

# BELMONT ALBION



March 2016

<http://thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz>

## FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings Brethren,

Lao Tzu, the legendary Chinese philosopher and attributed founder of philosophical Taoism, is quoted as writing, "Life is a series of natural and spontaneous changes. Don't resist them; that only creates sorrow. Let reality be reality. Let things flow naturally forward in whatever way they like." 2015 has been a year of change for the Lodge, both good and not so good. Some has been brought about by conscious choice, some through outside influence, and some through unplanned action. Regardless of the cause, our Lodge has continued to grow and evolve, hopefully in a way that gives meaning and enjoyment to all involved, directly and indirectly.



Personally, my year as Master has been broken and sporadic, to which I owe a huge debt of gratitude to Bro. Geoff Foote and the rest of the management committee. Yet on reflecting back on my Installation address in early 2015, even with the various changes that have taken place during the year, I was pleased and somewhat surprised with the alignment that has taken place.

Lodge ritual is an important aspect of our Lodge, and I am very pleased to see our continued support in providing newer brethren with charge responsibility to help them with their personal growth, as well as maintaining the responsibilities and commitment of our Junior Lodge.

The passing of Bro. Frank Ansell was a great loss as he was an ardent supporter of our Junior Lodge and a true stalwart of Belmont Albion. Through his passion and perseverance, our Junior Lodge continues to have a regular place on our annual calendar maintaining the proud tradition it has become known for. Sad though this change has been we are blessed with the great depth of experience in

Bro. Murray Morrissey, who is back with us, fighting fit, and willing to take up the challenging mantle of Junior Lodge Master.

Education, mentoring and the teachings and learning of Craft lore and Masonic history, under the supervision of Bro. Paul Copper, is now a regularly anticipated event at our regular meetings, adding depth, understanding, colour and appreciation to our craft proceedings. Engaged brethren, both senior and junior, actively contribute, enhancing their knowledge and sharing this experience with our Lodge members and visiting brethren; long may it continue to find support and interest.

Most obvious in 2015 has been the continuous change in the many faces of those individuals involved and engaged in the craft. Various brethren have come and gone, some unfortunately passing to the Great Lodge Above, some a little nearer to home. With this change, a void opens and hopefully a new brother fills it with their unique style. Through it all, saddened as we may be that the faces we come to expect sitting in Lodge are no longer there, we must remain grateful that our paths have crossed at all. And for those that we still have the opportunity to come in contact with, be it less frequently, my parting hope is that we find time to treasure those people and the future paths our relationships with them will take.

Yours fraternally  
Sean Neely



**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

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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The last month has seen a outbreak of activity within Belmont Albion following the summer break. Junior Lodge having been rehearsing the 2nd Degree they worked at the March Regular meeting and less obviously there has been frenzied background work being done in readiness for the Installation of our new Master in April.

In this months issue you will have read the 2015/16 Worshipful Master's valedictory address and in the following pages the Principal Officers for 2016/17 are introduced with a question and answer session with the Master Elect and a profile of the two Wardens.

Amongst the excitement of the start of the year there was a tinge of sadness with John Wright passing to the Grand Lodge above, his quiet presence in the Lodge will be missed.

At the March Regular meeting a number of brethren were presented with 'Square and Compasses' pins. It crossed my mind that this armorial form of our pin is no longer available to members of the United Grand Lodge of England, UGLE. Included in their recent corporate rebranding was a redesign of the masonic logo. Disappointingly it now appears as a stylised square and compasses separated and on a plain pale blue disk. Very modern, very subdued and to my eye very prosaic.

It was recently reported, by the Orewa correspondent of the Newsletter, that BA45 was represented at an initiation held by Lodge Orewa No.370 by Geoff Foote who presented the 1st Degree Tracing Board, with his usual aplomb.

As promised in the February edition included this month is a short article on the second of the Victorian fob chain jewels loaned to myself by a member of the Fraternity of International Co-Freemasonry.

