

BELMONT ALBION



July 2015

WEBSITE: [HTTP://THEBELMONTALBIONLODGE.CO.NZ](http://THEBELMONTALBIONLODGE.CO.NZ)

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings and farewell for the foreseeable future Brethren. In my introduction to the newsletter this month, I thought it fitting to reflect on "Change", given the significant amount that has taken place around our Lodge in recent times.

Change is defined as:

the passing from one place, state, form, or phase to another. It is the one constant that we all deal with daily. In some cases we are in control of it, in others not.

While our global fraternity is nearing its 300th anniversary, it has not remained static and afraid of change. Granted, some might say that we haven't changed fast enough to keep up with the times, the technologies, the expectations, the competition for time, or the exciting social melting pot found in our communities. But as a long lasting fraternity, we have evolved and adapted through many history shaping events, and most importantly, we still exist today. Maybe not as strong in numbers as we have been in years gone by, but just as purposeful, just as passionate, and just as willing to accept and adapt to the challenges presented by change.

With much sadness we recently saw one of our Lodge's great stalwarts, W Bro Frank Ansell pass to the GLA.

The change that will impact our Lodge from this loss may not yet be fully appreciated, but it will be significant. I miss Frank and I am probably not alone, and it hurts to know that we will be without his immediate presence, though his influence and his wonderful memory remain. Less finite but still requiring adaption is the change in circumstances of W



Bro Stu Mill and VW Bro Noel Whiley with their successful relocation South, or with the well earned sabbatical North by Bro Suki Amirapu, as well as my impending departure. One thing I am often reminded of is the strong, supportive constitution readily found in our Lodge. This strength of character is often displayed in times of upheaval in the support that is willing given between our Brethren and their families. It would be my hope that this strength and mutual is forth coming from you all, as our Lodge adapts to this next phase.

As Winston Churchill is quoted as saying "To improve is to change; to be perfect is to change often."

Faternally

Sean
021 897326



Vision Statement: To prosper into the future

Mission Statement: The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45 shall practice the principles of freemasonry in all ways, to enhance education, knowledge and care for its members, attracting men of high quality, personal development and participation in our community

FROM THE EDITOR

On 9 December 2014 we celebrated Frank Ansell's fifty years of Freemasonry, sadly only 7 months later we celebrated his life, for on June 3 2015 Frank passed to the 'Grand Lodge in the Sky'. At his funeral one of Frank's friends remarked that "he had an amazing memory" and this memory is one of many reasons why Frank will be sorely missed in the Lodge. As Directory of Ceremonies he knew the words of every ritual, I was lucky to work with him, on two occasions, as a member of Junior Lodge. Often after delivering what I thought was an impeccable piece of ritual I would hear Frank's voice say "I don't think that was quite right Paul", there was never a look of despair in his eyes just a twinkle that said "I know you can do better". Worshipful Brother Frank you have moved on to a world those left can only wonder at, it was good to have known you, you enriched my life and I will always hear your voice as I struggle with the ritual.

On a happier note congratulations are due to Keith Eaglesome who has been installed as First Principle of 'The Research Chapter of New Zealand No. 93'. Keith

SO MOTE IT BE

Whenever a Freemasons Lodge is opened the assembled brethren intone the words 'so mote it be', usually more than once, many use it also in the refectory after 'grace' is spoken. In the refectory the words are heard amongst the intoning of Amen which some brothers use. Does this suggest uncertainty regarding its use or indeed in its meaning. If one mentions the word mote it is usually thought to mean 'a small particle' no doubt in deference to the biblical phrase 'cast out the mote in thine own eye'. This is using the words as a noun but in lodge mote is spoken as a verb and then it has a different meaning. I would propose that the words are spoken with little thought given to their meaning, implication, just accepting the phrase is used instead of Amen.

Mote is an Old English word meaning must or might, there are scholars who suggest its root is Anglo-Saxon from the verb *mōtan* meaning will or may but I believe the first known written use was by two scribes who wrote in 'Old English' and as my DNA has no Saxon or Angle in it I go with Old English.

