



The Orsett Times

The Newsletter of Orsett Masonic Hall



ISSUE THREE

AUGUST 2018

Hall Update

Very extensive repairs to the roof have been carried out during the months of January, February and March. Despite the inclement weather, and the deluge of rain at the time. The ingress of water was kept to a minimum, and all the work has now been completed which should last for at least twenty years.

The lighting within the kitchen area was also replaced and updated as necessary to meet with current regulations.

The building committee under the Chairmanship of W.Bro. David Awcock, is constantly reviewing ideas for improvement of our facilities, and would welcome your suggestions.

Kitchen

Several Lodges have been requesting fine dining menus from Craft Catering for their respective meetings. If you wish to experience this, please contact Amanda (see the Hall web site), she will be only too pleased to offer advice and quote a realistic cost for a very special dining event.

From September 2018 the meal costs will be increasing by 2%. Craft Catering have managed to keep prices the same for the last four years. The new charges will be available on the web site www.omhl.co.uk

Moroccan Evening

As part of our plan of integrating the local community with the Orsett Masonic Centre, we held a dinner on Friday 29th September. Amanda and Robert Milligan suggested a Moroccan menu, which proved to be excellent and was enjoyed by all. The waitresses, who were dressed appropriately as were Jackie and her bar staff, created a terrific atmosphere. Three of those that attended dressed up and entered into the spirit of the occasion. Jackie had worked very hard to ensure that the centre took on a Moroccan appearance including suitable backing music. An evening which transported thirty-four of us to North Africa. However, it was a

shame that only twelve of those who attended were Orsett masons. We plan to hold more of these social events and we hope that more support is given, to make all the hard work worthwhile.

Rainham Chapter Centenary Meeting



Rainham Chapter celebrated their Centenary at Orsett Masonic Hall. The first Chapter Centenary ever celebrated at the Hall. It was a great event attended by the Grand Superintendent and members of the Provincial Executive.

Rainham Lodge also numbered 3079 was consecrated in December 1904. Brought about from military sources from officers of The City of London Rifles who like other Regiments were regularly using the Rifle Butts [Firing Ranges] at Rainham. During the first World War the Lodge was very active and in early 1917 a petition was put forward to form a Holy Royal Arch Chapter. The petition was successful, and the new Chapter was consecrated on Saturday 16th September 1917.

The first, First Principal Lt.General Sir Francis Lloyd, the Second Principal was Colonel Lowry Corry and the Third Principal was Excellent Companion Frederick Hagell. Subsequent to this at the first regular convocation [meeting] Brigadier General Robert Gilmour of Craigmiller, the Grand Master of Scotland and his Deputy, Major General the Rt.Hon. The Lord Blythwood became joining members. There were 11 others who joined the Chapter that day. A fantastic start for the new Chapter.

As explained in the oration given by the Third Grand Principle E. Comp. Philip Campbell, the Chapter can boast that from amongst their members, it has produced three Grand Masters of Scotland.

During its life the Chapter met at various venues both in London and in Essex. Initially many were held in London as well as Romford and Loughton. Much later in 1940 the venue at Romford the White Hart Hotel, its main venue since 1922, became unusable due to war damage. So regular convocations were then moved to Holborn during the WW2 years and until 1948 when it moved back to Romford again for just a year until 1948. The Chapter transferred to the new Masonic Hall at Lenthall Avenue in Grays in 1967. Finally moving to Orsett in June 1974.

The meeting consisted of the presentation of the Centenary Warrant, which was presented by the Provincial Team in their normal exemplary manner. This was complemented by a short history of the Chapter given by E. Comp. Ken Green, and then a talk by E.Comp. Glynn Jarrett, Past Second Grand Principle, on those stories not included in the sequel of the \Masters Chair. A donation of £1000 was then made to the Grand Superintendent, towards the year 2022 Festival, which was very well received.

The Companions then enjoyed a very convivial festive board, where many mementos were given to mark the occasion. The evening concluded at 9.30 p.m.

Shares

The Board of Directors are continually updating our share register. According to the Memorandum and Articles of the Company, all shareholders must be either a Lodge or a member of a Lodge, who meets at Orsett Masonic Hall.

If you know of any Brethren who are no longer members of your Lodge, please advise them that their shares must either be transferred to a Lodge or a Brother who meets at OMH otherwise the shares will become null and void. Likewise, if you are aware of a widow, or family member who may own shares, the same rule applies.

Orsett Social Events

The Directors very much want to arrange social events for all the Members that meet at Orsett, their families and friends, so that they can make use of their Centre to enhance the Masonic camaraderie and family social life. Also, our Centre can be seen to be part of the local community not to be locked away behind closed doors.

On Sunday 8th July 2018 the Annual Orsett in Bloom Open Gardens Day was held, which this year Orsett Masonic Hall took part in and won a GOLD Award. Our thanks go to Jackie for this achievement.

Wednesday 18th July saw a happy crowd of Masons and local residents munching on their Breakfast Butties whilst studying form from the complimentary copies of the Racing Post. Fully prepared they boarded the coach towards Lingfield Park Race course to await the first race at 1.40pm. Under ideal weather conditions much activity was seen between the bookies, the bar, the eating places, the toilets, the saddling enclosure and of course watching eight very competitive horse races. The success rate between the newcomers and the seasoned gamblers could be gauged by the smiles or glum faces as we waited for the return coach. However, it was agreed by all that we had had a good day.



