

BELMONT ALBION



April 2016

<http://thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz>

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Our Lodge motto is Esta Perpetua. Keep reading: I'll save you an internet search:

- 1 Latin: may she live forever.
- 2 Motto of the state of Idaho.

Of interest, Idaho is Shoshone for "The sun is coming down the mountain". In our lodges, the sunshine starts in the East (to open and enlighten the day) and, moreover, is refreshed each day! But enough education for the moment.

I was initiated on 13 July 1993 into Belmont Lodge no 335. As such, I have the singular honour of being the very last initiate of that lodge; for it amalgamated with Albion Lodge No 45 but a month later. Constituted under the English Constitution on 30 April 1883, Albion Lodge left the English Constitution and met under the Grand Lodge of NZ on 27 June 1890.

On Tuesday 12 April 2016, I was installed as Belmont Albion's 17th Master in its 23 years of life and, can't think offhand of anything that Man has created that will last forever. However, let us ensure that this Lodge lasts as long as it is needed. Success in a lodge, as far as I can determine, depends on commitment, planning and attendance.

Our Lodge must provide Freemasonry in a pleasant, convivial environment and that will help increase attendance and ensure survival. For, in the final analysis, we are competing with entertainment as well as the home environment: The television, the cosy fireside chair and the family.

Belmont Albion is, however, a well-regarded Lodge and to last, it needs committed brethren who, among other things, attend weekly. I have made a particular study of why lodges fail and don't want us to go down that path. It is very easy to think failure and, once it is embraced (as Albion did once and only once), the end is inevitable.



We are a small but vibrant lodge and I estimate our average age to be 56 years and dropping. In any organisation, big or small, change comes at the edges not the middle. Big does not necessarily mean better, because a small organisation can think on its feet and adopt an appropriate course. But, as resistant as some of us maybe to change, the changes we face are nothing compared with the technological changes faced by our forebears in 1883.

Freemasonry appears resistant to change but I leave you with a quote from the Volume of the Sacred Law.

'Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm.... 'St. James III v. 4

Yours Fraternally,
Russell Ward



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

During the last few weeks I have been most fortunate as 4 of the lodges visited were working rituals I had not previously seen. At one of these I was given a copy of 'The Auckland Mason' issue 1-1994. As I read it I realised yet again how the act of looking at the past seems to always place rose tinted lenses in front of our eyes. I am continually being told how much better things were, with regard to Freemasonry, in the past. As the Tui advert says 'yeah right'.

I quote a few of the words written twenty-two years ago by the then Provincial Grand Master. 'When will one man no longer seek to gain unfair advantage over another', 'when will it no longer be clever to be dishonest', 'when will the masses no longer be the victims of brutal dictators', 'when will no man be persecuted for his religious belief'.

The P.G.M. wrote these words in comment on a paper given in 1993 by the then President of the Board of General Purposes R.W. Bro. McLaggan bemoaning the decline of the Craft. I now quote a few of his words but as with those of the P.G.M. they could have been written today or perhaps in ten years time.

'The last thirty years has seen the world swept by change, no part of society has been exempt from the tremendous upheavals in the political process, its bureaucracy and its public services. Change has infiltrated every corner of our society causing irreversible changes to life style and relationships. He writes a few more lines about the nature of changes as seen in the early 1990's but concludes 'If Freemasonry is to survive in this new climate it too must change and adapt'. I think I heard those very words last Tuesday at Lodge.

Throughout our existence we have faced and bemoaned change, I suggest when neolithic man rolled the first round thing down the road his neighbours predicted the end of civilisation. To move forward we must take the good things from the past and use them but stop looking back and saying it used to be great. It was different from now, we faced challenges, were inventive and moved forward despite the neigh-sayers. Freemasonry will only survive if we stop being negative and saying what used to be was better and focus on being positive and what we can achieve in the future.

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A Past Master's View

Greetings Brethren and Ladies. Easter has passed, earlier in 2016, and we look forward to a new Masonic Year. The message of Hope that brought us has strengthened our faith, our beliefs and our teachings. Together we fall in behind our new Master and as a team we are going to have a great year ahead. Our direction has hitherto been well defined. In our Lodge the opportunity now presents itself for us to not only maintain the innovative way ahead, so successful in the past, but to seek new initiatives. Turmoil in some parts of the World only goes to demonstrate what happens when the mislead host loses its way.

