



The History of King Edward VII Lodge No: 3252

October 30th 1907 to October 30th 2007

KING EDWARD VII LODGE No.3252 HISTORY

THE CONCEPTION

A meeting was held on Monday 2nd June 1907, by the 'Promoters of a New Lodge'. This meeting was to have taken place in the ante room of the Masonic Hall, Manor Road, Chatham, but due to the objection of persons unspecified, the meeting was switched that afternoon to 13, New Road, Rochester, the home of W. Bro. A.J.Woodman, a Past Master of the Pentangle Lodge No.1174.

At the meeting, W. Bro. A.T.Sharman, a Past Master of the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge No.2404, was appointed Chairman and Bro. E. Bosworth (L2404) was appointed Secretary. Bro. J.Bennie (L2404) proposed and Bro. R.Moffett (L2404) seconded "That in view of the overcrowding and stagnation in promotion in the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge, a new lodge should be formed". (At that time there were some 1700 Freemasons in the Medway Towns of which 414 were members of the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge.) This proposition was carried. Bro. R.Moffett proposed and Bro. C.B.Lewis (L2404) seconded, "That subject to official approval, the new lodge should be called 'The King Edward VII'". This proposition was carried. Bro. E.Bosworth proposed and Bro. C.B Lewis seconded, "That Bro. The Rev. The Hon. Yarde-Buller, present the meeting, be empowered to submit the petition for a new lodge to the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge". This proposition was carried and the first meeting of the 'promoters' ended at 10.45 pm.

The next three meetings of the 'Promoters' were held at 350, High Street, Rochester, the premises of Bro. Bosworth (Tailor and Outfitter). These meetings were primarily concerned with the stalling tactics of the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge. Finally, the supporting petition was signed by the members of the Pentangle Lodge No.1174, thus breaking the deadlock. The list of Founders was compiled and the Officers of the new lodge were discussed and appointed.

NOTE: The following number in brackets are the purchasing value of the pound in 1990.

The fifth meeting of the 'Promoter' was the first to be held at the Masonic Hall, Manor Road, Chatham, on 15th August 1907. The date of the consecration of the new lodge was agreed with the Provincial Office, for the 30th October 1907. As yet, no official sanction had been given for the name of the lodge. Various Brethren were assigned tasks in relation to the forming of the new lodge. The Initiation Fee was set at 9 guineas or £9.45p (£318), the Founders Fee 1 guinea (£35) and the Annual Subscriptions 1 Guinea (£35) for full membership and 10s 6d (£17.50) for country membership.

The sixth meeting held on 29th August saw the agreement of an annual rent of £15 (£505) for the use of the Masonic Temple and to share the cost of the maintenance of the Temple furniture with the Royal Kent Lodge of Antiquity No.20 and the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge. Agreement was reached to purchase all of the necessary lodge regalia from

H.Croneen of Gillingham for £13 16s 0d (£465) and the Founders Jewels for 1 guinea each. The consecration lunch was to be supplied by Messrs. Thorne of Gillingham at 3 shillings (£5) per head, with wine supplied by the Masonic Club. The price of the tickets was set at 5 shillings (£8.50), excluding champagne.

The seventh meeting of the 'Promoters' was held on 23rd September. The main item on the agenda was the approval of Messrs. Kennings' design of the Lodge Logo. At the end of the meeting a Lodge of Instruction was formed and parts of the Consecration and Installation Ceremonies were practiced.

The Founders of the King Edward VII Lodge No.3252 met on 3rd October at the Masonic Hall. Also present was W.Bro. White Prov. G.D.C. A rehearsal of the Installation Ceremony was carried out and arrangements were made for a full rehearsal of the Consecration Ceremony to take place on Monday 28th October.

THE BIRTH

On Wednesday 30th October 1907, a meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Kent was held at the Masonic Hall, Manor Road, Chatham. The meeting was opened at 3 pm by the Provincial Grand Master, Rt. W.Bro F.S.W. Cornwallis (Later Lord Cornwallis), assisted by:

- W.Bro. N. Russel, Deputy Prov.G.M.
- W.Bro. Dr. J. Allen, Prov.S.G.W.
- W.Bro. G.T. Drury, Prov.J.G.W.
- W.Bro. Rev. H.P. Thompson, Prov.S.G.Chaplain
- W.Bro. Rev. G.C.E. Ryley, Prov.J.G.Chaplain
- W.Bro. E.T. Ward, Prov.G.Treasurer
- W.Bro. S.R. Macartney, Prov.G.Secretary
- W.Bro. J.P. White, Prov.G.D.C.

The Consecration Ceremony was "performed most effectively in a very impressive manner". The Musical portion being ably conducted by Bro. E.B. Norman, assisted by W.Bro. R.P. Phillips, W.M. of the Beacon Court Lodge No.1967 and Bros. Webb, Richards and Davis. The concluding anthem was sung by W.Bro. Macartney P.G.Sec.

