



Amity Talks



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Dec 2011

By:-

W. Bro. Colin Towle

MORE TRAVELLERS TALES OF THE "MALDON MAFFIA"

It was a pleasant October day when we started out from Maldon. Steve Row was complaining that when it is his turn to drive, the wine at the Festive Board is included in the cost of the meal. Rumour had it that it flowed plentifully, so no one took any notice and we merely told him to make sure that he got us to the meeting on time and in one piece. We were going to the Bysnian Lodge No.7500, which meets the Churchill Rooms in the Conservative Club at Ilford. As it happened, in spite of some indecision in the maze of traffic lights and roundabouts in the immediate area, we were early enough to find the Red Lion and enjoy a pleasant pint or two before going into the Club only to find, as has happened before, the bar was open for business.

The Bysnian Lodge moved from the Royal Forest Hotel to the Conservative Club in 1970 - the year of the first Glastonbury Festival - and have met there ever since. The function room used for Lodge meetings is very well appointed as is the Club generally. In fact the Club as a whole is very plush when compared to most Masonic Halls and although it tends to lose the atmosphere a little, it is obviously popular with more than 32 Lodges, Chapters and other Orders meeting there. As we assembled in the meeting room we were struck with the organ playing loudly

and in fast tempo all sorts of popular music prompting the remark that the organist must have lost his way from the local Odeon.

Something else which was a cause of some puzzlement and amusement was the sight of a big balloon floating on the ceiling with a large 'M' painted on it, obviously a leftover from some other function but it provoked amusement when someone remarked " Had a Raising last week that went sadly wrong" (Masonic joke!).

As the meeting was quite small - 11 members plus we 5 - it was very relaxed with jobs being swapped and everybody seemed intent on helping the other fellow often to the detriment of their own jobs and the Ritual in general. The Organist accompanied all movements and steps with loud music and the IPM called prompts to the Senior Warden over the length of the room. The Warden may have been somewhat distracted by the doors on either side of him, the one on his left was marked "Staff Only" and the other side was graced with "Gents". Fortunately the one marked "Ladies" was out of his line of sight.

We all sung loud and long at the Festive Board fortified with copious amounts of wine served by an inexperienced Steward and were quite impressed by a monologue by the Tyler who topped it off with the Tyler's Toast in rhyme.

IN MEMORIAM

Ethel Lancaster Ethel was the wife of Frank William Lancaster, who was a member of the Lodge from 1970 to 1989. Frank was a signman with British Rail and although he was never Master of the Lodge, regularly attended meetings. Ethel enjoyed good health for many years, but in recent months was diagnosed with cancer some months ago, from which she did not recover and passed away on 29th September 2011. Her funeral on 13th October 2011 was attended by several members of the Lodge. A few days after the funeral, we received a lovely card with a thank you message from Katherine, Ethel's daughter, who was touched by the support shown to her by the members of Lodge of Amity.

W. Brother David Anstee

W. Brother David Anstee, a regular visitor to the Lodge of Amity, was a joining member of Daen Ingas Lodge 7951 in Maldon. He was installed as WM in 1993 & 2004 and served Daen Ingas in several offices receiving Provincial Honours in 2000 and 2007. After some holidays in Australia he joined Comet Lodge No.28 in Queensland and was also a member of Chapter of Amity 5753 and Braintree St Mary Rose Croix 706. David was one of the 7 founders of the Maldon Mafia in May 2002, sadly now 4, and supplied the famous "Doily Cart" - a 7 seat Nissan Minibus with crocheted covers on the headrests, hence the name - with which the Mafia visited every Masonic meeting place in Essex plus venues in the surrounding Counties; a total of 105 visits.

LODGE ALMONER



W. Bro. Simon Swain is now acting as Lodge Almoner and can be contacted at:-
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Hullbridge
Hockley
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Telephone 01702 230295
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OUR GOOD WISHES GO TO THE FOLLOWING BRETHERN WHO ARE NOT ENJOYING THE BEST OF HEALTH AT THIS TIME

David Allen continues to make progress even though this is not as fast as he would wish. He can now walk with support and stand for several minutes unaided. Joan's has had a recent stay in hospital but is now back at home and is making good progress.

Anne and Roger Breavington The health of Roger and Anne continues to improve. Anne has now completed a course of treatment and feels that this has been effective. Anne and Roger have now moved and we wish them every happiness in their new home.

Steve Lovett has continued problems which causes breathing difficulties and is currently undergoing tests. Steve is encouraged by his consultant who assures him that his condition can be improved upon..

Steve Row continues to have breathing difficulties but is optimistic that his new medication will be beneficial

Harry and Betty Slowman both continue to have health problems and our thoughts are with them.

Steve Clark continues with the brandy treatment which appears to be working well. Steve's wife Enid is having some tests to see if her condition can be improved and we wish them both well.

George Lang is in the doldrums and is again at the Rochford hospital. Visiting hours are usually between 2 –4 pm and I am sure it would help and encourage him on the road to recovery to pay him a visit.

Monty Elkinson has some breathing problems at the moment and is also in the process of having tests.

Michael Kosman is caring for his good lady wife who is not enjoying the best of health.

During my first few weeks as acting almoner, I have tried to contact as many of those members as possible who are not enjoying the best of health and it is encouraging to note that spirits remain high in most cases.

At present this in the latest information available with respect to members of the "Broken Column" club, and further details will be given in the next issue of this newsheet.

PROSTATE HEALTH

Most men still don't know what the prostate gland does or where it is???