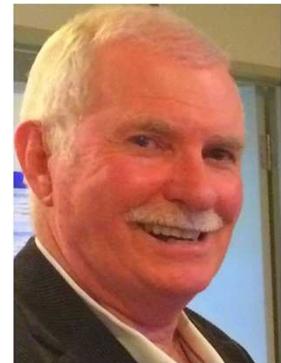
The best we can do is to spread our good news to others who may be convinced enough to join in with us. The way to do this is to employ all those avenues they call social media. This new magic is a mystery to me albeit those powers of communication seem obvious to our younger friends. Most Freemasons of my ilk do not employ or understand blogs, texts, tweets and all those things while most of the un-initiated, still to be enlightened, use these to great effect. Might I suggest that lecturers and their educational brethren open the field of communication instead of preaching outdated historical monotones. In the climate where the secular state gains momentum in the media I would love to read the occasional article from a reliable source that provides a balance in the nature of the notion of our founding belief in a supreme being.

OutPipes
By Humphrey

The Pomegranate Installation of 2016



The Pomegranate



The Worshipful Master

Twenty-one members of Belmont Albion No. 45 were joined by twenty-two Grand Lodge Officers and fifteen Brethren representing eight Lodges for the Installation of Brother Malcolm Russell Ward on the evening of 12 April. The evening followed the usual format of installing the new Master who then invested his officers for the 2016-2017 year. The brethren then adjourned from the lodge room to the refectory where they were greeted with a sight not recalled at the North Shore Masonic Centre within living memory, a large oval platter piled with pomegranates. On seeing this sight many brethren recalled the words:

'...So Hiram made an end of doing all the work that he had made for the king Solomon for the house of the Lord. The two pillars and the two bowls of the chapters that were on top of the two pillars and the two networks, to cover the bowls of the chapters which were upon the top of the pillars and four hundred pomegranates for the two networks, even two rows of pomegranates for one network, to cover the bowls of the chapters that were upon the pillars..'

The more pessimistic brethren recalled that:

Persephone, despite the advice to eat and drink nothing ate pomegranates, which resulted in her being condemned to spend half a year in the underworld.

From the talk and merriment around the refectory it is believed none of the brothers suffered Persephone's fate even though the pomegranates were all consumed.



Pictures by Allen de Guzman

Through a wall in County Cork

One winters afternoon in 1712 the Honourable Elizabeth St. Leger fell asleep whilst reading in the library of her fathers house Doneraile Court, County Cork. She was awoken from her slumbers by voices come through a wall between the library and an adjoining room in which a lodge meeting was being held. Bricks in the wall having been loosened due to construction work. The Hon. Elizabeth removed a brick to see what was occurring and was able to witness a Second Degree being confired.

Realising she should not be witnessing the ceremony she tried to leave the library only to find her way barred by the Tyler, described as her fathers grim faced butler, with sword in hand. Her cry of alarm alerted the brethren within the lodge room some of whom then guarded her whilst the remainder returned to the lodge to discuss what action should be taken. After some considerable time it was decided that the only manner in which the secrets of the lodge could be save guarded was to initiate the Honourable Lizzy as a Freemason.

In time Elizabeth became the Hon. Mrs Elizabeth Aldworth having married Mr Richard Aldworth a Freemason who was present at the ceremony she observed. She died aged 80 in 1773 having become known as the 'Lady Freemason'. A plaque was erected in St. Finbarre's Cathedral by the Masons of Cork which reads.

In Pious Memory of
The Honorable
ELIZABETH ALDWORTH,
Wife of
RICHARD ALDWORTH,
Of Newmarket Court, Co. Cork, Esq.,
Daughter of
ARTHUR, FIRST VISCOUNT DONERAILE.
Her Remains Lie Close to This Spot.
Born 1695, Died 1775.
Initiated into Masonry in
Lodge No. 44, at Doneraile Court In this County, A.D. 1712.

Note: It is suggested by some scholars that the number of the Lodge held at Viscount Doneraile's home could not have been 44 also that the dates of Hon. Elizabeth's birth and death should be 1693 and 1773

Source: The Irish Times/Fleming/Day/Irish Masonic History

100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, Meeting in the Masonic Hall Devonport, 15th April 1916.

Correspondence:-

From W.Bro. A.J. Farmer Secretary Grand Lodge Reception Committee notifying that this Lodge had been levied upon for £5 towards the expenses of receiving Grand Lodge at the forthcoming meeting in May. Bro. Anderson S.W. Proposed & Bro. McCallum S.D. Seconded the motion 'that this levy be paid to the G.L. Reception Committee'.