Editor: [ba45.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ba45.editor@gmail.com)

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## Albert Pike a 33<sup>rd</sup> Degree Mason

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Albert Pike was born in Boston Massachusetts in 1809 and died 82 years later in Washington DC. One of his biographers Jim Trener says of him he was a journalist, a newspaper publisher, a philosopher, a prominent lawyer, a linguist, a poet, his friend Edgar Allen Poe described him as 'the best poet in America', he fought in two wars and is the only Confederate General to have a monument in Washington D.C. in Judiciary Square and he completely revised the Ritual and Structure of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction. At over six feet and 300 pounds he was a giant of a man in more ways than one and friends said of him 'he is a good man to have with you in a fight'



Pike was elected Sovereign Grand Commander of the Scottish Rite Southern Jurisdiction in 1859, a position held until his death, during which time he not only revised the Ritual but also wrote and published many books the most notable being 'Morals and Dogma of the Ancient and Accepted Scottish Rite of Freemasonry' a 861 page tome with an exhaustive index, a feature few books had at the time.

In 1874 Pike wrote 'The Meaning of Freemasonry' in it to the question 'what is the purpose of Freemasonry' Pike answers 'the immediate end is the pursuit of light'. He suggests that there is a triad in all Masonic symbolism, Wisdom, Strength, Beauty; Faith, Hope, Charity; Equality, Liberty, Fraternity etc. etc. He believes that these triads are manifestations of the Absolute. He argues that this Absolute achieves an Equilibrium which is the light which Freemasons seek. The Equilibrium being the balance between intellect, reason, moral sense on one hand and appetites, passions on the other.

Pike recommends that the system of allegories and symbols handed down are the keys and that Freemasons should study and reflect upon them and this will reveal the light. He suggests that this is an individual path and everyone will find their own route map to the light. He teaches that we should make our own interpretations and although we may take guidance from more learned brother it is from within ourselves that the ultimate answers will be found and we will indeed 'see the light'.

Although much is written of Pike in a positive light there are claims of a much darker side to his nature. He is accused of claiming Freemasonry is a religion, of being a racist, creating the rituals for the Klu Klux Klan and of being a traitor to his country. As a Confederate General Pike was imprisoned on this charge but pardoned by President Andrew Johnson.

Let us look at the first of these suggestions, Freemasonry is a religion. Pike did make the statement in his book 'Morals and Dogma' 'Every Masonic Lodge is a temple of religion' but what is ignored by his critics is that in the previous 2 pages Pike has explained what he meant by religion. He suggests that there is a religion of work, to work fairly and honestly, there is a religion to law when law is used with justice, equity and mercy and so on. Indeed in another of his books 'Ritual for the Reception of a Lovetee' he writes 'Masonry does not pretend to be a religion although it is not irreligious or irreverent, so I would suggest that this charge is made by perhaps an anti-mason.

An examination of some of the other charges against him also suggest the barely hidden agenda of the anti-mason. The charge of him being a member of the Klu Klux Klan being typical. Dr. Walter Lee Brown a professor of history at Arkansas University, who is considered a leading authority on the KKK, has stated in a PH.D dissertation that there are no primary sources which provide evidence that Pike had any involvement with the Klan.

In 1871 Pike allegedly wrote a letter to Giuseppe Mazzini an Italian politician. In this letter he (Pike) spoke of a vision he had received. This vision outlined the plan for the 3 world wars that were needed to bring about a one world order.

Briefly the predictions were: -

the first world war would be brought about by the divergences between the British and Germanic Empires and would allow the overthrow of the Russian Czars.

The second world war would be formed by the differences between the Fascists and the Political Zionists. The result being communism becoming strong enough to counterbalance Christianity.

A third world war would be caused by the difference between the Islamic world and again the Political Zionists. This would see the destruction of the state of Israel and also the Muslim Arabic world, world economic collapse would follow.

In 1925 Cardinal Rodriguez of Santiago wrote in his book 'The Mysteries of Freemasonry Unveiled' that the letter was factual and was held in the British Museum Library but the Keeper of Manuscripts at that library states 'the letter is not catalogued'. To date no conclusive proof exists to show that this letter was ever written.

