

# Alexandra Maritime Lodge

No. 8780

Consecrated 15th July 1977

Final Meeting 31<sup>st</sup> May 2024



## A Brief History

A Brief History  
of the  
Forty Seven Years  
of the

# Alexandra Maritime Lodge No. 8780

Consecrated 15th July 1977

Final Meeting 31st May 2024

Compiled as a souvenir of the Lodge

By

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Members of the Lodge

Members of Alexandra Yacht Club

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## Foreword from the Secretary

Alexandra Maritime Lodge was consecrated on 15th July 1977. The background to the formation of the Lodge and its first 25 years can be read about in some detail on the next 20 or so pages, which is an extract from the Short History pamphlet created to celebrate that anniversary. I have added to that history by including complete records for all of the Initiates, Joining Members, Worshipful Masters, Non-Progressive Officers and Provincial Honours awarded.

I am also able to update the charity amount which the Lodge has raised in its lifetime, which at the 25th Anniversary was recorded as being in excess of £25,000. Having trawled through the minutes of the Lodge and collated the sums raised from Charity Column collections, raffles at the festive boards, and Ladies' Festivals and other fun events such as race nights and murder mystery evenings throughout its 47 years, I am delighted to advise that the Lodge has raised and donated to various charities in excess of £100,000.

So to cover the period since then, as chance would have it, I was initiated into the Lodge one year after the 25th anniversary was celebrated, and am therefore able to add some colour to the subsequent period of the Lodge's life, albeit I have opted to do this from a very personal perspective which I hope provides a flavour of Alexandra Maritime's more recent history.

My first thoughts in the months after joining were that in the company of the Brethren I suddenly felt incredibly young at 39 years old. I wondered what would I have in common with this varied group of men, all of whom seemed to be vastly more experienced in life in general as well of course in Masonic matters.

I was a new parent and didn't know anything about raising children at that point - 20 years on I am still not sure I know very much about it - but I was reasonably experienced in financial matters and world affairs having worked for various banks since I was 18. But the typical conversations which took place at the bar on Monday nights after LOI were both alien to me but became absorbing to listen to, if not to contribute to, as topics such as navigation by using the stars and sextants, and stripping down various engines such as motorbikes, cars, marine and even aircraft, were discussed at length.

I was initiated, passed and raised in consecutive meetings, and at the time the whole Masonic world was a blur in my mind. Little did I appreciate the level of commitment that had been put in by the Brethren to be able to deliver those degree ceremonies to such a high standard and particularly with them being in such close proximity to the others.

But Monday nights at Rochford became my routine, interspersed with the five Friday Regular meetings each year which put the LOI learnings to the test. Almost imperceptibly I realised that the regular attendees at those meetings, and at LOI in particular had become my friends rather than just acquaintances.

I was proposed by my father-in-law and Founder of the Lodge (now the last surviving Founder) and seconded by my late brother-in-law, so was very fortunate that my wife was accustomed to "the Monday night is Lodge night" mantra, and it has been a constant feature in my life since joining.

In time I came to realise that there was a determination from the senior brethren to maintain as high a level quality of ritual as could possibly be achieved, and that this was a core value of Alexandra Maritime which has been passed from the Founders through to all the members over the years. And I have to say that there have been some exceptional ritualists during my time in the Lodge, some of whom are with us today.

Throughout every change of Worshipful Master, lodge of instruction has been the beating heart of the Lodge in delivering both the quality demanded by the senior brethren, whilst importantly also giving full encouragement and support to any brother who might struggle with learning and retaining the words. It is of immense pride that no Brother has been denied the right to become Master of the Lodge and to undertake the ritual, provided of course that the necessary effort has visibly been put in beforehand.

Whilst the membership has taken a typically undulating roll call over the years, there has always been a core of attendees at LOI, sometimes down to or below the bare minimum to hold a meeting, but only in the summer months and through the COVID period have LOIs not taken place, even when degree ceremonies were in short supply.

Having mentioned COVID, Alexandra Maritime did sadly lose a couple of stalwart lodge members to the Grand Lodge Above during that challenging time, but it did hold regular zoom calls to maintain the dialogue amongst the brethren. Unfortunately a further couple of members didn't feel comfortable in returning to meetings after the embargo was lifted, putting a bit more strain onto the numbers.

And then in 2021 and 2022 two more longstanding members, the Almoner of nearly 20 years, W.Bro. Stan Diggins, and the even longer serving Treasurer, W.Bro. Michael Hallybone, were diagnosed with terminal illnesses. We were blessed to have them continue to attend lodge whenever possible, and we were delighted that Michael was able to participate in the "What does Freemasonry mean to the Brethren" session we held at our October 2022 meeting, the minutes of which are repeated at the end of this booklet.

Sadly both Stan and Michael passed to the Grand Lodge Above in early 2023, which precipitated a realisation that the remaining number of members was likely to prove insufficient to maintain the Lodge as a viable, going concern. Membership Pathway had been approached but hadn't at that time provided any introductions, and despite W.Bros. Paul Goddard and Eddie Gammage becoming joining members, the writing was on the wall.

But with those two joiners came a message of hope, that the Lodge of Harmony No. 8476 which had itself been on the verge of handing back its warrant, had survived, albeit on bare bones, and that there might be a ready-made home for the Alexandra Maritime members to amalgamate with. The two Lodges convened a small committee of representatives to agree a way forward, and they set out a plan which was presented in open lodge to both lodges for consideration by the respective members.

As a result of supportive outcomes in those ballots, Alexandra Maritime is today sadly handing its warrant back to W.Bro. Shearer, APGM for safe transmission back to the United Grand Lodge of England.

But for the members of Alexandra Maritime Lodge, of whom all who are present today have already become joining members of the Lodge of Harmony, the future is bright. The Membership Pathway scheme has contributed two new candidates, one of whom was initiated into Alexandra Maritime in February, and the other into Harmony just last week.

The work and fun times of Monday night Lodge of Instruction is therefore continuing, but with the added injection of a plethora of enthusiastic newer members. A set of new friends is being forged, and I am extremely confident that brotherly love and affection will continue to distinguish us as men, and as masons.



## ALEXANDRA MARITIME LODGE 8780

### The First 25 Years 1977-2002

On 2nd June the Queen celebrated her Silver Jubilee. The Prime Minister of this country was James Callaghan. Star Wars arrived as did the skateboard. On the world front Jimmy Carter took over the Presidency of the United States from Gerald Ford. Elvis Presley died. In South Africa there was a crack down on anti apartheid activists. Amnesty International received the Nobel Peace Prize for its work to secure the release of political prisoners.

In sport Liverpool Football Club won the League Championship and the European Cup. The FA Cup was won by Manchester United. Bjorn Borg was in the middle of his five years of winning the Wimbledon Championship. Red Rum won his third Grand National. Middlesex and Kent jointly held the County Cricket Championship.

In the yachting world Australia lost to Courageous in the America's Cup and the Admiral's Cup was won by Great Britain.

All this occurred in 1977 when on the 15th July Lodge Number 8780 on the register of the Grand Lodge of England, the Alexandra Maritime Lodge was consecrated at the Masonic Temple, Woodgrange Drive, Southend on Sea. Essex.

### How did this all happen?

From off Southend, in 1863, the Flag Captain to the Commander-in-Chief at the Nore had the honour, in the Formidable, of firing a salute to Princess Alexandra on the occasion of her first arrival in English waters on board the Danish Royal Yacht. In 1873 some gentlemen got together to form the Alexandra Club, named after this popular Princess who had married the Prince of Wales. He became King Edward V 11 in 1901. The Club numbered amongst its members, men of the Church, the Law and Politics. In 1878 the Club first associated itself with the sea by converting itself into a Yacht Club. In 1884/85 it built the superb headquarters on the Cliffs just west of the Pier in an area known as the Shrubbery.

It is interesting to note that one of the founder members of the Alexandra Club was Brother Albert Lucking who later became the Secretary. He brought considerable influence to Southend's Masonic formation and has a Lodge named after him. The Alexandra Club housed, from time to time a "School of Instruction" which continued in the clubhouse until 1939.

About 100 years later a group of members began to think seriously of forming a Lodge between themselves.

At around this time credit cards had taken off in a big way and some of the major banks got together and decided to produce a card under the name of Access. They took over the old Ekco works drawing staff from the various participating banks. Each of which had its own sports facilities. A section of yachtsmen formed their own club and became associated with the Alexandra Yacht Club to use its facilities. Some of these also became interested in joining a local Masonic Lodge.

Informal gatherings of interested Craft members were regularly held. Countless times the feeling was expressed that it was unfortunate that Masonic pursuits could not be followed as a group as the interested parties seemed to have Lodge room, everywhere and anywhere except in Southend.

The first invitation to twenty-five possible members was sent in July 1975 under the name of W.Bro. William (Bill) McLean. He had to withdraw due to the ill health of his wife. This resulted in thirteen replies. Five more names were added soon after. Four further potential members were invited to the first discussion meeting of the formation of a new Lodge held on Sunday 1st February 1976 at 10.30am at the Yacht Club. This meeting was convened by W. Bro. Jimmy Thornton. There were thirteen signatures on the attendance list and no other record was kept of this meeting. At that time the proposed name was the Alexandra Lodge of Essex. As there were other Alexandra Lodges Bro. C.C. Edwards suggested that the word Maritime should be added.

The sum of £110.00 was also paid by each member towards a Founders Fee. At the time the proposed members were asked if they wished to take a progressive or a non-progressive office and if they had any preference for an office.

Recollections of the present founders are that "word of mouth" was the way that potential members were introduced. Some Yacht Club Members who had nothing to do with masonry appeared to know more about it than they should have done and introduced potential members to those who were in the know. This led to some friction and that is why the subsequent meetings were held at the Hope Hotel. At the time the Yacht Club Building had sustained considerable damage due to a cliff slip. There was therefore a considerable amount of activity at the Club. A number of the Founder members of the Lodge were involved in the rehabilitation of the building. Some potential Founders were by personal invitation of existing Founders encouraging them to make contact with the Secretary designate. One such was described "as an affable chap".

