

CROYDON LODGE OF FREEDOM



THE LODGE HISTORY

75 YEARS
1943 – 2018

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CROYDON LODGE OF FREEDOM

The Beginning

The word 'Freedom' in our name is synonymous with the era during the Second World War when the Lodge was formed and consecrated. At that time freedom was a concept of world significance, deeply rooted in human nature, and the Union flag and the flaming torch, used in the Lodge logo, encapsulated the national focus on remaining a free and unoccupied democracy.

Founding a Lodge called Freedom at that time was a means by which the founders could demonstrate noble qualities and the finest of aspirations. Two of the founders were members of Old England Lodge, No. 1790, which was consecrated in 1879, and is still in existence, so that Lodge is a 'Mother Lodge' of Freedom's.

The Founders and the First Meeting

There were 25 Founder Members and the Lodge was consecrated on Wednesday, 9th June, 1943, at Freemasons' Hall, London, with the Ceremony being performed by R.W.Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Mann, *OBE, MC*, Provincial Grand Master, assisted by W.Bro. Sir Robert Evans *PGD*, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The date on the Warrant from Grand Lodge is the 23rd April, 1943.

At that time the membership consisted of 10 shopkeepers (hence the reason for choice of a Wednesday afternoon for the meeting day, as shops then closed for the afternoon), 3 publicans, one Royal Navy Petty Officer, and various other professionals and tradesmen. The Founders' Fee was 10 guineas, the Annual Subscription 3 guineas, and the Joining Fee 5 guineas. There were 134 visitors present at the Consecration and every one used a fountain pen to sign the register!

It is recorded that the first set of "equipment" for the Lodge cost the princely sum of £232.10.0 (£232.50).

The first meeting took place on Thursday, 8th July 1943, at 5.00 p.m. at the Café Royal, North End, Croydon, and there were 17 Officers, 2 Past Masters, 12 Members and 39 Visitors attending.

At this July 1943 meeting, 2 new Masons were initiated, and a further five 5 joined from other Lodges.



*The Temple at The Café Royal,
North End Road, Croydon*

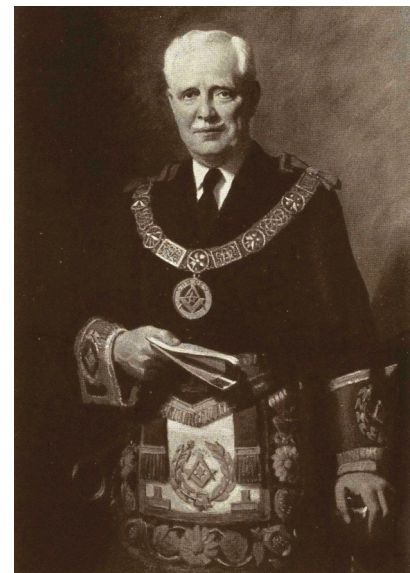
The Following Years

By the end of 1943, the Lodge had 32 members and within a year this had risen to 40 members.

Probably the most famous member was Thomas Roy “Tommy” Powell, who joined in 1947, and was a florist by trade, but also the Official Timekeeper for the British Boxing Board of Control. He officiated at all major boxing matches.

The Lodge Banner was dedicated on the 5th July 1950, and the Dedicating Officer was, again, R. W. Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Mann, Provincial Grand Master.

On the 16th July 1955, the Lodge meeting place was moved to the Masonic Hall, Oakfield Road, Croydon.



R. W. Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Mann, Provincial Grand Master 1941-1962



*Croydon Masonic Hall
Oakfield Road*

On the 26th April 1978, the first set of typewritten minutes appeared in the Minute Book.

On the 26th September 1979, it was proposed that the May meeting of the Lodge be moved to the third Wednesday in November.

Prior to meeting for Lodge of Instruction at the Croydon Masonic Hall, the Lodge met at the Railway Bell Pub at West Croydon.



