Andresy Lodge History – the 40's

The first regular meeting was held on April 15th 1947, prior to which there had been a meeting of PM's and Officers on April 11th at which a loss of £50:10s:4d on the Consecration was reported. The price of Lodge meals was fixed at 4s:6d or £1:10s:0d for a full year, payable in advance. Installations excepted.

On 15th April, eleven Joining Members and two candidates were elected. Also, seven of the Consecrating Officers elected as Honorary Members. The first candidate, Mr H.R. Yates was initiated.

The second Meeting on 20th May saw Mr T.W.B. Tranter initiated. It is perhaps a poor reflection on the foresight of the founding members that the first two initiates were bank employees, who soon moved away from the town, and were unable to progress through the Lodge; indeed only one of the first five Initiates reached the Chair.

At the October meeting, the receipt of the permanent Warrant was reported. On 26th of that month, a Service of Dedication of the Bells at Lichfield Cathedral, refurbished by monies provided by the Staffordshire Freemasons was held.

The November meeting saw the Lodge's own Officers' collars and jewels used for the first time. February 1948 witnessed an unfortunate episode, in that the candidate was blackballed.

To alleviate the impending departures of the first two Initiates, an emergency meeting was held on March 8th at which there was a double Second Degree Ceremony. At the second Installation Meeting on March 16th, Bro Edgar Wright was installed, thus becoming the first Master Mason to reach the Chair. G A Cave was initiated on 26th May 1948. In October 1948, the date of the Meetings was changed from the third to the second Tuesday; this was by courtesy and agreement of Abbey Chapter. Also at that Meeting, the gauntlets of the Master and Wardens were worn for the first time, having been presented by the incumbents. At the 1949 Installation, the Past Master's collar and jewel was presented to W Bro E P Wright, and the volume of the Sacred Law was presented by Bro R.S. Litherland.

A tradition was started that each incoming Master and Initiate would sign the volume of the Sacred Law henceforth.

During the December 1949 meeting, the death of the first Worshipful Master, W Bro W.B. Briggs, PGStd.B was reported. It was at that meeting that W Bro Edgar Wright initiated by courtesy of the Worshipful Master, W Bro Eric Wayte, his son, E Alan Wright at the age of 21.

During 1949, a design was sought and eventually approved for a Banner from Mr Hoskins, who had designed the Lodge Badge. After much discussion and several expensive quotations, W Bro W H Ride secured the services of Mrs Biddulph, the wife of W Bro H Q Biddulph of Royal Sussex Lodge, who made and painted a banner to the agreed design. It was used the first time, before its dedication in 1952. The actual Dedication was carried out by the R W Prov. G Master at a Special Meeting held in the Council Chamber of the Town Hall.

Andresy Lodge History – the 50's

Presentations took place in April 1951 when W Bro Grainger presented the Lodge with a heavy maul, and a full set of Working Tools in an oak cabinet, and W Bro W H Ride gave an oak stand for the Senior Deacon's wand. Thanks were also expressed for the support of the members to the appeal for the rehanging of the bells at Burton Parish Church, which was effected on 26th October 1951. H. H. Cherry was initiated 9th October 1951.

The 22nd January 1952 saw the first Ceremonious Visit paid by the Lodge to St Modwens, the sister lodge. In June of that year, the wearing of white gloves resumed by the Burton Lodges, presumably because clothing coupons were a thing of the past for the first time since the war.

The same year saw the custom of presenting a Book of Constitutions, with the recipients name in gilt to the incoming Worshipful Master. An album to contain photographs of all Masters was presented by Bro L E Farmer, but unfortunately, this appears to have been lost, and the custom of presenting the gilt embossed Book of Constitutions discontinued.

In November 1953, an oak cabinet containing three Tracing Boards was presented to the Lodge by Bro L E Farmer, SW, and Bro S Forshall, SD. The Boards were framed watercolours painted by the same Mrs Biddulph, who had made the Banner.

Thus six years on, the Lodge could feel well and truly established.

Despite a few difficulties in the line of succession, causing Past Masters to take the Chair in 1952 and 1953, the Lodge prospered and in February 1954, extended an invitation to St Modwens Lodge to attend on a Ceremonious Visit. The following month, Brethren attended the Centenary Ceremony of the mother Lodge, the Abbey, held on 6th April 1954.

In November 1954, a report was presented on the successful negotiations with the Town Council by a joint committee of the three Lodges to provide better accommodation. The old Masonic hall in Union Street had been sold just before the war, on a promise by the Council that special facilities would be provided in the Town Hall. The war put a stop to that, and now the Council was reminded of its promise. A new room, known as the Conference Room was constructed suitable for Lodge Meetings, civil marriages and dances, under the supervision of the Borough Architect, Bro W Porter Mitchell, a joining member of this Lodge. The three Lodges authorised expenditure not exceeding £100.00 each for the provision of a gold chain for use by the Deputy Mayor in recognition of the help given by the Town Council. In the event, only £73:6s:8d per lodge was needed. January 10th 1956 saw the first Meeting of the Lodge in the new 'Temple'. Prior to this, Lodges met in the 'Annex' which was now used solely for the Festive Board. Screens were placed across the middle of the

longish room, the Lodge being held at one end. Tables and a bar were set up in the other half. The Stewards had to serve both drinks and the meals through shortages of catering staff. For Installations, the whole of the Annex was utilised as the Temple, and the meal was served in the main hall. After provision of the Conference Room, the Annex was used for Installation meals, but this proved somewhat cramped and the Main Hall again came into its own. By this time the supper charge was 6s or £2:2s:0d for the full year, again with Installations excepted.

In December 1955, Officers' Meetings were moved from Fridays to the Monday, the day before the Lodge Meeting, to enable rehearsals to take place in the Lodge Room. The Officers' Meetings continued to be held in one of the Committee Rooms on the first floor. March 1956 saw Bro Sam Forshall installed, the first Initiate to reach the Chair.

