

BELMONT ALBION



September 2016

<http://thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz>

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

HAS EVERY BROTHER HAD HIS DUE?

When the work of the evening is done, we hear the SW say that he is placed in the West to mark the setting sun and to close the Lodge by command of the W.M. after having seen that every Brother has had his due.

In our keenness to close the lodge bringing the evening's work to an end, before we move to the refectory to refreshment, we likely give his words only a cursory thought if any. Our hearing them so often has led us to accept them as mere mechanistic utterances, and their meaning has escaped our notice. What would happen if the SW were to refuse to close the Lodge because, in his opinion, the brethren had not received their dues? If he really felt that we had not done our duty to all the brethren?

So as Master of the Lodge I am reminded by the IPM at the opening that my duty is to instruct and employ the brethren. Is this also giving them their dues? I think so, not only our newly initiated brothers but also senior brethren.

In the course of the year's programme, we arrange to have sufficient workings (if possible) to sustain our Lodge membership as well as to initiate well and worthily recommended men who will benefit from Freemasonry. But when we have no working, it is important that the willing brethren are employed in productive work. This may be a visit to a Lodge that is performing a working of interest, an educational evening in the Lodge such as the recent evening The Master's Shout or other education provided by our Education Steward Bro Paul Copper. This can be possibly in association with a learned brother from another Lodge. We had such an evening where Bro Dick Willson walked us through a Third Degree as we rehearsed it. Every brother had his due that night! This is instruction, and the Master is exhorted to provide it.

Our pre-eminent duty is towards our Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts: The ceremonies



that they enjoy must be understood before the inner meanings and symbolism can be enjoyed. Subsequent to that, is the enthusiasm with which the new brother can embark on presenting a small charge by way of an introduction to the process of being made a better man. By no means is it just rote learning or memorisation.

The obligations must be understood in act as well as in word. It is difficult to comprehend when one is kneeling awkwardly, slightly dazed and possibly hoodwinked. I would personally like to see that a group of neighbouring Lodges form a study and discussion group to meet regularly for the purpose of general Masonic discussion, particularly encouraging the participation of the junior officers and younger members. Five to ten minute talks with ensuing discussion would be very useful. A properly planned course of study could be applied, and would eventually produce a generation of informed Freemasons, with a broader perspective of the Craft.

If there is anything at all that will make for greater unity, better understanding, or more useful service to the Masons of the District, it ought to be thoroughly discussed and fully considered as well, and not ignored. The benefits would accrue to our more experienced brethren as well. Past masters would like to be taken off the shelf and dusted frequently too!

Our well-respected late Bro Fred Connew -of our Lodge- said many years back, that “each of us has a duty to the candidates we all propose at various times, into the Craft, by making sure that we retain their interest by ensuring they attend Lodge and by endeavoring to answer the many questions they may ask about the ceremonies and other Masonic matters. If we do not do this we may find that our new Brethren become disillusioned with the Craft and eventually do not come along to our meetings.”

It is the duty of each proposer or seconder of a candidate to encourage him to come along to the Lodge or another where he can be instructed in, firstly, the ritual of the Craft, so that he can in time, understand the meaning of the charges given to him. Later a familiarity with the Ritual will certainly develop. If we satisfy the thirst for knowledge we gain a keen recruit to our ranks, who in due time will make a great contribution to the lodge and in his public and private vocations.

Then, would every brother have had his due?

In the words of Browning:

“A man’s reach should exceed his grasp,
Or what’s a Heaven for!”

I acknowledge inspiration and guidance from Masonic Studies, Thoughts and Queries 1950 van Zyl

The Road To The East Surman 1947 in United Masters Lodge Proceedings 1947 -8

Instructing Your Brethren Schischka supra.

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

The media are continually telling us that in today's world we are under constant pressure and suggesting that if we do not arrive home in the evening totally stressed we are not playing our part in society. Indeed, there is a product regularly advertised that tells us we should partake of a chemical compound if we are to be able to sleep, after a day working at the regulation stress level. Bizarrely the same manufacturer promotes another chemical mixture that should be taken each morning to ensure we can work at maximum pressure levels during the day, we then take the first drug in the evening to sleep, next morning we take.....ad infinitum.

