

BELMONT ALBION



August 2015

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

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings from Singapore Brethren,

I trust that the Lodge is in good spirits.

Since arriving here in Singapore, everywhere that I have travelled in this city/state, it has been obvious that the country has been collectively building toward its 50th anniversary celebrations. Tonight I was witness to the culmination of all this preparation. The whole country turned out for a spectacular display of solidarity and a belief in a single vision for their future prosperity.

The vision, so articulately presented when Singapore gained independence from Malaysia on the 9th August 1965 by their founding father, the Honorable Lee Kuan Yew, spoke of a single nation. He spoke of a united people, a happy and contented people, accepting and supportive of all races, cultures and religions. Today, this is what we see in the make up this dynamic multi-cultural Singapore.

This collective belief in accepting the betterment for all, gave me pause for thought of the similarities with what our fraternity espouses. In less than a generation, Singapore has transformed itself from a third world economy into a first world Asian Lion, and it has done so on the foundation principles of liberty and justice, respectful of an individual's heritage, their cultural identity, and their religious practices and beliefs. In our almost 300 years, a similar mantra and collective vision has been the bedrock



of our guiding principles. Principles that works because they is right. But more importantly, they works because these principles are championed by men of high integrity, who believe in them passionately, and work hard to make sure they survive for future generations.

My fraternal best wishes,

Sean

Fraternally

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

From the editor

During the last two months it has been my privilege to meet a number of brethren who served with distinction in World War II. The fields of service went from the sky's to the land then the sea and finally the world of the sub-mariner, these fields covering Europe and the Far East. Their stories were always tinged with sadness and reminded me of those less fortunate brothers who we remembered with sorrow on 25 April, Anzac Day. There is yet a third group of members of the Craft of whom we rarely speak, these are those brothers who lost their lives just because they had taken an obligation to Freemasonry.

Across Europe Brothers from France, The Netherlands, Poland, Yugoslavia even the Channel Islands and then eastwards to Japan were arrested tortured and summarily executed in the most barbaric manner. In concentration camps Freemasons were graded as political prisoners and had inverted red triangles sewn onto their clothing.

Even though Spain was not directly involved in the war Spanish Freemasons suffered similar fates, with Brethren dying in barbaric executions. Historians tell us that between 80,000 and 200,000 Freemasons were killed, just because they were Freemasons, during the war. I suggest that it is not too strong to say these Brothers were martyred because of their Obligations

As Spring approaches a number of charity motorcycle rides have been put in the diary of the North Shore Masonic Motorcycle Group. Details of these rides and the 3rd Annual North Shore Masonic Ride are shown in the BA 45 website diary and on the Facebook page of the Auckland Freemasons Network. These rides are open to all owners of power two wheelers and not restricted to Freemasons. If you would like further information about the rides or group please contact Glenn Clark <glenn_clark@vodafone.co.nz> or Paul Copper chas.copper1@gmail.com

Editor: ba45.editor@gmail.com

SHORT HISTORY OF BELMONT LODGE NO. 335 1948 – 1993 RESEARCHED BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER FRANK ANSELL (1930-2015) PAST MASTER

Part 4 - 1954 - 1958

The meeting held on 18 July 1954 considered the possibility of utilising the section and erecting a building thereon, to house the Lodge and to contact any brethren who may be of primary assistance.

At the meeting on the 19 October 1954 it was discussed that positive action should commence regarding building a new Lodge Room.

The Albion Lodge was to be written to enquiring if we supplied our own tablecloths for refectory could Belmont Lodge have a reduction in the rent, not very positive thinking.

It was reported to this meeting that not all stewards were playing their full part and that the Junior Warden was to do something about it.

A bit different in 2006 when we have no stewards at all apart from very good house stewards.

At the last Standing Committee of 1954, held on 23 November, the late Bro. Jack Robinson's name appeared for the first time as Almoner.

In 1955, on 26 April, the Building Fund was mentioned again but the amount in it was not stated. It was resolved that £2 per fortnight was to be spent on purchasing building society shares for the Building Fund. It was moved that subscriptions be increased by £1 per year per member to assist with money shortages. This motion was defeated.

