



May 2018

# The Belmont Albion Lodge No.45 Newsletter

**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.



**Next Issue**

Deadline:

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"I will strive to live with love and care,  
Upon the level and by the square"

## The master's missive: why do lodges fail?

A successful Lodge is based on yet another Triad, my brothers: Commitment Planning and Attendance. These are in a deliberate order with the vital ingredient sitting between the two others. Belmont Albion is the only Lodge we know of that has a bound Plan that is placed in the East at opening of the Lodge for all to see. A plan is essential to all organisations. It is not set in stone and can be changed at any time but fail to plan and you plan to fail.

I think it is a terrible tragedy for a lodge to fail (or even amalgamate with another Lodge with a death wish.) It is just like closing a cheap novel at bed time and turning out the light without any further thought. Yet ponder upon the import of that Lodge –what once stood for and which at closure has been long forgotten.

Most creations are born in a spirit of joy and hope for the future. The Lodge is no exception. It is born in a time of high hopes, expectation and of brotherhood. But the Lodge does not foster “love in idleness, or slacking,” The genius of Freemasonry is labour. Every Lodge of freemasons is (or should be) figuratively a body of searchers after light who are desirous of gaining, by practice, a faculty of teaching their younger Brethren those truths which they themselves have learnt and thereby are handing on the light. Were there no younger brethren present to pass on the reigns to? If so, it was a terrible lack of planning upon which no Freemason can blame a market downturn or other cause.

The Lodge is a haven of rest to some brothers. An ability to retire for an evening's quiet –albeit structured- away from the rush and tumble of everyday life. To others it is an opportunity for social intercourse –the making and fostering of human friendships. We must never forget the principles on which the order is founded: brotherly love, relief and truth. Most

importantly we must always remember that vital advice given to the new initiate after being invested; regarding one's personal responsibility to the Lodge should there be a brother with whom one is at variance. In essence: If there is to be a re-enactment of the classic Wild West gunfight, step outside and settle it.



Too many Lodges have brothers who are at variance and this should not be if there is good Lodge governance. Now *governance* is distinct from management and I suggest you clarify it or yourselves. To my mind, the Master must set an example. The Lodge members must know what he stands for, what he won't stand for and what he holds true for his time in the East. They must also respect the gavel which is the ultimate working tool of the Master.

So we have established that the Lodge is founded on *hope*. There are several drivers

Ritual, Refectory, Benevolence. Thus, on reflection, we see that Freemasonry stands for many things besides the three we answer as Entered Apprentices.

A study I did on the reasons patients don't visit the dentist was a highfalutin' systems analysis (because I use to think like that once.) The conclusion I had was that dentists fail to live up to their patients' expectations repeatedly and once too often. I put it to you that this is the reason that brethren drop out of Freemasonry. They are repeatedly underwhelmed by the Lodge. Even worse, the reaction to this is just a quiet drop out in attendance. Does the responsibility come down to one man in the East? YES, if the Lodge has no spine, because the buck essentially ends there.

So now I ask, and you were dreading it: How do we get a spine in a Lodge? Education. Sorry but it is simple as that and the world has to know it. The Grand Master has offered us the challenge *Speak Up for Freemasonry* and we must. We have a great product that is 100% in synch with the needs of the modern world. Its packaging may seem a little weird at first view, but that is a paradox. And it is a paradox that was installed in the Ritual oh so long ago by some very wise men who hid it from casual viewing with the allegory.

Yet our Brotherhood is not given to casting stones. Its business is to hew, shape and polish stones but not throw them.

*WM Russell Ward*

## MASTER'S CALENDER

### MAY

28 May Master's Visit St Andrews Initiation visitors 8pm

29th May Belmont Albion 45 --- 1st Degree Rehearsal

### JUNE

5<sup>th</sup> June Belmont Albion 45---Final 1st Degree Rehearsal

12<sup>th</sup> June To Initiate Mr Craig William COCK

19<sup>th</sup> June Belmont Albion 45----visit---. Master to advise

26th June Belmont Albion 45---- Master to advise

### JULY

3rd July Belmont Albion 45----Final Rehearsal 3<sup>rd</sup> Degree . (part Two)

10th July To Raise (part Two) Bro Ali Seyfoddin

3<sup>rd</sup> Degree Trad History 2nd Part, Extended. Secrets, Test Questions , [Tracing Board](#). MM . Cert. **And** Long Closing of the Third Degree

## From the Editor

After two weeks in China, I returned home with an ever-growing list of things to do. Thanks to our new Labour led government, my lab in AUT has recently received a large research grant. Negotiating a contract and managing funding budget has been a nightmare but it should be over this week. Being a young father of two has also added much responsibility. I said these to apologise for the delay in publishing this edition of the mighty Belmont Albion Lodge No.45 Newsletter.



I heard there are masonic lodges in Xiamen and Shanghai. I tried to locate them but couldn't and ran out of time. I found a few buildings with suspected masonic influence in their architecture.