A further attempt to discredit Pike's name was made by Leo Taxil who reported that Pike gave a speech in Paris in 1889 in which he, Pike, suggested that Lucifer is God. By 1897 Taxil admitted that his report of the speech was in fact a hoax written to gain favor with the Catholic Church and earn money.

So there are two damning documents, allegedly written by Pike, of which there is no tangible proof. These documents were used to discredit a man of about whom it is also written, no purer, nobler man has stood at the Alter of Freemasonry or left his story in Masonic tradition. It is said he found Freemasonry in a log cabin and left it in a Temple.

Socrates's philosophical belief was that 'virtue was knowledge' and obviously knowledge can only be obtained by learning. So this suggests that Pike must have had virtue so does this finally eliminate the claims of his detractors?

Source:Pike/Pound/Rodriguez/Brown/et.al JNG

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## Out and About with the Secretary March 2016

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The year kicked off in great style. First with a highly successful 'Ice Breaker' at the home of Richard and Marcia Lumsden where some 40 of us, including our ladies, enjoyed great camaraderie and superb food.

Our March meeting was conducted by our Junior Lodge, under WBro Matt Rea-Rankin, boy do we have some great talent coming through. Some of the work was carried out with style and great panache and our congratulation go to Bro Floyd who received the 'Douglas Rapley' Trophy for his superb presentation of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Degree Working Tools.

Great to have our Master Sean Neely back in his rightful place. The Lodge thanks VWBro Geoff Foote who stepped into the Masters role during Sean's absence overseas.

Dave Barr

Stop Press: - The Lodge has nominated VW Bro. Dennis Waller for District Grand Master and Bro.Gary Salmon as Divisional Grand Master.

## MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

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04/03/2000	S.	Amirapu
10/03/2015	I.	Newcombe
11/03/2008	R.	Venturina
12/03/2013	J.G	Lambert SC

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## The Masonic Ball Fob

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When pocket watches were in fashion they were generally secured by a chain that attached to the owner's waistcoat and the end of the chain was often decorated with a charm or fob. Freemasons were known to attach a square and compasses or a Mark Masonry keystone but the most intriguing design was that of the masonic ball fob. The masonic ball fob at first sight appears to be a simple gold metal sphere with four hinged clasps holding it from the attachment loop at the top.



If the clasps are released the ball opens up forming a cross-shape of six equally-sized pyramidal segments, each of the pyramid faces having a masonic symbol on them. The symbols and their placement vary between individual fobs. Amongst the 24 engravings on the fob pictured above there are representations of the masonic apron, the square and compasses, the equilateral triangle, 2 triangles forming the Star of David and the skull and bones.

source: -London Museum of Freemasonry/Martin & with thanks to Bro. Susan Ellen for loan of the fob. JNG

### 100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, Meeting in the Masonic Hall Devonport, 9 March 1916.

#### Correspondence:-

From the Grand Secretary announcing the raffle of 'Surgical Instruments' for the benefit of the Grand Lodge War Fund would be draw on 14th March next.

#### Notice of Motion:-

Bro. A.W. Clark moved in accordance with the notice given at the last meeting "That at the Regular meeting of the lodge in March a ballot be taken as to the rescinding or otherwise of the resolution passed on 14th September 1915 with reference to the use of alcoholic liquors at refreshment during the period of the war". This was seconded by Bro. D.G. Thornton. After discussion in which W.Bros. Coltman, Goudie, Rolfe, Burnby & Bro. McCallumn spoke a ballot was taken on the subject. W.Bro. G. Ravenhill & Bro. F.G. Swington acting as scrutineers. The ballot was successful & the W.M. declared the motion carried.

#### Lodge Ventilation:-

The W.M. reported that the committee appointed at the last Lodge meeting to consider the ventilation of the hall had met but as the scheme was estimated to cost about £50 it was not advisable to go on with it owing to the state of the Lodge finances but that steps were being taken to effect temporary relief.