After the Consecration and Constitution, the Provincial Grand Master vacated the Chair of King Solomon in favour of W.Bro. Russell, who proceeded to Install W.Bro. A.T. Sharman (W.M. - L2402) as the first Master of the Lodge and W.Bro. Dr. H.H. Cotman (W.M. - L1174) was invested as I.P.M.

The Worshipful Master appointed and invested his Officers as follows:

- Bro. R. Moffett, S.W.
- Bro. W. Bonney, J.W.
- W.Bro. W.J. Woodman, Treasurer
- Bro. W.T. Mills, Secretary
- Bro. A.E. Bosworth, S.D.
- Bro. C.B. Lewis, J.D.
- Bro. W. Fenwick, D.C.
- Bro. J. Bennie, I.G.
- Bro. M.H.Lyon – Tyler
- Bro. W.H.Gaston - A.D.C.
- Bro. A.E.Webb – Organist
- Bro. C.T.Savill – Steward
- Bro. A.E.Hornsby – Steward
- Bro. S.Sills – Steward
- Bro. B.Pearson – Steward
- Bro. A.L.Harris – Steward
- Bro. J.Blair – Steward

The following brethren were also founders of the Lodge:

- W.Bro. W.Payne – Founder
- W.Bro. A.E.Carter – Founder
- Bro. J.Laurie – Founder
- Bro. A.E.Matthias – Founder
- Bro. S.B.Wilde – Founder
- Bro. F.R.Tizzard – Founder
- Bro. A.J.Knowlden – Founder
- Bro. G.Hicks – Founder
- Bro. E.W.Pettit – Founder
- Bro. H.Owen – Founder
- Bro. H.G.Croneen – Founder

- Bro. C.E.Shorter – Founder
- Bro. H.F.Austin – Founder
- Bro. J.Scholefield – Founder
- Bro. J.Fillerton – Founder
- Bro. A.N.Wilson – Founder
- Bro. G.Page – Founder
- Bro. F.J.Solomon – Founder

There were present at the Consecration, 9 provincial Grand Lodge Members, 18 Founders of the Lodge and 127 guests and visitors, a total of 154 brethren. There is no record of the menu for the banquet partaken by these brethren.

Unfortunately, of the 37 founders, 13 had either resigned or had been excluded in the first five years of the life of the lodge.

THE LIFE

The Lodge grew both in numbers and character, from 37 founders to 95 by the tenth Installation Meeting. The Lodge meeting right through the year except for the years 1911, 1914 and 1915, when the August meeting was cut.

The first Initiate into the Lodge was Br. H.M.Woodman, the son of W.Bro. W.J.Woodman, on the 11th November 1907. He became Worshipful Master in November 1919. The first recorded meeting of the permanent committee took place on the 7th July 1908, when the foundation of the Lodge of Instruction was discussed and agreed. The Lodge of Instruction met for the first time on the 21st September 1908 and continued to meet twice a month from September to April until the outbreak of World War 1. Up until June 1916, the Lodge would normally open at 7 pm (after that date 6.30) and work either one, two or, as on several occasions, three degrees. Attendance at these meetings fluctuated between 18 and 32 brethren, with up to 50 at an Installation. Of the 95 who came into the Lodge, 25 were Naval personnel, 4 were Royal Engineers and 1 Royal Marine, so that at the outbreak of war 34 went on active service and the attendance at meetings fell to an average of 20, with one meeting of only 8 brethren.

At the meeting held on the 10th August 1908, the Lodge voted to purchase a piano for £20 (£659). It was some 4 years old and had cost £60 (£2000) when new. This piano is still in the banqueting hall at the Masonic Hall, Manor Road.

At the first Installation Meeting, held on the 9th November 1908, the Lodge was opened at 3.30 pm. Bro. Stagg and Bro. Avent were Passed to the Second Degree, after which, the Installation Ceremony was carried out. On the 14th December 1908, the Lodge at 7 pm when a candidate was balloted for and Initiated. This was followed by three brethren being questioned then passed. The Lodge was Called Off at 8.55 pm and Called On at 9.10 pm.

Three Brethren were then questioned and Raised, all of these degrees being worked by the Worshipful master W.Bro. R.Moffett.

A letter dated 10th November 1908, from the Grand Secretary to the Lodge Secretary, read "I am commanded by the King, to express to the W.Master and brethren of the King Edward VII Lodge, His Majesty's thanks for the loyal and fraternal good wishes conveyed by telegram received last evening". (the first Installation).

During this time, due to the war, some Masters had to miss meetings and W.Bro. Moffett would often stand in. In this period he carried out 15 Initiations, 15 Passings and 17 Raisings, some being doubles or trebles and on one occasion, a quadruple. This was before the Grand Lodge directed that no more than two candidates should take a degree at a time.