Money must have been a problem for the Albion Lodge also as they wrote to Belmont advising that for financial reasons they were dispensing with the services of a caretaker and would Belmont see, that when they used the hall, that it was left tidy and swept clean.

Also in 1955 it was resolved that no member was to be put forward for Grand Lodge rank, that year, confirming the long history Belmont Lodge found itself in when endeavouring to gain promotion for any member to Grand Lodge

It was confirmed in 1955 that the Belmont Lodge would use the New Zealand ritual as supplied by Grand Lodge and 24 ritual books were ordered. No doubt up to this

time Belmont had been using the Albion Lodge English Ritual.

The first Standing Committee meeting in 1956 on the 15 May had many things to discuss.

The Mt Roskill Village Scheme, as it was called at that time, was needing donations so the Lodge was to introduce a card scheme as a method of collecting donations for the Village.

SECTION AT BELMONT still no advice of its address or value and it was resolved to have a working bee on it, on some suitable Saturday.

Once again no members were put forward fo Grand Lodge Ra nk.

At the second committee meeting of 1956, on 21 August, the section at Belmont was again being discussed and it was left to Bro. Cutforth to interview a Mr Haynes regarding renting the section.

In July 1958, 52 members of the Lodge had donated £257.18.0 to the Roskill Fund. Further efforts were to be made to increase this donation.

The Committee Meeting, on 26 August 1958, at long last explained the situation of the Belmont section. There had been no mention at all in any previous Committee Meetings of selling the section and the Minutes of 26 August calmly state:-

Sale of Section. The two Trustees present W/Bro. Newman and W/Bro. Camplin agreed to the acceptance of the price offered for the section of £1,250.0.0 End of Story, except that at the meeting held on 2 December 1958 it was resolved that the matter of investing £1,700.0.0 to select a suitable investment to be perused.



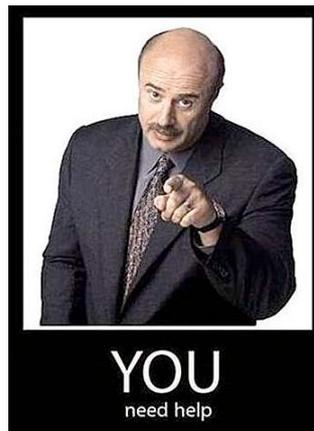
REMEMBERING IS THERE AN EASY WAY?

Arguably the biggest challenge facing a Freemason is remembering and recalling ritual. One of the longer Charges is that of the 'First Degree Tracing Board' at around 275 lines. If we compare this with the 1,480 lines a Shakespearean actor faces, when preparing for the role of Hamlet, the Tracing Board should be a 'stroll', but it is not. So what tricks can we learn from Laurence Olivier or Richard Burton, or even the London taxi driver who has to learn by heart every road within a 6 mile radius of Charing Cross Station. How do they activate the hippocampus. I think we can put the cabbie on one side, the average time to gain 'The Knowledge' is 4 years and even the most amenable Director of Ceremonies will not be happy when told at rehearsal, in 2015, that the Brother will be ready in 2019. So how do the great Thespians become word perfect, what dark arts do they conjure up. None it seems, the mantra for most performers is repetition, repetition, repetition although they may have differing ways of doing this. Some learn late at night, others early morning when fresh. Recording the lines and listening over and over is a common thread and the Line Learner 'app'* is now available for this. Writing the words down several times is also recommended. Grasping the whole meaning and not treating the lines as lines but as part of an overall story also helps, as does moving around help to fix the words in place whilst learning. The hippocampus likes to have other senses busy whilst it works, with psychological studies proving physical actions have a crucial effect in sealing the long term memory.

So sadly there is no trick whether you are the 'Halfiz' having to learn every verse of the Koran, Cumberbatch playing Hamlet at the Barbican or the Junior Warden 'doing' the Working Tools its repetition, repetition, repetition and just plain old hard work.

source:Pennington/Collon/Allday/et.al.

