

BELMONT ALBION



October 2015

<http://thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz>

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings Brethren

Good communication is not simply the message that is sent, but rather the message that is received and understood.

We live in a very busy world, constantly bombarded by messages, all competing for our attention. The volume of messages and communications that we face these days continues to grow exponentially, and far exceeds anything that any of us would ever have imagined. Whether it is voice calls, texts, emails, tweets, skypes, facebook posts, blog feeds, snapchats, whatsapp notes, attention for our time is continually being drawn upon. In such a busy environment it is always pleasing to enter the gentle peace and tranquillity of a Lodge. And it is in Lodge that we often get to see, hear and experience great communication, created and refined over hundreds of years by expert wordsmiths.

Even at a distance, it has been brought to my attention that our recent Scottish night delivered such an example of good communication from one of our own, Bro. Floyd Apoderado. For all new masons, as well as those somewhat averse to delivering charges who wish to know what excellence in the delivery of a Tracing Board can be, Floyd's example is one to be noted.

It is not something that would come easily, in fact I am well aware of how long he has spent preparing to deliver the tracing board. But the satisfaction of having done it, and done it well, and in the process having imparted the valuable learning to all those listening, must be satisfying. Taking the words, and knowing that with sufficient effort put in to making the communication meaningful, clear and engaging, is a personal "takeaway" that brings its own reward. Even so, a pat on the back never goes astray.

It is with heartfelt thanks that I recognise the contribution that such a delivery makes to the reputation of our Lodge.



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

FROM THE EDITOR

In a recent debate I suggested, a little tongue in cheek perhaps, that Socrates was the precursor of the modern Freemason. Certainly as a young man he was a stone mason following his father Sophroniscus's trade, was Socrates the first Lewis? And then in later life he became very clear in his belief that 'morality is an absolute or it is nothing'. His principle of never inflict wrong in any circumstance reminds me that I was informed via our ritual '...that no institution can boast a more solid foundation that that upon which Freemasonry rests – the practise of every moral and social virtue...' Further Socrates had no interest in outwardly appearances, which have no lasting significance, his focus being on the virtuous development of the inner man, the words 'to make a good man better' spring to mind. Similarly as with our early brothers he committed nothing to writing. Of course the 'exaggerists' amongst us would say that year 399 BCE was not when the first Freemason arose this was centuries before in 551 BCE when Confucius said "do not impose on others what you yourself do not desire". The same Golden Rule we find in the 'Charge after Initiation' at the end of the Entered Apprentice.

Last month I commented on the wide spread of the Masonic umbrella, for me this has continued during the last weeks. Freemasonry has seen me in discussion with the editor of a motorcycle magazine, be contacted by the author of a soon to be published book. Then whilst at the Auckland Freemasons Expo. I got into conversation with a lady who declared, after we had been talking for a while, that she was also a Master Mason. (There is more about these encounters within this and coming Newsletters). The 'double' fraternity of Masons and Bikers was also busy with charity rides supporting Ronal McDonald House, Breast Cancer Research and then sadly providing a power two wheel escort for a Brothers funeral.

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 6 - 1974 - 1986

At the Standing Committee meeting held 26 February 1974 it was moved that:-

'In recognition of the sterling service rendered by the Directory of Ceremonies W.Bro W.A. Wordsworth that he be presented with a Preceptors jewel'.

When W.Bro Wordsworth died the family kindly returned the jewel to the Lodge and it is proudly worn to this day on the collar of the present Director of Ceremonies.



For several years the Lodge employed the Ladies Mrs Poole and Mrs Cuthbertson to attend to the refectory kitchen on regular meeting nights. They received \$2.00 each for working from 7:00pm to 11:00pm.

In 1975 a major decision was made to increase this to \$4.00 each per evening plus \$1.00 extra if working past 11:00pm. Not very generous employers!

At the meeting held on 18 November 1975 the Master W.Bro Ivan Boyce advised that an Emergency Meeting would be held on 16 December to initiate Mr M.G.E. Morrissey.