The oldest known manuscript referring to masonry is the Regius Poem, dated 1390, also known as the Halliwell Manuscript, this was transcribed, it is believed, by a monk living in a religious house in South West England. The poem is a Book of Constitutions outlining the relationship between operative masons and their masters and the words in question appear twice, 'Grant me the bliss without end; Amen! Amen! So mote it be!' and later 'Amen! Amen! So mote it be! So say we all for charity'. In 1483 Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales' was printed and in these stories there is the line 'The wordes mote be cousin to the deed'. I feel the words 'must or might' transposes perfectly for 'mote'.

Unfortunately the phrase does have a darker use than those discussed above 'So mote it be' is chanted by Wiccans during and at the closing of a spell and Wiccans or Witches are members of witchcraft sects which like Freemasonry are referred to as the Craft.

has a formidable knowledge of all things Masonic and will ensure the Chapter has a vibrant year. Felicitations are also due to Richard Lumsden who has been elected to the Board of the North Shore Masonic Centre and his son Alastair who has been awarded a Royal Arch Jubilee Scholarship.

The revised letter that is sent to all prospective candidates, following their initial meeting with us, is attached as an addendum to this issue of the Newsletter. It was felt that this should be read by all brethren so as to give a guide in discussing masonic expectations with those who follow the invitation 'to know one ask one'

Changes to your District Boundaries

On Thursday 30th July a meeting will be held to present proposals to realign the District boundaries for the Auckland area. The Districts affected are North Shore, Auckland West and Auckland East. The meeting will be held at 181 Khyber Pass commencing at 7.30 pm. All are invited.

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The perceived link between the two Crafts goes further, for some critics, as Aleister Crowley, dubbed 'the wickedest man in the world' was a Freemason. He was initiated into the Anglo-Saxon Lodge No. 343 in Paris. This Lodge was under the jurisdiction of the 'Grande Logo de France' a Grand Lodge not recognised by the United Grand Lodge of England. Lodge No. 343 was for ex-patriots and those not able to affiliate with English Freemasonry.

Crowley had a friendship with Gerald Gardner who is considered to be the founder of modern Wicca, Gardner claimed to be a Master Mason, although records suggest he progressed no further than Entered Apprentice, so it is unsurprising that words from our blue books also appear in pagan rituals.

Recently an article appeared in 'The Square', an independent Masonic magazine published in England, where it was suggested that the ritual be amended and Amen replace So Mote it Be'. The thinking behind this proposal is that Freemasonry was entering an enlightened age in which we should adopt a far more open attitude to our Fraternity and 'So Mote it Be' may cause non-masons to link us with occult practises.

In October 1980 the Grand Lodge of New Zealand resolved "That the penalties in the three degrees be amended". This bowing of the knee, so as not to offend the general populace by our blood oaths, was no doubt done in order to make the Craft less open to the distortions of clerics and sensationalist media and perhaps increase membership. I would respectfully ask those Brethren involved in this decision "how did the Craft benefit from the revisions"?

The Merriam-Webster Dictionary's definition of 'Amen' is that 'it is used to express solemn ratification' surely this is exactly what Freemasons do when they intone 'So Mote it Be'.

So why dumb-down the wording of our rich ritual just to pacify those misguided individuals who see an Aleister Crowley or Gerald Gardner behind every masonic apron.

IN MEMORY OF WORSHIPFUL BROTHER FRANK SCOTT ANSELL (1930 - 2015)



Frank became a Freemason when he joined Belmont Lodge No. 335 on 10 November 1964. His love for his Mother Lodge can be seen from his writing its history, this history currently being serialised in the Newsletter. Frank was born in Wellington but when his father transferred to Auckland, to manage the Regent Theatre, Frank began a life as a 'team player and leader'. The final years of his education were spent at Auckland Grammar School where he became a Form Captain, played for the 3A Ruby Team and was promoted to Sergeant in the Army Cadet Corps.

Frank had joined the scouts in 1942 and 1946 saw him as a Troop Leader in the Kings Scouts. He played rugby in the winter and cricket in the summer and in later life enjoyed sailing, fishing and golf. Whilst working at 'Milne and Choyce' Frank met Bernice Mundy and in 1952 they were married. The birth of Scott and Vicki completing the family.

As mentioned earlier Frank was initiated into Belmont Lodge and continued his leadership abilities by always being prepared to fill in for officers in their absence ultimately becoming Worshipful Master in 1977.