At times, as I sit in the West, I fear that the Freemasons Lodge is following the suggestion of the media and aiming for maximised stress levels. Before opening brethren are rushing to sign the attendance book having forgotten first time around, gazing in hopefulness at the ritual book reading the Charge they will shortly give and already feeling the pressure. There is a general noise and at times it seems confusion. The Lodge Opens and the Business Session increases the tension, watches are looked at, brethren told to speak less or faster for our visitors must be invited into the lodge room at the appointed hour. We must keep the tension topped up.

When I worked in Mishima City I was able, before work, to visit a local shrine. There were many people there of all ages and from their clothing all occupations. Some sat as I did and some practised their t'ai chi ch'uan. As you walked through the park where the shrine was the peace in the atmosphere was palpable. How much better for the Freemasons Lodge to open in such an atmosphere after a few moments contemplating the work of the evening. We could then add the words spoken at closing to those recording the opening 'The lodge was opened in due and ancient form and in peace, love and harmony'.

I recently was fortunate to attend a workshop at 181 Khyber Pass, as with all such events it was a bit like the 'curates egg'. One item you may find of interest is the website freemasons.nz.org. There is a member only section but the rest is in the public domain, an interesting section being on Education this hosted by George Allan. Well worth a read.

I would thank all who supplied copy, in my absence, for last month's issue.

I have a number of copies of the booklet 'Plain English Guide to Freemasonry' written by John and Diana Litton. The booklets cover most aspects from Aprons to Women in Freemasonry and are ideal for giving to someone who is considering joining the Craft. If you would like a copy just let me know.

Editor: ba45.editor@gmail.com

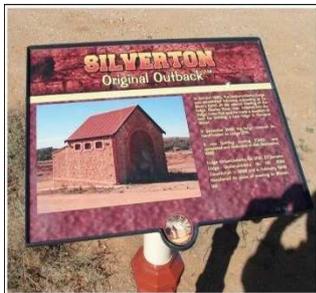
Emails to the Editor

The below link, of a short video made by the Grand Lodge of New Brunswick, was forwarded by Bob Wright who also extended Fraternal Greetings.

<https://youtu.be/9YlhTEAsh70?t=230>

And from Australia Stu Mill sent these pictures of the Masonic Hall at Silverton a village in the far west of New South Wales. At the last census in 2006 it had a population of 89.

Two photographs. One has the square and compass on the steps. Evidently they came to the meetings from 300 to 400 kms away. Two rode in by horse and one took two days to travel to and from the meeting. One bloke flew in by helicopter. Talk about commitment.



A Story

A member of a certain Lodge, who previously attended meetings regularly, stopped going. After a few months, the Worshipful Master decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening, and the Worshipful Master found his brother at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for the Worshipful Master's visit, the brother welcomed him, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The Worshipful Master made himself comfortable, but said nothing. In the grave silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After several minutes, the Worshipful Master took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth, all alone. Then he sat back in his chair, still silent.

His host watched all of this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow, and its fire was no more. Soon, it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The Worshipful Master glanced at his watch and chose this time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Immediately, it began to glow once more, with all the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the Worshipful Master reached the door to leave, his host said, with a tear running down his cheek, "Thank you so much for your fiery summons, my brother. I'll be back in our Lodge next meeting."

In memory of Bob Pettett (1926 - 2016)

A Freemason for 64 years and 8 months



The words below were spoken by Geoff Foote, in December 2010, when he presented WBro Bob Pettett PGBB with his (Geoff's) fathers Treasurer's Jewel and they amply recall Bob's life.

“I have a very pleasant duty to perform this evening and although the worthy recipient is aware of a presentation he has no idea of what the presentation is about or for.

In fact when I went to his house recently and Bob was pretty quick to remind me that his 60 years of membership of the craft was not until next year.

I had to tell him I was aware of that and I was not prepared to reveal what this is all about. So with only 59 years of service to the craft I thought this would be an ideal opportunity to acknowledge Bob's contribution to The Belmont Albion Lodge and in particular as Treasurer and that Bob would be a very worthy recipient.

WBro. Robert John Maurice Pettett, it is indeed an honour and pleasure to perform this presentation - Bob, it's hard to imagine that in 1951 when you were initiated into freemasonry I was only two years old. I understand that today is the exact day 59 years ago you were initiated into freemasonry.

I am going to give you a background to a man who has given outstanding service not only to Freemasonry but to his various employers and wonder how one sums up someone's life a couple of minutes, so please forgive me Bob for my brevity of your background & service to freemasonry. You started your career in engineering as an apprentice and progressed to a toolmaker, as we would say in freemasonry "an Artificer" a craftsman.

