. Wilfred Attenborough P.A.G.D.C., who in the summer of 1950 was to become the Provincial Grand Master of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. Rt. W. Bro. Attenborough reminded the Hermes Lodge of this fact when he wrote to thank the Lodge in April 1952 for making him an Honorary Member.

Older members of the Lodge will also note with affection the name of the Prov.S.G.Deacon (Percy Blanch) who was a regular visitor to Hermes Lodge over many years. He later became the Founder Master of the Clarence Lodge No. 8167 in 1967 at the age of 81; a most remarkable man, fondly remembered by all who knew him.

The Service affiliation of the Hermes Lodge is reflected in the names of the Lodges which were represented at our Consecration. A selection of some of them is given below and one wonders what stories lie behind some of the unusual names given to each Lodge by their Founders.

LODGE NAME		REMARKS
Inhabitants	153	Still meets in Gibraltar the (Oldest Lodge present.)
Mercury	4581	Still meets in Farnborough
Daintree	2938	Still meets in Botley
Baghdad	4022	No longer listed
Serapheum	5312	No longer listed
Kohat	4459	No longer listed
Lydda	4613	No longer listed
Indus	4325	No longer listed
Holy City	1372	No longer listed
Bulwer (Cairo)	1068	Now meets in Lancaster Gate
Bertie	1515	Still meets in Oxford
St. Mungo, Se. (Glasgow)	27	Still meets there
Lord Kitchener (Cyprus)	3402	Still meets there
Light in the Himalayas (Non-Meeting)	1448	Still exists in Karachi, Pakistan.
Light in Arabia	3870	Now meets in Croydon.
Jamrud	4372	Now meets in St. James's
Wineslai	2435	Now meets in Winslow
Quetta (Lahore)	2333	Still meets in the Hazera District in Pakistan.
Savage Club	2190	Still meets in Gt. Queen's St.

There were in fact 128 Brethren present at the Consecration with the local Lodges providing by far the largest numbers, Phoenix No. 257, Harmony No. 309, Gosport No. 903, United Service No. 1428 (Which provided three of the Founders,) and Prince Edward (Now "of Saxe Weimar") No. 1903, were all well represented in the Highbury Street Temple.

However, research into the Founders own Lodges shows that they were also well-spread geographically. These extended from Eastern Gate No. 2970 in Singapore and Hardinge No. 3754 in Lahore, to Lodge of Friendship No. 100 in Great Yarmouth, and Fortitude No. 105 in Plymouth, in this respect the founding of Hermes Lodge was something of a practical demonstration of the universality of Freemasonry.

BRETHREN WHO HAVE SERVED AS WORSHIPFUL MASTER

1935	J F Arnold	1936	J D H Pritchard	1937	E T Symonds
1938	W A Cockburn	1939	V F Whatling	1940	J Fletcher
1941	H Boden	1942	F C Edwards	1943	C H Cumberland
1944	W Walster	1945	F R Spice	1946	E A Richards
1947	W J Palmer	1948	J A Lewis	1949	F A C Hale
1950	M L Green	1951	E A King	1952	W H A Tunnell
1953	G B Newman	1954	A G Coote	1955	T H Walker
1956	G P Russell	1957	J Lowes	1958	G Hackworth
1959	H D Phillips	1960	S G Collins	1961	F H Whales
1962	L C Hill	1963	W J Pellow	1964	C Hunt
1965	G H Hewitt	1966	N S P Page	1967	T W Bruce
1968	B L M Coffin	1969	A Parker	1970	E H J Thornton
1971	C A Lea	1972	R H Reeves	1973	R H Reeves
1974	D R A Vinall	1975	D J Hurst	1976	A C Thomas
1977	G G Parr	1978	J D Platts	1979	A J Smith
1980	G N Netherclift	1981	R N Froud	1982	S J Farrell
1983	P J Allerston	1984	R Thompson	1985	P W Lea
1986	D Patience	1987	G A Wild	1988	C Livingston
1989	P Wood	1990	A McBride	1991	R C M Chaplin
1992	PT Fenwick	1993	S J Simms	1994	S J S Moss
1995	J E Leppard	1996	N W Linfield	1997	N W Linfield
1998	M E Bizley	1999	G G Rose	2000	G Gill
2001	D A W Spencer	2002	M L Izzard	2003	S N Blanks
2004	F G Wilson	2005	S J S Moss	2006	G J Williams
2007	C J Wright	2008	C J Wright	2009	B N Christie
2010	J R Harper	2011	T J Williams	2012	M J Duncan
2013	P Skittlethorpe	2014	J B Mowat	2015	R W Morrison
2016	T Rodgers	2017	M G H Wright	2018	S Schofield
2019	D Buttriss	2020	D Buttriss	2021	P Dungey