Initiation:-Mr Walter Harry Bowler who had been duly elected a member of the Lodge, presented himself for Initiation and being properly prepared was announced admitted and duly obligated by the W.M. W.Bro. Mansell communicated the Secrets of the Degree. Investiture Charge by W.Bro. Coltman I.P.M. N.E. Corner Charge by W.Bro. E. Bartley, Reasons for Preparation W.Bro. H.D. Bunby. Bro. J.W. presented and explained the working tools and Bro. S.W. Gave the final charge.

Passing:- Bro. W.H. Ready presented himself to be Passed to the 2nd Degree. He was announced, admitted & duly Obligated by the W.M. who also communicated the Secrets of the Degree. W.Bro. Hunsell gave the Charge in the S.E. Corner, Bro. J.W. presented & explained the W. Tools & Bro. S.W. Gave the Final Charge.

In sympathy:- The W.M. brought the notice of the Brethren to the death of Bro. W. Graham an old member & Senior Trustee of the Lodge & proposed that a letter be sent to Mrs. Graham & family conveying the sympathy of the Lodge in their bereavement. This was seconded by W.Bro. Coltman and carried in silence all the Brethren standing.

G.Lodge Representative:- The W.M. W.Bro.W.G. Allen was elected as Representative to the Grand Lodge meeting at Auckland on the motion of W.Bro. Coltman seconded W.Bro Crosher.

Greetings & good wishes were received from St Andrews 418 S.C. St Andrews No. 8 & others also from Bro. Lloyd on active service in Samoa.

The Lodge was closed in Peace Love & Harmony with a Solemn Prayer at 9:30pm

Some musings on the English language

Why do café owners hang a sign on their door saying 'guide dogs only' when dogs cannot read and their owners cannot see?

Is there another word for synonym?

Is atheism a non-prophet organisation?

What was the best thing before sliced bread?

If you try to fail and succeed which have you done?

What if there were no hypothetical questions?

I went into Whitcoulls and asked the saleswoman “ where is the self help section?” she replied if she told me it would defeat the purpose.

with thanks to 'the Square'

Thoughts from the Secretary

Changing of the Guard behind the scene

This April saw the 'Changing of the Guard', our New Captain has been piped aboard with his new crew, plus some old familiar faces for which the lodge gives thanks for their continuing effort.



We are aware that besides the regular officers who front our Ritual, we have Lodge Support teams operating in the background, actively supporting the Master and his team to archive and maintain the high standards that we have set ourselves. Nelson Webster has again offered to send out our monthly Lodge Newsletter to all our widows.

Paul Copper will continue as Belmont Albion's News Letter Editor, with support from Briene Salosagcol. The BA 45 News Letter has become the “Window” of our Lodge and we thank Paul and Briene for their dedication over the past year.

We must also thank Briene for his IT support regarding the Lodge Web Site and the Education Forum Intranet.

Paul has again Volunteered to steer our “Masonic Education” and will organize and arrange speakers for the successful series of short 'Masonic Reflection' subjects at each Regular meeting.

As ever we extend our joint mixed fellowship activities so our partners become more supportive of the craft. This years program is currently in the planning stage, kicking off with a Camaraderie Night in May, all under the direction of Richard Lumsden. Our Camaraderie Night with non Masons has proved a great success as a means of attracting new members, and from that recent activity 5 have indicated interest. We must also thank Richard and his wife Marcia for organising and hosting the 'Icebreaker BBQ' last February.

The Strategic Planning Group Team is tasked with Identifying key issues, planning corrective actions when needed and implementing a progressive” 5 year Strategic Plan “ This group is headed up and convened by Murray Morrissey, the group comprises of Keith Eaglesome, Dave Barr, and Paul Copper, plus other interested brethren. The Master is an ex officio member.

Matthew Rea Rankin will continue as Membership officer a most critical role of selecting men who will bring added luster to our Lodge

Our Junior Lodge this year was headed up with Murray Morrissey in the Chair and Matthew Rea Rankin as D.C. They conducted a 2nd Degree for Isaac Newcombe. What a great night it was. Firstly we had a record 33 Belmont Albion members in the Lodge Room. Then a Great Working of a Second Degree were I witnessed the “Future of our Lodge” work with Panache and Pride. As one of the 'Old Guard' I salute you for your enthusiasm and dedication. The Brethren have requested that we again organise a Junior Lodge and our Master has scheduled a 2nd Degree for March 2017. But we have yet to receive a volunteer to be D.C. and to coach and rehearse the Junior Lodge

To all those Brethren and Wives/Partners involved with the “Support Teams”, the Lodge thanks you for Your effort, Your enthusiasm and Your continuing contribution to the success of 'The Belmont Albion Lodge'.