At the meeting held on the 9th August 1909, Mr James Kew aged 39, a Chargeman of painters in the Dockyard, was balloted for and Initiated into the Lodge. After the ceremony, W.Bro. Sharman addressed the brethren on the subject of flags and banners, finally stating that Brothers Moffett and Bonney had together devised a banner which Bro. Kew had painted. This was presented to the Lodge and was received with much pleasure. Where that banner is now is not known, the current banner being the third with the second to be found at the Masonic Museum at Canterbury.

On the 11th October 1909, W.Bro. W.J.Woodman, whose timely intervention was so vital in the establishment of this Lodge and who became its first Treasurer, resigned as Treasurer due to his having accepted an appointment under the Colonial Office in British Honduras. On his departure, the brethren presented him with a travelling clock. He resigned from the Lodge in October 1931 when in Hong Kong and was made an honorary member. He died in Jamaica in 1947.

On the 18th April 1910, the first Lodge of Instruction Annual Supper was held and the offer of the loan of a gramophone was accepted with much thanks. (How times have changed!)

On the death of King Edward VII on 6th May 1910, the Lodge went into a six month period of mourning, after which the Lodge remained in mourning for a further month (along with all other Kent Lodges) in memory of the Provincial Grand Master the Earl Amhurst who died in August 1910.

At the outbreak of World War 1, the Lodge of Instruction ceased meeting for the duration, rehearsals being carried out prior to the meeting. The minutes of the Lodge of Instruction meeting held on 20th April 1914 being read, confirmed and signed on 21st October 1918.

At the September 1914 regular meeting, a Mr Paine, an engine fitter, was balloted for and should have been Initiated. But due to the circumstances his name appeared on eight Lodge summonses before he was finally Initiated in September 1915.

From September 1915, the Lodge agendas included a list of those brethren on active service, the number being 34. Officially, only one member of the Lodge was killed in action,

that was Bro. J. Wilkins, a Captain in the Royal Marines Light Infantry who died in April 1915. Two months later, the Secretary of the Lodge announced that he had received a letter from the 'Front' containing a Grand Lodge Certificate found on the battlefield. There is, however, no record of these two incidents being connected.

In October 1914 Bro. Stagg resigned from the Lodge to join the 'Sportsman Battalion'. He was killed in action in August 1916.

At the eleventh Installation Meeting, held on Monday 11th November 1918 (Armistice Day), 64 brethren were present. A telegram of congratulations for the successful ending of the war was sent to H.M. King George V from the members of the Lodge. From all accounts the meeting was a 'happy' one. A reply of thanks for the telegram was received the next day from the King's private secretary.

The regular Lodge meeting for June 1919 was held on Sunday 7th as Monday 9th was Whit Monday, a public holiday. As the Secretary could not attend, the W. Master (an ex secretary) took over that office while the I.P.M. took on the Master's Chair. There was only one Initiation and a Passing carried out, the Ancient Charge being delivered by the W. Master/acting secretary.

On Saturday October 11th 1919, at an emergency Lodge meeting, and by special dispensation, four Initiations, two Passings and two Raisings were carried out. On Monday October 13th, at the regular Lodge meeting, two more Initiations and a Passing were carried out as well as the election of Master etc. A busy time!

In 1920, a festival was held for the RMBI. The Lodge contributed £390 (£5430), which was a good sum for only two years after the war. At the meeting held on 14th June, a proposition was passed to donate £10.50 (£146) per annum from Lodge funds, to help maintain (in conjunction with other Medway Lodges) '1 male bed, 1 female bed and 2 cots at St Barts' Hospital. This continued until the establishment of the National Health Service.

At an emergency meeting held on Saturday 6th November 1920, the lodge was opened at 6.30 pm. A ballot for a candidate for Initiation was taken. An Initiation, a Passing and a Raising were then worked and four Grand Lodge Certificates were presented. The Lodge was then closed and the Installation Ceremony was rehearsed.

At the beginning of 1921, the Lodge was asked and agreed to support and sign the petition for a new Lodge to be named the Mid Kent Temperance Lodge. Three months later, the same brethren again approached the Lodge to re-sign the petition in the name of the General Gordon Lodge.

At the meeting held on 11th April 1921, the first 'Black Balling' of a candidate took place. As a result the By-Laws were amended to require the Proposer and Secunder as well as the Candidate to be interviewed by the Permanent committee.

At the meeting held on 11th June 1923, W.Bro. Fenwick (Secretary) rose to make a presentation to the Lodge to mark his year as Provincial Grand Sword Bearer. The presentation was a sword for the use of the Tyler and the following is his account of how he came by it.

"On 12th November 1918, H.M.T.B.D. No.17, of which W.Bro. Fenwick was Chief Engineer, in company with HMS Lowestoft (Flag) and HMS Martin, entered the Austrian Dockyard harbour of Pola. On arrival, T.B. 17 was ordered to complete with fuel oil. The oil tanks having been located, W.Bro. Fenwick was landed to make the necessary arrangements. Whist in conversation with the ex enemy Officer in charge, it emerged that this Officer served on a German submarine which had claimed to have sunk HMS Phoenix, the Chief Engineer of which was Bro. F.J.Salmon, a founder member of the Lodge. Bro. Salmon had survived and was still serving in the Navy. After being supplied with some luxuries such as cigarettes and tinned milk, the Officer presented W.Bro. Fenwick with the sword. He in turn now presented it to the Lodge where it was received with pleasure.