In June 1976 contact was made with the Secretary of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Essex. W.Bro. L J Corbett, P.A.G.D.C. that there was potential for a new Lodge based loosely around members of the Alexandra Yacht Club but not exclusively.

#### Informally the Principal Officers were:

W. Bro. R Houseman	Master Designate
W. Bro. F J Halls	S.W. Designate
Bro. CC Edwards	J.W.Designate
W. Bro. F R Vaughan	Treasurer Designate
W. Bro. J O Thornton	Secretary Designate

Subsequently a list of twenty-one names was submitted.

### Alexandra Yacht Club



At the end of September 1976 a favourable response was received from the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro. F.W.R. Leistikow, and it was suggested that the potential members formally petitioned the Most Worshipful The Grand Master His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent to form a new Lodge.

The principal officers considered the replies that they had received from the potential members and the secretary designate approached individuals to confirm their acceptance or an office in the new Lodge.

A copy of the petition was not readily available and had to be obtained from the Archives of Grand Lodge. This confirmed that an approach was made to St Margaret's Lodge No 5168 to see whether they were willing to sponsor the new Lodge. This received their approval and accordingly a petition was prepared requesting that a Lodge be formed. This petition was signed by twenty-three potential members including nine Past Masters. The petition was signed by the Worshipful Master, Senior Warden and Junior Warden of St. Margaret's Lodge, at a Lodge Meeting on 1st December 1976.

The pedigree of the Alexandra Maritime Lodge could then be traced back through the Mother Lodge to the Lodge of True Friendship No 160 and before that most probably, Strong Man Lodge No 45. A copy of the family tree is reproduced with acknowledgement to the assistance given by various brethren who put together the tree.

The petition was submitted to the Provincial Grand Secretary in the middle of February 1977. The letter dated 11th February from the secretary designate stated, "It seems appropriate that our new venture presented herewith should follow the influences of the previous one hundred years and by a unanimous decision it has been decided to request the use of the name: Alexandra Maritime Lodge. Our proposed Lodge would meet at the Halfway House Hotel, Thorpe Bay, which is the successful home of the Eastwoodbury Lodge. The Hotel particularly has become used to the needs of the Eastwoodbury Lodge and that Lodge has agreed to assist our early needs by the loan of their furniture and equipment."

The petition received approval and the secretary designate received a letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary on 31st March 1977 to this effect. The letter was headed "Alexandra Maritime Lodge No. 8780" The letter stated that the Founders would only be those on the petition and if the Lodge decided to adopt a badge, a sketch should be submitted to the Provincial Office for approval.

The pace accelerated considerably from then onwards as there would be less than four months to the consecration of the new Lodge, the consecration being fixed for 15th July 1977.

A meeting took place on 22nd April 1977 at the Hope Hotel when various critical decisions were made. Fees were agreed, the standard Masonic Bylaws were adopted with the blank spaces filled in. A request for designs for a badge had resulted in co-operation between W.Bro. F Halls and Bro C. C. Edwards to produce one and this was approved.

Members put a number of questions about such items as founders Jewels, Lodge Furniture, and dress were resolved. The most important decision was that a Lodge of Instruction should be started, meeting at the Hope Hotel, commencing on 11th May.

It was proposed and seconded that the Director of Ceremonies designate, W.Bro. Grahame Rudkins should be the Preceptor. Various suggestions were put forward with regard to the ritual and the minutes show that it was left that the Preceptor would no doubt note these points and that it be left to him to direct how the work should be carried out. The last item on the agenda confirmed that Mrs Anne Rudkins would be prepared to make a banner for the Lodge. This offer was welcomed by the members and received with enthusiasm. Five years later it was consecrated.

## Consecration

Before anything was done about the consecration ceremony the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. G.Y. Jerman, A.G. Reg. and the Provincial Grand Secretary wished to meet the Master and Wardens Designate, the Director of Ceremonies and any other Founders. This meeting was held in the Council Offices of the County Borough of Southend on 10th June 1977. The form of the consecration meeting was discussed and details given of the part that the Founders would play. At the same time the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies told the members of the new Lodge of the ritual that the Lodge would follow, "Strict Essex Emulation."

The Lodges that the potential members belonged to all had their own working. As many of them were London based and others had very old traditions there was much concern as to the working that would be used. Some members were used to more structured rituals such as Taylors and Universal than the 'Strict Essex Emulation' working. This led to some lively discussion but decisions had to be made.

The minutes of the first meeting of the Alexandra Maritime Lodge of Instruction, held at the Hope Hotel, on Wednesday 11th May are diplomatic on this point. The Chair was occupied by Bro. F. Deal, the Senior Warden was W. Bro. J. P. Merridew and the Junior Warden was Bro. C. C. Edwards. The first piece of business was the election of W.Bro. G.F. Rudkins and W.Bro S.B. Arscott as Preceptors and W.Bro. D.M. Andrew as Secretary. The minutes state that the two Preceptors gave a description of the forthcoming consecration ceremony and details intended to assist on finalising the new Lodge ritual and floor work were discussed by the Preceptors and the L.O.I.

The last meeting of the Lodge of Instruction at the Hope Hotel was on Wednesday 13th July 1977 just before the Lodge was consecrated. Members were not happy with the location and the accommodation provided at this venue.

The great day arrived and the founding members attended early as they had to be rehearsed by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and his Assistants in the floor work for the consecration. At 4.15 the Masonic Temple at Woodgrange Drive, Southend on Sea was full, the founder members seated in named reserved seats with all the invited guests. The Lodge was opened by members of St. Margaret's Lodge No 5168 in the three degrees.

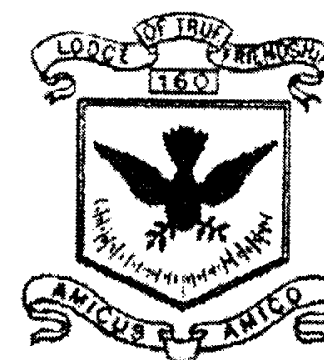
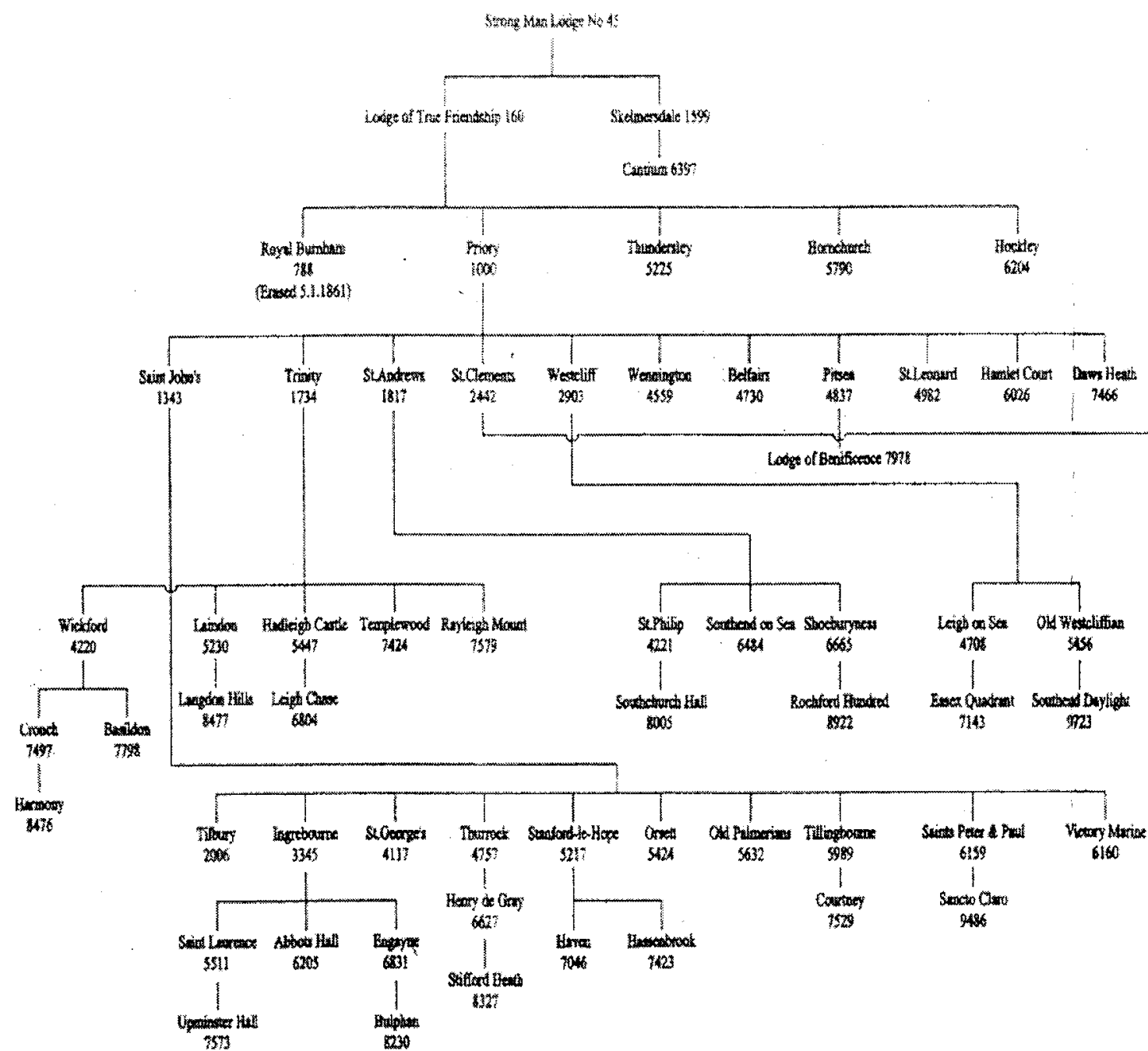
The Consecrating Officer, the Provincial Grand Master, entered in procession taking the chair and appointing his officers. After an opening hymn the Consecrating Officer addressed the members on the motive of the meeting and asked them to approve the Officers named in the Warrant.