Despite his love for the Belmont Lodge Frank embraced it merging with Albion Lodge to form Belmont Albion No 45. This amalgamation being followed by the sale of the lodge room in Devonport, the move to Takapuna and the building of the North Shore Masonic Centre, in Albany, to house a number of lodges including Belmont Albion. Frank had an exceptional memory and this ability to recall saw him installed as Directory of Ceremonies for Belmont Albion and in the last few years he was to become the Preceptor for the Junior Lodge. The leadership skills and memory of ritual ideally suiting Frank for this role. In 'The Preceptors Handbook' Charles J. Carter describes the attributes of a Preceptor as being "...in the same manner as our teacher at school is charged with the difficult task of imparting knowledge to as wide a selection of individuals as can be imagined". This Frank did with credit to himself, feelings of achievement in his protégé's and honour to his lodge, Belmont Albion No. 45.

with thanks to Murray Morrissey, PC

100 Years Ago

Extracts from the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 8 July 1915.

The Lodge was opened in Due & Ancient Format at 7.40pm with Solemn Prayer & Praise

Policy for the year:-

The W.M. briefly outlined the matters which would immediately occupy the attention of the Lodge. Finance – including schemes for reducing the present debt on the hall – Revising the bye-laws and the Lodge of Instruction.

Appreciation of services of W.Bro F.M. King:-
W.Bro. W. Coltman proposed & W.Bro. Bunby seconded & it was unanimously carried "That this Lodge places on record its appreciation of the many services rendered by W.Bro. F. M. King in the various offices he filled with credit to himself

& advantage to the Lodge & regrets that he has found it necessary to resign his membership & that a copy of this resolution be forwarded to W.Bro. F.M. King.

Water Meter application & cheque:-
From the Town Clark Devonport re. Water Meter. Proposed by W.Bro. Hounsell seconded by W.Bro. McCallum & carried. That a cheque for 3/10/- be forwarded to the Borough with application for installation of a water meter at as early a date as possible.

G.L. War Fund:-

The Secretary was instructed to inclose slips re Grand Lodge Special War Fund with the notices for the August Meeting.

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace Love and Harmony with solemn prayer at 9.50 pm

SHORT HISTORY OF BELMONT LODGE NO. 335

1948 – 1993 RESEARCHED BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER FRANK ANSELL PAST MASTER

PART 3



At the meeting held on 20 May 1952 it was decided to start receiving new membership again, from June onwards.

1952 was proving to be a busy year with the meeting of 3 June resolving:-

"That Bro. W.N. Dymock be approached to draw plans, the first part of the building to be permanent but which could be added to and a report presented to a further meeting when the question of finance could be considered.

No mention where the finance was coming from and still no mention of where the section was.

It was also resolved to consider the question of temporary accommodation at the Belmont Presbyterian Church Hall. So the Lodge appeared to be very concerned to be able to shift to Belmont somehow.

At a subsequent meeting on the on the 1 July 1952 it was resolved that the Lodge proceed no further in the matter of the Belmont Presbyterian Church Hall.

Obviously discussions between the Lodge and Church did not work out satisfactorily.

At another meeting in 1952 on 21 October it was resolved that the Albion Lodge be written to requesting the rent be reduced back to the original figure of £50.0.0 per annum, even though in January 1951 the Lodge had been quite happy to agree with the increase to £75.0.0 per annum. The Lodge finances appeared to not be in a very satisfactory position.

Financial discussion continued at this meeting with suggestions of ways and means of augmenting the building fund to enable the Lodge to proceed with a new building. No mention of the amount that was already in the Building Fund. Three items were discussed to improve Building Fund finances.

1. Lodge to become dry i.e. no supply at all of liquor in refectory to save costs.
2. Appeal for finance from members.
3. Raise initiation fee.

At the first meeting in 1953, on 3 February, the Standing Committee received a letter from the Albion Lodge advising they could not agree to the rent reduction requested by the Belmont Lodge but enclosed a donation of £10.0.0 which was thankfully received by Belmont.

At the meeting on 23 June 1953 the Treasurer presented the audited accounts. The consensus was that the position as disclosed was now a healthy one.

Presumably some of the measures to improve finances must have worked, although the Lodge never became dry.

At the meeting again it was decided not to receive any more candidates for a further six months, so they must have had many propositions for membership.