There appears to be no indication where the sword is now.

In 1922, the Lodge held its' first Ladies Festival at the Franklin rooms. The dinner was at 6.30 pm and was followed by a whist drive and some dancing. Sandwiches and tea were served at 10.30 pm. The cost of the evening was 7s 6d (£6). In 1927 the cost rose to 10s 6d (£9). Also in 1922, the Lodge began having charabanc trips to various seaside towns during the summer, which proved very popular with the ladies.

At the meeting held in August 1923, the brethren voted to donate £105 (£1840) towards the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home.

The sudden deaths of W.Bro. Fenwick (Secretary) and W.Bro. Tizzard (preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction) in September 1924, had a marked effect on the Lodge which went very quiet for a while.

At the regular lodge meeting held on December 4th 1925, the members stood to order in memory of Bro. N. Dennis who was lost in the HM Submarine M1 disaster. Some months later after a successful application, his son was accepted into R.M.I. For Boys.

By the 20th Installation the Lodge membership had increased from 95 to 188.

The minutes of the Lodge of Instruction for this time, show that it was run on quite different lines from today. Then, the W.M. and officers for the evening were voted on at the previous meeting and from the list of names mentioned were not members of the King Edward VII Lodge. Rehearsals for lodge meetings only took place for Installations. The Preceptor, the Secretary, and Treasurer were voted for annually in September. The Gundolph Lodge of Instruction No.1050, the Ranelagh Lodge of Instruction No.834, and the General Gordon Lodge of Instruction No.4292 were each regularly invited to share the evening's working of a degree with return visits to each.

At the 22nd Installation Meeting held on Monday 12th November 1928, Bro. Mark Lyon finally came in from the cold. He had been Tyler of the Lodge from Consecration (21 years) and was appointed Junior Warden. He had previously been Tyler of the Lord Charles Beresford Lodge for a few years.

At the meeting held on 14th April 1930, the Lodge brethren voted £220 (£4140) to the 1930 Festival of Royal Masonic Institute for Girls. Later, on 13th October, the Charity Steward W.Bro. C.Box Lewis stated that the final total sent in the name of the Lodge was £500 (£9410). At the same meeting, a petition was signed for the daughter of the late Brother to go to the R.M.I. for Girls, which later proved successful.

The 24th Installation held on 17th November 1930 was, for some unexplained reason, held at the Masonic Hall, Franklin Road, and the Festival Board was held at the Town Hall, Chatham, all by special dispensation. The agenda for the meeting stated that "saloon coaches would convey those dining to the Town Hall".

The Provincial Grand Master the Right Worshipful the Lord Cornwallis attended the two hundred and sixty-eighth Regular Meeting held on June 8th, 1931. At this meeting, a petition was signed for the daughter of a late Brother to go to the R.M.I. For Girls. This later proved successful.

The Lodge summons for the meeting held on 14th March 1932 contained the following note to members of the Lodge of Instruction who were to visit the Ranelagh Lodge of Instruction No.834 at Eltham on Monday 4th April: "The bus will leave promptly from Victoria Bridge (Gillingham Railway Station) at 5.00 pm, from Jezreels (top of Canterbury Street) at 5.05 pm, from Chatham Town Hall at 5.10 pm, from Star Hill at 5.12 pm and from 'The Angel' Strood at 5.15pm." There is no record to show whether they kept to those times.

At the 299th Lodge meeting held on 10th September 1934, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Wor. Bro. W.F. Blay presented, on behalf of the members of the Lodge, a gold watch to W.Bro. R.Moffett, on the occasion of his 25 years as Treasurer of the Lodge.

With the death of Lord Amptill, Pro. Grand Master, in September 1935, followed by the death of Lord Cornwallis Provincial Grand Master in October and the death of King George V 1936, the Lodge, like many others, was in continual mourning for eight months.

It is interesting to note that when, at the meeting held on 8th March 1937, the set of Tracing Boards painted by Wor. Bro. J.A. Kew, were presented the Lodge by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master Wor. Bro. W.F. Blay, the Lodge was opened up to the Third Degree and the 3rd Degree Board was presented to the Worshipful Master. The Lodge went down to the Second Degree and the 2nd Degree Board was presented, then the Lodge went down to the First Degree and the 1st Degree Board was presented.

The Second World War had a far greater affect on the life of the Lodge than the Great War. The numbers of members continued to drop from 178 to 168, though not drastically considering the circumstances.

Due to the 'National Crisis', the 349th meeting, which was to have been held on 11th September 1939, was cancelled on the instructions of Grand Lodge. The October meeting was also cancelled.