After the invocation the consecrating Officer scattered corn, the symbol of plenty, poured wine, the symbol of joy and cheerfulness, poured oil, the symbol of peace and unanimity and finally sprinkled salt, the symbol of fidelity and friendship. Finally the Consecrating Officer dedicated and constituted the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Master vacated the Chair and handed over the meeting to the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W.Bro. Col. A. R. Kiggins, T.D, D.L, J.P. P.G.Swd.B. who installed the Founding Worshipful Master W.Bro. Roy D. Houseman. He in turn invested his Officers.



# Family Tree



- (1) The link between Strong Man Lodge No. 45 and The Lodge of True Friendship No. 160 cannot be proved by the production of a signed petition but the first Worshipful Master, Senior Warden, Junior Warden and Secretary of The Lodge of True Friendship were all senior brethren of Strong Man Lodge.
- (2) Royal Burnham Lodge No. 788 was formed in 1847 and erased on 5th January, 1861. The name was revived in 1927 when Royal Burnham Lodge No. 4904 was formed by Blackwater Lodge No. 1977 (which came out of United Lodge No. 697, itself a daughter of Angel Lodge No. 51).
- (3) Hockley Lodge No. 6204 assisted in the formation of Stonewall Lodge No. 9137, now meeting at Rochford Masonic Hall, but the petition was signed and submitted by the Worshipful Master and brethren of Ingatestone Lodge No. 5167.

- (4) It was long thought that Trinity Lodge No. 1734 was a daughter of the Lodge of True Friendship No. 160 — a minute of approval appears in the records of True Friendship who provided the first Master (W.Bro. Wm. Pissey) and six of the eight founder members — but the petition was signed and submitted by the Worshipful Master and brethren of Priory Lodge No. 1000.
- (5) All the information shown is believed to be correct at the time of printing although any advice or comments would be appreciated.
- (6) Thanks are due to W.Bros. P. T. Vidler (Strong Man Lodge No. 45), J. P. Smooty (Lodge of True Friendship No. 160), C. A. Penny (Leigh Chase Lodge No. 6804) and, especially, J. G. Amos (Earl Amherst Lodge No. 3230) for their assistance in preparing this chart.

**The Officer. and Founders were:**

W.Bro. R.D. Housernan  
W.Bro. A.F. Platt  
W.Bro. F.J. Halls.  
Bro. C.C. Edwards  
W.Bro. J.P. Merridew  
W.Bro. F.R. Vaughan  
W.Bro. J.O. Thornton  
W.Bro. G.F. Rudkins  
Bro. J. Russell  
Bro. W.A.J. Stammers  
W.Bro. D. Andrew  
W.Bro. S.R. Arscott  
W.Bro. F.G. Johnson  
Bro. K.A. Tratthen  
Bro. R. Kerswell  
Bro. E. Deal  
Bro. J.A. Holland  
W.Bro. J. Sealey  
Bro. D.G. Allan-Smith  
Bro. D. Cotgrove  
Bro L. Harrison  
Bro D. Peperell  
Bro. R. Morris

**The Lodge then adopted the Bylaws  
and elected the consecrating Officers  
as Honorary Members.**

**The Honorary Members were:**

R.W.Bro. R. Leistikow M.A.  
V.W.Bro. Col. A .R.Kiggins  
WBro. T.W. Howard  
W.Bro. K.C. Brown P.A.G.D.C.  
W.Bro. J.N. Paync P.A.G.D.C.  
W.Bro. A.O.E. Rees P.A.G.D.C.  
W.Bro. The Rev. W.A.M. Grant  
W.Bro. The Rev. K.A. Vine, M.B.E.  
W.Bro. I.K. Corbett  
W.Bro. G.Y. Jcrman  
W.Bro. C.A. Brown  
W.Bro. F.A. Thornback  
W.Bro. N.E. Decks  
W.Bro. R.G. Metson

Proposal forms for two initiates and four joining members were read out and the Lodge was closed with due ceremony.

The Lodge minute book states that there were 124 visitors and that the Charity box realised the sum of £148.10. £75.00 of that was donated to the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. At the installation meeting in June 2000 in the toast to the visitors the proposer stated that none of the visitors present were at the consecration meeting. This was challenged and the said visitor was found to have not signed the visitor's book nearly twenty-four years ago.

The Founder members then had the summer to relax. After the break the Lodge of Instruction reformed on Monday 12th September at the Railway Hotel, very near the Central Station. It continued at this venue until 1 February 1978. The next meeting was held at the Halfway House, Thorpe Bay, It stayed there for the next three years mainly meeting in the Functions Room where the Lodge Meetings were normally held.

Not only did our members have to get used to their new offices and a new working but they also had to prepare the Lodge for every meeting. The accommodation at the Half Way House was a function room with a separate entry to the rear with toilets and cloakrooms. There was a long corridor leading to a bar area behind the main room. This was our venue and all the Lodge furniture had to be retrieved from a small cupboard. The heavy carpet and the heavy Lodge furniture had to be 'lugged into place' and returned after the meeting. The removal team was usually Jimmy Thornton, Cyril Edwards, Jack Russell, Sid Arscott and Ken Tratthen who was able to get away from his job at Access during lunchtime. New members were encouraged to help and new initiates took part. This again caused a certain amount of difficulty and at the committee meeting of 3rd April 1978 it is noted that the Chief Steward was empowered to call on other members if required to assist the Stewards. The tables for the festive board were then set up by the Stewards for the Staff to lay up for the meal.

The first meeting at the Half Way House was on 7th October 1977 at which Ron Good was initiated. He was a member of the Alexandra Yacht Club and was proposed by the Worshipful Master and seconded by the Junior Warden. He recalls the Commodores bar being the place where Masonry was discussed. This prompted him to enquire more and thus he was balloted for as the Lodge's first Initiate at that meeting. Fred Howes proposed by the Inner Guard and seconded by the Assistant Secretary was also balloted for at that meeting and was initiated on 4th November 1977. He also recalls that the Commodores Bar was the place where Masonry was discussed. He had already talked about the possibility of joining a Lodge with his proposer and seconder as he and his wife had attended Ladies Festivals with them.





At the next meeting on 24th February 1978 a double ceremony was carried out in the presence of one of the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W.Bro. K. C. Brown P.A.G.D.C. At the meeting on 5th May 1978 Bro. Ron Good was Raised to a Master Mason.

The Lodge was honoured in its first year. The minutes of the Installation Meeting stated that warm congratulations were extended to the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. Ray Houseman, on his appointment to the rank of Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies for his work in the Province of Hertfordshire. Also to the Director of Ceremonies W.Bro Grahame Rudkins on his appointment as Provincial Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works from his Mother Lodge - Thomas A Becket.

The final meeting of the first year took place on 2nd June 1978 when W.Bro. F. J. Halls was installed as the second Master of the Lodge. At this time the Lodge working was beginning to be established, some more structured floor work was incorporated because of the need to move a very heavy kneeling stool and the formation of the procession at the end of the meeting incorporated the singing of the National Anthem. At the installation meetings, working tools were presented by Junior Brethren. This helped to bring together the members of the Lodge with a purposeful working. Over the years various pieces of regalia and furniture were presented to the Lodge. These were gratefully accepted and recorded in the minutes.

## Lodge Banner and Jewels

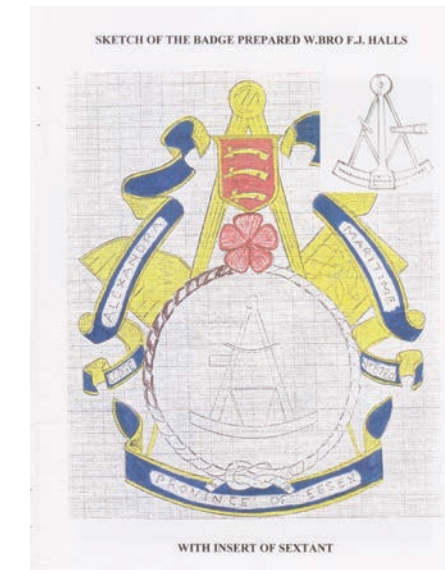
Difficulties had been encountered on the production of the Lodge Jewel. At one stage it was reported that the manufacturer had not produced it to an acceptable standard and could be replaced. The first of the Lodge Jewels was presented by W. Bro. Halls as Master on 6th October 1978. He then gave an explanation of the Jewel.

The design for the Alexandra Maritime Lodge Badge was created with a need to illustrate some reasons for the formation of the Lodge. In the Alexandra Yacht Club in the early 70's, members often met over a pint and had a chat. it did not take long to discover that among them a majority had a common bond. Many were in the craft - some in Essex, London, Overseas and many places. Some enterprising brethren decided that a Lodge of Freemasons was not only required but essential so that the good companionship established in the Club could continue properly and with the necessary security.

The name suggested was of course, Alexandra: but this potential name was discovered to be used by at least three Lodges already. After some discussion a Brother decided that by the addition of the word Maritime there would be a new and personal significance in view of the fact that in the Yacht Club there were professional seamen, amateur, Royal Navy and Merchant Service, yachtsmen, watermen and the like.

Hence, in keeping with the traditional craft design of the Square and Compasses, the pattern of symbols representing the reason for the Lodge was overlaid. Over the Square and Compasses was imposed a white disc on which was drawn a sextant, considered to be the universal instrument of the navigator. Around the disc is intended to be a warp or rope tied by a reef knot, signifying unity of all, in that all are tied by a common tie: whatever their dispositions. Surmounting the disc is a dog rose, adopted and often referred to as the Alexandra Rose. The final identity is effected with the crest of the County of Essex with a streaming ribbon in blue on which is emblazoned the name, number and Province of the Lodge.

W.Bro. F.J. Halls was unhappy with the original drawing for the sextant and found an example in a Children's Encyclopaedia, which satisfied his artistic eye.