Railway Bell, West Croydon



In 1981, the Almoner at that time adopted the dual role of Charity Steward. This was subsequently split into two roles in 1984.

On the 22nd September, 1993, the Lodge celebrated its Golden Jubilee, 50 years since inauguration, and W.Bro. Clive Hennessy, as Chaplain, read the Oration, given by the Consecrating Chaplain at the original ceremony. The meeting was followed by a six-course Festive Board.

In 1994, the Lodge opened a Charity Relief Chest.

On the 22nd April, 2009, it was announced that Bro. Rumel Rahman had been awarded the Provincial Grand Master's Master Mason Award of the year.

In June 2011, W.Bro. Bob Ord received the Provincial Grand Master's Certificate of Achievement.

On the 25th January, 2012, Honorary Membership was conferred on R. W. Bro. Eric Stuart-Bamford, Provincial Grand Master.

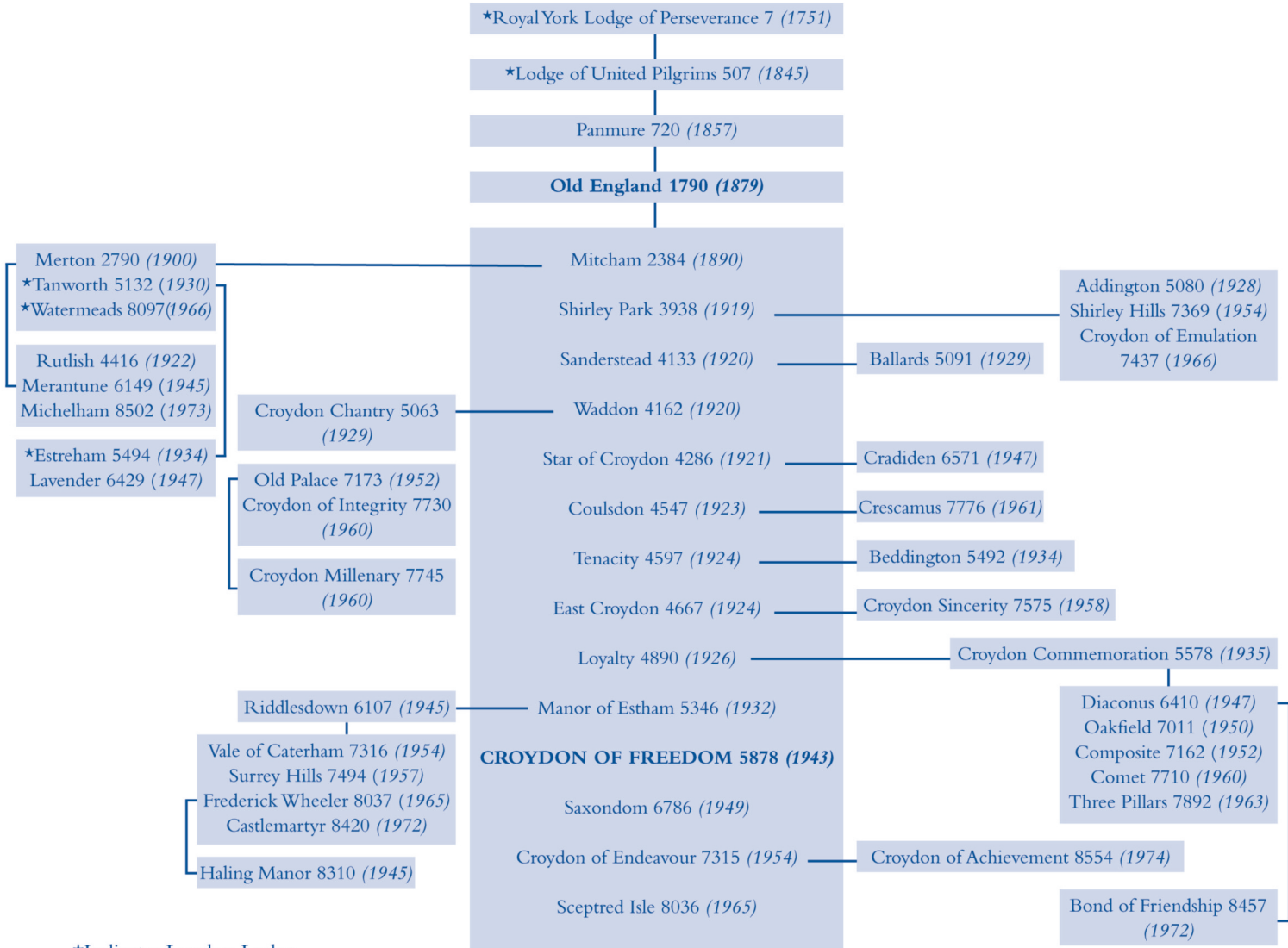
On the 20th November, 2013, W.Bro. David K. Else, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, presented a 50th Anniversary Certificate to W.Bro. David Dawson, PPJGW, who had been initiated into the Lodge on the 25th September 1963.