You were later involved in the shoe & knitwear industry which is now unfortunately an industry almost unheard of in New Zealand. You joined HMNZ Dockyard in charge of the ICE Shop (Internal Combustion Engines) then you took charge of the Tool Room. You later became the Senior Inspector of Engineering where you remained for 28 years.

Your last position was with the DSE (Defense Scientific Establishment.) in which you spent the last 5 years of your working life before retiring. In all a total of 34 years of service within the Dockyard establishment. Outstanding service.

Now, I understand your successful achievements and progress at the Dockyard may have been aided by something you wrote in an annual written assessment of which all employees were required to undertake.

One question asked was "What are your aspirations"?

And your answer to this was - and Bob give this answer "To advance to such pursuits as may lie with the compass of my attainment." One could say, The perfect answer.

As the brethren will know this just happens to be part of a phase used in our Ritual.

After reading this answer the Superior or manager (who just happened to be a Freemason) summoned Bob to his office, and Bob's career never looked back!

I have already informed you that he was initiated in 1951 in The Belmont Albion Lodge No.335 and which in 1996? amalgamated with The Albion Lodge No.45.

I understand you have held office in some capacity for virtually all those years and undertaken numerous charges.

In particular, you were famous for your rendition of the Traditional History 2nd part which you still undertake today in our lodge.

In 1982 you went to live in Coromandel & joined Lodge Coromandel and maintained active office for the duration of your 18 year stay, and still retaining your membership of The Belmont Albion Lodge. In 2000 you came back to Auckland and I think you may have taken up the office of Chaplin before taking up the office of Treasurer in 2003 and standing down from this position in 2010 because of ill health.

In 2001 you were awarded your 50 year Service badge in the true sense of its name.

Next year in December 2011 you will receive your bar for 60 years of Service.

The service you have given to Freemasonry has been exemplary & we thank you for that.

Your Masonic career and in fact your whole life has been about service and time which you have given freely and we thank you for that.

Both you and Dad were good friends and worked in the Engineering Industry and I am sure he would have approved of this award.

It is now my honour & pleasure to present you with my late father's Treasurers Jewel in recognition of your service as Treasurer and your contribution to this lodge.

In presenting to you my Dad's Jewel I would like you to receive it with the love & affection from all your brethren".

12 months later Geoff was to pin a Sixty Year Bar to Bob's Fifty Year Jewel.



Bob and Val

Compiled with help from Geoff Foote and Mark Rowley

100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, Meeting in the Masonic Hall Devonport, 14th September 1916.
The Lodge was opened in Due & Ancient Form with Solemn Prayer & Praise at 7:30 pm

Correspondence,

Spence Appeal:- From Grand Secretary enclosing appeal on behalf of Mrs. Ann Spence widow of the late Bro. G.R. Spence. The sum of one pound one shilling was voted for this appeal.

Overseas Tobacco Fund:- From W.Bro J. Herbert Hawkins, Palmerston North on behalf of the Overseas Tobacco Fund asking for contributions to same to provide tobacco for soldiers at the Front. The letter was received.

Initiation:-

Mr William John Walker who had been duly elected a member presented himself for initiation and being properly prepared was announced, admitted and duly obligated by the W.M. who also communicated the Secrets. W.Bro Alan gave the Reasons for Preparation W.Bro. Bartley gave the Charge in the N.E. Corner Bro J.W. Presented and explained the Working Tools and Bro. S.W. Gave the final Charge.

Greetings:-

Greetings and good wishes were received from United Service No. 10, Takapuna 202, Rotorua 153, Otago Kilwinning 197, St Andrew No. 8 & others.

The business of the evening being ended the Lodge was closed in Peace & Harmony with Solemn Prayer at 9:40 pm.

The Sprig of Acacia

The ancient Egyptians and Jews held the mimosa, thorn tree or wattle in the highest religious esteem. The modern Freemason holds a shrub of the same polyphyletic genus, the acacia, in similar reverence. The introduction of an acacia sprig at the end of a brother's funeral ensures the public beyond the lodge room become aware that the acacia has Masonic significance.



The shittim-wood which was used by the children of Israel in the construction of the Tabernacle and the Ark of the Covenant was a species of acacia. The acacia was also a sacred tree amongst the Arabs who worked the wood to make the idol of the pre-Islamic goddess Al-Uzza, later destroyed by Mohammed.