At the end of the second Masonic year at the Installation Meeting on 1st June 1979, W.Bro. F. J. Halls installed his successor Bro. C.C. Edwards, the first Master Mason to be the Lodge's Worshipful Master. One of the objects of the formation of a new Lodge is to give Master Masons the opportunity to reach the chair sooner rather than later. At this meeting W. Bro. Fred Johnson was appointed Secretary.

The Founding Master W. Bro. R. Houseman gave thanks to W.Bro. Jimmy Thornton for his untiring effort and the tremendous amount of work that he had undertaken as the Founding Secretary of the Lodge. He proposed that he be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge and said that this was the highest Honour that the Lodge could award him without making him Master. He hoped that we should still see him for many years to come.

The ballot proved unanimous. In reply W.Bro. Jimmy Thornton thanked the Brethren for their kindness and said that although in accepting this Honour it would mean he no longer had a vote in any decision making, the book of Constitution did not state, however, that he would not be able to speak!

The Lodge was settling down in its new venue. There were disadvantages at meeting in a room not designed as a lodge temple. The Inner Guard had a long walk to the door of the Lodge. In the committee meeting minutes of 3rd April 1978 the Secretary reported that he had already had a word with the management about the noise and service.

At the committee meeting on 29th August 1978 it was reported that the Manager was leaving but he assured Brethren that we were booked to the end of 1979. However, the service was still not up to a reasonable standard.

The lodge had suffered its first bereavement, Bro. D.C. Bloxwich. He was Initiated on 20th November 1979, attended the meeting on 7th March and died on 27th April 1980. His widow, recognising his enthusiasm for the Craft. made a donation in his memory.

The necessity of a new venue with more consistent management, sympathetic to a Masonic meeting was becoming important. The Treasurer W. Bro. Frank Vaughan was involved with the possible purchase of a permanent Lodge venue in the Old Court House, South Street, Rochford which had been used by the Rochford Urban District Council until re-organisation of Councils made it redundant. A dispensation was requested to hold an emergency meeting of the Lodge on 10th December 1980.



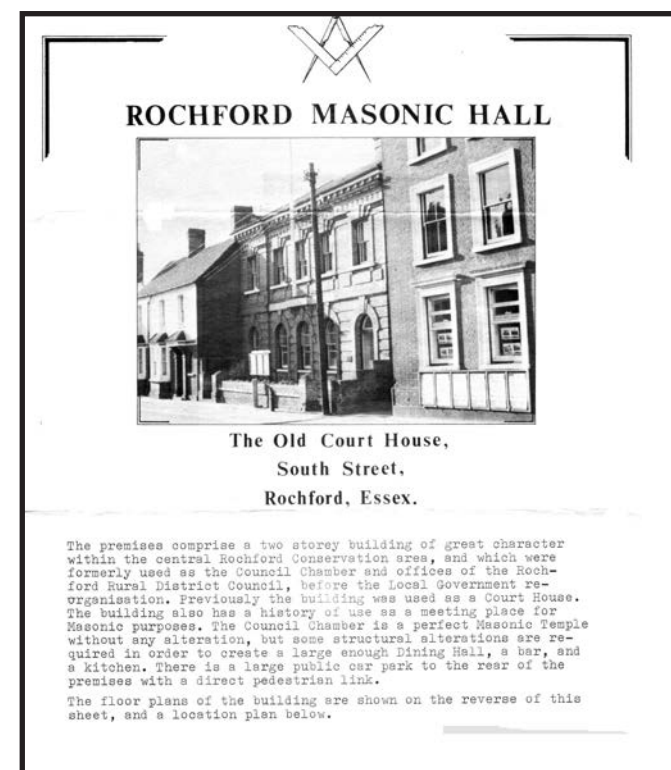
Twenty-two members attended to listen to a full report on the purchase of the building as a Masonic Hall. The building was in good condition and would cost £85,000 with another £15,000 required for alterations. A vote was taken on the Notice of Motion that the Lodge be removed from the Half Way House, Thorpe Bay to the new Masonic Hall at Rochford. It was carried unanimously.

Lodge members played their part in financing the initial cost or purchasing Rochford by donations or loans. They were aware of the advantages to future generations of Masons who would benefit from a permanent venue. To this day a levy is charged to each member of Lodges and Chapters who meet there. Members were invited to the Old Court House on 26th November 1980 to inspect the building. At the time the upper floor was still equipped as a Council Chamber and was well decorated. There was a fitted blue carpet and a large U shaped table took up most of the space with the Chairman seated at the top. The Councillors sat on carver chairs around the table. These chairs are still in use in the temple today.

The front part of this floor would be the new bar area. Brewers would supply the bar and equipment if the gallonage was sufficient over a number of years. The one who eventually supplied the bar included an allowance for wine as well as beer. The ground floor was all offices and this would be opened up to form a dining area, wine store and kitchen. The Lodge became a founding member of the Rochford Masonic Hall and many of its Brethren attended the official opening on 11th September 1981 by the R. W. Provincial Grand Master R.W. Leistikow. In the programme of the meeting, a description of the History of the Old Court House was included.

Having an impressive structural facade in South Street Rochford, the building was constructed in 1859 as a Court House, and the name Rochford County Court can still be discerned on the fascia.

A private property was demolished to make way for the construction, and it is interesting to know that two wells still exist below the ground floor corridor. The building remained in use as a County Court and then as a Magistrate's Court for the Rochford Petty Sessional Division, but fell into disuse in the 1920s. It was purchased by Rochford R. D. C. in 1929 and was used as offices until the 1939/45 War when it doubled up as the Civil Defence Control Centre.



In the 1960s office use was discontinued, though the present Temple was used by the Council as a Council Chamber until recent times. It has also been used by one of our members for holding inquests while in the past it has been used by True Friendship Lodge for Masonic purposes and at least one of the present members of that Lodge was initiated in it!

The Lodge was still meeting at the HalfWay House Thorpe Bay and after a very successful year W.Bro. Cyril C. Edwards installed Bro. Jack Russell into the Chair on Friday 6th June 1980. The incoming Worshipful Master was well known and well respected in the Southend area but nobody believed that after many years as a Master Mason he would take the chair of a Lodge. He was very well supported and the festive board was an extremely lively occasion.

During this Masonic Year the management at the Half Way House was not sympathetic to the Lodge's needs particularly as it was known that eventually the Lodge would move to Rochford. It was becoming more difficult to use this venue and it has been recalled by members of the time, that on arrival for a Lodge of Instruction the functions room was full of soft toys having been let for commercial use. The only place available to us was the cellar. the officers using the steel beer barrels as both seats and pedestals.

The last meeting to be held at this venue was Friday 6th March 1981. After this we had temporary accommodation at Freemasons Hall, Woodgrange Drive, Southend on Sea. At this venue on 5th June 1981 W.Bro. Jack Russell installed Bro. William (Bill) Stammers into the Master's Chair. Unfortunately the Installing Master had suffered an injury to his leg and had been on crutches. His IPM volunteered to wheel him in a wheel chair. Fortunately he only required two sticks on the night and was able to conduct the ceremony with his usual panache. In investing W.Bro. Jack Russell with his Past Masters Collar, the minutes state that the installing Master stated that although well plastered he had carried out his duties bravely. The Lodge of Instruction had already had its last meeting at the HalfWay House on the 9th February and then removed itself to the Esplanade on the Western Esplanade. Likewise the Lodge Committee also met at this new location. They remained there until room was made available at Rochford at the beginning of 1982. The Lodge of Instruction has continued to meet at Rochford to the present day.





The first meeting of the Lodge at Rochford was on 2nd October 1981. At that meeting the death of our Founding Master W.Bro. Roy Houseman was announced. He had been held in high esteem by all who knew him. His dedication to the cause of the Alexandra Maritime Lodge was paramount. His quiet advice to those that held positions in the new lodge and needed assistance was always positive. He kept his counsel when necessary but was firm in his need for regularity and the adherence to the Book of Constitution. The meeting at Rochford was closed with a general feeling of satisfaction with the surroundings in which it had taken place.

The Lodge Banner was consecrated on 5th February 1982 by the Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain the Rev. S. Conway-Lee. In his oration, W.Bro. Conway-Lee paid deserved tribute to Mrs Anne Rudkins, the wife of W.Bro. Grahame Rudkins, the Director of Ceremonies, who over a long period of time had undertaken the detailed and skilled work required. During the ceremony, W.Bro. Grahame acted as Banner Bearer. The banner now hangs in the Temple alongside those of other Lodges which meet at Rochford and is admired with pride by the members of Alexandra Maritime Lodge.

In appreciation for the work carried out to the banner a buffet lunch was held at Rochford and members and their partners were afterwards invited into the Lodge room where a present and a Lodge jewel made into a brooch was presented to Mrs Anne Rudkins at the secretary's table. A memorable year was completed and on 4th June 1982 W.Bro. Bill Stammers installed Bro. Ken Tratthen into the chair. By this time the Lodge was settling into a routine. Its membership was increasing so that during 1983 when W. Bro. Ray Kerswell was in the chair it was necessary to carry out more work at each meeting.

In the minutes of the meeting of 6th April 1984 it was stated the W. Bro. James Thornton presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Harry Munro with the most recent "Thornton" working. Likewise W.Bro. Frank Vaughan was congratulated on receiving Grand Honours as Past Grand Standard Bearer.

In 1984 one of the two remaining Founder Master Masons was installed in the Chair. W.Bro. John Holland. It was followed in 1985 by the joining member W. Bro. Terry Ayre. Once again membership was increasing and more work was carried out at each meeting.

Correspondence and the committee meeting minutes show that various attempts were made to promote our members within Provincial Grand Lodge through the early years. In 1985 Province informed the Lodge that it could make a recommendation for a first collar and a promotion during the next Masonic year. W. Bro. A. Platt was made a Past Provincial Grand Standard Bearer and W. Bro. G. Rudkins was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Superintendent of Works in 1986. Since then Lodge members have been given both Active and Past Provincial Grand Rank and have received promotions within Province from recommendations made by the Lodge. Members also received Provincial Grand Lodge Honours and promotions and were awarded London Grand Rank and Senior London Grand Rank through other Lodges.

