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# BELMONT ALBION

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March 2015

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## FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

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What a wonderful icebreaker we enjoyed at the Lumsden's on the 21<sup>st</sup>. A few spots of rain were a welcome relief to the Auckland humidity, after which we enjoyed lovely sun and a fabulous time. The kids are all now lined up for archery on the "top field" so the Lumsden's have started something quite big...Marcia, Richard and Alistair, - a big thanks for a great afternoon!

The phrase 'all change' springs to mind at the moment, as there is quite a bit pending over the next few months. Stu and Carol Mill and Noel and Rosalee Whiley are relocating from Auckland to Taupo and Tauranga respectively, and of course April will see the installation of our Master Elect, Sean Neely and a renewed team. The process of renewal is extremely important to the vitality of the lodge and indeed in life, but I know we will all miss Stu and Noel's contribution although we hope there will be opportunities to get together. Quite a few of the boys have already invited themselves to Stu's for what we anticipate will be a lot of fishing on the lake. It reminds me of the expression 'a friend with a boat is a friend indeed'. Have you got the boat yet Stu?

I am conscious that our lodge family has its share of health concerns, and without mentioning each person, I convey our thoughts and best wishes on behalf of the lodge.

Our last working with me in the Chair is a first degree for Isaac Newcombe, grandson of Reg Newcombe. As such



it will be a very special evening, and a great way to close off what has been a wonderful experience as Master, - bringing everything "full circle" as it were.

I look forward to an outstanding BA ceremony, - let's make it the best yet!

Best wishes to all.

Matt Rea-Rankin



**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 phrase 'use a picture it tells a thousand words' seems to have been first used by The New York Times public editor Arthur Brisbane in 1911. Unfortunately it does not hold true for the BA45 Newsletter.

The February issue was relatively brief being just 4 pages in length but it did contain a larger number of photographs than usual. This increased the file size and resulted in a number of readers, who receive a copy via e-mail, being unable to open or even receive a copy. If you had a problem with the file size or did not receive a copy of the February issue please let me know as we are trying to overcome this problem without limiting the inclusion of pictures.

This Masonic year starts, as others have, with debate regarding the future of the Craft and how we attract new and retain current members. In his book titled 'A Traditional Observance Lodge: One Mason's Journey to Fulfilment' W.Bro. Cliff Porter, a founding member and Past Master of

Enlightenment Lodge No.198 Colorado, makes some intriguing claims. 100% attendance at regular meetings, candidates waiting in excess of a year for initiation, the Lodge has never 'lost' an Entered Apprentice. His Lodge has high dues and what are described as rigorous background checks of all candidates. The rituals worked are solemn and serious with the 'Festive Board' treated as a feast and celebrated as such.

It is claimed that this approach has made Enlightenment Lodge No.198 one of the most successful lodges in the United States by any metric chosen for measurement. It is reported that lodges in Europe and Australia are moving to this manner of operation and also finding it successful so is the 'Tradition Observance' approach the way forward?

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

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## OUT AND ABOUT

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Well - Our Masonic Year certainly kicked off to a great start with the Ice Breaker at Richard and Marcia Lumsden's home in Albany Heights. Thirty two Brethren along with their delightful Ladies joined together for our annual get together. What a delightful day it was and a great opportunity to swap "Bragging Rights". Great to have the Company of Doreen Diggle and Dianne Mayn.

A couple of our senior and respected Brethren are on the move. Noel and Rosalee Whiley are relocating to Tauranga and Stu and Carol Mill have sold their Northcote Home and have purchased property in Taupo.

Both have given loyal and unstinting service to our Lodge and we will certainly miss their drive and input

Frank Ansell has had a short stay in hospital while the professionals made some minor adjustments. Then Bernice is having a hip replacement. Brian Salosagcol's wife, Romina, has also had surgery and finally Murray Morrissey is in hospital having a 'Oil Change'

We wish them all well !

The Laird Family has had a new addition and we congratulate Dan and Gina on the arrival of baby Riley.



Jack Lambert, who is also a Member of St Andrew Lodge 418 SC(his Mother Lodge). Has been elevated to District Grand Lodge NZ North Island and has been appointed Worshipful District Grand Marshall S.C. Our congratulations go out to you Jack on this well deserved appointment.

# THE SIGN OF REVERENCE AND THE SIGN OF FIDELITY

Emulation workers use the sign of the degree during Obligations, and in prayer, adopt what they call the sign of Reverence or sign of Prayer. Some years ago a discussion arose when the authority of the latter sign was challenged when it was maintained that it was not a Masonic sign at all and asking where in the course of the ceremonies it is taught. One brother actually replied that it was not taught at all in regular lodge but only in Lodges of Instructions, as though Lodges of Instructions have the right to invent a sign and impose it on the craft at large. It was asserted also that formerly Emulation had used the Sign of Fidelity during Obligations and there is definite indication in the Gilkes Ritual and in the Perfect Ceremonies of 1871 and 1874 that that was the case.