At the Committee Meeting held on Sunday 8th October, a decision was made to obtain six photocopies of the Warrant of the Lodge and distribute them to various members of the Lodge. What happened to them?

Another Committee Meeting was held on Sunday 5th November when the Installation Meeting was planned and the officers named.

The 32nd Installation was held on Sunday 18th November with no festive board afterwards, only the Loyal and Masonic toasts. The election of W.M., Treasurer and Tyler were carried out, then the Installation ceremony, after which the balance sheet was presented and passed.

Regular Lodge meetings continued to be held either on a Sunday or a Monday, until November 1944 when normal Monday meetings were resumed. During this time the Committee Meetings were held on a Sunday morning.

At the 357th meeting held on 10th June 1940, the W.M. W.Bro. W. Golding, presented a gold cigarette case to W.Bro. C.B. Lewis to mark his having been Charity Representative for 25 years.

The 358th meeting held on 9th September 1940, was attended by nine brethren. The minutes stated that "An air raid accompanied by heavy anti-aircraft gun fire being no doubt responsible for the small attendance". It was also stated that due to another air raid, the Committee Meeting had not been held; only the Secretary turned up. What devotion to duty!

The 1940 Festival of the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys was held with the Lodge donating £236 5s (£4236).

At the Committee Meeting held on 2nd July 1942, "It was agreed that as a 'Temporary War Emergency Measure' the Lodge would now meet from February to November in order to assist by saving fuel."

At the 36th Installation held on Saturday 6th November 1943, the W.M. W. Bro. G.W. Hughes vacated the chair in favour of W.Bro. Percy Blanchett, who had requested to install his son Percy Blanchett junior into the chair of King Solomon.

At the 38th Installation held on 12th November 1945 the attendance was 111 brethren. Perhaps as a result, the next two Installations, the 39th on November 4th 1946 and the 40th on November 3rd 1947, were held at the Franklin Rooms. The numbers, however, failed to match those of 1945.

At the 414th Meeting held on 13th May 1946, W.Bro. A.E. Mattocks worked a double Second Degree on his 47th and 48th candidates.

At the 421st Meeting held on 10th February 1947, the members were joined, by invitation, by the members of the de Wydemere Lodge No.6282 led by their W.M. W.Bro. J.G. Kew. After a second Degree had been worked, W.Bro. Kew gave the three lectures on the Lodge Tracing Boards. This Meeting also coincided with the 50th anniversary of W.Bro. R.Moffett's entry into Freemasonry.

For a few years after the war there was a quiet period in the Lodge, with the country as a whole attempting to get back on its feet. Whilst a steady flow of new members came in, quite a few well loved and respected brethren went to the Grand Lodge above. The Lodge strength went from 168 down to 145.

No doubt, for the same reason as the 39th and 40th Installations, meetings were not held at Manor Road. The Installation Meetings, No. 41 held on Wednesday 10th November 1948 and No. 42 held on Wednesday 9th November 1949, took place at the Freemasons Hall, Balmoral Road, Gillingham.

At the Meeting held on 14th February 1949, W.Bro. R.Moffett worked a double Second Degree on his 114th and 115th candidates. At the 43rd Installation Meeting, held on 19th November 1950, he stood down as Treasurer of the Lodge after 41 years in that office. At the same meeting, W.Bro. L.A. Kew, the outgoing Worshipful Master, donated two wooden columns to the Lodge "As thanks to the Lodge for subscribing £1060 (£14500) to the Festival.

In September 1951, W.Bro. J.H.Atkinson (W.M. in 1947) resigned as Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction, the office he had held since November 1936.

After a shortened Meeting held on 8th June 1953, the members joined their ladies in the dining hall for the festive board to celebrate the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II.

At the 51 Installation Meeting held on 11th November 1957, W.Bro. R.Moffett, the only founder member present (the other, W.Bro. C.B.Lewis, being unfortunately absent) spoke on the Jubilee of the Lodge.

At the same meeting, W.Bro. Gus Driver, stood down as Secretary of the Lodge after 25 years in that office.

At the meeting held in September 1958, the brethren stood to order in memory of W.Bro. C.B. Lewis.

At the Permanent Committee Meeting held on 11th September 1958, the Committee agreed to change the starting time of the Lodge Meeting from 6.30 pm to 6.45 pm for a trial period to see if this would enable more members to attend.

At the 52nd Installation Meeting held on 10th November 1958, the members present congratulated W.Bro. R.Moffett (now Almoner) on the 50th Anniversary of his having been installed as Master of the Lodge.

At the 539th Meeting held on 8th December 1958, the members present stood to order as a tribute to Bro. F.Sharman who had been killed by EOKA terrorists in Cyprus. Bro. Sharman was the son of the first Master of the Lodge.

At the 554th Meeting held on 9th May 1960, the Treasurer, W.Bro. L.A.Kew, announced that the Lodge had donated £1000 (£9240) to the 1960 Festival.