By the time 23 February 1954 came around the Committee decided to admit a limited number of new applicants.

They also approved £1.0.0 being spent on refectory proceedings for a meeting of North Shore Lodges – not very generously one would think!

It was also resolved that the Master was to have new regalia and a new case.

They committee also advised that a bulldozer had removed the hedge from the new building site wherever it may have been.

At the meeting on 18 May 1954 the Treasurer again presented the accounts and all agreed as presented the financial position was very satisfactory.

Again the Committee nominated a P.M. For Grand Office rank – again subsequently no success.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Brethren

It is with great sadness that we receive the news of Frank's passing to the 'Grand Lodge Above'.

It's always a shock to hear of someone passing on who one holds in such high regard, even though we all know he has been in poor health for some time now.

Frank has been a true Freemason and lived his life by the principles we all profess to admire.

He has given 51 years of dedicated service to the craft and in particular to The Belmont Albion

Lodge right to the end. His involvement, encouragement, dedication and continued support of the Junior lodge is a legacy in its own right. I personally have known Frank for 47 years as he was a good friend of my dad's. Frank preceded dad into the chair of KS in 1977 and was my seconder into the craft.

He was a caring man who I will miss immensely.

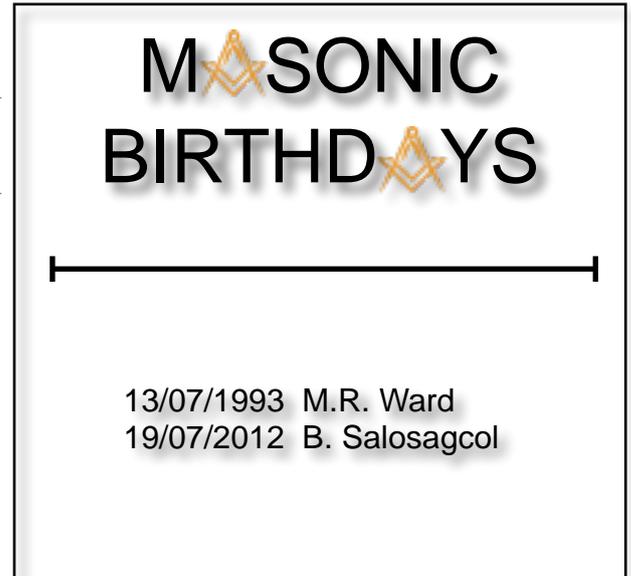
Fraternally Geoff Foote

MEMORIES OF A GOOD FRIEND

I first met Frank Ansell when I joined the Belmont Albion Lodge in 2003. My first office was that of Junior Deacon with Frank as the Director of Ceremonies and my first thought was "oh my gosh what have we here, am I back in the army".

Frank expected perfection in all we did, word perfect in ritual and in our movements around the Lodge during the degree working, without prompting! In the beginning, like many others, I was scared of the old 'bugger' but in time I became nearly word perfect and knew my floor work. Frank's advice was always available and over time my wife Bev and I became great friends with Frank and his wife Bernice, this despite there being nearly 50 difference in our ages (haha).

I remember going with him to a lodge meeting at Te Awamutu and thinking, at the beginning, it is going to be like spending a day and half the night with him but I tell you it was the best time ever. The laughs and conversation I can still remember. Of all the brethren to go visiting with Frank was the ultimate companion and years later we still reminisced and laughed over that visit.



Frank thank you for all your help and guidance in the lodge and thank you for being such a great friend and giving me wonderful memories. My life has been made more joyful by knowing you and you will be missed.

So go well and rest easy old mate you were one in a lifetime.

Wayne Jones

OUT AND ABOUT

Enjoyed the Brunch at "Platter" Devonport where the food was superb and we got the chance to chat up all the Ladies.

Had a call from Ted Corkill, he is having a rough spin at the moment but is cracking Hardy. Murray Morrissey is on the mend and has started to get a few games of golf in. We look forward to again having his company.