V.Wor Bro Murray Morrissey subsequently went on to become the first Master of the amalgamated Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45 in 1993. From there V.Wor Bro Murray rose to the rank of North Shore District Grand Master and to this day 2006 he is the Grand Superintendent of Ceremonies for New Zealand.

V.Wor Bro Murray Morrissey is also Chairman of the Board of the North Shore Masonic Charitable Trust.

At the October Committee Meeting in 1982 W.Bros Bostock and D.B. Foote, who were both on the Devonport Hall Committee, advised that the total cost of the new carpet for the Lodge rooms amounted to \$7,425.00 plus \$1,600.00 for laying and underlay.

This cost was to be shared by Albion, Belmont and Trinity Lodges as well as Rangitoto RA.

The old carpet was to be donated to Lodge Takaka.

As mentioned at the beginning of this abbreviated history of the Belmont Lodge it had always been difficult to achieve any membership being honoured with active or past Grand Lodge rank even though very good officers were always proposed.

The Lodge had been in existence for 38 years when the following discussion was documented in the minutes of the meeting held in September 1986.

'A general discussion of the Lodge's dissatisfaction at the lack of Grand Lodge representation. V.Wor Bro Fred Connew Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master commented on a meeting that he had had with the Provincial Grand Master and the given reasons for our again missing out. After a very long discussion it was decided to leave the issue until the next Standing Committee meeting.

The next Committee meeting was held on 28 October 1986 when the Master stated:-

'That he had approached the Provincial Grand Master out of our concern over the lack of Grand Lodge promotions and to keep the Lodge together suggested that no further discussion take place on the matter and work towards next year's promotion'

This statement proves the antagonism the Belmont Lodge had towards the Auckland Provincial Grand Lodge at this time concerning this problem.

What is the Truth

The German Hermeticist Franz Bardon observed; "there is a fundamental problem with truth. It depends on the insight of the individual." Bardon was right. Each one of us sees truth from the standpoint of our particular environment and experience. Thus, to an extent, truth is always an illusion.

One of the challenges of the seeker of truth is knowing there are different paths he wants to explore all of them simultaneously. While he must ultimately survey the field of options available to him to understand the ancient traditions, he has to guard himself against making only an intellectual pursuit.

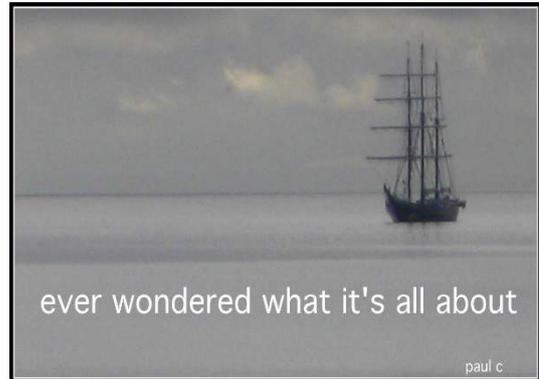
One of the first things we must come to understand about enlightenment is that each of us is on his own path. One's personal route is the path to the greatest harmony within ourselves and with the world in which we live.

Religion and science are two classic opposites on our path. At the outset, religion generally demands the unshakable belief that its own truth lies in its religious traditions. Thus, it always suggests a dogma. Beyond that, it requires the faithful to lead a good and pure life under the certain prescriptions it defines for its followers. Science on the other hand, is independent of such demands. It merely asks that one investigate things without prejudice to gain knowledge and understanding. In so doing, it tends to conclude that what is not known can become known otherwise it cannot exist. This gap between science and religion mirrors the conflict between rational thinking and inspiration. Reason becomes a control of inspiration when inspiration seems to fly away into the vague unknown. Yet inspiration is the impulse for rational investigation.