In December 1960, the daughter of the late W.Bro. A.E.Bosworth, gave to the Lodge his book containing the minutes of the meetings leading up to the formation of the Lodge. A somewhat unique record of events.

After many years, the June meeting was considered to have run its course and was duly scrapped at the Permanent Committee Meeting held on 16th September 1965, with the necessary change to the By-laws.

The 615th Meeting held on 12th September 1966, was a sad occasion, with the members standing to order as a token of respect to departed merit for W.Bro. R.Moffett (the last remaining founder) aged 92, to W.Bro. Gus Driver aged 82 and to W.Bro. Bearne aged 83 (a Past Master of the Lodge).

At the 61 Installation Meeting held on 13th November 1967, the Lodge was presented with four wands (two D.C. and two Deacon) in memory of W.Bro. Gus Driver, donated by his family.

There being such a backlog of candidates waiting to do their degrees, the 638th Meeting held on 10th February 1969, saw two gentlemen Initiated and two brethren Passed. In all from December 1968 to October 1970, 18 Degrees were worked and from December 1970 to October 1971, 14 Degrees were worked.

At the Installation Meeting held on 10th December 1973, (the Installation having been cancelled in November due to the illness of the Master Elect W.Bro. S.Holmes), W.Bro. L.Kew resigned as Treasurer of the Lodge after 23 years in office.

At the end of the Permanent Committee Meeting held on 12th August 1980, those present were treated to refreshments and drinks by W.Bro. J.Wood, on the occasion of his Golden Wedding Anniversary celebrations. All present wished him and his wife well.

At the Lodge Supper at Manor Road, held in October 1982, the Worshipful Master W.Bro. R.E.Manington, presented to the Lodge an ornate Masters collar as thanks for his very happy year as Master.

On Monday 9th May 1983, the Worshipful Master W.Bro. G.Williams, accompanied by W.Bro. C.Simms, W.Bro. R.Petch, W.Bro. P.Gigney, W.Bro. J.Wood and W.Bro. O.G.Moore, travelled to Minehead to visit, by invitation, the Exmoor Lodge No. 2390, where W.Bro. J.Marshall, the 62nd Master of this Lodge and a joining member of the Somerset Lodge, was being feted on the occasion of his 100th birthday. A very good time was had by all. W.Bro.

Marshall was an Electrical officer in the Royal Navy and had been posted to Minehead at the outbreak of the war and had never returned to Chatham.

At the Regular Meeting held on Monday 12th September 1983, W.Bro. E.Head presented a set of Tracing Boards, through the Lodge, to the Lodge of Instruction. The case for these boards was made by W.Bro. J.Wood. Both were thanked by the Lodge members for their generosity.

At the Regular Meeting held on 12th December 1983, Bro. L.Horrigan presented a sword to the Lodge for the Tyler's use. He was thanked by the Lodge members for his generosity.

At the 777th Regular Meeting held on 14th May 1984, in the presence of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Wooten, a new Lodge Banner (the current) was presented and dedicated. The act of dedication was carried out by the Provincial Chaplain W.Bro. Rev A.Heathcote. The Banner had been made by Miss Deborah Gear, daughter of W.Bro. J.Gear who carried the Banner into the Lodge. The ceremony went off very well and all present thoroughly enjoyed the evening.

During 1985, the Lodge membership fell below the 100 mark for the first time since 1908.

Due to extremely adverse weather conditions, the 800th Regular Meeting due to be held on 12th January 1987 and the Reference Committee Meeting due on 15th January, were postponed. A request for dispensation resulted in the 800th Meeting being held on Monday 6th April while the 803rd Meeting was held on 13th April.

At the 801st Regular Meeting held on 9th February 1987, the new format of the Obligation was used for the first time.

At the Permanent Committee Meeting held on 11th February 1988, a letter was read out from Chatham Masonic Club Co. Ltd., stating that in order to raise necessary funds, a capita charge of £10 as well as an increase in rents to £171 per meeting would shortly come into force. (Later these charges were rescinded, but not before this Lodge and The Manor of Chatham Lodge had moved to the Howard Hall). An emergency Permanent Committee Meeting was called for 18th February to be held at the residence of W.Bro. J.Sparks. As a result of that meeting, together with a meeting held with a representative of the Howard Hall Committee, a letter of Notice of Motion was composed and signed by all present. This was addressed to the Worshipful Master and requested that a vote be taken by members in open Lodge. In view of the current circumstances, this Lodge should move from Manor Road to the Howard Hall at Wigmore.

On Thursday 17th March 1988, the Permanent Committee met at the residence of W.Bro. P.Gigney. The Committee continued to meet at this venue until 15th November 1990. Much grateful thanks were passed to Mrs. Gigney for her help during this time. The meetings continued at the Howard Hall and other venues until February 1997, when the committee decided that the meeting should not be a separate entity, but should be held before the second Lodge of Instruction Meeting of each month.