On the 22nd January, 2014, W.Bro. Chris Wheeler presented a 50th Anniversary Certificate to W.Bro. Jack Proud, PPJGW, who had been initiated into Greenwood Lodge, No.1982, on the 7th March, 1964.



The Wheeler Temple, Croydon Masonic Hall

The Lodge's ancestry



*Indicates London Lodge.

All other Surrey Lodges.

Confirmed by Grand Lodge Librarian and Curator, February 1977
 Compiled by W.Bro. P.H. Smith with the assistance of Secretaries
 of many of the Lodges.

This graphic made by
 W.Bro. Peter Cartwright, April 2018

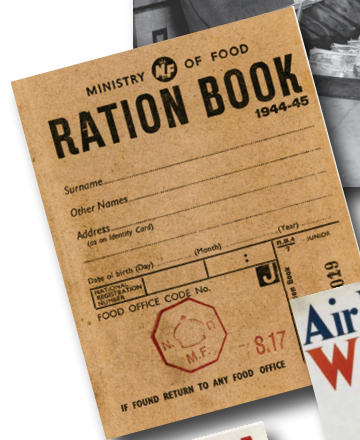
The Founder Members

Name

Richard John Hutson
Henry Herbert Edwards
Wilfred Edwin Driver
Ernest Ben Tullett
William Paul Jager
Lionel George Banwell
Frank Potts
Edwin Arthur Driver
George Henry Burton
James Matthias Crust
Frederick George Bisley
Charles James Young
Edwin Arthur Turner
Ernest William Gordon Fryer
George Thomas Clark
Ernest John Adams
Richard Charles Smith
William George Green
Reginald Charles Beck
Frank Jackson
Ernest Clough
Roger Sydney Keeling
Frank Charles Cook
James Evans
Albert Dyer Read

Occupation

Motor Engineer
Fruiterer
Plumbers' Merchant
Supervisor, Croydon Borough Council
Certified Accountant
Magistrates' Clerk
Butchers' Manager
Plumbers' Merchant
Fishmonger
Master Butcher
Master Butcher
Butchers' Manager
Licensed Victualler
Technical Representative
Publican
Electrician
Caterer
Commercial Clerk
Chief Petty Officer, Royal Navy
Electrical Engineer
Company Director
Wholesale Potato Merchant
Engineer
Licensed Victualler
Wholesale Tobacconist