On 6th June 1986 W.Bro. Terry Ayre installed Bro. Ron Good. This was a memorable occasion for the Lodge as Ron was the first initiate. This was followed a year later by him installing Bro. Fred Howes the second initiate into the Chair. At the meeting on 4th December 1987, the death of W.Bro. Jimmy Thornton on 12th November 1987 was announced. W.Bro. Fred Halls gave a eulogy in which he recalled the life and high esteem in which he was held in the Province of Essex.

The next master was W.Bro. Fred Johnson who was Founder Assistant Secretary and who had been Secretary and Charity Steward in the Lodge. In 1989 the Lodge commenced four very successful years with Brothers Harry Monro, Kevin Phillips, Michael Hallibone and Charles Gray taking the office of Master. All have continued as principal officers of the Lodge over the years. During that time, once again the Lodge was carrying out two ceremonies because of the increased number of initiates. At the meeting of 6th December 1991 a Salver was presented to W.Bro. Fred Roisetter, a joining member, for his services to the Lodge of Instruction.

On 7th February 1992 W.Bro. C.C. Edwards, the Founder Junior Warden and first Master Mason to become Master, was elected an Honorary Member after a short appreciation of his work by W.Bro. Fred Johnson. Unfortunately W.Bro. Cyril Edwards died on 3rd September that year. At the next Lodge Meeting an appreciation of the work carried out by Cyril in the formation of the Lodge and its subsequent success was given by W.Bro. Fred Halls.

The meeting of the 5th February 1993 was marked by the presentation of a new Master's Collar. The collar had attached to it the Charity Jewel presented on the 275th anniversary of Freemasonry in England. The Lodge also became a Patron of the Essex Provincial Charity Fund.

The last Founder Master Mason to take the Chair of the Lodge was Bro. David Peperell on 4th June 1993. He was followed by another Founder, W.Bro. Sid Arscott on 3rd June 1994. In W.Bro. Pat Knuckey's year the Rochford Masonic Hall was presented with three new Tracing Boards. This was to celebrate forty years in Masonry by W. Bro. Terry Ayre. During this year also W.Bro. John Holland was made an Honorary Member.

The Lodge's first Charity Steward and long time Chaplain W.Bro. Don Andrew became the next Master. He held the distinction of holding the Mastership of two Lodges at the same time. This required a dispensation from Grand Lodge as he was also Master of the Aquilla Lodge in London. W.Bro. Michael Hallibone was appointed an Officer of Provincial Grand Lodge

On 6th June 1997, Bro. Stan Diggins was installed as Master on the 100th Meeting of the Lodge. W.Bro. Fred Halls, the Founder and Second Master of the Lodge was made an Honorary Member at that Meeting. At the February meeting in 1998 W.Bro. Fred Roisetter was made an Honorary Member.

Due to changes in work patterns it became necessary to invite two of the Founder Past Masters, W.Bro. Grahame Rudkins and W. Bro. Alan Platt, who had not taken the chair to act as Master in 1998 and 1999. On 4th December 1998 an unusual meeting was held. After a short formal Lodge Meeting ladies and non-Masonic friends were invited into the Lodge Temple. Members wore their regalia and Officers formed the processions into and out of the Lodge. The officers sat in their normal positions while W.Bro. N. Sebright lectured and demonstrated Freemasonry.

At the end of that Masonic Year a glass goblet engraved with the Lodge Crest was presented to the Lodge Tyler W.Bro. Bob Cook to commemorate twelve years of service to the Lodge.

The Lodge needed another year of recovery and a joining member W.Bro. Tony Pierce was installed as Master on 7th June 2000. At the meeting of 2nd February 2001 the death of W.Bro. Fred Johnson was recorded; a eulogy was given by W.Bro. Fred Howes. The next Master to be installed in the Chair was Bro. Barrie Cheverton. At the meeting of 5th October W.Bro. K. A. Tratthen was made an Honorary Member.



Thus throughout the years seven of the Founder Master Masons and nine initiates have been installed as Masters. Another seven of the Past Master founders and two Past Master joining members have also taken the Chair. Eight Founders, one initiate and one joining member have died. Three of the rounders are presently Honorary Members.

Over the years the Lodge has developed various traditions. W.Bro. T Ayre supplied nuts at the Christmas meeting until his retirement. Cockles from Leigh on Sea have been enjoyed with pre-dinner drinks at the Installation Meetings and now at all meetings. The Lodge has taken part in the Founder Lodges' joint L.O.I. meeting held annually at Rochford. It provides one of the Officers each year. The minutes of the meeting of 11th April 1997 record that the Lodge was particularly proud of Bro. A. Hetherington who acted as Worshipful Mater at the meeting that year.

The Lodge inherited firing glasses from the Alexandra Yacht Club and these have been regularly used at Installation Meetings. Records show that they went 'missing' in 1996 and were found in the basement. In 1998 the Lodge commissioned a Firing Glass with an engraving of the Lodge Jewel. Members now have their personal glass and some glasses have been dedicated to Past Founders. These are used at Installation meetings.

Ladies Festivals have been held up to 1994. at various venues. First at the Old Garons Banqueting Suite in the High Street, Southend, followed, for many years, at the De Havilland Suite near the airport and then at the Southend Masonic Temple in Woodgrange Drive in 1993 and the Arlington Suite, Chalkwell in 1994. In 1995 the Ladies Festival was cancelled and a buffet held at the Rochford Masonic Hall. In 1996 a joint ladies Festival was held with the Aquilla Lodge at the Moat House Hotel near the Airport. At the meeting of 6th October 1997 ladies and guests were invited to the Festive Board after the Lodge meeting. In 1998 Members, their families and guest, were invited to lunch at the Masters home in the summer, in Billericay. From 1999 ladies Festivals have been resumed at the Arlington Suite in Chalkwell.

Over the years the Lodge has become a Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital, Vice-Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, Patron of the Essex Provincial Charity Fund, achieved a Bronze Award for the 2000 Festival and is on the Role of Honour as a Gold Member of the Friends of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

The Master, during the year of the 25th anniversary of the consecration on 15th July 2002, will be Bro. J.B Harkins, W.Bro. Stan Diggins will be Provincial Grand Junior Deacon in the Province of Essex. The lodge Banner has remained in the Temple until recently. It has now been cleaned and renovated in time for its re-dedication on the 25th Anniversary.



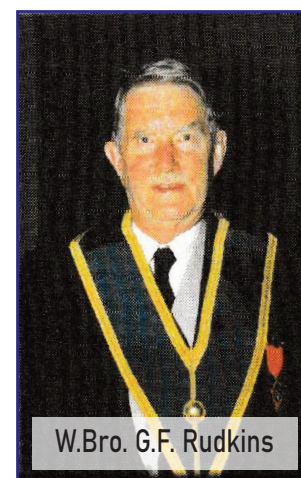
W.Bro. J.P. Harkins



W.Bro. A. Hetherington



W.Bro. T.A.E. Gibbs



W.Bro. G.F. Rudkins

## FOUNDING HONORARY MEMBERS

+ R.W.Bro. G.Y. JERMAN, Past Provincial Grand Master  
V.W.Bro. F.A. THORNBAC, PGSwdB Past Dep Provincial Grand Master

+ R.W.Bro. A.O.E. REES, PJGD, PPJGW  
+ V.W.Bro. C.A. BROWN PPGSwdB

## FOUNDERS OF THE LODGE

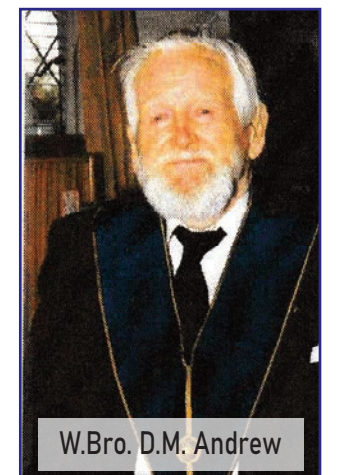
+ W.Bro. R.D. HOUSEMAN, PAGDC, PPGTreas (Herts)  
+ W.Bro. F.J. HALLS, PAGDC, PPDepGDC, PZ  
+ W.Bro. C.C. EDWARDS, PPJGD  
+ W.Bro. J.P. MERREDEW, LGR, PZ  
= W.Bro. F.R. VAUGHAN, PGStdB, PPSGD  
+ W.Bro. J.O. THORNTON, PPGW, PZ  
+ W.Bro. G.F. RUDKINS PPGSuptW  
+ W.Bro. J. RUSSELL, PPGStdB  
+ W.Bro. W.A.J. STAMMERS  
W.Bro. A.F. PLATT, PPJGW  
+ W.Bro. S.B. ARSCOTT, PPGSwdB, PZ

+ W.Bro. F.G. JOHNSON, PPGSwdB, PZ  
+ W.Bro. K.A. TRATTHEN, PPGStdB  
+ W.Bro. R. KERSWELL  
W.Bro. J.A. HOLLAND, PPGSwdB, ProvJGD, PZ  
+ W.Bro. J.C.V. SEALEY, LGR  
+ Bro. D.G. ALLAN-SMITH  
+ W.Bro. E. DEAL  
+ Bro. D. COTGROVE  
+ Bro. L. HARRISON, DFM.  
+ W.Bro. D.M. ANDREW, SLGR, PZ  
+ W.Bro. D.F. PEPPERELL, PPAGDC  
+ Bro. R.M. MORRIS

+ Deceased. = Resigned.