*Peter Allday's LineLearner available for iphone and ipad www.youtube.com/watch?v=4D78gjwjs_E



100 Years Ago

Extracts from the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 12 August 1915.

The Lodge was opened in Due & Ancient Form at 7.30pm with Solemn Prayer & Praise

Circular appeals:-

From the Grand Secretary enclosing circular appeals (2)

(a) For Mrs Alice Johnson issued by Lodge Otaki No. 72 Wellington.

(b) For Mrs C. Fitzwilliam issued by Lodge Beta Waikato No. 12 Hamilton.

It was resolved that one pound one shilling be voted to each of these appeals.

A/C's Passed:-

The following a/c's were passed for payment, Gas Co. 2/2/4, Interest Charge 13/10/-, Printing 2/11/6, McMillan & Co. 4/17/6, Savage Asphalting, 2/10/-, Refreshments

1/10/-, Tyler 1/-/-, Labour 5/6, Calenders 1/6, Typing 6/-, Hall license 2/2/- Total £32.1.4

£30 Debenture:-

W.Bro Rolfe proposed & W.Bro Bunby seconded & it was duly carried that £30 owing for Debentures be paid off when funds are available.

Notice of arrears:-

It was resolved that the following Brethren be written to in terms of Rule 178 B. of C. as to why their names should not be struck off for non payment of dues if same not paid by the meeting in Sept. Bros. Chas Bailey, W.C. McDonald, Jas Wilson.

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace, Love and Harmony with solemn prayer at 10.00 pm

ANOTHER LODGE NO.45

Strong Man Lodge No. 45 is believed to be the 19th oldest lodge existing in the English Constitution and is somewhat older than a number of lodges with lower numbers. This due to the practice, in the eighteenth century, of new lodges acquiring the numbers of lodges which closed. Strong Man Lodge was constituted in 1733 (although puzzlingly Lane's Masonic Record shows it as Lodge number 110 in 1729) meeting at the Crown and Mitre inn, Labour-in-Vain Hill in London, not far from the Goose and Gridiron Tavern. The Lodge now meets at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street, moving there in 1957, having previously occupied possibly as many as thirty inns, taverns and coffee houses around the East End of London.

By 1863 Strong Man Lodge had had 9 different numbers No. 45 bestowed upon it in that year. Lodges also took the name of the establishment where they met so it was not until 1813 that the Lodge took its current name Strong Man.

For a period the Lodge met at the Crown Tavern in Clerkenwell, the cellar of this public house was allegedly used by the courts as a mortuary, after public executions on Clerkenwell Green. The last public execution in England was held on the Green when a Michael Barret, was found guilty of causing a devastating explosion whilst trying to free some prisoners from the nearby House of Detention. In the bar of the Crown, in which the Brethren of the Lodge could often be found, stands the 'Rye House Clock'. Legend says it was at

this clock that the 'Rye House Conspirators' set their time pieces prior to their failed assignation attempt on the life of Charles II.

The Lodge minutes record some bizarre reasons for moving from the various inns and taverns it used as meeting places. At one 'a lack of spittoons and ash bowls' is recorded as an 'unacceptable respect for the Brethren's comfort', 'suppling poor meat and bad ale' saw another move. Being 'rude and unappreciative of Masonic Customs' saw the Lodge move on and yet another meeting place was vacated because the landlord raised the price of a barrel of brandy. During its stay at the Swan Tavern the Lodge minutes record a visit from Samuel Pepys who is shown as eating 200 walnuts and drinking 2 quarts of wine.

In 1764 the Brethren moved to the Strong Man Tavern, where they stayed for 49 years and gained the name the Lodge now holds.

The Lodge badge depicts a man holding back a large horse which is being whipped by another, this was a feat performed by the landlord of the tavern Thomas Topham who gave public demonstrations of his great strength hence the name given to his tavern.

Beyond the Strongman Lodge and its badge Thomas Topham had another masonic link.