The esotericist accepts the value of both these opposites. He seeks to unite both paths using an entirely different approach. He engages in the "*spirit of the old Initiates.*" He investigates the means of science as far as its facilities reach but he is also not afraid of applying those traditions which are not in the grasp of orthodox points of view. To affect this kind of work, he often labors in small circles for the precious things which lead him to the genuine experience. The bottom line is that the work on one's self cannot be taken over by anyone else. The seeker can only be guided, but not carried, by his spiritual friends.

This is the covenant Initiates make. It can't be any other way because only what a man accomplishes by his own work becomes real to him. After all, we can only know certain aspects of absolute truth. There is life, there is free will, and there is memory, intellect, and intuition. Beyond these obvious characteristics of truth most everything else can be argued and has been debated throughout the history of recorded thought.

There is a Masonic parallel in this matter. We all know Masons who believe with all their heart there is nothing spiritual about the rituals of Masonry. There are those who claim there is nothing to learn beyond the ritual words. There are even more who are appalled when it is suggested that Kabalistic, Alchemical, or Hermetic associations might be made from a study of the Degrees of Masonry. Never mind that every aspirant is told before he receives the very first Degree that Masonry is a course of hieroglyphic instruction taught by allegories. As obvious as this may seem to the esoteric minded among us, there is little to be gained by arguing with those who aren't listening.



Thus, for the Initiate, it is wisest for him to do the Great Work quietly. He will likely never be in the popular current of societal thought anyway. The true seeker has no reason to affect the natural balance of things by becoming disruptive. It is enough for him to come to know the truth for himself.

Compiled from the musings of Bro. Robert G Davis

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Reading my copy of 'Bike Rider' magazine I came across a picture of a motorbike with the above registration plate. The article was regarding the recently held 'Rides of Respect' which take place around the world at 10am on 17 May. The first ride took place in Wooten Bassett in 2010, organised by two 'grannies' 15,000 motorbike riders took part, riding to show respect to the UK tri-service families and the fallen.

The article, written by George Lockyer spoke about this ride and the other charity rides that Masonic bikers join. Westpac Helicopter and White Ribbon, being just two of the others.

To me this showed how being involved with the community can only enhance the vision of Freemasonry. To quote George's words regarding Masonic Motorcycle groups '...whose aim is to ride their bikes, make friends and heighten the profile of Freemasonry in New Zealand'. He goes on to say 'I think there is far less stigma and mystery attached to Masons these days.

The registration plate is attached to a motorcycle owned by Brother Ross Cornish from Christchurch, known as 'Mr Grumpy' to his friends

With thanks to George Lockyer, Kevin Kinghan & Bro. Grumpy
PC

Email to the Editor

Below is a summation of the e-mails that have passed between myself and one of our readers, Thomas Auber, regarding the article on the Strongman Lodge No.45 which appeared in the August edition of the Newsletter.

To my chagrin Thomas spotted that the diarist Samuel Pepys recorded in the minutes of the Strongman Lodge was either an imposter or a spectre, for Pepys had died in 1703.

You may recall that Lodge history shows 'At one, the Swan Tavern, the minutes recount that when Samuel Pepys had been there on one occasion he drank 2 or 3 quarts of wine and chewed up over 200 walnuts but praised the place highly'. As the Lodge was only constituted in 1733 this is somewhat of a puzzle. Dismissing the possibility of a ghostly appearance there are two possibilities, either it is a visitor of a similar name or and more likely the Lodge minutes record an historic visit to the Swan but not to the Strongman Lodge.

Firstly I looked at the history of the Swan. It appears that the inn was only named the 'Swan' in 1721, having been known as the 'Saracens Head' until that date. It was a somewhat notorious inn as prisoners on their way from Newgate Prison to be hung at Tyburn ate their last meal there. (The phrase 'going on the wagon' meaning a person would become teetotal after a last drink originated from these last visits).

I then found an entry in Pepys's Diaries recording a visit to 'The Saracens Head' on 11 November 1661, although he records he ate a barrel of oysters not 200 walnuts. Pepys describes this inn as 'without Newgate' so I felt sure this 'Saracens Head' was the one renamed 'The Swan' which was where The Strong Man Lodge No 45 met.