## LODGE MEMBERS

Hon W.Bro. A.F. PLATT (PM) PPJGW  
Hon W.Bro. F.B. HOWES (PM) PPJGW  
Hon W.Bro. H. MUNRO (PM) PPJGW  
W.Bro. C.W. GRAY (PM) PPSGD, PZ  
W.Bro. A. POULTON PPGSwdB, LGR, PZ  
W.Bro. D. SHERWIN (PM) PPGStdB  
W.Bro. R.M. WATERS (PM) PPDepGSwdB, PZ  
W.Bro. S.D. EASTBROOK (PM) PProvJGD  
W.Bro. T.J. MATON (PM) PPDepGSwdB  
W.Bro. S.G. GOLDING (PM) PPAGDC  
W.Bro. S.A.J. BROWN (PM)  
Bro. H.E. MASON  
W.Bro. F. QUACQUARELLI  
W.Bro. P. GODDARD PPGSwdB  
W.Bro. E.P. GAMMAGE PProvSGD  
Bro. R.C. HUGHES



W.Bro. D.M. Andrew



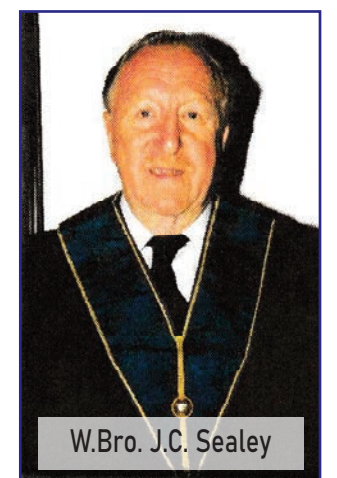
W.Bro. J. Russell



W.Bro. A. Platt



W.Bro. S.B. Arscott



W.Bro. J.C. Sealey



ROLL OF WORSHIPFUL MASTERS

1977	+ W.Bro.	R.D. HOUSEMAN, PAGDC, PPGTreas (Herts).	2001	+ W.Bro.	B. CHEVERTON
1978	+ W.Bro.	F.J. HALLS, PAGDC, PPDepGDC, P.Z.	2002	= W.Bro.	J.B. HARKINS, PPDepGSwdB
1979	+ W.Bro.	C.C. EDWARDS, PPJGD.	2003	= W.Bro.	A. HETHERINGTON, PPAGDC
1980	+ W.Bro.	J. RUSSELL, PPGStB	2004	= W.Bro.	M.Y. KOPKO, PPGSwdB
1981	+ W.Bro.	W.J A. STAMMERS	2005	W.Bro.	D. SHERWIN. PPGStB.
1982	+ W.Bro.	K.A. TRATTHEN, PPGStdB.	2006	= W.Bro.	N.R. EASTBROOK, MBE, PPJGW,
1983	+ W.Bro.	R.J. KERSWELL	2007	+ W.Bro.	M.J. HALLYBONE, PPJGW
1984	+ W.Bro.	J.A. HOLLAND, PPGSwdB., P.Z.	2008	W.Bro.	F.B. HOWES, PPJGW
1985	= W.Bro.	T.E. AYRE, PPJGW, PPJGD, SLGR .	2009	W.Bro.	A.F. PLATT, PPJGW
1986	+ W.Bro.	R.W. GOOD, LGCR, PZ	2010	W.Bro.	R.M. WATERS, PPDepGSwdB, P.Z.
1987	W.Bro.	F.B. HOWES, PPJGW	2011	= W.Bro.	M.Y. KOPKO, PPGSwdB.
1988	+ W.Bro.	F.G. JOHNSON, PPGSwd.B, P.Z.	2012	+ W.Bro.	J. ABRAMS
1989	W.Bro.	H. MUNRO, PPJGW	2013	W.Bro.	S.D. EASTBROOK, ProvJGD
1990	+ W.Bro.	K.R. PHILLIPS, PPDepGSwdB.	2014	W.Bro.	T.J. MATON, PPDepGSwdB
1991	+ W.Bro.	M.J. HALLYBONE, PPJGW	2015	= W.Bro.	R. WENDELKIN, PPGStB
1992	W.Bro.	C.W. GRAY, PPSGD, PZ	2016	W.Bro.	S.G. GOLDING, PPAGDC
1993	+ W.Bro.	D.F. PEPERELL, PPAGDC.	2017	W.Bro.	T.J. MATON, PPDepGSwdB
1994	+ W.Bro.	S.B. ARSCOTT, PPGSwdB, P.Z.	2018	+ W.Bro.	M.J. HALLYBONE, PPJGW
1995	= W.Bro.	P. KNUCKEY, PPGStdB.	2019	W.Bro.	S.G. GOLDING, PPAGDC
1996	+ W.Bro.	D.M. ANDREW, SLGR, P.Z.	2020	W.Bro.	S.G. GOLDING, PPAGDC
1997	+ W.Bro.	S. DIGGINS, PPJGW, PZ	2021	W.Bro.	S.A.J. BROWN
1998	+ W.Bro.	G.F. RUDKINS, PPGSuptW,	2022	W.Bro.	S.A.J. BROWN
1999	W.Bro.	A.F. PLATT, PPJGW	2023	W. Bro.	F. QUACQUARELLI
2000	+ W.Bro.	A.J. PIERCE, PPDepGSwdB, SLGR.	2024	W. Bro.	F. QUACQUARELLI

+ Deceased = Resigned

OFFICERS OF THE LODGE – 1977 to 2024

CHAPLAIN

1977-1982	J. P. Meridew
1982-1988	D. M. Andrew
1988-1989	F. Roisetter
1989-1998	F. B. Howes
1998-2004	D. M. Andrew
2004-2018	F. B. Howes
2018-2022	N. R. Eastbrook
2022-2024	Office not filled

TREASURER

1977-1986	F. R. Vaughan
1986-1988	M. J. Hallybone
1988-1993	F. J. Ambrose
1993-2007	M. J. Hallybone
2007-2008	A. J. Pierce
2008-2018	M. J. Hallybone
2018-2019	S. G. Golding
2019-2023	M. J. Hallybone
2023-2024	S. A. J. Brown

SECRETARY

1977-1979	J. O. Thornton
1979-1981	F. G. Johnson
1981-1991	C. C. Edwards
1991-1992	S. B. Arscott
1992-2005	K. R. Phillips
2005-2012	T. E. Ayre
2012-2016	N. R. Eastbrook
2016-2021	C. W. Gray
2021-2024	R. M. Waters

DIRECTOR OF CEREMONIES

1977-1982	G. F. Rudkins
1982-1987	S. B. Arscott
1987-1990	F. J. Halls
1990-1998	A. F. Platt
1998-2005	T. E. Ayre
2005-2014	J. B. Harkins
2014-2021	R. M. Waters
2021-2024	T. J. Maton

ALMONER

1977-1988	A. F. Platt
1988-1989	J. A. Holland
1989-1993	F. B. Howes
1993-2005	C. W. Gray
2005-2023	S. C. Diggins
2023-2024	S. G. Golding

CHARITY STEWARD

1977-1979	D. M. Andrew
1979-1982	D. C. Osborne
1982-1983	F. B. Howes
1983-1985	J. Russell
1985-1988	F. G. Johnson
1988-1991	R. W. Good
1991-2011	H. J. Munro
2011-2016	R. M. Waters
2016-2017	T. J. Maton
2017-2018	R. M. Waters
2018-2024	T. J. Maton

TYLER

1977-1980	J. Goodfellow
1980-1981	A. Rose
1981-1987	C. Wedley
1987-1999	R. Cook
1999-2006	A. Thoburn
2006-2024	J. Bond



# INITIATES OF THE LODGE

<b>R. W. Good</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>07-07-1977</b> <b>24-02-1978</b> <b>05-05-1978</b>	<b>F. B. Howes</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-11-1977</b> <b>24-02-1978</b> <b>06-10-1978</b>
<b>T. Moloney</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-11-1978</b> <b>02-03-1979</b> <b>04-05-1979</b>	<b>R. A. Mitchell</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>05-10-1979</b> <b>02-11-1979</b> <b>07-03-1980</b>
<b>L. C. Marshall</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>05-10-1979</b> <b>07-03-1980</b> <b>03-10-1980</b>	<b>D. Bloxwich</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>02-11-1979</b>
<b>R. A. Collard</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>02-05-1980</b>	<b>P. E. Hicks</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>07-11-1970</b> <b>06-03-1981</b> <b>05-02-1982</b>
<b>K. R. J. Phillips</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>01-05-1981</b> <b>02-10-1981</b> <b>01-10-1982</b>	<b>R. Benchley</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-12-1981</b> <b>02-04-1982</b> <b>25-03-1983</b>
<b>H. J. Munro</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>01-10-1982</b> <b>04-02-1983</b> <b>02-12-1983</b>	<b>V. F. J. Van Den Burgh</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-12-1982</b> <b>03-02-1984</b> <b>05-10-1984</b>
<b>I. H. Bufton</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-02-1983</b> <b>03-02-1984</b> <b>07-12-1984</b>	<b>C. W. Gray</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>07-10-1983</b> <b>06-04-1984</b> <b>29-03-1985</b>
<b>M. J. Hallybone</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-02-1984</b> <b>05-10-1984</b> <b>29-03-1985</b>	<b>M. J. Curran</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-04-1984</b> <b>07-12-1984</b> <b>07-02-1986</b>
<b>W. H. J. Hull</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>01-02-1985</b> <b>04-10-1985</b>	<b>M. H. Walker</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-12-1985</b> <b>03-10-1986</b> <b>07-10-1988</b>
<b>P. P. Knuckey</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-04-1986</b> <b>05-12-1986</b> <b>02-10-1987</b>	<b>A. F. Carr</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-02-1987</b> <b>04-12-1987</b> <b>08-04-1988</b>