Please **Please** take the time to educate yourselves as problems with the prostate are likely to affect at least 50 % of us over 55.

www.prostate-cancer.org.uk

If you have any concerns a digital rectal exam is slightly uncomfortable but easy way to find out if there is any enlargement. Having discussed this with my doctor who is a very nice lady, I am informed that a weekly exam is excessive and once a year will suffice !! Ha ha !

Joking aside..get it checked !

The Past Few Months

By Joan Cobham

After 41 years in the home I shared with Alan, daughter Mary and our son David, I have decided to downsize and move into a bungalow near to my daughter and all the activities at the church I attend. I'm glad to say I have settled in and am very happy in my new surroundings.

Colin took me to see Dave and Joan Allen. It is very sad to see Dave so restricted after all he has done for the Lodge and especially the widows. He was always so kind and supportive when I lost Alan. He is very positive and can now take quite a few steps. Joan has her problems but together they keep each other happy. I send my good wishes to Steve & Enid, Mike, Laurie, Bill, Simon and all the members of the Lodge of Amity.

LODGE of AMITY 5753 LADIES FESTIVAL 2012

There is now just over 2 months to go to the Ladies Festival that will be held at Saxon Hall on Saturday 04th February 2012. Stuart and Brenda Lee, have arranged an excellent evening, which after the success of the last Ladies Festival, promises to be another excellent evening to give us cheer in the depths of winter.

Bookings are now starting to flow in and demand is expected to be high, so please book early to avoid disappointment. The cost of the event will be between £37.50 per person and a minimum deposit of £20 per person is requested.

The menu is melon followed by roast Lamb with a selection of vegetables, with profiteroles and tea coffee to follow. Dancing is again to "Band on the Run", and full details have been circulated by Email. Our social secretary Michael Lyons will be pleased to take reservations.

GET THE TAX MAN TO DONATE TO CHARITIES

Soon the festive season will be upon us and us poor men will have to struggle with the Christmas tree and the fairy lights whilst the women take it easy and cook a small lunch!! Ouch I have just been put in my place and quite rightly so, as we do know how hard you ladies work over the festive season and we do appreciate it.

However, let us all remember those less fortunate than ourselves at this time of year and think about our donations to charity. I am pleased to say that nearly all members of Amity are contributing to our grand charity fund by making single gift aid payments or better still regular payment promises. I can imagine you are sick and tired of hearing the virtues of these methods of making donations but I am sure you are all aware that our charity fund benefits by the Inland Revenue boosting your donation and it's not often that organisation gives money away.

We have recently heard that £100,000 donated by Grand Charity to fund research into Multiple Sclerosis has been instrumental in finding a potential cure for this terrible disease. With your help many of the problems that we experience today, will one day become a thing of the past.

MORE ARTICLES PLEASE

More articles for Amity Talks are always welcome. If anyone else can supply an article for future issues it will be most welcome, as it lessens the burden on just a few people and at the same time adds a little variety. Perhaps some our older members or their wives would like to relate some of their Masonic experiences of years gone by; why not share your hobbies, interests or experiences on holiday by writing a short article for Amity Talks. We would like to include more articles from our ladies, and I am sure that many of the more senior could increase our knowledge of the history of the Lodge by sharing past memories with us. We always need articles, and if these are in electronic format it makes the process of including them so much easier. You all have my address for "snail mail" and the electronic one is colin.towle@virginmedia.com or alternatively forward articles to Simon Swain at simonswain@hotmail.com

Let us try to exceed the donations raised last year for the Christmas wishes, sent via Amity Talks instead of sending cards. Donations can be forwarded via the Charity Steward, Almoner, Secretary or Treasurer and all contributions will be gratefully received.

Last Year the newsletter helped us raise some £200 for charity, from the donations that people gave for the Christmas wishes that we included. We all enjoy writing cards and keeping in touch at this time of year, but the £5 or £10 donated by many members instead of sending cards helps those in need rather than increasing the profits of the Post Office and card manufacturers. Every Lodge member and every lady associated with the Lodge has been included in our Christmas wishes to each other, and it goes with out saying that we all wish one another health and happiness. I know that many of you still like to send cards but instead, consider sending us a donation that will be put to very good use; some of you may choose to do both.

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**To ALL MEMBERS OF THE LODGE & CHAPTER OF AMITY 5753
AND THEIR FAMILIES**



**WE WISH YOU ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HEALTHY & PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR**



FROM

David and Joan ALLEN

George and Gilian LANG

Bryan and Ann ASTON

Bernard and Leila LAZARUS

Raymond and Marcelle BASCO

Stuart and Brenda LEE

Len and Carol BERRY

Ted and Doreen MEAD

Roger and Anne BREAVINGTON

Richard and Tessa MENHENNET

Steve and Enid CLARK

Lawrie and Stephanie MILLSTONE

Tony and June DOBBINS

Joe and Pauline PATCHICK

Simon and Jane DRAKE

Alan and Margaret PAYNE

Monty ELKINSON

Chris and Karen PAYNE

Michael and Susan GAMBLE

Andy and Valorie SARGEANT

Anthony and Kate GARFORTH

Neil and Wendy SHEPHERD

Graham Gill

Harry and Betty SLOWMAN

Michael and Susan KONYN

Simon SWAIN

Mitch and Penny KOPECKY

Bill TURBARD

Michael and June KOSMAN

Colin & Jill TOWLE

Michael and Marilyn LYONS

Ian and Jean WHITLEY

Steve and Sharon LOVETT

**AND THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS OF THE 'BROKEM COLUMN CLUB'
SEND THEIR GREETINGS TO YOU AND WISH YOU WELL**

MARY BECRAFT

JOAN COBHAM

JOYCE GOULD

MADELEINE INGRAM

CECILE PAYNE

IRIS RAVEN

JUNE RAYLEIGH

SYLVIA RUCK