Initiates of the Lodge

1943	Douglas Beaumont Herbert Francis Horace Jeffries Philip Chiappa Vedast Thomas James Evans		Charles Herbert Snelling		Victor John Bignell
1944	David Jorweith Harold Williams William Owen Keeping Lawrence Maxwell Peck Alfred Zoroaster Taylor William Henry Pain Leonard Sidney Choules Arthur Maurice Driver	1951	Sidney George March Frank Alfred Dean Dyer Thomas Nix Sidney Larsson Arthur Ronald Marks Basil Serne	1965	Ronald Leslie Hopkins Colin Edward Greenfield
1945	Charles Sidney Warren Robert Fredrick Wilson Thomas Henry Weston Reginald William Hayward Alfred Charles Shadbolt	1952	Ernest Richard Short George Albert Sargent Arthur Herbert Herring Harry George Farley	1966	Sidney Charles Oelman John Frederick Atkins Frederick George Evans
1946	Albert Edward Dudley Arthur Etherington Downer Isaac Allen Cooke Charles Frederick Palmer Arthur George Woolmer Victor Ernest Mitchell Ronald Martin Panniers Alfred Frank Cox	1953	Walter Weston Arthur Samuel West	1967	Albert Victor Jeffreys Ralph Edwin Rupert Parker
1947	John Leonard Savage Royston Clark Harold Francis Dickins Henry Samuel Skipp	1954	Thomas Arthur Barnett Herbert Francis Websdale Sidney Charles Farley	1968	Sidney John Relfe Davis Edgar Marley Harry William Songhurst
1948	William John Hammerton Douglas Henry Weston Walter John Cross William Albert Heath James Lodge William Turner Alfred Edward Baldwin	1955	Walter Turner Arwyn Anthony Rowlands Derek Charles Randall Darby	1969	John Wesley Fothergill Robert Arthur Ord Edward George Barnes
1949	Harold Edward Davey Walter Thomas Sherlock William Charles Cook Francis John Stevens John William Cherry Albert Charles Clift	1956	Leonard James Rapley John William Hope Reginald Pitt Albert Fredrick Wigley	1970	John Fitzroy Roberts James Norton Turner Reginald Alfred Jenkins
1950	Leonard Brian Fox Christopher George Read Raymond William Harding	1957	Thomas Wynn Morgan Kenneth Albert Stapely	1971	Sydney George Cook Frederick Reuben Daucey Green
		1958	Alfred Thomas John Ellis Robert Bird	1972	Leonard John Stannett
		1959	Ernest Edward Bloomfield George Joseph Sinfield William Stockdale	1973	Ronald Alfred Harris Arthur Ernest Turk Joseph John Harper
		1960	Lionel Lewis Hennessy Kenneth Read Courier	1974	Frank William Golding William Frederick Hills
		1961	Douglas Thomas William Charles Jaggs John Burden Blackford	1975	Raymond George Rodley Bernard Stanley Vallis Anthony Aldridge
		1962	Henry Arthur Hodgkinson James Edward Fitzgerald Edgar William Francis Doore	1976	Clive Hennessy
		1963	Leslie Stuart Dickins Edward William Harvey Emerson David Dawson	1977	Frank Benjamin Allan Wainford Allen Reginald Bostock Brian George Wood
		1964	Kenneth James Dexter Charles Walter Sinfield	1978	Malcolm James Campbell Peter Leslie Smith
				1979	Richard John Oelman John William Parker
				1980	George Jalfon Kenneth Edward Richard Peach
				1981	Cam Leslie Burnell Allan John Preston
				1982	Frank Turp Raymond Gerard Wood