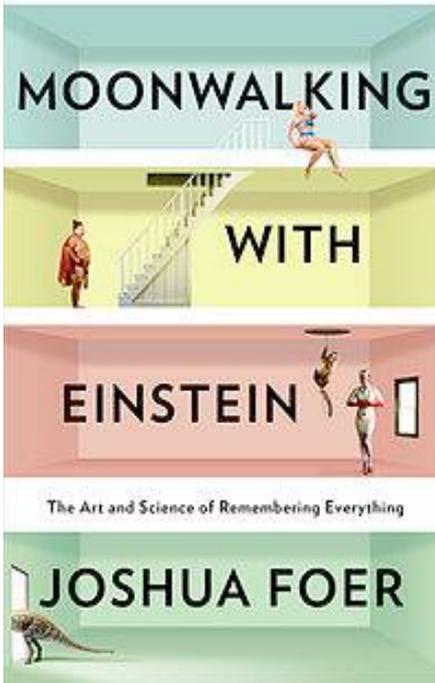
The "Doug Raply Memorable Trophy" was presented for the first time to Bros. Sonny Pablo and Ronald Venturina for their most excellent theatre delivery of the 'Traditional History Second Part'.

This trophy will be presented at each Regular meeting for the best ritualist of that evening or to the person who had made the greatest contribution to the success of that particular night.

Joined many Brethren at the funeral of my good friend Frank Ansell. His person and contribution to the life of BA 45 will be sadly missed.

the Secretary

A BOOK REVIEW: MOONWALKING WITH EINSTEIN



If like me you have stood in front of the eager eyed and expectant candidate to deliver your charge, only to find the words you eloquently recited fifty times into the bathroom mirror have evaporate and all you can remember is that you forgot to get the fish, for tomorrows meal, out of the freezer, this book is for you.

It is written by journalist Joshua Foer, who after twelve months training by one of England's top 'mental athletes', found himself in the finals of the U.S. Memory Championships. In the pages of 'Moonwalking with Einstein' Foer takes us on a journey covering a period of 2,500 years where we are introduced to Simonides of Ceos, father of the mnemonic technique known as the 'memory palace', Cicero and the medieval scholars who could remember speeches and even complete books and the 'Zen-Nippon Chicken Sexing School (yes they exist, I checked, they even have a facebook page) whose employees have to 'work through' at least 250,000 chickens in order to remember the chickens anatomical features.

Using techniques as bizarre as imagining Claudia Schiffer clad in nothing but cottage cheese and less exotically placing words in locations as you walk around your house he describes how he was taught to memorise prose and lists by attaching words to images.

'Moonwalking with Einstein' is not just a 'how-to guide' to remembering but an enjoyable and easily read review of the art and science of remembering.

After reading Joshua Foer's book you may not be able to recite your Charge to the Director of Ceremonies satisfaction (are the words D.C. and satisfaction an oxymoron?) but at least you will not forget to take the fish from the freezer.

PC

'Moonwalking with Einstein' is on the Auckland Libraries Catalogue and available from Amazon.com in hard copy and Kindle also from [Book depository.com](http://Book.depositary.com)

FROM A PAST MASTERS DITTYBOX

'Out Pipes'. All British Naval Ships work a traditional daily routine unchanged for hundreds of years. Starting with reveille each preceding activity is called by bugle or bosuns whistle broadcast over the tannoy. Work is commenced with 'both watches' re-enacted in our lodge ceremonies by 'Opening' and then paused mid-afternoon by the order 'stand easy' re-enacted by our 'freedom of speech'. In other work places this may have been called 'smoko'. When the Master wishes to recommence work he gives the 'call to order' by the knocks. The naval equivalent is 'out pipes, hands carry on with your work'. I just mentioned this because for many years I have signed off my column with the signature 'Out Pipes' and many times I have been asked why. I was trained as an Artificer Apprentice in metal work just as did our Ancient Fraternity Founders under the leadership of Tubalcain and many other master craftsmen when constructing Noah's Ark.

Operative Masons engaged in metal making and acquiring the name 'Smith'. Shaping stone, wood and metal and then fitting the product into many structures, ships and the mightiest of buildings. Some of these survived for thousands of years.

Industrial law provides for rest periods, tea breaks, smokos, and stand easies, about ten minutes was allowed to smoke a cigarette. The habit of smoking a cigarette has been replaced by drinking hot coffee and it is now difficult to adhere to strict time keeping.

Out Pipes. Humphrey



6TH OR ROYAL ARCH DEGREE



Following the outline of the Mark Master Degree and that of the 5th Degree, the Excellent Master Degree, we now conclude with a look at the 6th or Royal Arch Degree.