#### Greetings:-

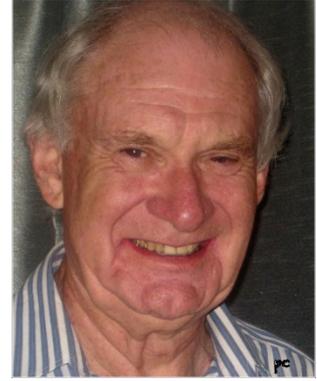
Greetings were received from Prince of Wales Lodge 1389 E.C., Onewa, United Services & others.  
The Lodge was closed in Peace Love & Harmony with a Solemn Prayer at 9:30pm

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## From the Almoners Script Purse

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On Friday 12 February I attended the year's first meeting of the District Almoner Association. I had the honour to once again be nominated and elected a trustee of the Association. Following the amazing success of the programme of Christmas cakes for the Senior Masons and also the Aged Masons Luncheon I was asked to again organise these activities for 2016. All the brethren in attendance agreed the 2015 events were the most successful ever.



It was also requested that I give the scripture reading at the Edgar Faber Chapel, on behalf of the District Almoners Association, as I had given this reading previously. A bonus is that after the service we visit the restaurant, which is part of the village, for an enjoyable lunch.

The 'Almoner' is responsible for the well-being of lodge members and their families. He remains in contact with members who are unwell and maintains a discreet presence in the lives of the widows of former members so that the lodge may readily assist them should they find themselves in any particular need.

Wayne Jones (Almoner for Life)

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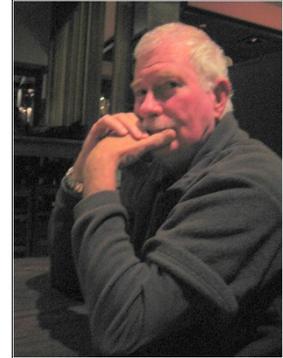
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## An interview with the Worshipful Master Elect

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Editor, **Russell where and when did your Masonic life begin?**

My family came as assisted immigrants to NZ in August 1952: We were the advanced guard of the Ward family invasion. My late uncle, Edwin Hoskins PGSB and my aunt came over from England and stayed with us in Avondale for a few months later that year. They settled in New Zealand and my uncle joined Mt. Roskill Lodge. He was Borough Engineer of Mount Roskill, a just and upright man and I greatly admired him. Father told me he was a Mason, I was too young to talk of such things although I loved my uncle and I think he sowed the seeds of my engineering background.



**What was the driver for you wishing to become a Freemason?**

There were three drivers. The memory of my uncle Ted. Then Henry Bull, a close friend of my Father was a Mason. He and I spoke quite a lot about the Ritual and history.

When Marie and I visited the UK in 1987, we stayed with an aunt and uncle on the other side of the family. My Uncle Geoff Walton was staunchly Masonic and was secretary of his Lodge in the Cotswolds. His phone went non stop most of the day much to my aunt's fury. We spoke briefly of Freemasonry but in those days, no soliciting of membership was allowed, so we missed the important stuff. When he died I approached Belmont Lodge and as they say, the rest is history.

**Who have you had as mentor?**

Many of the brethren of Belmont and then Belmont Albion Lodge! I certainly talked with Dave Barr, Murray Morrissey, Henry Bull, Bill Lawrie, Bill Wetherup and John Wann, of Belmont Albion, in my early days. They were mostly military or seafaring men. Otherwise I have sought guidance from most of the older brethren at times. I was never allocated a mentor back then. Paul Titchener who nominated me lived along the road but as Mayor of Takapuna, he was a busy man. I used to talk lots to Capt. James Forbes who lived across the road but who died before I joined ship. I admired all these men and have fond memories of those who have crossed over the bar.

**What offices have you held as you moved up the ladder?**

I have been as high as Senior Warden twice. Last time, I was under a lot of pressure to be Master but the time was just not right for me. I had business pressures and the Lodge was in quite a turmoil that I did not understand, so I resisted.