1983	Peter Beaumont Lawrence Peter Thompson	1993	Steven Sheppard Roger Patock John Rynne	2002	Ronnie James Smith
1984	Nicolas Raymond Gras	1994	Mark Graham Talliss	2004	Alan John Brockwell
1985	Anthony Leroy Turk	1995	Robert John Masterson	2005	Richardo Huggins Rex Alan Bygate
1986	David Charles Dugan Lance Michael Hurst	1996	John Winston Wilkes Macey	2007	Rumel Syed Habibur Rahman
1987	Reginald John Kearn	1996	Mark Anthony Weyman	2008	John Arnold Hazell
1988	David John Bone John Terence Moore	1996	Paul Matthew Bermingham	2009	Harry Jay Campbell
1989	David Godfrey	1997	Michael William Rynne Andrew Robert Booth	2010	Stephen Terence Priestley
1990	Peter Paul Flaherty David John Miller	1998	Ian Hamilton Martin	2011	Warren Peter Inniss James David Arnold
1991	Gary Steven Nicholl	1998	Nicholas Eric Leigh	2013	David Addawoo Marc Nicholas Mason
1992	Frank Ganley David Charles Clayson	1999	Derek Ronald Marriot		Darren James Kay Martin Pitchley
		2000	Jason Victor Francis Thorndycraft	2014	Muhammad Haseeb Akram
		2001	Richard William Moth		1943

Joining Members of the Lodge

1943	Phil Hitchen Christopher James Green Frank Sellens Thomas Goymer William Thomas Reeves	1790, Old England 5164, Croydon Lodge of Unity 4957, Living Stones 4466, Dilkusha 552, Morning Star, Lucknow 1790, Old England	1989	Barrie John Luscombe	5541, Benhilton
			1992	Henry Ernest Pope	5402, Worcester Park
			1994	James Harold Smithson	236, St. John 3434, Proscenium 4875, Tableau
1944	Fred Johnson William Thirley Pearce Thomas Towleron Bishop	4863, St Quintin Park 496, Peace and Harmony 1861, Claremont		John Ronald Paterson Hodges	7210, Lodge of Aviation
1947	Thomas Roy Powell Fred Smith	5379, Eden Park 5379, EdenPark	1997	Eric John Ballard	8141, Croydon of Fellowship
1948	Joseph Henry Spencer Frederick George Batch	2203, Farnborough and North Camp 4044, Lakedale	2000	Leonard Henry Knight	7402, Derwent
1949	Leonard Ambrose Bayly	7060, John Mobes	2002	George Jalfon (<i>Re-joined</i>)	8141, Croydon of Fellowship 8297, Shannon 5888, East Surrey Masters
1950	Frederick Charles Woodham Harry Barclay	793, Pelmont (Scottish Constitution) 1081, Elysium (Scottish Constitution)		Graham Evans	8242, Hand of Friendship 8612, William Fawcett <i>Honorary Member</i>
1951	Francis William Cowell	4547, Coulsdon	2012	Eric Stuart-Bamford	1982, Greenwood
1953	Henry James Isaac	177, Domatic		Alan Irving	1982, Greenwood
1970	George William Holmes Conrad Herbert Martin	6548, Mountsfield 7114, Manor of Bensham 90, Royal Edward (Montreal, Canada)		Edward St. Clair Kellaway	1982, Greenwood
1972	Dennis Raymond Birch	4376, Burstow		William John Frederick Proud	1982, Greenwood
1978	Edgar John Tingley	6495, Friendship and Welcome			
1980	Ronald William Cornish Derek Bennett	167, St. Johns 5334, Crogdaene			
1981	Noel Joseph Daly	7159, Godstone			