Dr John Desguliers, the third Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, became acquainted with Topham's ability as a strongman and often took him to meetings of the Royal Society where there was an interest in human physiology. This friendship sadly resulted in Tophams death as Desguliers asked him to act as his bodyguard during his various masonic journeys. During these periods away from home Tom's wife ran the Strongman tavern but was unfaithful to Tom, he found out and stabbed her several times then cut his own throat. His errant wife survived the attack and continued to run the hostelry that gave its name to one of England's oldest Lodges.

source; Harrison/Strongman Lodge/Williamson/et.al.

OUT AND ABOUT

The Flue certainly laid many of the B/A Team low this Month

Our D.M. 'Geoff' (who has stepped into the Master Chair while Sean is Overseas) our I.P.M 'Matt' and Chris Bilham, all critical contributors to our scheduled 3rd Degree, were all laid Low at the 11 Hour

As we were not prepared to do an inferior working for Allen, we pulled out Plan 'B' and despite the disappointment of our candidate. The Troops came up trumps and we received some top Masonic Education. Well done Russell and Paul.

So Allen you will be Raised at the September meeting.

Great to have Murray M back in Lodge again and to be able to welcome, as a visitor, Allen Bestwick, a Past Master of Belmont Albion.

the Secretary



FROM A PAST MASTERS DITTYBOX

I greet you well Brethren.

These low temperatures have slowed down the thought process. However having taken up residence in West Auckland, and now approaching the Senior Years, I have as you know joined a daylight Lodge nearby. I know that there are many Freemasons in this situation who find driving at night a challenge. Some may have a wife, partner or friend who would wish to enjoy a delicious catered lunch in good company once a month to meet others similarly inclined.

We have been tasked by our Most Hospitable and Progressive Master (Sno) to invite anyone who would like to come along, being still an Evening Lodge member, who may be unable to go out at night. Our refectories are inexpensive being always most enjoyable, and sometimes with an interesting speaker to entertain. Our Ladies certainly enjoy the monthly outing and Guests are welcome.

It keeps one active and extends Lodge Life beyond what might otherwise have been expected. The Henderson Meridian Lodge Number 463 holds Regular Meetings at 10.30 am on the Second Tuesday at the McLeod Road Masonic Centre and it only would assist to advise W/Bro Malcolm Quartly on 832 4265 or me on 817 3949 for the purpose of catering numbers.

Our ceremonies always start with honouring the New Zealand Flag, have the benefit of the West's most talented Organist, and for our catering engage Auckland's Premier Masonic Chef (Richard).

Out Pipes. Humphrey



THE FREEMASONS MARK



During the ceremony of the 4th Degree, the 'Advancement to the Mark Degree', the candidate chooses a 'mark' that is unique to him. This 'mark' is then inserted in the register of the Chapter.

In 1598 The Schaw Statutes state that on admission to the Stonemasons Guild every mason must enter his name and his mark in a register and the December 1678 minutes of Lodge Kilwinning record that two apprentices were entered who 'paid their binding money and got their marks' but the



Europe and further afield in Hindustan, Mexico, Peru and Asia Minor.

There is much academic debate regarding the application and style of each mark but all agree that once it had been allocated a mason could only alter his mark under special circumstances and then possibly only for a short period. There is some disagreement as to whether marks could be passed



operative mason had been marking their work for many centuries before this.

Some of the earliest known marks are found in the Chambers of the Great Pyramid at Gizeh and other early marks can be found in many countries. Marks have been found on the underground walls of Jerusalem, in Pompeii and Herculaneum, on Grecian Temples, in the great Religious Houses of

from father to son or if the son could use the same mark with just a small distinguishing feature. There are many thousands of marks of endless designs so it is understandable that there is much hypothetical debate without a consensus being reached.

Source: Clegg/Elam/Fletcher/Brindal/et.al.

PC

‘Very little is needed to make a happy life; it is all within yourself, in your way of thinking.’

- Marcus Aurelius



Next Issue

Deadline:

14 September 2015

Email:

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