The church of Trinity in Xiamen was way too masonic too.



While I was away, I missed the opportunity to attend Brother Ryan's 2<sup>nd</sup> degree ceremony and it looks like the brethren were shy with their cameras so we don't have any pictures from that night. On the table lodge night however, it looks like the brethren enjoyed taking pictures of the food and the ceremony.

We have an exciting schedule of events coming up in the following months which should keep us busy, enlightened and entertained.

Until next time, keep warm and happy reading!

Ali (Editor)

## Notes from the Director of Ceremonies

By *RW Bro Murray Morrissey*

1) Rehearsals are going well for Initiation of our new candidate **Mr. Craig William COCK.**

Most pleasing to see our two Deacons ``on top of their game`` - along with the other members scheduled to deliver charges.

2) I had a very interesting meeting with the ``younger`` members of the Lodge last week. I commend them on their positive response and constructive input. The meeting was about the future of the Lodge and the role they would be expected to play - sooner than later I suspect. It prompted me to dust off our Strategic Plan and run over a few things. One particular item struck me - and I quote -

***``If our culture is right, the core of experience will pass on the knowledge and set the expectations for the new members. They in turn will grow and do the same for the members following them.....***

***We strive to create that culture based on traditional values, humility, respect, discipline leadership and humour.***

***It is often overlooked that having fun is important in a Lodge. If the more experienced members have a way to stay positive, even in the most intense situations, this approach will pass to the younger and less experienced who we hope will excel in this type of environment.***

***With positive involvement comes enjoyment, and with enjoyment comes unity. Unity breeds success. A successful Lodge is a happy Lodge. A happy Lodge will achieve more``.***

Strange as it may seem brethren these words were written about 4 years ago. They are as important then as they are today. Does anyone wish to challenge the above statement? Food for thought?

3) Welcome home Allan THOMPSON from yet another overseas trip We look forward to hearing about his travels at our next Regular Meeting.

4) Welcome back Humphrey from yet another re union in the U.K. Humphrey will get his turn to brief us which also applies to our Brother Editor ALI who recently returned from China.

Our main guest speaker will be our esteemed brother Geoff FOOTE.

5) Congratulations to our esteemed Brother Almoner for Life - **Wayne Maurice JONES** who was confirmed last week as a recipient for the ``**Role of Honour**`` award. This award will be presented in August when we host the ``must attend`` now famous Filipino Night.

This is a well-deserved recognition of Wayne's tremendous work for Freemasonry. We are very proud of you Wayne.

As this edition goes to press, Floyd and his contacts are planning for this much anticipated evening.

Our Immediate Past Master Sean NEELY has ``reached out`` to the Scottish Lodges for our now famous ``Scottie Night`` in October. Our hard working W/Master also visited St Andrews last week to personally deliver an invitation to our good friends. This is a ``must

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attend` evening brethren. One highly recommended and not to be missed.

6) Our next working in July is the completion of the Third Degree for brother ALI. Sonny and Ronnie have agreed to present the remaining ``charges`` - along with Mr. Reliable Graham HAXELL. Geoff FOOTE will present the Tracing Board, Nelson WEBSTER the VSL and Keith EAGLESOME his Master Masons Certificate.

I conclude this article with another quote from our Strategic Plan Brethren....

### ***OUR VISION***

#### ***TO PROSPER INTO THE FUTURE***

***\* To practice the principles of Freemasonry in all ways***

***\* To enhance knowledge and personal development***

***\* Streamlining all aspects of Lodge infrastructure:***

***\* Communicating with our members:***

***\* Meeting expectations of our members:***

***\* Educational/Mentoring opportunities for our members:***

***\* Creating a healthy and vibrant environment:***

***\* Maintaining our Junior Lodge***

***\* Striving to give quality and value to our members***

***\* Keep in touch with Lodge Widows***

***\* Enhance Team moral***

***``BUILDING ON OUR PAST - RUNNING TOWARDS OUR FUTURE``.***



# Table Lodge

Brethren from Albany-Takapuna and Belmont Albion joint table lodge function on 21<sup>st</sup> May 2018.



## What is meant to be a lodge master?

The titles of Masonry can seem very affected and can even evoke a sense of self-imposed majesty on the bearers. We have worshipfuls, right worshipfuls, most worshipfuls, grand this and grand that, and other similarly high titles for the various appendant bodies. In fact, one friend laughed at me when I told her I was about to become Worshipful Master of my lodge. She thought the title was funny and pretentious sounding. I had to agree on some level. It is a bit pretentious sounding, but only to those who do not know what it means.

To be worshipful master of the lodge is to serve the lodge. It is not a role that is meant to be occupied and taken on with hubris or because it conveys a certain gravitas or level of power. In fact, it does come with power, but the man who aspires toward the oriental chair with visions of power is the man who should not be elected to the position. It is a station to be assumed with seriousness and reverence. It is a great undertaking to advance in the lodge and a great privilege and responsibility to lead it.