Describing this tree Albert Pike has written in his magnum opus 'Morals and Dogma' 'The genuine acacia also is the thorny tamarisk, the same tree which grew around the body of Osiris'. He further comments '..and of it the crown of thorns was composed which was set on the forehead of Jesus of Nazareth for it (the acacia) was abundant in the desert of Thur'. As I found scholars suggest the Euphorbia Milii the more likely composition of the crown placed on Jesus's head dare I suggest Pike may be in error in this matter but not in his reference to Osiris.

The veneration accorded to the acacia may be due to its similarity to mimosa, the 'sensitive' plant. There is a Coptic legend that suggests the 'sensitive' plant was the first of all the shrubs or trees to worship Christ and the rapid growth of the acacia caused the ancients to regard it as emblematic of generation and fecundity.

As the candidates for initiation into the Mysteries entered the tortuous passageways in which the ceremonies were part performed they carried in their hands branches of a sacred plant. Albert Mackey comments in his 'Encyclopaedia of Freemasonry' that each of the ancient Mysteries had its own particular plant, sacred to the gods or goddesses in whose honour the rituals were performed. In the Mysteries of Adonis the lettuce was sacred, in the Brahmin the lotus, in the Greek Mysteries the myrtle, among the Druids mistletoe.

Scholars suggest that the legend of Hiram Abiff is based on the ancient Egyptian Mystery ritual of the murder and resurrection of Osiris. The coffin in which Typhon placed the body of Osiris was casting it into the River Nile, whence it floated to the sea and was washed ashore near Byblos, in Arabic Jubayl. Here it became lodged in the roots of an acacia. The acacia grew into a mighty tree with the body of the murdered God encased within its trunk. Masonic historians believe that this is the origin of the story of a sprig of acacia marking the grave of our Masonic Master.

source:- Pile/Hall/Mackey/Budge/et.al.

JNG

Out and About

Great to read that one of our own has received Honorary Rank of “Past Grand Directors of Ceremonies” in the recent Grand Lodge appointments List. We congratulate you Mike.



Murray M and Kay have reported in and they are enjoying the Australian Weather, not sure about his Golf ?? .

Welcome home Marj, from your stint in Hospital .

To Vic and Connie, great to have you back from your Mid year trip. And looking forward to your Visual presentation on the 27 September.

After years of running for the ‘Arthur Lydiard Stable’ Wayne, our Almoner for Life, has developed leg problems which are slowing him down a little.

By Law 22 BENEVOLENCE COMMITTEE:

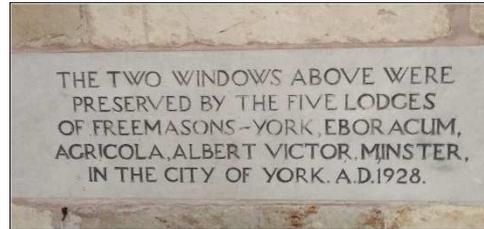
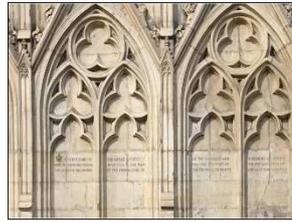
1. Requests for charity or benevolence may only be made by members of the Lodge
 2. The Lodge shall maintain a benevolence committee consisting of brethren appointed by the Master. The committee shall make enquiries with respect to every application for benevolence and shall report to the Standing committee which shall then make a recommendation to the Lodge.
- 33 No application for benevolence may be approved by the Lodge unless in strict compliance with this by-law.

Dave

MASONIC BIRTHDAYS

13/09/67	K.A.	Eaglesome
10/09/71	R.D.	Skinner
12/09/75	H.J.	Ewens

A visit to Yorkshire



During our recent trip to the UK there were some interesting Masonic Images – I hesitate to say landmarks!

Salisbury Cathedral is a magnificent structure with a towering spire designed to pierce the clouds but our Operative Mason forebears, in striving for perfection of form, overlooked some basic engineering and the weight of the spire caused the pillars of the central tower to buckle and they had to be reinforced by auxiliary pillars and some more external buttresses. Perhaps it is meant to emphasise that sometimes enthusiasm must be tempered by prudence.

For Knight Templar Freemasons - there was a tomb of a knight who had been to the Crusades with his legs crossed appropriately.