Worshipful Masters of the Lodge

1949 Ernest William Gordon Fryer	1982 Reginald Alfred Jenkins
1950 James Matthias Crust	1983 Ronald Alfred Harris
1945 Lionel George Banwell	1984 Arthur Ernest Turk
1948 Charles James Young	1985 Bernard Stanley Vallis
1949 Ernest William Gordon Fryer	1986 Clive Hennessy
1950 James Matthias Crust	1987 Allen Reginald Bostock
1951 Herbert Francis Horace Jeffries	1988 Peter Leslie Smith
1952 Douglas Beaumont	1989 John William Parker
1953 Christopher James Green	1990 George Jalfon
1954 Frank Sellens	1991 Frank Turp
1955 Thomas James Evans	1992 Raymond Gerard Wood
1956 Arthur Everington Downer	1993 Peter Beaumont Lawrence
1957 Ronald Martin Panniers	1994 Anthony Leroy Turk
1958 Arthur George Woolmer	1995 Nicolas Raymond Gras
1959 Harold Francis Dickins	1996 Peter Paul Flaherty
1960 Walter John Cross	1997 David Charles Clayson
1961 Douglas Henry Weston	1998 Roger Patock
1962 Walter John Cross	1999 Steven Sheppard
1963 Alfred Frank Cox	2000 John Rynne
1964 Sidney Charles Farley	2001 Robert John Masterson
1965 Francis John Stevens	2002 Mark Anthony Weyman
1966 James Lodge William Turner	2003 Michael William Rynne
1967 Charles Herbert Snelling	2004 James Norton Turner
1968 Ernest Richard Short	2005 Derek Ronald Marriot
1969 Derek Charles Randall Derby	2006 John Rynne
1970 John William Hope	2007 Michael William Rynne
1971 Kenneth Albert Stapely	2008 David John Miller
1972 Ernest Edward Bloomfield	2009 Peter Paul Flaherty
1973 Lionel Lewis Hennessy	2010 James Norton Turner
1974 Emerson David Dawson	2011 Alan John Brockwell
1975 Victor John Bignell	2012 Rumel Syed Habibur Rahman
1976 Ralph Edwin Rupert Parker	2013 Alan John Brockwell
1977 William Bostock	2014 Michael William Rynne
1978 Robert Arthur Ord	2015 John Arnold Hazell
1979 James Fitzroy Roberts	2016 Robert Arthur Ord
1980 James Norton Turner	2017 Edward St. Clair Kellaway
1981 Sydney George Cook	2018 Alan Irving

Secretaries of the Lodge

1943 to 1953	Lionel George Banwell
1953 to 1957	Herbert Francis Horace Jeffries
1957 to 1962	Sidney Charles Farley
1962 to 1978	Arthur Etherington Down
1978 to 1982	John William Hope
1982 to 1987	Ralph Edwin Rupert Parker
1987 to 1990	James Fitzroy Roberts
1990 to 2001	Ronald Alfred Harris
2001 to 2002	Frank Turp
2002 to 2003	Leonard Henry Knight (Acting)
2003 to 2006	Leonard Henry Knight
2006 to 2008	George Jalfon
2008 to 2009	Frank Turp (Died in office)
2009 to 2010	Nicolas Raymond Gras (Acting)
2010 to 2015	Nicolas Raymond Gras
2015 to Present	Alan John Brockwell

Almoners of the Lodge

1943 to 1944	James Matthias Crust
1441 to 1947	Ernest Clough
1947 to 1953	Wilfred Edwin Driver
1953 to 1954	William George Green
1954 to 1956	Douglas Beaumont
1956 to 1965	Edwin Arthur Driver (Died in Office)
1966 to 1977	Alfred Frank Cox
1977 to 1983	Victor John Bignell
1983 to 1984	Lionel Lewis Hennessy
1984 to 1987	Ronald Alfred Harris
1987 to 1995	Victor John Bignell
1995 to 1999	James Fitzroy Roberts
1999 to 2013	David Charles Clayson
2013 to Present	Michael William Rynne

Grand Officers of the Lodge

1996	W.Bro. Richard John Hutson PGSt.B
1968	W.Bro. Henry Herbert Edwards PGSt.B
1975	W.Bro. William Paul Jager PGSt.B
1998	W.Bro. Clive Hennessy PAGDC
2017	W.Bro. Nicolas Raymond Gras PAGDC

Treasurers of the Lodge

1943 to 1981	William Paul Jager
1981 to 1988	Robert Arthur Ord
1988 to 1999	Reginald Alfred Jenkins
1999 to 2010	Nicolas Raymond Gras
2010 to 2013	John Rynne
2013 to 2017	Alan Irving
2018 to Present	John Arnold Hazell