October 1956 saw the presentation of a set of square and compasses for use on the VSL by W Bro Harold Bray. This particular meeting was held in the Council Chamber due to a booking mistake by the Council and the meal was served in the Conference Room. A further mishap took place as the Worshipful Master, Sam Forshall, had left the Warrant at his home many miles away, and the Temporary Warrant could not be found. The Secretary of St Modwens Lodge, who was present, 'loaned' its Warrant secretly, and the meeting went ahead with most of those present none the wiser!

Two months later, authorisation was given for an equal contribution with the other two Lodges for refurbishment of the Lodge furniture, most of which actually belonged to Abbey Lodge.

In November 1957, both St Modwens and Andresey paid a visit to Abbey, the mother Lodge. W Bro A S Methven joined 14th January 1958, which month also saw the receipt of a Certificate of Patronship from the Royal Masonic Hospital in acknowledgement of a contribution of fifty guineas. A further fifty guineas was sent in November of that year.

March 1958 saw the report of the death of the Consecrating Officer,

R W Bro. The Rt. Hon.Earl of Dartmouth, Provincial Grand Master, an Honorary Member. This was followed in the November by the death of

W Bro. Col Sir John Kent, Dep.Prov.GM, also an Honorary Member, who had taken a leading role at the Consecration.

At the Meeting in March 1959, Bro E A Wright was installed as Worshipful Master. At the age of 30 years and 7 months, this was a record for the Lodge, since unequalled. He was also the youngest in the Province. During his year in office, he arranged for the first time in the Lodge, to work parts of the Lectures, in this case, the First and Seventh parts of the First Lecture.

Andresy Lodge History – the 60's

A Ceremonious Visit was received from Abbey Lodge on 13th November 1962, at which meeting, Allan T Alpin was initiated. W Bro A P Richardson, who had himself been initiated in December 1952, was in the Chair and he in February 1963, gave a Paper in the Lodge for the first time. Its title was 'Freemasonry and Masonic Symbols'. A second paper was given in December 1963 by the Secretary, W Bro R J Sharratt, entitled 'The Consecration of the Lodge'. At the same meeting the death of Prov. G Master,

R W Bro. R B Mummery was reported. It was recalled that he was the Director of Ceremonies at the Consecration and an Honorary Member.

It was not until January 1963 that there was a successful move by

W Bro's E P Wright and E A Wright, to institute the provision of the Past Masters Breast Jewels. In February it was agreed that from the year 1963/64 a Past Masters Jewel should be provided to each Master relinquishing his Office. A design and quotation in the sum of £11:17s:6d, plus engraving, for a minimum quantity of six, from Messrs. Toye, Kenning and Spencer was approved in March. Unfortunately for the proposers, it was also agreed that the Lodge could not afford to purchase Jewels retrospectively, and that if previous Masters wanted one, they would have to pay for their own.

Accompanied by the Abbey Lodge, the Lodge paid a Ceremonious Visit to St Modwens on 25th February 1964 on the occasion of its 300th Meeting. In December 1964, an explanation of the First Tracing Board, in place of a ceremony was given by the Worshipful Master, W Bro P Duffield, the Third, Fourth and Fifth Sections of the First Lecture to be worked in February 1965. At the Installation of W Bro W E Hopkinson in the following month, the new Prov G Master, R W Bro. Major H Wilson Keys paid his first visit to the Lodge.In May, the Lodge balloted to retain the original penalties in the ritual, also that month, a Ceremonious Visit was paid to Abbey Lodge.

In November 1965 an application was successful in securing an unofficial attendance of the Prestonian Lecturer who gave a lecture entitled 'The Evolution of the English Provincial Grand Lodge'. This was given by R.W.Bro The Hon William R S Bathhurst, Provincial Grand Master of Gloucestershire in the presence of our own Provincial Grand Master, supported by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Wardens, Secretary and D of C at our meeting on October 11th 1966.

The Main Hall of the Town Hall was used for this purpose, and Masons from a wide area were invited to attend.

In October 1967 the format of the Lodge Summons was changed by the addition of a second fold, and, in November Bro Michael Stanhope became a joining member. The Lodge Banner was refurbished at the expense of W Bro W H Brentnall in December. It was in that month that W Bro R J Sharratt intimated that he did not wish to continue as Secretary having held the office for seventeen years. The thanks of the Lodge were recorded at the following Installation Meeting and W Bro P Duffield was appointed in his place.

The Abbey and St Modwens Lodges paid a Ceremonious Visit on 14th May 1968. The following year saw a change in procedure at the Installation Meeting, the Address to the Master, Wardens and Brethren being given immediately after the individual investitures rather than all together at the end. With one exception, this order has been followed to the present day.

Andresy Lodge History – the 70's

In May W Bro the Rev. Edwin C. Hayward joined the Lodge. He was a Past Master of Mercia Lodge 3995 and had been Prov. G Chaplain in 1962 and 1969. He had come to town as the Vicar of Burton Parish Church. He was to play, and no pun intended, a valuable role in the Lodge, for not only did he become Master in 1973 but was organist from 1977 to 1994 and Almoner from 1983 to 1997.

Mr A I Evans was initiated on 14th December 1971. He is another brother who has played major parts in the life of the Lodge, being Worshipful Master in 1982 and D of C 1985-1992. Appointed PPrSGD in 1989, he was promoted to PPrGR in May 1997. He has been the Lodge Charity Steward since 1993, a much feared friend who regularly asks for money.

In April 1972 W Bro E A Wright was promoted to Prov. Junior Grand Warden, having been ProvSGD in 1966 and thus became the first Initiate to hold one of the most senior Provincial Offices. Others were to follow.