At the 812th Regular Lodge Meeting held on 11th April 1988, after much discussion, the proposal to move this Lodge's venue from Manor Road to the Howard Hall, Wigmore was carried by 28 votes for to 5 against. The move would be subject to official approval from the provincial Grand Master. Two other Lodges followed later. A number of members resigned from this Lodge and some, together with ex-members of The Manor of Chatham Lodge, formed the Phoenix Lodge.

The Lodge equipment was moved during the summer recess, so that on 12th September, the 813th Regular Lodge Meeting was held at the Howard Hall for the first time.

During the year of W.Bro. B.Cleaves Mastership (1989/90), a degree was worked on 14 candidates, the most for many years.

At the Regular Lodge Meeting held on 9th September 1991, the Lodge voted to accept the new standard version of Lodge By-Laws, as produced by Grand Lodge, so dispensing with the original version which had been used for 84 years.

At the Regular Lodge Meeting held on 13th April 1992, the Wor. Master W.Bro. R.Collins welcomed M.W.Bro. B.Widger, the P.G.M. of the State of New York, Rt. W.Bro. V.Stewart, D.G.M. of the 4th Manhattan District and W.Bro. T.Litwin, Wor. Master of the Britannia Lodge together with 22 members of that Lodge, all of whom were visiting a number of Lodges in England. W.Bro. A.Manning had been a member of that Lodge while working in New York. M.W.Bro. Widger presented this Lodge with a blue case containing a set of miniature working tools to mark the occasion.

At the Regular Lodge Meeting held on 5th April 1992, the members of the Lodge celebrated the 90th birthday of W.Bro. J.Wood, presenting him with a decanter. At the next Regular Meeting (May) W.Bro. Wood had sent a cheque for £250 to purchase regalia for the Lodge. This resulted in similar collars to that of the Wor.Master, for the two Wardens.

At the Permanent Committee meeting held on 16th April, the Charity Steward Bro. L.Webb announced that the Lodge had given £12,112 to the 1992 Festival.

The Regular Lodge Meeting held on 13th September 1993 was graced by the attendance of the Provincial Grand master Rt. W. Bro. J.Bonomy.

Regretfully, during this time many of the Lodge's stalwarts passed on to the Grand Lodge above.

At the Regular Lodge Meeting held on the 9th December 1996, the Lodge was opened, the minutes of the Installation Meeting were read and approved, then the Lodge was closed. The brethren retired for a Christmas festive board with their ladies. This was to be the first occasion for what has become a regular tradition.

For the Provincial Garden Party, held at Godmersham Park in June 1998, W.Bro. J.Gear and W.Bro. G.Hunt organised a Bric-a-brac stall, which at the time was both innovative and daring. It raised the most money for charity of all the stalls there and others have since copied the idea.

At the Regular Lodge Meeting held on 8th March 1999, the members present voted to send a bouquet of flowers and a card to Miss Ivory Moffett, the daughter of W.Bro. R.Moffett, the first Senior Warden of the Lodge, on the occasion of her 100th birthday.

In February 2002, the Centenary Committee began meeting to arrange the Centenary Meeting to be held on Tuesday 30th October 2007, exactly 100 years to the day from the Consecration. They met at intervals to ensure that all aspects of the day went as well as the event warranted.

At the 957th Regular Lodge meeting held on 10th May 2004, the Provincial Grand master Rt. W.Bro. John Bonomy made his second visit to the Lodge. The Lodge did not have a candidate for the evening, so the Lodge de Wydemere No.6282 kindly agreed for the Lodge to raise one of their members. Bro. J.Sutton was raised to the third degree and the Worshipful Master of the lodge de Wydemere presented the Working Tools. Later it was announced that the Lodge had raised £18,500 for the 2004 Festival for the Royal Masonic Institute for the Boys and Girls and the Lodge was presented with a Festival Bronze Award Certificate by W.Bro. B.Monk, rounding off a very memorable evening.

The Lodge now entered a somewhat quiet period, with a slow drop in membership due in many cases to Brethren moving to other parts of the country or just resigning due to other commitments. The Lodge strength settled at 54 for a while but has now started to climb.

THE CELEBRATION OF THE LODGE'S CENTENARY

On Tuesday 30th October 2007, an Emergency meeting of this Lodge was held at the Franklin Masonic Centre, Franklin Road, Gillingham. The meeting was opened at 6.10pm by the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. D Hope who then vacated the chair in favour of the Provincial Grand Master, RW. Bro. M.R. Bailey who was accompanied by

VWBro.PM.Brooshooft, PGSwdB, Deputy Provincial Grand Master;

- WBro.PJ.Thomas PGSD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master;
- WBro.CE.Boxer PGSD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master;
- WBro.BWBW Powell PAGDC, Assistant Provincial Grand Master;
- WBro.CR Manuel, Provincial Senior Grand Warden;
- WBro.NPP Waller, Provincial Junior Grand Warden;
- WBro. The Rev. RG Gamble, Provincial Grand Chaplain;

- WBro.RW Odd, PAGDC, Provincial Grand Secretary;
- WBro.IAT Jones, PGStB, Provincial Grand Almoner;
- WBro.TA Denne, PGStB, Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

The Provincial Grand Master addressed the assembled brethren to the purpose of the meeting, giving a brief history of the Lodge's early days. He then vacated the Master's chair in favour of WBro. D Hope. The remaining history of the Lodge was given briefly by WBro. R Manington and WBro. B Cleaves, after which, WBro. The Rev. RG Gamble delivered an informative oration, which included aspects of the life of the monarch King Edward VII.