(The above from the The New Zealand Craftsman 1939).



In the New Zealand Constitution the Sign of Reverence is right hand on heart with thumb beside finger.



The Sign of Fidelity (pronounced F-delity and not Fidelity), right hand on heart with thumb raised in the form of a square.

The Sign of Reverence will always be a subject of debate and in the New Zealand Constitution there can be no argument as to its use, as Grand Lodge has decreed that the Posture of Reverence is to be adopted during the Obligation and Prayers, as stipulated in the General Instructions, Section IV—Saluting, in the standard ritual book. In the Scottish Constitution, this sign is not recognised at all, and is never used. When the brethren are standing at anytime, during the ceremony or otherwise, and are not standing to order with the sign of the degree, the sign of fidelity is adopted. In true Masonic terms, the sign of Reverence or Prayer, is not a true and proper Masonic sign, it was adopted and used by the NZC, so as to be different.

The sign of Fidelity, which is an old English sign, was used as a gesture of recognition, and to acknowledge a greeting or act of courtesy. It was simply a token of good faith and over the years has been adopted by many organisations for different purposes.

With thanks to Reg Watt & others

## *100 Years Ago*

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 11 March 1915.

Correspondence:-

From the G. Secretary's Office re. G. Lodge Special War Benevolent Fund. The W.M. stated that the Prov. G.M.M.W Bro. O. Nicholson had a scheme in hand whereby each member of every Lodge in the Auckland Province would be asked to contribute according to his means to this fund. Circulars were being prepared and each member would receive a copy with the usual notice for the April meeting and the scheme would then be discussed and acted upon.

Raising of Bro. R.W. Parker:-

Bro. Parker presented himself to be raised to the Third Degree and being properly prepared was announced, admitted and Duly Obligated by the W.M. who also raised the candidate. W.Bro. Hounsell communicated the Secrets of the Degree. W.Bro. Armstrong gave the Traditional Secrets. The W. Tools were presented and explained by Bro. J.W. and Bro. S.W gave the Final Charge. Bro. Parker then received the Obligation Bible from the W.M. who also welcomed him as a full member of the Lodge.

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace and Harmony with solemn prayer at 9.40 pm

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## A STORY

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A young man passed a pawnbroker's shop. The money lender was standing in front of his shop and the young man noted that he was wearing a beautiful Masonic emblem. After going on a whole block, apparently lost in thought, the young man turned back, stepped up to the pawnbroker and addressed him: "I see you're wearing a Masonic emblem. I'm a Freemason too. It happens that I'm desperately in need of \$25 just now. I shall be able to repay it within ten days. You don't know me but I wonder whether the fact that you are a Freemason and that I am a Freemason is sufficient to induce you to lend me the money on my personal note."

After a moments thought, the pawnbroker agreed to make the loan on the strength of the young man being a Freemason. Within a few days the young man repaid the loan as agreed and that ended the transaction. About four months later the young man was in a Lodge receiving the Entered Apprentice Degree; he had not really been

a Mason when he borrowed the \$25. After he had been admitted for the second section of the degree the young man looked across the Lodge room and saw the pawnbroker from whom he had borrowed the \$25. His face turned crimson and he became nervous and jittery. He wondered whether he had been recognized by the pawnbroker. Apparently not, so he planned at the first opportunity to leave the Lodge room and avoid his benefactor. As soon as the Lodge was closed he moved quickly for the door but the pawnbroker had recognized the young man, headed him off and to the young man's astonishment, approached him and greeted him with a smile and outstretched hand.

"Well, I see you weren't a Freemason after all when you borrowed that \$25" the pawnbroker commented. The blood rushed to the young man's face as he stammered, "No, I wasn't but I wish you'd let me explain. I had always heard that Freemasons were charitable and ready to aid a Brother in distress. When I passed your shop that day I

didn't need that \$25. I had plenty of money in my wallet, but when I saw the Masonic emblem you were wearing, I decided to find out whether the things I'd heard about Freemasonry were true. You let me have the money on the strength of my being a Freemason, so I concluded that what I had heard about Masons was true, that they are charitable, that they do aid Brethren in distress. That made such a deep impression on me that I presented my petition to this Lodge and here I am. I trust that with this explanation you will forgive me for having lied to you."

The pawnbroker responded, "Don't let that worry you too much. I wasn't a Freemason when I let you have the money. I had no business wearing the Masonic emblem you saw. Another man had just borrowed some money on it, and it was so pretty that I put it on my lapel for a few minutes. I took it off the moment you left. I didn't want anyone else borrowing money on the strength of my being a Freemason. When you asked for that \$25, I remembered what I had heard about Masons, that they were honest, upright, and cared for their obligations promptly. It seemed to me that \$25 wouldn't be too much to lose to learn if what I'd heard was really true, so I lent you the money and you repaid it exactly as you said you would. That convinced me that what I'd heard about Masons was true so I presented my petition to this Lodge. I was the candidate just ahead of you."