During 1952 and 1953, attempts were made by the three Lodges to find a home of their own. Whilst possible venues were available, the finance, both for purchase and upkeep was not. The successful negotiations with the Town Council, to which reference has already been made, rendered any move unnecessary. However, the increasing lack of privacy, and cavalier treatment to the Lodge furniture prompted W Bro E A Wright to suggest that the three Lodges investigate the possible move to Freemason's Hall, Ashby Road where three Derbyshire Lodges already met. The proposal was put to the Abbey and St Modwens Lodges in October 1967 and promptly rejected. It was pointed out that the existing lease did not run out until the end of 1976. There the matter rested until 1975 when a joint committee attempted to renegotiate the lease. A combination of the shock engendered by the high figure required by the Town Hall authorities, the continuing damage to furniture, and further encroachment on privacy led, after high debate, to the three Lodges in separate votes, agreeing to move the place of Meetings to Freemason's Hall.Since 1878, when Burton became a Municipal Borough, the parishes of Winshill and Stapenhill across the other side of the River Trent from the main town, had been absorbed into the Borough and into Staffordshire, where they have remained ever since. The fortunate siting of Freemasons Hall has therefore meant that the Brethren of both Derbyshire and Staffordshire can feel that they are meeting on the ground of their own Province. Full tribute should be paid to the fraternal welcome given to Staffordshire Brethren by their Derbyshire brothers. The move meant that six Craft Lodges could support an increasingly expensive building and allow improvements. Two other Derbyshire Lodges eventually moved there, from Hatton and Swadlincote and two more have since been consecrated giving the present total of ten.

As far as Andresey was concerned, the Lodge met at a Special Meeting held at Freemasons Hall on October 24th 1975. After an explanation of the proposition, the Lodge was called off and the brethren were given a tour of the premises. The Lodge was called on and questions invited. A lively discussion followed and those present then voted - twenty seven for and one against – to move the place of meeting to Freemasons Hall. The move was to take effect at the end of that season.

At the Installation Meeting on 9th March 1976, W Bro Frank Martin was appointed the first Charity Steward, a new office, and invested with a collar and jewel presented to the Lodge by W Bro P Duffield.

May 11th 1976 was the date of the last Meeting at the Town Hall. At its conclusion, the Brethren left the Lodge Room in solemn procession following behind the Banner, the Volume of the Sacred Law carried out by the Chaplain, the Warrant of the Lodge carried out by the Worshipful Master, and the Square and Compasses carried by the Immediate Past Master.

On Tuesday 12th October 1976, the Brethren processed into the Temple at Freemasons Hall, Winshill, Burton upon Trent, preceded by the Banner, Volume of Sacred Law, Warrant and the Square and Compasses. W Bro E A Wright took the Chair and the first sad duty after the Opening was to announce the deaths of W Bro H Howard-Smith and W Bro S Owen Smith, the Worshipful Master, whose son was to be passed to the Second Degree that very evening.

Whilst all this was going on, at the Investiture Meeting of Grand Lodge in the spring of 1975, W Bro E A Wright became the first Initiate of the Lodge to attain Grand Rank, being invested as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. It was a happy coincidence that W Bro Alf Cliffe, PM of the Royal Sussex Lodge No. 353, and Chairman of Freemasons Hall (Winshill) Ltd. received the same honour on the same day.

At the meeting on 14th December 1976, the Lodge agreed to lend the Masonic Hall £500.00 to reduce the overdraft. This date was also the unique occasion within the Lodge when two Initiates, B L Leggett and A R Johnson were Initiated on the same evening. To help cement the good relationship with our Derbyshire Brethren, each of the Staffordshire Lodges agreed to extend the invitations to the Derbyshire Lodges to pay a Ceremonious Visit. Accordingly, the Andresey Lodge, the most junior, asked Tristantona Lodge No. 3962, the youngest of the Derbyshire Lodges, and this was effected in May 1977. A reciprocal invitation was received, and a return Visit paid on 21st December 1977.

By this time after several increments, the Lodge subscription had risen to £25.00

A second member and an Initiate of the Lodge, W Bro A P Richardson, had been the second to be appointed as Prov. Junior Grand Warden in 1974, and in 1977 the second to achieve Grand Rank as PAGDC

In November 1978 W Bro J W Parker donated new gauntlets for the Worshipful Master, and in February the following year, W Bro R E Cort and Bro R H Marsh provided new gauntlets for the Wardens. Sadly in May 1979 W Bro Cort died.

It is worth recording that at the Installation Meeting on March 13th 1979, no fewer than five Grand Officers. All members of the Lodge, were present: The Deputy Prov. Grand Master, Stanley Barrington having been elected an Honorary Member in February 1971 on his previous appointment as Assistant Prov Grand Master, W Bro H W Timms Past Grand Deacon, an Honorary Member and Founder, W Bro The Rev Preb E C Hayward, Past Assistant Grand Chaplain, PM, W Bro E A Wright PAGDC and W Bro A P Richardson, PAGDC, comprised the five, the largest number any Lodge in the Province could boast.

At the same meeting, W Bro E A Wright was thanked for framing the Warrant, and W Bro M Stanhope for having its Officers' Jewels replated. In December 1979 Bro B L Leggett presented the Lodge with a ceramic Initiates Offertory Plate he had crafted.

Andresy Lodge History – the 80's

At the first meeting in 1980, £50.00 was voted as the Lodge contribution to the provision of a new Lodge carpet. In October of that year R W Bro Stanley Barrington was installed as Provincial Grand Master.

The Tyler, Bro W G White gave two, hand worked, cloth offertory bags to the Lodge in January 1981. It was in that month that W Bro Percy Richardson died. Another brother, W Bro G A Cave, was lost to us in April. He had served the Lodge for over 33 years, eight of them as Director of Ceremonies. He achieved the single distinction of winning a silver matchbox for giving a flawless ceremony at the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in London. He left a legacy of £1,000 to the Lodge to be invested, and the interest thereon to be used to help defray the cost of meals at December Lodges.

At the February meeting in 1982, the death in January at the age of eighty four of W Bro Edgar P Wright, founder and first Junior Warden was reported. In May his Past Master's Jewel was presented to the Lodge by his son for the Immediate Past Master to wear during his year, after which he would be presented with his own.

W Bro A T Alpin was appointed and invested as Prov Junior Grand Warden on May 12th 1982, the third brother from this Lodge to be appointed in eleven years.