In the Royal Arch Degree the candidate takes part in clearing the debris from the destruction of the old temple to start building the second temple. In so doing an Arch is discovered leading to the discovery of the Word that was lost by the untimely death of our master Hiram Abiff in the Master Masons degree.

This degree is a degree of threes, three Principal Officers in the Sanhedrin, three Sojourners, three stones to be moved and so on. This number is found throughout the degree. Spiritually the number three reveals the triune aspect of the Deity which is inherent in many world religions. The Christian Trinity of Father, Son and Holy Ghost; the Hindu Trinity of Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva; the Egyptian conception of Osiris, Isis and Honros or even mans own structure, the Mind, the Body and the Soul.



This gives a New Testament flavour to what is clearly an Old Testament working which is further illustrated if we look at the journey of the Sojourners. They are returning from the land of Babylon to Jerusalem, Babylon was a place of excess and of plenty, indeed a materialistic world lacking morality. Jerusalem, however, is their spiritual home thus their journey can be seen as a spiritual quest, a climb from the darkness of despair to the light.

From the above it can be deduced that while the first three degrees of Freemasonry concern the birth, life and death of man the three further degrees of the Royal Arch are concerned more with the spiritual development of that man. Perhaps this is best illustrated by the fact that the substituted secrets of the third degree are replaced with the genuine secrets in the Royal Arch degree. And just what are those secrets? That is for you to find out.

Source:-Glenie/Spencer/Bingham et. al.

PC

North Shore Chapter 52 Diary

- July 30** Rehearsal- Excellent Degree
- Aug 06** Excellent Degree for Bro. Carlo de Guzman
27 Rehearsal - Installation
- Sept 01** Installation - The Principals and Officers for 2015-2016
24 Rehearsal – Royal Arch Degree
- Oct 06** Royal Arch Degree for Bro Chris Bilham
29 Standing Committee Meeting

'We can forgive a child who is afraid of the dark, the real tragedy of life is when men are afraid of the light'

- Plato



Next Issue

Deadline: 31 July 2015
Email: ba45.editor@gmail.com

The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45

Dear ,

You have expressed a wish to be initiated into Freemasonry. As you have had an initial meeting with us and having viewed the Belmont Albion Website, we believe it safe to assume that you are within the process of giving serious consideration to becoming a Freemason and have already a limited knowledge of the Craft.

We consider it our duty, both to yourself and to our Lodge that we ensure you become fully acquainted with the exact nature of the Craft and also the undertakings you will commit to. This is to prevent regrets on either side when it is too late to change decisions made in good faith but possibly without full appreciation. The progression of initiation and progress through the Craft cannot be achieved in haste and must always allow for consideration and learning as obligations require to be entered into at every stage. In many areas of society including the media, criticisms of Freemasonry are made, often by persons who have little if any knowledge of our rituals and beliefs. We would ask that if you have any concerns regarding joining the Fraternity, on hearing such comments, you are open about these and discuss them with the members of Belmont Albion with whom you have had contact.

As you will by now be aware, religious and political beliefs are not part of the Masonic ethos, although it is required that you have a firm belief in a Supreme Being and although our endeavours open and close with solemn prayer, debate on these topics is not allowed within the Lodge.

Although the various grades carry titles showing respect, all members are addressed as 'Brother', for this is what the Fraternity is, a 'Brotherhood of Men' who no matter what their standing in society is, are seen as equals within Freemasonry.

A common misconception is that joining the Craft will enable a man to gain advancement within society or a trade and although strong friendships will be formed, gratification for this purpose will not be found.

It is a requirement that time is committed for education regarding Masonic history and the meanings that lie within our ceremonies, if progress is to be made. At each level or grade, an advancement in knowledge is required but this is only part of the enjoyment of being a 'Brother'. Charitable works are often undertaken and various social events are organised to which family and friends may be invited and there is always lively discussion to be found within the refectory after each formal meeting. There is also the opportunity to visit other Lodges which will enable your circle of friends to grow, some of these being Research Lodges whose aim is to disseminate deeper Masonic knowledge.

As commented earlier, it is most important that you make yourself aware of the commitments to your time and also those of a financial nature if your decision is, as we hope it will be, 'to join us and become a Freemason'.

Dave BARR Secretary
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