The Provincial Grand Secretary, WBro. RW Odd then read the Centenary warrant, after which RWBro. MR Bailey presented it to WBro. D Hope.

The Worshipful Master then presented to the Provincial Grand Master, a cheque for £5000 for his charity.

The meeting was then closed and the 128 brethren, comprising 32 officers and brethren of the Lodge and together with 96 guests, retired to enjoy the festive board in the main hall.

During the meeting both the original and the current Lodge banners were displayed behind the Master's chair.

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

SECRETARIES

- 1907-1908: W T Mills
- 1908-1914: A T Sharman
- 1914-1916: H M Woodman
- 1916-1917: G Hicks
- 1917-1920: C Box Lewis
- 1920-1922: G Hicks
- 1922-1924: W Fenwick
- 1924-1928: A E Mattocks
- 1928-1932: J R Pawley
- 1932-1957: A Driver
- 1957-1974: J R Turner
- 1974-1976: R Petch
- 1976-1977: O G Moore
- 1977-1983: R Collison

- 1983-1998: R E Manington
- 1998-2001: G J Hunt
- 2001- : B B Cleaves

TREASURERS

- 1907-1909: W J Woodman
- 1909-1950: R Moffett
- 1950-1973: L A Kew
- 1973-1979: E G Stevens
- 1979-1981: A Manning
- 1981-1996: J Sparks
- 1996-1999: J Gear
- 1999-2005: K Hill
- 2005-2007: A Wheeler

WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

- 1907 Sharman A T
- 1908 Moffett R
- 1909 Bonney W E
- 1910 Bosworth A E
- 1911 Lewis B C
- 1912 Fenwick W
- 1913 Mills W T
- 1914 Webb A E
- 1915 Savill C T
- 1916 Mathias A E
- 1917 Tizard F E
- 1918 Hicks G
- 1919 Woodman H M
- 1920 Bilney T
- 1921 Scholefield J T
- 1922 Mattocks A B

- 1923 Bown F
- 1924 Howard A
- 1925 Tindall A T
- 1926 Kew JA
- 1927 Woodfield E W
- 1928 Driver A
- 1929 Marshall J A
- 1930 Lyon M H
- 1931 Martin J T
- 1932 Machin J G
- 1933 Kew J G
- 1934 Cawley J
- 1935 Strutt A W
- 1936 Gilbert E W
- 1937 Brighty H J
- 1938 Balnchett P
- 1939 Golding W E
- 1940 Wade S J
- 1941 Buckland W C
- 1942 Hughes G W
- 1943 Blanchett P T
- 1944 Rudland W C
- 1945 Smith G E
- 1946 Percy H G
- 1947 Atkinson J H
- 1948 Brown F
- 1949 Kew L A
- 1950 Turner J R
- 1951 Manington L E
- 1952 Goddard C W
- 1953 Croucher L G
- 1954 Bratton G E

- 1955 Sparks J
- 1956 Wood A J
- 1957 Sullivan G W
- 1958 Hedge J L
- 1959 Sparks J N
- 1960 Hutchings W E
- 1961 Charlton J
- 1962 Coulter W H
- 1963 Head E H
- 1964 Buss S P
- 1965 Clout C R
- 1966 Anderson J T
- 1967 Stevens E G
- 1968 Lucas C H
- 1969 Massingham B J
- 1970 Jackson R W
- 1971 Griffiths R W
- 1972 Manington C L
- 1973 Holmes S C
- 1974 Moore O G
- 1975 Collison R G
- 1976 Gigney P J
- 1977 Manning J A
- 1978 Petch R J
- 1979 Simms C R B
- 1980 Sharp T
- 1981 Manington R E
- 1982 Williams G B
- 1983 Woodhall D M
- 1984 Barnard A C
- 1985 Pigney G S
- 1986 Nunn J E C

- 1987 Gear J T
- 1988 Groves A R
- 1989 Cleaves B B
- 1990 Rogers D
- 1991 Collins R P
- 1992 Hunt G J
- 1993 Thompson J P
- 1994 Waterman E J
- 1995 Hill K F
- 1996 Hunt G J
- 1997 Gigney P J
- 1998 Taylor T P
- 1999 Manning J A
- 2000 Meadowcroft A J
- 2001 Martin R H
- 2002 Stitson B H
- 2003 Wass A M
- 2004 Wheeler A J
- 2005 Cavanaugh M J
- 2006 Hope D C