A talk was given in February 1983 by W Bro S A Lates PJGD, Vice President of the Grand Charity and Chairman of the Petitions Committee, on The 1990 Festival. The following month saw the Installation of Bro D W Harvey, who had been a joining member since December 1972. A visitor, W Bro D E Harvey, PPrGW (Suffolk) gave the address to his son.

It was during 1984 that W Bro E A Wright was promoted to PJGD

In October, the Lodge voted £100.00 towards the cost of a portrait of W Bro Stanley Barrington, who had become Provincial Grand Master in 1980. The portrait was to hang in Freemasons' Hall, Burton. It was considered unsatisfactory by the brethren and the PGM and after a period was substituted by a large colour photograph. In December 1984, W Bro H W Timms, PJGD, Founder, was reported to have died.

1985 witnessed the promotion of W Bro Alpin to Asst. Grand Director of Ceremonies. In 1986, W Bro the Rev Preb. Edwin C Hayward was promoted to P.Dep.G.Chap., thus becoming the senior ranking Member of the Lodge. In October 1986 the alteration to the Ritual concerning the wording to be used in respect of the former Penalties was received.

Having voted in May for further donations to the 1990 Festival, the Prov.G.M. noting that the Lodge's current balance had reached £15,826 and in which he commented 'Oh! That all my Lodges would emulate your example!' W Bro Alpin was appointed Prov.D of C in May 1987.

On 29th November 1988 a dinner was held to mark the unique occurrence of having two Prov. Grand Masters emanating from Lodges within one fairly small Masonic centre. W Bro Wright had written to the Grand Secretary inviting the M W Grand Master to attend the dinner. To everyone's surprise, an acceptance was received.

The WM, W Bro E A Ford introduced all individual members of the Lodge present to the GM, and all Masters of Lodges meeting at

Ashfield House drew lots to ascertain seating positions. Our WM, W Bro E A Ford drew the lot to sit next to the GM during the dinner.

W Bro Wright in October, after the event, sent a Commemorative menu card, together with the wording engraved on the Ceremonial Sword to Grand Lodge. This sword was presented by him to the Freemasons of Burton upon Trent, to be carried in procession on any occasion when a Prov.G Master visited our Freemasons' Hall in future. This was followed in March 1990 by a formal presentation, in the presence of the two Prov.G Masters, of an Archive of the Visit of the Grand Master into the custody of Andresey Lodge, but for display in the library for all Masons in Burton to have the details of this memorable occasion freely available for study. All the colour photographs in the Archive were taken by W Bro A R Johnson, JW of the Lodge.

In February 1989, in company with the brethren of Abbey Lodge, a Ceremonious Visit was paid to St. Modwens. 1989 also saw the subscription raised to £60.00

Later that year, the Lodge being short of normal ceremonies, a demonstration of the Opening, Closing and Initiation in a Russian Lodge of about 1810 was performed in October by the Old Wulfrunians' Demonstration Team, and in November, W Bro E A Wright gave a talk entitled 'A Masonic Miscellany', which included an account of a visit he had paid to No. 2 Lodge in Tokyo, and an explanation of the symbols on a Tracing Board ca. 1800 which he had found, and had had restored. This Tracing Board, thought by a Grand Lodge antiquarian authority to be one of an Antients' Lodge, and unique, now hangs in our Library. By the year end, the Lodge 1990 Festival total had reached £24,966 and, when Members' individual balances had been taken into account, £27,508

Andresy Lodge History – the 90's

The Festival took place at the County Show Ground, Stafford on June 28th 1990. The Festival total was £2,057,368.00 of which the Lodge contributed £29,650.00, the second highest total of any individual Lodge in the Province. Contributions from the Mother Lodge (£28,123.00) and sister Lodge (£24,201.00) together with the Abbey Chapter (£2,196.00) and Wulfric Spot Mark Lodge (£377.00) meant that the Burton Staffordshire Masonic community had raised a total of £84,547.00. Having presided over the Festival, R W Bro Stanley Barrington stood down, to be succeeded by W Bro Kevin Chawner, who was installed on 22nd October 1990. W Bro A T Alpin was invested as Asst.Prov. GM and made his first appearance in this capacity at the Lodge Meeting on 13th November 1990. At that Meeting, W Bro R S Litherland, Founder, was congratulated on completing fifty years as a Mason. In May 1991 the Lodge Secretary W Bro P W Scragg was appointed Prov.G Registrar. W Bro Alpin was promoted to PSGD

At the Installation Meeting in March 1991, the R W Prov G Master congratulated the Lodge and the Charity Steward, W Bro E Eyley on the total raised for the 1990 Festival. The W Master thanked W Bro A S Methven, who had been the Lodge Chaplain for twenty one years, and W Bro A G Andrews, who, with a gap of one year, had been Ass. D of C for eighteen years.

The following month, the W Master, W Bro R D Campbell had to report the death after a short illness, of R W Bro Stanley Barrington, the Immediate Past Prov GM.

In May, W Bro F R B Armson was thanked for restoring the red kneeling stool. The final meeting of the year saw the Sutton Coldfield Demonstration Team performing 'Making a Mason – 1765' and it followed this in December 1992 with 'Making a Fellowcraft – 1765' W Bro Michael Stanhope was appointed to the rank of PAGDC during this year.

The subscription was increased again in March 1992 to £80.00

At the October meeting, the death on 1st August 1992, of the

Ass.Prov.GM, W Bro Allan T Alpin PSGD, PPrJGW, PM was reported. He had risen further than any other Inititate of the Lodge, and had been a great influence, particularly during the nine years he spent as D of C.

In March 1993, it was reported that W Bro J W Parker, PPrG.Supt.W., PM, had died. He had been Mayor of Burton, and later Chairman of the East Staffordshire District Council. He had made several gifts to the Lodge, one was a small version of the Third Degree Tracing Board, which could easily be hand held whilst giving the Explanation. In his Will, he left £5,000.00 to be added to the George Cave Fund, hereafter to be known as the Cave/Parker Fund, and £80,000.00 to the SMCA to be used for the provision of accommodation for any Mason in the area who had fallen on hard times through no fault of his own. At the April meeting, W Bro I Kesterton of the Caernarvon Lodge, and Bro M Kemp as Executors, presented a cheque for the latter amount to the R W Prov GM, and at the Festive Board, another for the former, to our Worshipful Master.