This was confirmed when we sat down in Orsett Masonic Hall to tuck into our tasty Hot Gammon Salad Supper beautifully prepared by Amanda. It was agreed by all that we shall repeat this day next year.

The next event we are hosting is the Burma Star Association's Annual wreath laying ceremony on Saturday 18th August, the Saturday nearest to VJ Day, starting at 11.00am at the Burma Star Remembrance Garden in Wingfield Drive, Orsett, RM17 5JQ. We then return to the Masonic Hall for tea and buns, which is paid for by contributions from Orsett Masonic Lodges.

We are eager to involve the community as it is usually attended by about 60 people including the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, local MPs, the Mayor of Thurrock, the local Rector, and local councillors.

On Friday 28th September Amanda and Robert Milligan will be tantalising our taste buds with another of their themed meals. This will be a five course Greek night at a cost of £28 exclusive of wine, costumes are voluntary.

We are proposing to hold a meal on Sunday 11th November to commemorate the Centenary of the ending of the First World War. Further details will be seen on the Notice Board and sent by E-mail to Lodge Secretaries.

The Annual Christmas Lunches will be held on 2nd, 9th, and 16th December with traditional Christmas Fayre, Musical Entertainment and it is rumoured that Father Christmas will put in a guest appearance. All for £28 so get your requests in soon as places are going fast.

We are also hoping to hold a St. George's Day celebration meal on Friday 12th April 2019, so look out for further information.

All Secretaries and Scribes are circulated with all the information, which should be passed on to all Members and further details can be obtained from Jackie on 07758237726 or Graham Larke on graham.larke44@btinternet.com

Hall Bookings

The hall is available to hire for private or business functions. For more details, visit the OMH website.

All hall bookings must be made through Brian Smith and his contact details are e-mail: b.s.smith@sky.com.

Your booking will be confirmed by Brian and will appear on the Bookings Calendar which can be found on the website: www.omhl.co.uk

Orsett In Bloom Gardens Open Day



The Centre Open Day along with Orsett in Bloom Open Gardens Day on Sunday the 8th July were very successful, culminating in a Gold Award for the Centres frontage floral displays. Graham Larke and

Brian Smith attended to show visitors around and introduce them to Masonry with particular attention to the charitable work they do. Many of them visiting the Temple and asking questions about the museum and displays. Volunteers for the hall, Caroline and her

Mother, Edna, were also there to explain about the dual photographic exhibitions. One for the History of the hall, and the other of the changing face of Orsett with pictures of then and now. In all, 152 people took advantage of the opportunity to wander round our historic building and admire the facilities. People have stopped me since and said how interesting it was talking to Graham and Brian and was not at all what some of them imagined.



The Christmas Lunches have become more popular year on year. A chance for a get together with family and friends..... without the washing up! In addition to a tasty Traditional Christmas Dinner there is live music through lunch with a festive singalong after. A visit from Santa is a favourite with the children. Also, an opportunity to support two charities. A quartet from the local Spectrum Brass Band start the afternoon by playing carols in the bar during pre-dinner drinks. Their company range from 8 to 80 years and are funded only by donations. They were extremely grateful last year with the three Sundays raising £230. A raffle is also held with proceeds going to Little Haven Children's Hospice. Last year raised a record £800. This year is already heavily booked with a few vacancies remaining on the 2nd and 16th December. The price is £28 for adults and £10 for a children's menu for 12 years and under. A fun afternoon for all the family.

Museum

Again, a special thank you to Jackie for keeping our museum up to date. Several new items have been added, including a number of booklets, one of which giving an insight to early Freemasonry in Grays.

The Rev. Jethro Inwood curate of the Deptford parish church was preaching Sermons in Kent and Essex on the virtues of freemasonry. These sermons explained the beliefs of the freemasons and their code of moral rectitude and good conduct. Of which one such sermon was delivered at the consecration meeting of the Prestonian Lodge of Perfect Friendship at Grays. The Provincial Grand Master of Essex, George Downing was in attendance. The date was 7th. August 1797.

Please have a look at the publications, as they are very interesting.

Cancellation of Lodge of Instruction

Should it become necessary to cancel a Lodge of Instruction, please can you advise the Hall Manager, Jackie Firman on 07758-237726 or e-mail: jfdiver@live.com as soon as possible.

Changes of Lodge Secretaries or Treasurers details.

Should either your Lodge Secretary or Treasurer or their contact details change please can you advise Brian Smith on b.s.smith@sky.com. To enable us to provide the correct service to Lodges it is imperative that we have the correct contact details.

Suggestions & Ideas

If you have any suggestions or ideas on ways we can improve the facilities at Orsett Masonic Hall, the Board of Directors would be eager to receive these. Please send your ideas and suggestions to the Editor: orsettmasonichall@gmail.com

Contact Details

Hall Manager - Jackie Firman
Tel: 07758-237726 / E-Mail: jfdiver@live.com
Hall Bookings - Brian Smith
E-Mail: b.s.smith@sky.com
Website: www.omhl.co.uk