**What do you feel will be your biggest challenge as Worshipful Master?**

Slowing my brain down and not getting tongue tied.

**If you have the power to change some aspect of Freemasonry what would it be?**

Getting all the brethren on the same page for the general good of the Craft thereby eliminating all the envy, back stabbing and argument that seems to abound in the Freemasonry.

**What aspects of Freemasonry do you most enjoy?**

All of it!

Mostly I like the history, the intrigue of the ritual and its origins. Talking with brethren about life, the universe and all that. I enjoy exchanging emails with the Education Steward. I am enjoying the challenge and preparation in my run up to the East.

**Do you have any long term thoughts on what you would like to achieve after your term as Worshipful Master is completed?**

After my term or during my term? The Lodge has a heart there is no doubt. It is a good one but I want to get it a spine. Tough times are coming and we need to man up to handle them.

**What was your wife's reaction when you told her the Lodge had asked you to become the Worshipful Master Elect?**

Marie is very supportive of all my endeavours but cannot quite understand why I joined the Craft in the first place. I have explained my reasons many times but she is not convinced. I have the Masonic background and so has she. Most of the men in her family, who were pioneers in the South Island would have been Freemasons. Our daughters on the other hand are proud. Mind you, when they were all at home, they used to help me learn the ritual at various times. They were probably better at it than I was!

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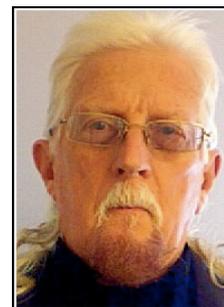
## The Wardens

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### **Brother Paul Copper, Senior Warden.**

I was initiated into the Belmont Albion Lodge on 11 November 2008 and Raised on 13 September 2010. I am also a member of United Masters 167, the Auckland Lodge of Research and of the North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52 and have been 'elevated' to The Degree of Royal Ark Mariner.

I have held a number of offices in the lodges I am a member of having been Senior Warden in Belmont Albion No. 45 previously.



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### **Brother Richard Lumsden, Junior Warden**

My mother Lodge is the Lodge of Enlightenment. I was initiated in April 2004 and passed and raised in the next 12 months. I had the pleasure and Honour of My father WM Byron Lumsden PGTyler presenting my aprons at each of my degrees.

I held the following offices in the Lodge of Enlightenment, Inner Guard, Senior Deacon, Junior Warden

Since joining BA I have held the office of Assistant Treasurer for the last 2 years although it has only been a standby role.

I am a member of Royal Arch and the Knights Templar Orders and I was recently elected to the Board of the North Shore Masonic Centre which is proving to be a satisfying role.



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## North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52

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The Royal Arch degree is a degree of completion, it is a completion of the travel through the veils into the Sanhedrin, the completion of the Holy Royal Arch and it is the completion of the second three degrees of Antient Freemasonry. This with the discovery of the genuine secrets that replace those substituted secrets of the third degree. It is also the completion of the journey that began in the first degree with the birth of the man, in the second degree with the growth of that man and in the third degree the death of that man in the hope of a spiritual resurrection. In the Royal Arch degree with the recovery of the genuine secrets of a Freemason that man is assured of that resurrection.

The proliferation of threes within the degree is perhaps an ingenious way of tying the setting of this Old Testament working with the Trinity of the New Testament. Giving a little extra for those of the Christian faith to contemplate on but not at the expense of other belief systems as triplicity has been manifest through the aeons.

Allegory and parable have become sidelined in a world where we become increasingly secular and scientifically driven, a move which has seen our society becoming increasingly alienated and fragmented. This highlights a gap in our societies make up, an indication that something is missing and that we need something more. A spiritual something and that is where the Royal Arch working comes in. The Royal Arch working is indeed a mystic and spiritual quest leading to the way back from whence we have come and a union with our maker.

Source: - Ivany/Campbell/Hieronimus/Lomas

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"To thine own self be true. And it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man." - Hamlet

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**Next Issue**

**Deadline:** 15 April 2016 **Email:** [ba45.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ba45.editor@gmail.com)