October saw the death of the Lodges last surviving Founder, W Bro R S Litherland PPrJGW, PM 624. Also a letter of thanks was received from the Secretary of the Staffordshire Masonic Golfing Society for the tankard presented by the Lodge for competition in memory of the late W Bro Allan T Alpin. The Lodge appointed Trustees, the Treasurer and Secretary for the time being, and W Bros E A Wright and M Stanhope. A further death, that of W Bro A S Methven was notified in December, and also the donation by the Lodge of £200.00 to each of three local Old Peoples' Homes for welfare.

In February 1994, W Bro M W P Cripwell presented the new Cable Tow with knots of Masonic symbolism. At the Installation Meeting, March 1995, a Bible inscribed with W Bro C M Boyce PPrSGW, PM 4850 was presented to the Lodge by W Bro T Cammies PPrJGD, PM 6415 for use by the Chaplain.

An interesting evening, the presentation of fifty year certificates by the

RWProv. GM to W Bro A G Andrews and W Bro The Rev. Preb E C Hayward took place in October 1995. In the Second Rising the Prov GM took the unusual step of announcing that he was promoting W Bro Andrews to the rank of PPr JGW with immediate effect.

In December, the Secretary had to report receipt of a letter from the

Prov ME Grand Sup. on the subject of the small number of Royal Arch Masons in the Lodge. Having researched the matter himself, the Secretary had replied giving the true facts and was able to report another letter from the ME Grand Sup. congratulating the Lodge on the high proportion of its members who were in the Royal Arch.

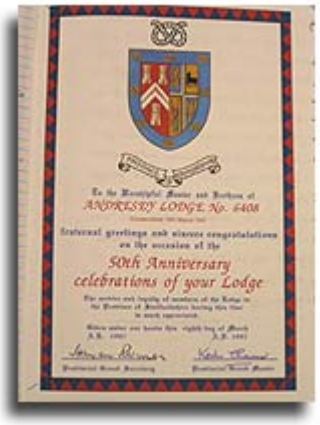
In February 1996, an extended version of the First Tracing Board was given by

W Bro A I Evans assisted by no fewer than thirteen Brethren. March saw donations of £1,000.00 to the 2002 Festival, £250.00 to St Giles Hospice and £250.00 to local charities at the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

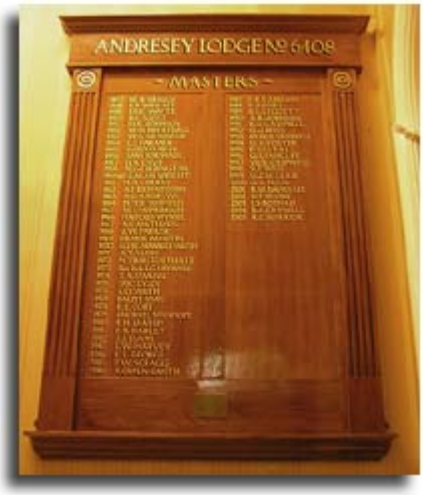
In December, the Lodge having no work, a purely 'business' Meeting was held followed by a dinner to which members' ladies were invited. The interest from the Parker/Cave Fund normally deployed to help with the December meal expenses, was held over to be applied in April 1997, when the Lodge's Golden Jubilee celebration would be celebrated.

March 11th saw the Installation of Bro W B Cripwell in the presence of the Prov G Master.

The Meeting on 8th April 1997 celebrated the Golden Jubilee Festival of the Lodge, attended by the PGM R W Bro Kevin Chawner, the second consecutive month he had attended the Lodge, together, on this occasion, with 97 visitors. As part of this celebration W Bro M W Cripwell presented to the Lodge a Past Masters Board on which had been listed the Past Masters names covering the 50 years of Andresey Lodge history, the unveiling of this wonderful board being undertaken by the Prov. G. M., R.W.Bro. Kevin Chawner.



In May the Lodge received a paper from W Bro T H Poxon of Royal Sussex Lodge entitled ' Masonic Heraldry' which included the fact that Royal Sussex Lodge No. 353 had for their Banner the same as the coat of arms as that of United Grand Lodge.



At the October meeting the Worship Master, W Bro M B Cripwell allowed his brother to occupy the Chair to initiate his son in law, Mr S M Locke.

April 1998 saw Bro R C Warrier elected as a joining member. Provincial Grand Lodge being on the same day as our regular Lodge meeting, dispensation was given to hold our meeting on the second Monday in May.

Our November 1998 meeting welcomed the PGM, R W Bro Kevin Chawner, who gave a paper entitled 'The Role and Work of the Provincial Grand Master', and W Bro Jack Hill, Provincial D of C also gave a paper entitled 'The Role of a Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies'.

The year closed with the loss to foreign parts, of one of our Past Masters, W Bro F R B Armson who had decided to retire to France but wished to remain as a Country member.

The Minutes of the January 1999 meeting remind us the Lodge remembers its members widows at Christmas time through a gift of a Marks and Spencer voucher for £25.00, the fact that these were personally delivered by the WM, W Bro S T Wass and the Almoner, W Bro K L George, ensured that personal contact was achieved wherever possible.

At the May meeting, again held on a Monday because of the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting being held on the second Tuesday, a letter of congratulations was received, awarding a silver plate for the members contributions to the 2002 Festival. Gold was the next ambitious target set by W Bro A I Evans, Charity Steward. The WM W Bro D J St Clair requested that W Bro Evans receives the plate from the PGM at PGL on behalf of our members.

The meeting on 9th November 1999 expanded on the current theme of a more 'open' approach to Freemasonry. Following the meeting, 'gentlemen guests' were invited into the Lodge Room and listened to a talk entitled 'An Introduction to Freemasonry', given by W Bro Q E Faircliffe. The first time that non Masons were invited into the Lodge Room and met Masons still clothed in their Masonic regalia.

