



The Orsett Times

The Newsletter of Orsett Masonic Hall



ISSUE FOUR

JANUARY 2019

Hall Update

We have again been very busy in the upkeep and continual refurbishment of the hall following our five-year plan and planned maintenance schedules.

This summer the deep clean of the kitchen area has been carried out. We have changed the lighting in the kitchen to more energy efficient LED lighting. The annual checks on the Gas and Kitchen safety standards have been carried out, and again we passed the necessary regulations.

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

W.Bro. Kenneth Burkey



22nd May 1928 – 21st October 2018
Requiescat in pace

It is our sad duty to advise the members on the death of our longest serving Director Ken Burkey. Our picture shows Ken enjoying his garden which was probably his second passion after Freemasonry

Ken was initiated into Freemasonry on the 12th December 1960 into Orsett Lodge, became their Master on the 6th October 1971. He was a founder of Fellowship and Unity Lodge, was introduced to Rainham Lodge by W.Bro. Brian Hollands and

became a permanent guest, being made an honorary member in 1980.

Ken became a Director of Orsett Masonic Hall Limited on the 19th January 1991 and served in that roll until his death.

A truly remarkable man, quiet at times but certainly let you know his point of view. Being a Merchant Navy man, he came ashore and then worked at Bata's for most of his working life. He will be sadly missed by many members and the Directors and Staff of the Orsett Masonic Hall.

Fine Dining

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.

Greek Evening 28th September 2018

Thirty-three people experienced a 5 course Greek meal, which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. The food provided by Craft Catering was excellent, and with the Greek music during the evening proved to be a great success.

However, it was a shame that only few 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.

Orsett Masonic Hall Building

Have you noticed the buildings History panel put together by Jackie Firmin.



Centenary of Armistice Day Lunch
Sunday 11th November

We held a Lunch on Remembrance Day at Orsett Masonic Hall on Sunday 11th November 2018 to commemorate the Centenary of the Armistice of the 1914 – 18 First World War.



Ninety-two people sat down to a traditional meal of Leek and Potato Soup with Homemade Soda Bread, Roast Beef with Yorkshire Pudding and Vegetables and the Dessert was Spotted Dick with Custard. This excellent meal was supplied by Craft Catering and delivered by their team of Waitresses who were complimented for their smartness and polite manner.



The decorations in the Dining Hall, Bar and Entrance Hall were superb with flags, First World War Posters mixed with Christmas decorations. Some artefacts were supplied by Stanford-Le-Hope Lodge but mainly by Jackie Firman who created the design of the rooms and the tables.



Between each course First World War Poems were read by Graham Larke, the emotion of which prompted others, including Jackie to read their own contributions. The wonderful atmosphere that was created was enhanced by a singalong of First World War Songs lead on the organ by Maestro Bob Allder. A raffle was held which raised £600 for the British Legion all the magnificent prizes being donated, including some from the local shops.



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.

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

Burma Star Association Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony



On Saturday 18th August the nearest Saturday to V.J. day, the Annual Wreath laying ceremony took place at the Burma Star Remembrance Garden in Wingfield Drive Orsett, at 11.00 a.m.

It was attended by the Lord Lieutenant of Essex, the local Rector, local Councillors and many other people including war veterans. Freemasonry was represented by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro. Paul Reeves.

The event has become a regular occasion on the Orsett Village calendar, and we hope promotes Freemasonry in the community.



After the ceremony at the garden everybody returned to Orsett Masonic Hall where refreshments provided by us, were served.

Museum

Again, a special thank you to Jackie for keeping our museum up to date. Several new items have been added, more historic masonic jewels and a number of booklets, one of which was mentioned in the last newsletter giving an insight to early Freemasonry in Grays.

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's 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.

Christmas at Orsett Masonic Hall

The Annual Christmas Lunches were held on the Sundays 2nd, 9th, and 16th December with traditional Christmas Fayre.



The Christmas Lunches have become more popular year on year. This year 268 mums, dads and children enjoyed a tasty Traditional Christmas Dinner over the three Sundays. Live music was played through lunch with a festive singalong afterwards.



A visit from Santa made the children very happy.



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 to all raising over £200.00 over the three Sundays. A raffle over the three days raised over £760.00 towards Little Haven Children's Hospice.

The dates for later this year are Sunday the 1st, 8th, and 15th December 2019.

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.

We will be holding a St. George's Day celebration meal on Friday 26th April 2019, so look out for further information at the Hall and advertisements coming from your Lodge secretaries.

We are also holding a Taste of Spain night on the 20th September.

Contact Details

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Hall Bookings - Brian Smith
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