# INITIATES OF THE LODGE

<b>D. C. Sadler</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-04-1987</b> <b>05-02-1988</b> <b>02-12-1988</b>	<b>R. King</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-10-1989</b> <b>01-12-1989</b> <b>02-02-1990</b>
<b>S. C. Diggins</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-04-1990</b> <b>05-10-1990</b> <b>07-12-1990</b>	<b>J. F. Sutton</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>01-02-1991</b> <b>06-12-1991</b> <b>07-02-1992</b>
<b>P. D. Ives</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>12-04-1991</b> <b>06-12-1991</b> <b>02-10-1992</b>	<b>N. R. Blyther</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-10-1991</b> <b>03-04-1992</b> <b>02-10-1992</b>
<b>R. Brannan</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-04-1992</b> <b>05-02-1993</b> <b>02-04-1993</b>	<b>A. Davies</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-12-1992</b>
<b>A. J. Spencer</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>01-10-1993</b> <b>03-12-1993</b> <b>25-03-1994</b>	<b>B. J. Cheverton</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-02-1994</b> <b>07-10-1994</b> <b>02-12-1994</b>
<b>P. C. Moore</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-02-1995</b> <b>07-04-1995</b> <b>01-12-1995</b>	<b>J. B. Harkins</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-10-1995</b> <b>02-02-1996</b> <b>29-03-1996</b>
<b>T. A. E. Gibbs</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-12-1996</b> <b>07-02-1997</b> <b>11-04-1997</b>	<b>V. D. Hall</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-02-1998</b> <b>05-02-1999</b> <b>01-10-1999</b>
<b>J. H. McCartney</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-04-1998</b> <b>02-10-1998</b> <b>26-03-1999</b>	<b>A. W. A. Say</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-12-1999</b> <b>04-02-2000</b> <b>06-10-2000</b>
<b>N. S. Panton</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>06-04-2001</b> <b>05-10-2001</b> <b>01-02-2002</b>	<b>S. J. Gibbs</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>04-10-2002</b> <b>07-02-2003</b> <b>04-04-2003</b>
<b>R. M. Waters</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-10-2003</b> <b>05-12-2003</b> <b>06-02-2004</b>	<b>J. Abrams</b>	Initiated Passed Raised	<b>03-02-2006</b> <b>07-04-2006</b> <b>01-12-2006</b>

### INITIATES OF THE LODGE

<b>S. D. Eastbrook</b>	Initiated	<b>06-10-2006</b>	<b>T. J. Maton</b>	Initiated	<b>02-02-2007</b>
	Passed	<b>30-03-2007</b>		Passed	<b>05-10-2007</b>
	Raised	<b>07-12-2007</b>		Raised	<b>01-02-2008</b>
<b>W. A. Chapman</b>	Initiated	<b>04-04-2008</b>	<b>S. G. Golding</b>	Initiated	<b>05-02-2010</b>
	Passed	<b>03-10-2008</b>		Passed	<b>09-04-2010</b>
	Raised	<b>06-02-2009</b>		Raised	<b>04-02-2011</b>
<b>G. E. O'Farrell</b>	Initiated	<b>01-10-2010</b>	<b>S. A. J. Brown</b>	Initiated	<b>01-04-2011</b>
	Passed			Passed	<b>07-10-2011</b>
	Raised			Raised	<b>03-02-2012</b>
<b>A. F. Wilshen</b>	Initiated	<b>02-12-2011</b>	<b>G. J. Goodman</b>	Initiated	<b>01-02-2013</b>
	Passed	<b>13-04-2012</b>		Passed	<b>06-12-2013</b>
	Raised	<b>05-10-2012</b>		Raised	<b>07-02-2014</b>
<b>M. J. Walker</b>	Initiated	<b>04-04-2014</b>	<b>H. E. Mason</b>	Initiated	<b>06-10-2017</b>
	Passed			Passed	<b>02-02-2018</b>
	Raised			Raised	<b>05-10-2018</b>
<b>R. C. Hughes</b>	Initiated	<b>02-04-2024</b>			
	Passed				
	Raised				

### JOINING MEMBERS

<b>D. C. Osborn</b>	<b>07-10-1977</b>	<b>F. J. Ambrose</b>	<b>07-10-1980</b>
<b>B. J. Lendon</b>	<b>13-01-1981</b>	<b>T. E. Ayre</b>	<b>01-05-1981</b>
<b>H. A. Burrell</b>	<b>05-06-1981</b>	<b>G. F. Roissetter</b>	<b>02-12-1983</b>
<b>A. Hetherington</b>	<b>02-02-1996</b>	<b>C. H. Haworth</b>	<b>02-02-1996</b>
<b>C. Stewart</b>	<b>04-10-1996</b>	<b>A. Poulton</b>	<b>04-10-1996</b>
<b>M. Y. Kopko</b>	<b>05-06-1998</b>	<b>D. Sherwin</b>	<b>05-04-2002</b>
<b>W. J. C. Foreman</b>	<b>06-12-2002</b>	<b>N. R. Eastbrook</b>	<b>06-02-2004</b>
<b>B. C. Arscott</b>	<b>07-04-2006</b>	<b>R. P. Wendelkin</b>	<b>01-10-2010</b>
<b>F. Quacquarelli</b>	<b>05-10-2018</b>	<b>P. Goddard</b>	<b>03-12-2021</b>
<b>E. P. Gammage</b>	<b>06-10-2023</b>		



## PROVINCIAL APPOINTMENTS AND PROMOTIONS

NAME	MASTER	FIRST APPOINTMENT	LAST PROMOTION
F. J. HALLS	1978	1974 – ProvAGDC	1985 - PPDepGDC
K. A. TRATTHEN	1982		PPGStdB
J. A. HOLLAND	1984	1986 - ProvJGD	1994 – PPGSwdB
T. E. AYRE	1985	2005 – PPJGD	2012 – PPGJW
R. W. GOOD	1986		
F. B. HOWES	1987	1994 – PPGStdB	2018 - PPJGW
H. MUNRO	1989	1995 – PPAGDC	2011 – PPJGW
M. J. HALLYBONE	1991	1997 – ProvAGDC	2010 – PPJGW
C. W. GRAY	1992	1996 – ProvAGDC	2001 – PPSGD
S. C. DIGGINS	1997	2002 – ProvJGD	2016 – PPJGW
G. F. RUDKINS	1998	1978 – ProvAGSuptWks	1986 - PProvGSuptWks
A. F. PLATT	1999	1986 – PPGStB	2013 – PPJGW
J. B. HARKINS	2002	2006 – PPAGReg	2014 – PPDepGSwdB
A. HETHERINGTON	2003	2016 – PPAGDC	
M. Y. KOPKO	2004	2006 – ProvGStwd	2014 – PPGSwdB
D. J. SHERWIN	2005	2018 – PPGStdB	
N. E. EASTBROOK	2006	2008 – ProvGStwd	2018 – PPJGW
R. M. WATERS	2010	2013 – ProvGStwd	2021 – PPDepGSwdB
S. D. EASTBROOK	2013	2015 – ProvGStwd	2024 – PPGSwdB
T. J. MATON	2014	2018 - PPAGReg	2023 – PPDepGSwdB
A. POULTON		2018 - PPSGD	
R. P. WENDELKIN	2015	2019 – PPGStdB	
S. G. GOLDING	2016	2022 – PPAGDC	
P. GODDARD		2013 – PProvAGDC	2024 - PPGSwdB

## OFFICERS OF THE LODGE 2023/24

W.Bro.	FRANCESCO QUACQUARELLI	Worshipful Master
W.Bro.	PAUL GODDARD	Senior Warden
Bro.	HERBERT E. MASON	Junior Warden
		Chaplain
W.Bro.	SIMON A.J. BROWN	Treasurer
W.Bro.	RICHARD M. WATERS	Secretary
W.Bro.	TERRY J. MATON	Director of Ceremonies
W.Bro.	STEPHEN G. GOLDING	Almoner
W.Bro.	TERRY J. MATON	Charity Steward
W.Bro.	STEPHEN G. GOLDING	Lodge Mentor
W.Bro.	STEWART D. EASTBROOK	Senior Deacon
W.Bro.	STEPHEN G. GOLDING	Junior Deacon
		Assistant Director of Ceremonies
		Organist
W.Bro.	FRANCESCO QUACQUARELLI	Assistant Secretary
W.Bro.	ALAN POULTON	Inner Guard
		Steward
W.Bro.	JOHN R. BOND	Tyler
W.Bro.	SIMON A.J. BROWN	Immediate Past Master
		Royal Arch Representative

## **APPENDIX TO MINUTES OF MEETING held on 7<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022**

### **Agenda Item 6 – What does freemasonry mean to the brethren?**

#### **W. Bro. Simon Brown**

*First aware of Freemasonry by his Uncle Peter when invited to a ladies night when he was around 19. Was on a table with some friends none of whom were masons, however one of them stood up at the toast to members of other lodges. When asked why he said "I'm a member of the Travel Lodge"!*

*Was introduced to AML via W. Bro. Richard Waters when travelling home on the train after a work event & the discussion moved to what was going on at the weekend, and W. Bro. Richard mentioned a Ladies Night, and the conversation quickly moved to W. Bro. Simon expressing an interest in joining.*

#### **W. Bro. Stephen Golding**

*First encounter was many years ago, but Steve didn't follow up. Then he started to date Maggie, whose father, W. Bro. Ken Tratthen, was one of AML's founder members. He was proposed by W. Bro. Ken and seconded by W. Bro. Grahame Rudkins, another founder member. W. Bro. Steve loves sailing and through the lodge's links with the Alexandra Yacht Club was pleased to meet like-minded people.*

*Particularly enjoys the fact that Freemasonry is a "helping organisation" which contrasts with working for a multi-national corporation. He has never met anyone in freemasonry who has not been welcoming. Finds ritual a challenge but has persevered with it. Has never planned his masonic journey as such, just enjoys whatever has come on his path.*

#### **W. Bro. Harry Munro**

*W. Bro. Munro was born in Rochford and raised in Leigh, where he grew up with all the fishing families of Leigh such as the Gilson, Knapp and Osborne families and spent more time at sea working as a fisherman or running a tug to the pirate radio stations than he spent at school. Trained as an engineer and went to sea in the merchant navy. Worked for Harrisons which was run by a family with strong masonic connections, which operated various dry goods vessels and ferries – including two called Doric and Ionic. W. Bro Harry passed around a photo of one of the firm's vessels which had a square and compasses logo on the side. He became Chief Engineer of MV Harpalyce.*

*When W. Bro. Harry joined AML in 1982 he was welcomed by his employers and then when he became WM he received some silver cufflinks from the company along with medals honouring his service in the merchant navy.*