On 14th December 1999, the twentieth century ended in a fine manner with the initiation Mr Ian A Evans, the son of our Charity Steward. In attendance were the PGM R W Bro Kevin Chawner, the PGM for Warwickshire, R W Bro Stanely A Lates, the Assistant PGM for Derbyshire, W Bro John Collinson, together with other dignatories from Staffordshire, including the DPGM, Prov D of C, Prov Sword Bearer, a total of 48 guests. All there to witness this initiation ceremony and celebrate W Bro E Alan Wrights fifty years in Masonry. A framed certificate was presented to W Bro E Alan Wright by the PGM on behalf of the Province and a Masonic match box was presented by the WM, W Bro D J St Clair on behalf of the Lodge.

Andresy Lodge History – the 2000's

In this new age, technology becomes part of our Lodge Meeting for the first time, with a TV and video player, so that members are able to view a video entitled 'Masonic Charity in Action'. In addition, a talk was given by W Bro N C Joughin, AGDC, on the 'New Masonic Samaritan Fund'.

The May, meeting again on Monday, due to the clash with Provincial Grand Lodge, saw the Worshipful Master, W Bro D V Toon initiate his son in law, Mr Martin Ian Bridge.

After 53 years, the original Lodge Banner had perhaps seen better days and £1200 was allocated at the October meeting to purchase a replacement. This was received in December by the DPGM, V W Bro J J Bedson, after the Lodge business had been concluded. A unique occasion, at which members ladies were cordially invited. The banner on this occasion, was not painted, but a combination of embroidery, appliqué and fabric paint to complete the detail. The banner was made by a Mrs Mandy Rose who took around 150 hours to complete this task.

W Bro Barry Leggett and his wife Jo, had for a number of years, organised the annual Ladies Night function and suggested that £500.00 surplus from these past functions be donated towards the banner cost. Obviously the new banner keeps the same design as that on the original. In its centre is the 'badge', as printed on the Lodge Summons. Also incorporated is the coat of arms of the County Borough of Burton upon Trent granted in 1928, which has its motto, 'Honour Alit Artes', which I believe means 'Honour Nourishes the Arts'. The new pole and finials made from lacewood were turned by W Bro Alan Evans.

Freemasonry believes in offering relief in all forms of charity and in December £200.00 was given to St Modwens Church towards the cost of replacing alter books and lectern bible, which had been destroyed in a fire.

The January 2001 meeting again saw W Bro A I Evans to the fore, acting as WM he raised his son, Bro Ian A Evans to a Master Mason.

A near similar event occurring in February, with the WM raising his son in law, Bro Martin I Bridge to a Master Mason.

Following notification from PGL, W Bro E A Ford reported that he was to be honoured by appointment to Provincial Senior Grand Warden, the first such appointment given to a member of Andresey Lodge. He felt that this appointment may prevent his regular attendance at Lodge Meetings and it was therefore right to relinquish his D of C duties after 8 years. W Bro A S Johnson would therefore take over these duties after the forthcoming installation in March 2001

Unfortunately, normal Lodge ceremonies were in short supply this year and various papers were received in April from W Bro R G Taylor entitled 'Freemasonry in the USA', in May from W Bro P E M Parsons, entitled 'Aprons in Uniform', in October from W Bro H Marks, entitled' ….. and Illustrating Symbols', in November from W Bro R G Taylor entitled 'The Shriners in the USA'.

As part of the history of events affecting the Lodge, it must be recorded here that the terrorist attacks in New York on 11th September 2001, will have a lasting effect on all our lives.

On 23rd October 2001, Lodge Members made a ceremonious visit to St Modwens Lodge, the first for several years.

In December, all Lodges meeting at Ashfield House made a collective donation to purchase a defibrillator which would be kept at the Octagon Shopping Centre in Burton upon Trent. Also at this meeting the first section of the first lecture was worked by five members of the Lodge. Following the meeting, the ladies were again invited to join members at the Festive Board – a tradition repeated hereafter following the initial success in 2000.

The last meeting of W Bro. R W Davies –Lee's year ended with eleven brethren combining to give an explanation of the extended versions of the First Degree Tracing Board. Thus ending a year without a traditional ceremony.

March 2002 saw a proposal made to make W Bro Rev Preb Edwin C Hayward,

PDGChap, an Honourary Member, unfortunately, Edwin dies within a few days of the proposal being made. The death of HM Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother was also reported and honoured.

Mr Simon Pollard was initiated, the first candidate since May 2000 In April a second candidate was proposed.

In October, an increase in the Lodge subscription was proposed and approved at £110.00 The Charity Steward reported that the final total donated to the 2002 Festival was £41,405.00, the second highest total from Lodges within the Province, for which he had been presented with a plaque from the PGM at the Festival Dinner. The total collected throughout the Province being £2,529,479.00

November 12th 2002 saw another of those special ceremonies. A father, W Bro Alan I Evans initiates his son in law, Mr Mark J Broughton. It was also announced at this meeting that the PGM, R W Bro Kevin Chawner would be retiring in May 2003. Following this announcement, notification received in January 2003 indicated that the APGM, W Bro Thomas D C Lloyd would be appointed to PGM in May and to also attend our Installation in March 2003. In the event W Bro T D C Lloyd did not attend the Installation and W Bro E Alan Wright acted as the official representative of the PGM.

The Worshipful Master, W Bro D P Ayling's year, drew to a close prior to him installing his successor with an Initiation ceremony, thus completing three Initiations, a Passing, a Raising and a joining member. My, how the Lodge workload changes from one year to the next.

Throughout the year, 'Freemasonry in the Community' was foremost in every Mason's mind. This was an initiative to inform the public at large what masonry was about, and its place in the community. In Burton upon Trent this culminated in individual letters of invitation being sent to heads of industry, local authority personnel and even advertisements in the local press, for everyone to attend an exhibition and tour of Ashfield House. This approach was well received by the local press and several complimentary editorials appeared in the news media. On a similar vein, a Cathedral service was held at Lichfield Cathedral where Freemasons paraded in full regalia, to and in the Cathedral. Also in May 2003, a further gentlemans evening was undertaken within the Lodge (non members invited to visit the Lodge and receive a presentation about Freemasonry).