The Morgan incident



The William Morgan Pillar, Batavia erected by The Christian Association

On September 12 1826 in Canandaigua, Ontario County, William Moran was released from jail, where he was being held on a charge of debt, placed in an awaiting carriage and driven to Fort Niagara, an unoccupied army post, a distance of about 70 miles. Mrs Mary Hall, the jailers wife later testified that Morgan entered the carriage willingly calling out once and quietly 'murder'. Other accounts suggest that there was a violent struggle with Morgan being forced into the carriage whilst crying out in a loud voice 'help murder'. On arrival at Fort Niagara he was held in an empty ammunition magazine. On or about September 17 1826 Morgan disappeared and no authentic trace of him has ever been found. This incident caused repercussions for American Freemasonry that lasted for the next twenty years.

Freemasonry in America was immensely popular towards the end of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries with public processions and ceremonies. Unfortunately being a member of the Craft was seen by the public as a precondition to a political, professional or military career with the

majority of initiates joining with the material benefits of becoming a Freemason in mind. In 1826 there were twenty-six Grand Lodges and approximately three thousand lodges with one hundred and fifty thousand members in the United States. As lodges grew and prospered the social benefits of membership started to cause jealousy amongst those who failed the ballot or who's religious beliefs precluded them from membership. Anti-masonic committees were established in many states and the fortunes of the Craft were about to change dramatically. Morgans disappearance was the tipping point.

One evening in 1823 Morgan asked to be admitted as a visitor to Wells Lodge No. 282, claiming that he had been initiated into Freemasonry whilst living in Canada. The 'proving' at Wells 282 failed to detect an imposter. It was later believed that he gained knowledge of lodge activity from his employer and from 'hanging around' the taverns that were frequented by inebriated Freemasons following lodge meetings. He suggested that any lack of knowledge on his part was due to Canadian ritual differing from that of New York State. No records can be found to show Morgan was ever admitted to the Craft. As his knowledge of masonic practice grew he visited more lodges even delivering lectures but it seems he never visited a lodge a second time. Until the spring of 1826 Morgan was welcomed at many lodges but he was becoming known as malicious, vindictive and a heavy drinker with a habit of not paying debts and lodge doors were starting to close against him. Having now become notorious in the town of Le Roy he moved with his family to Batavia some 30 miles distant. It is documented that he had been received into the York Rite Royal Arch Degree at Leroy in May 1825 but when he attempted to join a new Royal Arch Chapter opening in Batavia the other petitioners rejected him. When the Chapter was finally established he applied for affiliation and was blackballed as a consequence of his unworthy habits.

Morgan was infuriated by the rebuffs and let it be known he was preparing a book titled 'An Exposition of Ancient Craft Freemasonry' revealing all the secrets of Freemasonry. The book would be published by David Miller, a drinking companion, who produced the 'Republican Advocate' a Batavia newspaper. Twenty years earlier Miller had been initiated as an Entered Apprentice but was then expelled due to complaints about his character. He like Morgan was looking for revenge and like Morgan was also in debt.

Tensions rose between Miller, Morgan and the Freemasons and in September 1826 Miller's printing office was discovered on fire. As a result of the fire 4 Freemasons were arrested with 3 being jailed for arson. The attempt to suppress printing of Morgans book was unsuccessful with a first edition being published by Miller in October 1826 and 190 years later extracts are still available on the World Wide Web.

Following Morgans abduction and disappearance an enquiry was called for at which it was uncovered that several Masons and the sheriff of Batavia had conspired to come to a financial agreement with Morgan. On payment of \$500 he would allow himself to be abducted and transported to Canada via Niagara never again to return to the US. Ultimately 4 Masons were tried and convicted of abduction and jailed for periods ranging from 1 month to 3 years.