Charity Stewards of the Lodge

1984 to 1986	James Norton Turner
1986 to 1988	Reginald Alfred Jenkins
1988 to 1992	Victor John Bignell
1992 to 1994	Frank Turp
1994 to 2001	John William Parker
2001 to Present	Peter Paul Flaherty

Honorary Members of the Lodge

1943	R. W.Bro. Lieutenant-Colonel H. A. Mann, <i>OBE, MC</i> , Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. Sir Robert Evans, PGD , Deputy Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. H. B. Longley, <i>FSI</i> , PGD , Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. A. H. Harding, <i>JP</i> , PGD , Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro. G. B. Cotton, PGSt.B , PPGW W.Bro. F.W. Wintgens, PPGW W.Bro. Rev. Hamilton Barr, PPGC W.Bro. R. A. Hinds, <i>FRIBA</i> , PAGSup.Wks. , PPGW W.Bro. W. Massey, PAGDC , Prov.GDC W.Bro. W. J. Dickenson, Prov.G.Sec. W.Bro. J. E. Hirschfield, PAGSt.B , PPGD
1958	W.Bro. Richard John Hutson, PGSt.B , PPGW W.Bro. Lionel George Banwell, PPGD
1998	Bro. Thomas Roy Powell
2008	W.Bro. Reginald Alfred Jenkins, <i>BEM</i> , PPJGW
2009	W. Bro. Clive Hennessy, PAGDC , PProvDepGDC
2012	R. W.Bro. Eric Stuart-Bamford, Provincial Grand Master



W. Bro. Nicolas Raymond Gras, PAGDC, PPGReg., AProvGM

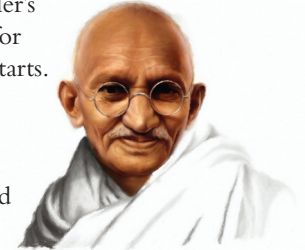
The Lodge's first Assistant Provincial Grand Master,
who was promoted from within the membership of the Lodge.
Appointed, June 2017.



Members of the Lodge, 2017.

What was happening in 1943?

January 1. The Japanese begin to withdraw from Guadalcanal. **13.** The government says only standard grey or blue school uniforms will be allowed to save on dye. **15.** Four IRA prisoners escaped from the Crumlin Road prison. **21.** Thirty-eight schoolchildren and eight teachers die when a bomb destroyed the Catford School for Girls in South-east London. **24.** The English 8th Army crosses the border into Tunisia in pursuit of the retreating Germans. **30.** Berlin is bombed twice daily in the RAF's first daylight raid. **February 6.** A Los Angeles court acquitted Errol Flynn on three rape charges. **8.** The last pocket of resistance is broken by the Russian army at Stalingrad. **19.** The Germans seize Dutch works of art for Hitler's gallery in Linz, Austria. **23.** A Commons committee recommends equal pay war compensation payments for men and women. **March 1.** Mahatma Gandhi ends his fast. **7.** The 'Wings for Victory' savings campaign starts. **10.** Unrest breaks out over forced labour conscription for Germany. **26.** In France, the Germans arrest all Britons in Vichy, fearing an Allied invasion. **30.** Russian composer Sergei Rachmaninov dies. **April 7.** In Salzburg, Hitler and Mussolini concluded 4 days of talks on North Africa. **9.** The government says it will introduce a unified "national health service". **20.** Prime Minister, Winston Churchill says, "We have reached the conclusion that existing orders can now be relaxed and church bells can be rung out on Sundays and other special days". **May 5.** Moscow: Stalin states his desire for a strong, free, Poland. **13.** A State of Emergency is declared in southern Italy amid fears of an Allied invasion. **17.** Walls of water swept down the Ruhr and Eder valleys in Germany after a raid by RAF 'dambusters'. **19.** Churchill makes an historic address to a joint session of the US Congress. **June 1.** De Gaulle insists on the dismissal of all officials who have collaborated with the Vichy regime. **7.** Italian troops start to withdraw from Albania. **3.** British actor Leslie Howard is one of 13 passengers missing on a civil aircraft shot down by the Germans in the Bay of Biscay. **25.** The King returns from his visit to Allied Forces in North Africa. **30.** The government says signposts can be erected in rural areas. **July 10.** The first Allied troops enter Sicily. **14.** In New York, Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman open in the film *For Whom the Bell Tolls*. **24.** The city of Hamburg is raided twice in 24 hours. **28.** The Italian Fascist Party is abolished. **August 1.** The US Air Force bombs Axis oil installations. **13.** The Allies bomb Rome, Turin and Milan. **25.** The Allies name Lord Louis Mountbatten as Supreme Commander in South-East Asia. **September 2.** It is reported that concentration camp inmates are being used for medical experiments by the Germans. **14.** Partisans are advancing along the Dalmatian coast under General Tito. **20.** London: Chancellor of the Exchequer Sir Kingsley Wood dies after a cabinet meeting. **30.** The Allies enter Naples. **October 1.** U-Boats have re-entered the Atlantic and have sunk several ships. **11.** The Royal Navy torpedoes the battleship *Turpitz* in a midget submarine. **19.** In Sweden, 4,200 British PoWs are exchanged for Germans in the first major exchange of the war. **20.** Promiscuity and moral laxity were strongly condemned by the Archbishop of Canterbury and York, following a frightening rise of venereal disease since the start of the war. **30.** Allies held up at Monte Cassino. **31.** Troops take over from striking dockers.