*Within the lodge W. Bro. Harry became good friends with the likes of W. Bros. Jim Sealey, Jack Russell & Alan Platt. There were some 150 plus attendees at his Ladies Festival at the de Havilland Suite near Southend airport.*

*On the less good side of freemasonry W. Bro. Harry mentioned that while he was in the chair he had had a fall at work from a fire escape, and ended up being escorted in an ambulance by police to the hospital. The IPM called at home after hearing about it and asked about where the Lodge warrant was, rather than asking how he was, which upset*

*both him and his wife Jill at the time. But on a happier note, as WM he initiated W. Bro. Stan Diggins who he had known as a boy but hadn't seen since until that date.*

*W. Bro. Harry mentioned that he had been the Charity Steward for nearly 20 years and that in his mind AML was definitely a happy lodge. The common theme between his with the Leigh fishing families (he married an Osborne!) and his time in the merchant navy and his experiences with freemasonry is that he feels that they are all like families in their own right, which gives them a strength to survive.*

#### **W. Bro John Bond**

*Was introduced to freemasonry by his neighbour who was a member of Eastwoodbury Lodge, and who badgered him constantly about joining. Eventually he succumbed, only to find that he was in his 30s while most of the other members were in their late 60s or 70s. He became Charity Steward where he led efforts to raise lots of funds until after 10 years he went into the Chair, and almost simultaneously turned grey!*

*W. Bro. John used to work in Leigh making bearings & propellers for boats, before changing tack and becoming a plasterer. Freemasonry was the first thing he did which encouraged him to pick up a book, which was a big change in his life. He received promotion to the Provincial Stewards to get his red apron, and joined the TLC campaign where some 72 teddies a week were being provided to Southend Hospital alone. He was then invited to Provincial Grand Lodge to become the assistant to the Assistant Provincial Grand Tyler, and subsequently became the Provincial Grand Tyler himself. W. Bro. John loves being a Tyler and takes particular pleasure in helping candidates, whether initiates or for subsequent degrees, giving them reassurance and a quick lesson in the salutations. W. Bro. John said that it was never his expectation or intention to become a Grand Officer but he is extremely grateful to Freemasonry for giving him such opportunities.*

#### **W. Bro. Paul Goddard**

*W. Bro. Paul was introduced to freemasonry by a very good friend (W. Bro, Tony Goater from Ashingdon Lodge) after he had seen him getting ready for a meeting and saw the ritual book and asked where he was going, and then asked to join, which he did. The first person he recalls meeting was the Tyler, W. Bro. Bob Cook.*

*W. Bro. Paul then asked all the brethren to explore how the lodge can encourage more candidates to come forward and how to make the social side more interesting in order to attract more people.*

#### **W. Bro. Michael Hallybone**

*His introduction was through his wife Martine's family, whose father, W. Bro. Alan Platt was a founding member of AML. Michael had met Martine while working in London and their second date was going to a Ladies' Festival dinner for W. Bro. Alan's London lodge, held at the Park Lane Hotel. Three weeks later they were engaged, and 7 months later they were married. W. Bro Alan was his proposer, and W. Bro. Fred Johnson was his seconder, he was interviewed by the committee and Past Masters prior to which he had received some helpful prompts! Only three of those past masters are still with us today. W. Bro. Jack Russell's ritual was very amusing, and W. Bro. Alan Platt did some of the initiation work but W. Bro. Michael was – like most initiates – rather bamboozled by the whole ceremony.*



W. Bro. Michael became Treasurer about two years after his initiation, only relinquishing the post for the years when he was a Warden or WM. Going through the Chair was a personal highlight. He has really enjoyed coming back to Monday night LOIs where after the rehearsal works W. Bro. Stan Diggins would regale the brethren with many stories of being an AA repair man and an airline pilot.

The most important thing about freemasonry is the fact that everyone is equal, which is a very refreshing outlook on life. W. Bro. Michael stated that joining the Lodge was one of the best things he had done in his life, and it has been a really enjoyable 38 years.

#### **W. Bro. Alan Poulton**

W. Bro. Alan was a drummer in a jazz band which had been in a residency at the Prince of Wales pub in Drury Lane for a seven year stint. One day someone came in and approached him and asked him if he would like to come to have a look round Grand Lodge on Great Queen Street. When he went to meet him he was with two others and they had turned up in their aprons and regalia and asked W. Bro. Alan to join their lodge (Upton Cross). He was initiated at the Great Eastern Hotel in Liverpool Street, and was as confused by the ceremony as everyone else is – but once the blindfold was removed he recognised a whole load of the customers from the Prince of Wales pub. He attended LOI at the Stock Exchange & with Caribbean Lodge.

When W. Bro. Alan decided to retire he sold his house in London and bought a place in Greece and a flat in Southend. He purchased the Southend flat from George Ward who had a square & compasses above his mantelpiece, and who also left a list of names and numbers of local lodges. The second number he rang was that of W. Bro. Dave Allan-Smith (a founder of AML) who invited him along to the yacht club where he met with W. Bros. Jim Sealey, Stan Diggins & Sid Arscott, without knowing that they were all masons, but soon after W. Bro. Sid asked him to become a joining member.

In W. Bro. Alan's experience, AML has always had good ritual, good attendance levels and a good atmosphere. Whilst it is currently short of members he has no regrets at all about joining the lodge.

#### **W. Bro. Richard Waters**

W. Bro. Richard's introduction to freemasonry was very similar to W. Bro. Michael's, after starting to go out with Melody & then being invited to Ladies' Festival dinner dances by Melody's father W. Bro. Alan Platt. The first was in 1987, and whilst being intrigued by the various toasts and songs etc. then took 15 years to ask W. Bro. Alan to propose him to join the lodge. W. Bro. Michael seconded the proposal. He has memories of W. Bro. Alan Thoburn who was then Tyler for AML who had to try to hide the metal buttons on the dress shirt which if they had been discovered would have meant the ceremony having to be repeated!

W. Bro. Richard was both honoured and terrified in equal measure when in 2006 he was asked (in fact was told!) that he would need to learn the first degree ceremony for the Rochford Lodges Joint Lodge of Instruction ceremony in order to "initiate" the then Deputy Provincial Grand Master V.W. Bro. Peter Holland. Subsequently being asked to be a Provincial Steward and then a Provincial Assistant Director of Ceremonies were big commitments in time and were also slightly nerve-wracking but ultimately enjoyable experiences when escorting APGMs to meetings.

The one thing that W. Bro. Richard thinks should be changed is the tradition that we wait until a potential candidate asks to join and that we ought to try to be more proactive in inviting friends to come along to try freemasonry out.

#### **W. Bro. Roger Davis (guest organist)**

W. Bro. Roger joined back in 1984 and in his experience visiting lodges is the key to having the best masonic experiences. The group of ten Masters from the local lodges who were in the chair in the same year as W. Bro Roger all still meet up regularly some 30 years later. The loss of many masons through Covid was a big blow, with Essex freemason numbers dropping from about 11,000 to 8,000 in two years.

W. Bro. Roger encouraged the brethren to take up the Membership Pathway scheme and to actively encourage people to join. He has had nearly 40 years of fun times from his membership.

#### **W. Bro. Terry Maton**

W. Bro. Terry had known that one of his uncles had been a freemason but that didn't give him a route into masonry, and in fact he had had zero contact with any form of masonry until he joined the Alexandra Yacht Club because the radio club met at their clubhouse. There he met with Bro. Bill Foreman at a fancy dress evening when W. Bro. Terry was wearing a country & western style outfit and Bro. Bill just came up to him and said "have you ever thought of joining freemasonry?" and introduced him to W. Bro. Stan Diggins who told him the essentials.

W. Bro Terry duly attended a ladies festival evening and then joined and immediately felt welcomed into the masonic family and realised that it was a level playing field and a safe environment, with love and harmony at its core. Visiting other lodges has become a passion where the ever widening circle of friends is best achieved at the Festive Boards.

W. Bro Terry's memories of his initiation were of seeing W. Bro. Norman Eastbrook's beaming smile welcoming him once the blindfold had been removed, and then of seeing two former work colleagues who were present at his initiation, W. Bros. Mike Elliott and Paul Harris. He also hadn't realised that W. Bro. Alan Poulton was a member despite knowing him through the yacht club. Subsequently as WM he was delighted to have been able to initiate his candidate Bro. Bert Mason.

Now as both Charity Steward and Director of Ceremonies he is being kept very busy but is loving freemasonry. He did suggest that with the rise of special interest lodges that it might be a good time to rebrand AML as a specialist nautical lodge.

#### **W. Bro. Francesco Quacquarelli**

W. Bro. Francesco used to visit an elderly lady as part of a scheme to help the aged and to befriend someone who was at risk of being lonely. His boss at work found out that he was doing this and said to him that he thought that he would be a good freemason. Bro. Francesco then stated that he had been slightly worried as the Italian historical view of freemasons isn't particularly good, so he spoke with W. Bro. Steve Golding who reassured him that there was no cause for concern.

*Having joined his boss's lodge in Colchester Bro. Francesco was invited to attend AML LOI and was then persuaded to become a joining member. He considers the lodge to be a strong bond of friendship akin to a family.*

**Bro. Bert Mason**

*As (at the time of writing) the most recent initiate of AML, Bro. Bert joined after having met with W. Bros. Stan Diggins and Terry Maton at a charity event. He had never thought about joining a lodge although he had known a number of masons through his work. He came along to meet with the LOI members for a few weeks running to get to know everyone at the bar and then decided to join.*

*Bro. Bert said he thoroughly enjoys his masonry although he does find the ritual challenging trying to learn the lines at his age. His only regret is not having joined earlier in his life.*

*Bro. Bert said that his wife Shirley would love him to go out visiting more often – saying that she and their daughter thought that he was so boring at home and it was better when he went out! He is pleased that as a lodge we don't take anything too seriously and that we aim to do our best but to enjoy ourselves without any undue pressure being applied.*