We visited Castle Howard the home of the Earls of Carlisle. It is located about 25 kms north east of York. A large house built some 300 years ago with magnificent gardens set in an estate of 5,000 hectares. I saw in the near distance a small pyramid in the middle of a field– it was a folly built by an earl who was a Freemason.

Onto the beautiful city of York which is full of Roman and Viking history. York Minster - A massive structure and again in the central tower portion you can see the wall bending. They strengthened the foundations and found a Roman fort below. As an engineer it was fascinating how they had achieved this while keeping the original structure intact and preserving the archaeology that they found during the work.

The two photos are of inscriptions below two large stained glass window showing that the Freemasons had funded the refurbishment of these windows.

York Minster, like all of these old stone building, has a continuous maintenance programme. York has a staff of 50 Masons. Builders, etc. After 4 hours rambling through the Minster and its undercroft we were on our way to find a re-hydration station i.e. a pub and passed an Operative Mason's Lodge. It was a three sided shed about 10 metres by 4 metres filled with grinders, benches and other tools of the mason's trade. The sign on the top says "York Minster – Mason's Lodge" There were unfinished stones (ashlars) on pallets as well as finished stones all with a prominent masons mark. A fascinating reaffirmation of our Operative Masons' heritage and the Freemasons' narratives during our ritual and reinforced in the furnishings of our Lodge Rooms.

Richard Lumsden

Installation – Lodge Calliope No 252



A small party made this annual journey to conduct the Installation of Brother Jacob PAUL into the Chair of Kind Solomon. This Installation and our involvement is sanctioned by Grand Lodge.

This party is spearheaded by Greg TAYLOR of Lodge ALBANY - sorry ALBANY TAKAPUNA No 202.

Our party consisted of seven members and included W/Brothers Grant BROWN, Peter GOODWIN

W/Brothers Mike CHOPPING and Graham MARTIN (English Constitution) - including wives. VW Brother Barry RUSHTON and myself made up the remainder.

As in previous years we were treated to fine hospitality, brilliant weather and a welcoming group from Lodge Calliope.

They have a unique building and many unique challenges to keep functioning. That they keep recruiting members is a credit to them. W/Brother Greg TAYLOR, who travels to Samoa on a regular basis for business, is a member and a valuable source of advise, guidance and encouragement. His involvement is highly valued by the members. He also assumes the important role as 'Tour Leader' and is ably assisted by his good wife Kathy who looks after the ladies. The ladies were extremely complimentary and have all indicated a return trip - sometime in the future.

A trip to Samoa is a unique experience and all those Brethren who have made the journey over the years will endorse this.

If you ever want a trip with a difference, then look no further than the annual Installation at Lodge Calliope - Apia -Samoa. I guarantee you will not be disappointed. Our round of Golf on the Friday morning was one of the highlights.

One year at a time. I make no promises to return - but seem to have my arm twisted each year by Greg TAYLOR.

Murray MORRISSEY.

North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52



Until the union of the two Grand Lodges of England, in 1813, the Moderns held the opinion that Freemasonry was confined to what was known as the Craft Degrees but that was to change. With the union of the Antients and Moderns in that December it was declared that 'pure Antient Masonry consisted of three Degrees and no more, viz. Those of Entered Apprentice, Fellow Craft and the Master Mason, including the Supreme Degree of the Holy Royal Arch'

How and where the Supreme Order of the Holy Royal Arch originated has long been debated but without agreed conclusion, was it introduced from Ireland by Laurence Dermott; was it of French origin promulgated by Chevalier Ramsey or as some historians question did it 'appear' from the Punch Bowl Lodge Frodsham Bridge who established a Royal Arch Lodge in 1762 and thence via the York Grand Lodge? In his 'Acta Latomorum ou Chronologie...' published in 1815 Claude Thory suggests that Arch Chapters were in existence in 1730 but provides no strong evidence.

The earliest known reference to the Royal Arch Degree is in a minute-book of the Vernon Lodge No. 123, Coleraine, Co. Derry when in 1752 a Bro. Samson Moore was proposed for membership, being described as a Master and Royal Arch Mason. Another minute-book of the same Lodge, dated 1767, lists members who have been made Royal Arch Masons with the date of each brother's Exaltation, the earliest being 11 March 1745.

Source:- Gould/Mackey/Cryer/Guénon/Painblanc

JNG

"Only two things are infinite, the universe and human stupidity and I'm not sure about the former."
Albert Einstein



Next Issue

Deadline: 14 October 2016 **Email:** ba45.editor@gmail.com