At the October meeting, the death of W Bro K L George was reported.

The March 2004 meeting saw W Bro Barry Cripwell install his son

Bro Richard Cripwell into the WM Chair by kind permission of the WM. At this meeting the APGM, W Bro S Haydn Palmer announced that W Bro E A Ford was later that month to receive Grand Rank. The fourth initiated member of Andresey Lodge to do so, the others being W Bro E A Wright, W Bro A P Richardson, and W Bro A Alpin. Unfortunately, just 5 months later, W Bro S Haydn Palmer was to die from cancer.

Notification was received in May that the PGM had been appointed one of Her Majesty's Deputy Lieutenants for the West Midlands.

October and November can only be described as failed attempts to carry out the ceremony of Passing as the candidates failed to appear, and again in April 2005. He would later be excluded under Rule 168A for non payment of his subscription. Notification from PGL indicated that W Bro D Gary Read PrGDC had been appointed to APGM. This month also saw the Lodge take a momentous decision to issue Lodge Summons by electronic mail. Following our request, PGL also agreed to accept their summonses by email.

March 2005 saw the newly appointed APGM visit the Lodge.

Our meeting in May was overshadowed by the sad new of the death of W Bro Quinton Faircliff after a short illness. The PGL this month saw

W Bro John E Griffiths appointed as DPGM and W Bro J Keith Thomas joining

W Bro D Gary Read as APGM's. At this same meeting, W Bro D V Toon received Provincial Honours in the active role of Prov Assistant Grand Secretary and unusually just one year later another active rank as Prov Grand Registrar. Unfortunately, the death of the Past DPGM, VW Bro John T Bedson was also reported.

The cost of the standard three course meal was now increased to £11

As a variation from the normal ceremony, November saw the Lodge deliver a prepared paper on the presentation of the Tracing Boards and a demonstration of the signs. All of the Lodges had contributed to the purchase and requisite training in the use of a defibrillator to the kept at Ashfield House.

The election of WM for 2006 was not the usual SW progression due to the illness of the SW. W Bro A R Johnson agreed to step into the breach and had further cause to celebrate as his mother attains her 100th birthday. His Installation in March was attended by the DPGM, W Bro John E Griffiths.A donation of £1000 being made to W. Bro.J.E. Griffiths for the National Memorial Arboretum Masonic Garden.

The Provincial Grand Lodge meeting in May 2006 saw the promotion of W. Bro.D.V. Toon to Provincial Grand Registrar a position he was to hold for two years. W. Bro.M.J.W. Cripwell also received a promotion to PPrGReg.

In June 2006 a "Thanksgiving Service For Freemasons" was held at Lichfield Cathedral, with brethren attending in Masonic regalia.

The death of W. Bro.E.Alan Wright PJGD was recorded in October 2006. W. Bro.Wright was initiated into Andresey Lodge in 1949, the son of the first elected Master of the Lodge. The first notification of the PGM's agreement to host a Festival 2013 in aid of the Masonic Grand Charity was received.

November saw the approval of a donation of £250 being made to the Donna Louise Trust and the entry of Mr Vincent Montague into freemasonry,

In January 2007 a further donation of £400 was made to the St Giles Hospice.

The annual Installation meeting in March 2007 saw the installation of Bro. Martin I Bridge as Master.

In May 2007 W. Bro. E.A.Ford PAGDC presented a paper researched and written by him entitled "The Third Degree Tracing Board."

W.Bro. I.S. Botham received an active Provincial rank appointment as PrAGDC at the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting. The tsunami disaster prompted an immediate donation of £100,000 from The Grand Charity

A further increase in the cost of a standard meal to £12 was instigated at Ashfield House.

The launch of the Andresey Lodge web-site was noted.....www.andresey6408.org.UK. The brethren recorded their thanks to W.Bro. C.D. Priestley for his excellent work in this matter.

November 2007 saw the return of Bro. I.A. Evans as a rejoining member.

The Lodge brethren together with the brethren of St Modwen's Lodge made a ceremonious visit to Abbey Lodge in December 2007. A donation of £500 was approved for the purchase of reflective jackets for use by the children of Anglesey Community School was also made in December.

In February 2008 two new members were admitted, Mr Duewright Clarke being initiated into freemasonry and Bro. N.L. Nathan being re-admitted as a rejoining member.

The March 2008 Installation meeting of W.Bro. C.D. Priestley PPrJGD. was attended by W.Bro.J.Keith Thomas APGM.

In April 2008 a further new member, W.Bro.K.Davies, was admitted into the lodge.

In May 2008 a donation to Wilson Keys Court of £200 and a donation to Breakthrough Breast Cancer of £450 was approved.

An Olde English Nite was the theme for the October meeting festive board with fines, an auction and raffle raising £550. £500 of this money being presented to MIND at the December meeting.

W.Bro.D.V.Toon PPrGReg. presented a Chaplains Bible to the Lodge on the 11th day of the 11th month of 2008, 90 years after the end of World War 1, and coincidently it would have been his fathers 90th birthday.

In December 2008 the ladies joined the members at the festive board, following a talk by W.Bro.E.A.Ford PAGDC entitled "The Lodge Furniture"

The March 2009 Installation meeting saw Bro. Alan May installed as Worshipful Master.

At the Provincial Grand Lodge in May 2009, two members W.Bro.D.StClair and W.Bro.G.J.Ross both received promotion to PPrSGD.

In October 2009 the lodge received an excellent presentation from the Royal College of Surgeons enthralling the 85 attendees. A donation of £200 was agreed for the Winshill Village Primary School to assist in the cost of construction of a sensory garden.

The November meeting was the 500th lodge meeting and was celebrated by the attendance of the APGM, W Bro. C B Denne and a ceremonious visit from Abbey Lodge No 624 and St. Modwen's Lodge No 4850 respectively our mother and sister lodges. All witnessed the initiation of Mr J Roach. The brethren agreed to purchase Christmas gift tokens to the value of £25 for each of the widows of former lodge members.