## An ear of corn

*By Bro Floyd Apoderado*

We were taught early in our masonic journey that Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols. Indeed Brethren, you only need to look around you in the Lodge to find an abundance of symbols, and the same can be said of our rituals and ceremonies. It is however, the meaning and the morals behind these symbols that are important and those we should, and we can, if we chose to, always try to find the time to ponder and moralise upon. If through this process a brother is able to find a moral in any particular symbol that is going to be helpful and assist him in his everyday life, he would do well to make full good use of it. For that particular moral he has found or discovered for himself, however

The title Worshipful should not be worn as a mantle demanding authority, but as a mantle of piety. In the lodge meeting, the Master symbolically receives his authority from the Great Architect of the Universe. He who demands authority is unfit to wear the square. It is incumbent on him to be pious and worship and seek through prayer and devotion the guidance he needs to bring to the lodge. He is the one who worships most, at least in theory. The master of the lodge is worshipful, meaning full of worship, not meaning deserving of worship. The Mason who mistakes these two concepts has had the wrong instruction and guidance, but we are all rough ashlar in this mortal quarry, hoping to be found fit for use in the temple of Heaven. Misunderstanding these concepts is not a grave sin. Living in self-imposed darkness instead of seeking more light is the only sin in Masonry.

VW Bro Carl Weaver  
([www.theroughashlar.com](http://www.theroughashlar.com))

simple, complex or unorthodox it maybe, will undoubtedly become far more important, meaningful, instructive and helpful to him than any moral that he will read and or be told about, taught or encouraged to follow.

I will deal with one symbol that bears out this truth, namely the Ear of Corn.

The ear of corn has for a long time, been used as an emblem or symbol in Freemasonry. However, we need to be able to distinguish the corn as we know it these days from the corn that is referred to in biblical times. The corn as we now know it these days refer to the maize plant or maize corn, whilst the corn from the biblical times refers to the grains from wheat and barley. The biblical

corn in its symbolic sense variously represents growth, plenty, the soul and immortality.

There are various depictions of the corn as it goes through its life cycle in our rituals and ceremonies and in a similar manner it also reflects the various stages of our masonic life.

At the consecration of new Lodges, the 'bare corn' or grain is scattered upon the symbolic Lodge or placed on the foundation stone at the NE corner of the new building along with wine and oil. On the Tracing Board of the second degree it is the 'growing corn' or the ear of corn near a stream of water that signify plenty, whilst the 'full corn in the ear' is prominently displayed in the gold embroidery on the full dress collars worn by our Grand Lodge Officers. This shows that the bare grain has matured and ripened to full and prolific fruit. In the same manner we too expect our Grand Lodge officers to be full and ripe with masonic experience and wisdom.

The ear of corn or grain represents, metaphorically, the 'seed' of the peculiar system of morality of Freemasonry planted in each of us when we took our first degree. At the time we passed to the second degree, it has just 'sprouted' through the ground. This spiritual seed which has just started to sprout is ours to tend, cultivate and mature in that small plot of earth that constitutes our bodies. It will, of course, ripen and bear fruit and ultimately return to mother earth, whence it originally came. We should therefore, Brethren, tend, cultivate and improve the spiritual side of your being by thought, study and the practice of our art that your spirit may return to the Grand Geometrician as a seed of more beauty and culture than when it was first entrusted to you.

In the Tracing board of the second degree it was revealed to us that the Ear of Corn near a running

stream of water signifies 'plenty'. Most Brethren will not dispute or question this and take it for what it is; after all, any plant that grows near a good supply of water will more than not bear fruit. But, as is the case so often in our Rituals, only part of this symbolism is given. Corn and running water will not alone produce plenty. If we look at the symbols on the Tracing Board we find, associated with it, the Blazing Star or the Glory in the centre - signifying Divine Providence, light and warmth. While one may have all the necessary elements for growth, progress and abundance, without the Sunlight or the Glory in the centre, there will be no growth, no progress, there will be no plenty.

The Masonic seed, if sown on fertile soil and properly nurtured and watered, can yield hundreds of seeds. If, however, the seed is sown on unfertile soil, and the farmer neglects his plants, the crop will wither and die, a phenomenon which, unfortunately, is only too prevalent in our Lodges today when the candidates are too often ill-prepared to extend their researches into the hidden mysteries of nature and science, and when their teachers neglect the candidates as the farmer did the fragile plants, they too will suffer, wither and eventually die.

A seed of corn is sown every day in our Lodges. So it feels important for me to pose this question to all of you Brethren, what therefore, do we do to ensure the growing and harvesting of what can by our efforts become a bumper crop?

I leave you with that question, Brethren. Freemasonry could be the greatest factor for love and peace in the world and for the uplifting of mankind if only we would practise out of the Lodge the lessons we are taught in it.