



A BIG Thank you:

Brethren,

Firstly I would like to say a massive big thank you to every brother who attended Lodge St John Stoneyburns annual installation last night (26th Feb). I stand today, slightly worse for wear, but a very humble man

What made the occasion more memorable was the fact that I was installed by my Father, Grandfather, Uncle and Cousin. A truly family affair.

I am also extremely fortunate to have an amazing wealth of talent behind me in the form of my Past Masters and Office Bearers, and with their assistance, we will proudly fly the flag for the lodge.

My focus for the forthcoming year will be the promotion of Lodge St John and this will be achieved through my visitations and the visitations of my Brethren.

I look forward to seeing each and everyone of you when I am out on my travels.

Once again a big thank you for last night.

March is a busy month for the lodge, not to mention my first proper degree as RWM. We also commence thirty minutes later with a New Tyle time of 7.30pm. Hopefully this initiative will benefit the brethren of the lodge who may work late and encourage more of our brethren to attend.

We also have our Annual Provincial Visitation scheduled for the middle of the month (17th March 7pm Tyle), which I am sure will be a very busy night. Our RWPGM Bro Bob Scott has injected a new energy within the Province through his wit and one liners, whilst still displaying the humility which is expected of all Freemasons. I along with my office bearers and brethren wish him and all of the Provincial Office Bearers a very happy tenure in office.

We will also be visiting Lodge Blackridge No1145 on the 22nd March to confer the EA degree. Please remember that they now meet in the premises of Lodge HopeBridge Castle No827 Armadale. Any brother wishing to accompany the lodge on this occasion will be made most welcome.

On the Social side we will also be competing against Lodge Salfire in a Karting Challenge on the 13th at ScotKart in Cambuslang. Time for me to put my driving skills to the test (just don't tell my father!)

Remember....if there is anything you would like to see included in this newsletter, please email the Bro secretary direct.

Fraternal Wishes

Scott

“March is a busy month for the lodge...”

Congratulations:

The lodge is very pleased to announce the appointments of Bro Ronnie Gemmill PM, to the position of Provincial Grand Secretary and Bro Tommy Duncan PM as Pres. of PG Stewards. This is indeed a great honour for the Lodge and a massive undertaking for Ronnie which we are sure he will relish.

Donations:

Following the Appeal on behalf of Grand Lodge by PM Bro George Neil, the Lodge raised the magnificent sum of £406.

The lodge increased this to £450 for Grand Lodge Benevolence with an additional £100 towards Scottish Masonic homes

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Obituary:

The Lodge was sad to announce the passing of Petition book No393 Bro David Robertson. David had recently received his Jubilee certificate for services to freemasonry in October last year. A sad loss to the Robertson family and also to the Lodge.

Fellow Craft Degree:

The WJW (ME) Bro Scott Robertson took charge of his second degree in as many weeks in preparation for his position as Master of the Lodge. Entered Apprentice Bro Nathan Brown was the candidate.

The WJW (ME) and his team of office bearers proceeded to instruct Bro Brown into the Second Square or Fellow craft degree in a very capable manner.

Master Mason Degree:

The RWM conferred the Master Mason Degree on the Brother Nathan Brown on the 17th February. This was also Ronnie's Greeting meeting. Attendance was not as expected, however, the brethren finished off the season on a high and a few hours of harmony followed. The RWM thanked all of those brethren who had supported him and the Lodge throughout the year and special mention went to Margaret our Bar Steward for all her hard work in preparing the Soup and sandwiches following each meeting.

Across the Border:

Article kindly supplied by PM John Murray

I moved from Stoneyburn in May 2003 and set up home in the West Midlands in the Province of Staffordshire. I had been a visitor to Victoria Lodge No2848 in Wolverhampton for over 26 years and had assumed I would attempt to join that Lodge or possibly one of the 14 which meet in Wolverhampton. However I was invited to an Installation in a small Shropshire Lodge Albric Festival Lodge No9576 in Shropshire and felt immediately at home This was my kind of Freemasonry, a bit like 1186. After another couple of visits when I was made most welcome I asked if I could join and was pleased to be accepted and was allowed to keep my rank as a Past Master in the Loge but not of it. I progressed through the offices from Senior Deacon and was installed as Master in 2008. It was a great occasion and made even more so by the attendance of Three of my friends and Past Masters from my Mother Lodge Ronnie Gemmill, John Denholm and Murray Brown. The icing on the cake was to have my son Andrew also in attendance.

I also joined Noah's Ark Lodge of Mark Master Masons No 14021 which meets in Tipton in the "Black Country!" of Staffordshire and I am now serving my second year as Master. I also joined Wrekin Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners No 1129 in Wellington, Shropshire, where I am soon to be installed as Junior Warden. I am a regular visitor to Templar Preceptories but have no intention of joining any of them It is rather expensive and so I am happy to remain as a Visitor. As an Ark Mariner I have become a member of a demonstration team who travel round the Provinces demonstrating a R.A.M. ceremony as conferred in Scotland in 1826. This is a great fund raiser for various charities and has seen us travelling far and wide We have now performed in 20 Provinces ranging from Northumberland to Kent and as far East as Lincolnshire and as far West as Mid Wales. It is by all my activities I have gained a special and important friend in the P.G.M. of the joint Mark Provinces of Staffs and Shrops. During my Mastership in the craft I visited 19 of the 33 Lodges in Shropshire and in doing so

.....clocked up just over 1,000 miles of motoring It is a large and far flung Province stretching from Ellesmere in the North to Ludlow in the South. I am thoroughly enjoying my Freemasonry South of the Border and take great pride in conveying the Fraternal Greetings of my Mother Lodge at every opportunity.

Future Articles:

Should any brother have any articles of interest, photographs etc., trips down memory lane, then please submit them to the Bro Secretary, PM Bro Alan Borsbey at the following email address...

bod101uk@yahoo.co.uk

Please note:

Only photographs sanctioned by the owner will be used.

Petitions:

The lodge has received one petition.....

Mr Jamie Rafferty 16 Meadow Road, Stoneyburn. Proposed by PM Bro Alan Borsbey and seconded by RWM Bro Scott Robertson

Mark Your Diaries:

3rd Mar – EA degree by 1186
13th Mar – Karting Challenge
17th Mar – FC degree by 1186 (Prov. Visitation)
22nd Mar – Visit to 1145 to confer EA Degree
31st March - 3 Lodge tie with 409 and 636 at Lodge Buchan St John
4th April – Committee Meeting
7th April – EA degree by 1601
21st April – EA Degree by 1186
9th May – Committee Meeting Recess
25th August – Business Meeting