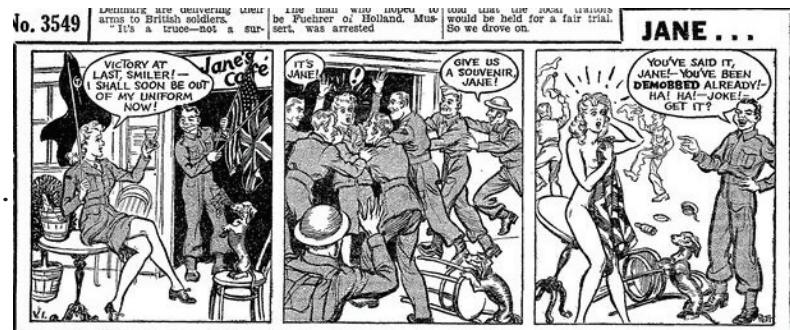


Gandhi



Avro Lancaster bomber that took part in the 'Dambusters' raid

November 2. The Chancellor says that PAYE will apply to all wage earners. **6.** Kiev falls to the Russians. **9.** Churchill tells MPs that 60 U-boats have been destroyed in the last 3 months. **15.** RAF Wellington bombers are reported to be using new precision instruments for night-time bombing. **28.** Churchill, Roosevelt and Stalin meet in Tehran. **December 5.** Tito announces the creation of a provisional government. **10.** Roosevelt visits the island of Malta and pays tribute to its inhabitants. **7.** "Bevin Boys" are called up to work down the mines. **22.** The government says that there are only enough turkeys for one family in ten.



A cartoon strip from the wartime Daily Mirror



What freeman knoweth freedom? Never he
Whose father's father through long lives have reigned
O'er kingdoms which mere heritage attained.
Though from his youth to age he roam as free
As winds, he dreams not freedom's ecstasy.
But he whose birth was in a nation chained
For centuries; where every breath was drained
From breasts of slaves which knew not there could be
Such thing as freedom, – he beholds the light
Burst, dazzling; though the glory blind his sight
He knows the joy. Fools laugh because he reels
And wields confusedly his infant will;
The wise man watching with a heart that feels
Says: "Cure for freedom's harms is freedom still."

Helen Hunt Jackson