From the New Mexico  
Freemason Magazine - with  
thanks to Bro. Reynald Estiqoy





In a large box full of old files and papers, in a strongroom at Freemasons Hall, was found a packet containing a foolscap-size volume, bound in red leather, with a Royal Arch symbol blocked in gold on its cover. Bound into it were fourteen sheets of paper closely written on both sides.

At the top of the first page was the word 'Approved', followed by the signature of HRH Augustus Frederick, Duke of Sussex, First Grand Principal 1810-1843, and the letters GMZ, Grand Master Zerubbabel. The Duke's initials appear at the foot of many of the pages, followed by the letters GMZ and on the last page he had written 'Approved Newstead Abbey, Nottingham, November 2 1834', followed by his full signature.

Newstead Abbey was formerly an Augustinian priory but became a domestic home following the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII. It was once the family home of the poet Lord Byron and had been sold to Colonel Thomas Wildman, Provincial Grand Master for Nottinghamshire 1823-1859, the Duke of Sussex was staying there as his guest.

The manuscript proved to be an introduction covering the testing of a candidate for membership of the Royal Arch and the ritual for the opening of a Chapter, the admission of a new Companion and the closing of the Chapter. Having been approved and signed by the Duke of Sussex, it leaves little reason to doubt that the manuscript was the work of a special committee he set up in 1834 to establish what were the ceremonies of the Royal Arch.

In 1813 the original Grand Chapter gave its First Grand Principal, the Duke of Sussex, full authority to make whatever arrangements he deemed necessary and proper for the Royal Arch. The Grand Chapter did not meet again until 1817 when the Duke of Sussex summoned the original Grand Chapter and the members of the 'Antients' former Royal Arch and united them into the United Grand Chapter, a name that lasted until the title of Supreme Grand Chapter was adopted.

In 1834, there being doubt as to what the proper ceremonies were, the Duke of Sussex set up a special committee to investigate and recommend to the Grand Chapter what they should be. This they did and their deliberations were approved by both the Duke and the Grand Chapter. It was then ordered that they should be adopted by all of Chapters.

The special committee was given a time-limited charter as the Chapter of Promulgation, its remit being to give demonstrations of the ceremonies in London to which Chapters were invited to send representatives. At that time ritual was passed on by rote and it was a heinous masonic crime to write down or print ritual material. Indeed, a number of characters, such as William Finch and George Claret, were charged with breaking their obligations by printing portions of the ritual or catechetical lectures.

The discovery of this manuscript enabled what did happen to be established and increase the knowledge of how Royal Arch ritual developed.

Source Hamell / Pietre-Stones

# UPCOMING LODGE EVENTS



## March

- 3 Tuesday** 1<sup>st</sup> Degree rehearsal
- 10 Tuesday** 1<sup>st</sup> Degree working for Mr Isaac Newton  
Education Topic with Alistair Lumsden.
- 17 Tuesday** A one up for the incoming team.  
Rehearsal & Education for E.A's, FC's
- 22 Sunday**  Ulysses Tauranga Easter Egg & Toy Ride
- 24 Tuesday** Installation Rehearsal
- 28 Saturday**  Bronz Auckland Easter Egg Ride
- 30 Monday** Group visit to St. George Lodge No. 1801 EC
- 31 Tuesday** Installation Rehearsal

## April

- 7 Tuesday** Installation Rehearsal with District Team
- 14 Tuesday** Installation Sean Neely & is Officers

## North Shore Masonic Motorcycle Group Diary Events

Brothers and friends are welcome on these rides, for more details contact Glenn Clark

glenn\_clark@vodafone.co.nz or the Editor

# FROM A PAST MASTER



Greetings to all who follow our fortunes. May we prosper into the future.

As the New Masonic Year gets underway we bend to our task with vigour. Now is the time to prepare our work, study so diligently that the forthcoming meetings come up to our expected excellence giving us confidence to do even better. By that performance every new Entered Apprentice will receive respect and an example that will project him towards a life long love of the Craft.

I do hope you have enjoyed a well earned rest over the festive season and that you have had an opportunity to spend many happy hours with loved ones and dear friends. As to be expected there have been a few sad departures who have taken with them that invaluable knowledge and experience but by looking forward into the future we can feel confident that there will be reinforcements. Every one of us must be on the lookout for candidates.

There are so many disturbing events in the world today that tend to distract ones thoughts from the absolute need to find suitable potential replacements in the Lodge.

The upcoming CAMARADERIE in May is the annual opportunity to introduce new members. I do hope you will make every effort to look around among those friends and relatives who may be waiting to be asked. Where applicable it is nowadays nice if the partner is also consulted, considered and invited.

Best Wishes, Out Pipes,

Humphrey.

'One of the secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others.'

- Lewis Carroll



## Next Issue

Deadline: 24 February 2015  
Email: [ba45.editor@gmail.com](mailto:ba45.editor@gmail.com)