The trial made headline news and the Anti-Masonry movement started a rumour that Morgan had been murdered by Freemasons who drowned him at the Falls. When a body was washed up on the shore of lake Ontario in 1827 newspapers claimed it was Morgan. There was an inquest with accidental death being recorded and the unknown body buried as it did not match Morgan's stature. A week later the body was disinterred and another inquest arranged, the body had been transfigured, hair shaved from its head and face and also a number of teeth removed to match Morgans description and it was now stated to be Morgan. Although Mrs Morgan denied it was her

husband the body was moved to Batavia and interred as her spouse. Ultimately a Mrs Monroe of Clark in Canada was able to establish that the body was that of her husband Timothy. The body was disinterred for a second time and placed in her care. The anti-masonic feelings were so rife that people refused to be detracted from their aim to destroy Freemasonry with the saying "that he was a good enough Morgan" coming from this time.

The anti-masonic press were vitriolic printing such headlines as 'Freemasonry is the step that leads down to hell, the path of perdition, conclaves of corruption, protection of fraud and villainy and the academy of tipplers'. Even politicians made anti-masonic statements to gain popular approval, John Quincy Adams stated that 'masonry should be abolished'. The damage was done and in the next ten years the number of Masons dropped from 100,000 to 40,000 and in New York State alone the number of Lodges fell from 480 to 82. The Craft was discredited as an intellectual society and men no-longer joined to be socially conscious.

It was only after the American Civil War ended in 1865, 38 years later, that Freemasonry started to recover from the 'Morgan Affair'.

'What happened to William Morgan'? After 190 years the question remains unanswered. Despite many enquiries no body has been found* and there has never been any proof that Morgan was murdered. Did he take the \$500 and vanish? A retired sailor from Massachusetts reported he carried Morgan to Antwerp in Belgium, in 1883. 2 sea captains reported independently they had seen him working as a fruit merchant in Smyrna, Syria. More bizarrely in 1838, in Havana, a notorious pirate named Guiliem Ganmore confessed, before being hung, that he was the missing William Morgan.

*Almost as puzzlingly as his disappearance is the fact that none of the papers or books I consulted on this matter refer to an article I found in the New York Times. On 21 June 1881 it reported, under the headline, 'A Skeleton Found in a Quarry in Genesee County', The little town of Batavia, N.Y., is filled with excitement today over the discovery of what are believed to be the remains of William Morgan the man who betrayed the secrets of the Freemasons.....'

So did Morgan become a fruit merchant, a pirate or was it his bones found in a Genesee quarry?

source Barrett/Muir/Morris/Bentley/New York Times/Jefferis

		
<hr/>		
09/04/64	F.D.	Arnott
18/04/74	R.J.	Wright
06/04/81	M.	Rowley
14/04/08	S.D.	Neely

North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52



The ceremony of the Mark Master Mason Degree reminds us of the Operative Craft Lodges of the Middle Ages when the great religious houses of Europe were being built. The working of the Degree is located in King Solomon's quarries and represents the completion of the Fellow Craft Degree.

During the Degree the candidate figuratively enters a Lodge of Mark Master Masons and becomes involved in the work of preparing stone hewn from the quarries of Zaredatha which are also known as Zedekiah Cave. This stone was used in the construction of King Solomon's Temple between 974 and 977 BCE. It is believed that there were some 80,000 craftsmen employed in the hewing and preparation of the stone as well as in the building of the Temple. These craftsmen were in 3 categories, Fellowcrafts, Operative Masons and Mark Masters.

As historians tell us no sound of hammering was to be permitted in the building of the Temple, individual pieces of stone must be in accord with the architects plans and so fit perfectly in place. This meant that the work of the individual must be inspected and easily recognised, this being achieved by the Mark Master Mason's personal 'mark'. His work would be inspected and if found to be to the plan by the Overseers it would be sent to the Temple and the Mason would receive due payment. If the stone was not to the plan it would be thrown in the rubbish, the Mason chastised and obviously would not receive payment for his poor work.

The Mark Master degree deals with a workman receiving his personal 'mark' from the Registrar, having his work inspected by the Overseers and receiving payment at the wicket.

In former times the Mark Degree was worked in a Craft Lodge and it is recognised that this Degree is the bridge between Fellowcraft and Mark Degree.

Note: Masons marks can still be seen on some of the stones used to build the cathedrals of Europe
source:- Wiemer/Rudd/RA GC booklet (12/2015)

JNG

"Blessed are the forgetful: for they get the better even of their blunders"

Friedrich Nietzsche



Next Issue

Deadline: 15 May 2016 **Email:** ba45.editor@gmail.com