So I conclude that my reading of the Strongman Lodge minutes had been incorrect and that the relevant entry recorded an historic event only.

I recall Friedrich Nietzsche said "there are no facts, only interpretations". This may be true but you need to get the correct interpretations.

Thank you so much for your interest Thomas, although my cheeks are a tinge red it was much appreciated.

100 Years Ago

Extracts from the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 14 October 1915.

The Lodge was opened in Due & Ancient Form at 8:00pm with Solemn Prayer & Praise

Ballots:-

Ballots were taken separately for the Initiation of,

Mr. Thomas Angus White. Commercial Traveller, married, aged 28 years. Proposed by Bro. G. Bourne, seconded by the W.M.

Mr. Walter Harry Bowler. Civil Servant, married, aged 38 years. Proposed by the W.M. seconded by Bro. L.C. Wykes. In each case the Ballot was successful.

Bank Balance:-

Bank a/c £23.10.0 In hand £49.3.6

Bylaws:-

The Bylaws as amended by the Committee were read as far as No.9. After discussion several verbal amendments were made & further consideration postponed until the next meeting.

Greetings:-

Greetings were received from United Service No.10, Auckland No.87 & others.

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

Scottish Night - October 2015

The Pipes, the Ode, the Haggis, the Whiskey, the Visitors, the Third Annual Belmont
Albion Lodge No 45 & St. Andrews Lodge No 418 SC

Scottish Night



MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

13/10/49	R.W.	Williams
09/10/12	M.F.	Apoderado
08/10/13	D.	Little
22/10/13	A.R.	Lumsden

Out & About with the Editor

In the Secretary's absence. At "The Auckland Freemasons Reflective Exhibition".



The Exhibition held in the Blues Bar Foyer at the Aotea Centre attracted many visitors including our Grand Master John Litton. It was a reflective exhibition recalling the 125 year history of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand. There were many exhibits including a Masters Chair from the Lodge of Progress No. 22, a display of the 3 Blue Lodge Tracing Boards and a banner from Lodge Waihora No. 144.

Visitors were able to watch a 15 minute video in which Brethren discussed Freemasonry, from within a Lodge Room and see examples of regalia, jewels, an ashlar and other Lodge accoutrements. Well and attractively presented, a good advertisement for the Craft.

Whilst I was at the exhibition I had the pleasure of meeting a lady who told me she was a Master Mason, being a member of 'The Eastern Order of International Co-Freemasonry' New Zealand Administration.

Having obtained contact details it is planned that some articles on this fraternity will appear in coming issues of the BA Newsletter.

You will be pleased to note that the Secretary, David, is currently recovering well from a long awaited operation and will be back in print soon.

PC



And now it's off to the 19th tee

North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52



An invitation from North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No.52

The First Principal and Chapter members cordially invite brethren from Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45 and other Craft Lodges who have not taken the Three Degrees of Royal Arch Masonry to attend an informal presentation by R.Ex Comp. Dennis Waller, Grand Lecturer at:

The North Shore Masonic Centre – William Laurie Place, Albany
At 8:00pm
On Thursday 5 November 2015.

The presentation will consider your personal Masonic journey and outline the history, connection and relevance of each step from Craft Initiation to Exaltation in the Royal Arch Degree, thus completing the 6 recognised degrees of Masonry.

The presentation will follow the business meeting of the Chapter at 7:30pm.
Please come along and enjoy the companionship of the members and hear why this advance is important to expand and complete your basic Masonic Knowledge.

Refreshments and supper will be provided.

The subject and presentation is fully endorsed by both Grand Lodge and the Supreme Grand Chapter of New Zealand.

Fraternal Regards,
Very Excellent Companion Graham Haxell
mphaxell@xtra.co.nz

“Tell me and I forget. Teach me and I remember. Involve me and I learn”

Benjamin Franklin



Next Issue

Deadline: 15 November 2015 **Email:** ba45.editor@gmail.com