In December the lodge entertained the ladies and received a paper from W.Bro. E A Ford entitled "What Is Freemasonry?"

January 2010 witnessed the initiation of Mr Peter D Birchinall carried out by the Past Masters of the lodge.

St Modwen's Lodge of Instruction, containing members of Andresey and St Modwen's lodges, gave a presentation of sections 2.3 and 5 of the second lecture at our February meeting. Unfortunately we received a resignation of our J.W.. Bro. I A Evans who had relocated to new employment in Wales.

The Ladies Night principal lady, Mrs S May requested that the proceeds from the raffle held on the evening be donated to the Midlands Air Ambulance, the amount raised was £320.

The installation in March of our new W.M.. W.Bro. G C Aitkenhead was witnessed by the DPGM. V.W.Bro. D Gary Read. Bro. Read also gave a eulogy to the passing of the Past Pro Grand Master, M.W.Bro.The Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis O.B.E.

W. Bro. P W Scragg was appointed to SW following the resignation of Bro. Evans, but expressed a wish that he would not advance to WM next year.

In April, by permission of the PGM, we received a presentation by the Provincial Royal Arch Chapter team, highlighting the principles and benefits of joining the Royal Arch. To mark their 65th birthdays on this day a cake was made for W.Bro.D V Toon and the visiting PrSGW, W.Bro.M P Williams. A further coincidence was the birthday of W.Bro. P E M Parsons, another visitor, on this same day.

In May 2010 we carried out a double Initiation ceremony, initiating Mr J T Martin and Mr A J Holmes. A donation of £200 was made to the Violet Lane Foundation School, to assist in the cost of construction of a bicycle store.

The Christmas meeting agreed gift vouchers to the value of £25 to each of the "lodge widows". W. Bro. E A Ford made a presentation to the ladies, guests and members entitled "Heroes or Villains".

Andresy Lodge History – the 2010's

Another decades begins and the February 2011 Ladies Night raises £450 which the Principal Lady, Mrs M Aitkinhead requests be donated to the Midlands Air Ambulance.

March sees the installation of W.Bro. E A Ford as WM, the APGM, W.Bro. J V Renaudon being in attendance. After 16 years as Charity Steward, W.Bro. A I Evans passes on the onerous duties and challenge of the position to W. Bro. A May.

The month of May sees the first initiation of the year, as Mr D Knight is admitted into membership. The members approved a donation of £200 to the Glebe Preschool Playgroup to assist with the cost of constructing of an outside shelter.

May also sees the appointment by Provincial Grand Lodge of W. Bro. R C Warrior to PPrJGD and Bro. A F Jones to PPrAGDC. W Bro. C D Priestley receives promotion to PPrSwdB.

October sees a further initiation of Mr D J Westwood.

November saw a rapid re-scheduling of our meeting to enable the lodge to raise Bro. A J Holmes to become a master mason prior to his emigration to Australia.

Christmas again saw a distribution of gift vouchers to the value of £25 to each of the widows of former lodge members. The lodge entertained the ladies and guests at the festive board and W.Bro. E A Ford gave a presentation entitled "I've Got The Picture – What Next". W. Bro Ford offered for sale framed photographs and canvas prints used in his presentation, the proceeds being given to the Midland Air Ambulance.

A successful Ladies Night was held in February 2012 and proceeds from the evening, totalling £350, were donated at the request of the principal lady, Mrs I Hall, to the “Help For Heroes” charity.

February also saw a further initiation that of Mr M Edwards, our sixth initiation in a little over two years. Unfortunately, mainly due to increases in GL and PGL fees a subscription rise to £120 p.a. was agreed.

March 2012 saw Bro. K Davies installed as Worshipful Master, the ceremony being attended by the APGM, W.Bro. C B Denne.

In March the lodge acknowledge receipt of a bible cushion from Mrs S May to which Mrs J Priestley had added corner tassels. W. Bro. C D Priestley also presented a pair of compasses to the lodge, which would be used in future initiation ceremonies. Following the death of Bro. J Roach it was agreed to purchase a steward’s jewel which would be engraved on the rear as a mark of respect to his memory.

May saw the members being reminded of the correct use of Masonic signs in a lecture and demonstration by senior members of the lodge. The meeting also received an explanation of the history of the tracing boards given by W.Bro.E A Ford.

In May we received notification of the resignation of the PGM, R.W. Bro. T D C Lloyd and the proposed installation of his replacement that of W.Bro. A I Stewart PAGDC, PPrSGW . After some confusion V.W.Bro. D Gary Read would now be re-appointed as DPGM and W.Bro’s C B Denne and J V Renaudon would remain as APGM’s. At this meeting W.Bro. A R Johnson and W.Bro. B L Leggett would both be promoted to PPrGR.

The Masonic year ends with the news that our caterer of 19 years, Mr T Wassall, is to retire. We thank him for his excellent service and food and wish him good health and happiness in his retirement. A donation was made from the lodge for a collective retirement gift from everyone at Ashfield House.In October W.Bro.D.StClair presented a Mentors collar and jewel to the lodge in recognition of this new lodge office. The investiture ritual associated with this new office was received from UGLE.

At the November meeting approval was given by the members for the usual distribution of M. & S. vouchers of £30 to each widow of former lodge members. Six of the lodge members attended a course in the use of the defibrillator and received accredited certificates.

The members entertained their ladies and guests to a Christmas dinner, after the December meeting.

In February 2013 the lodge accounts, for the previous year, showed a very small surplus so subscriptions would remain at there present level for a further year. Mr S. O’Connell was initiated. A request for country membership was received and granted to Bro.A.J.Holmes now residing in Australia.

The Ladies Festival held in February and saw £220 donated to Prostate Cancer research.

The installation of Bro.E.N.Robinson in March was witnessed by the APGM., W.Bro.J.V.Renaudon, who was presented with a cheque for £2000 for the 2013 Festival Fund.

The Prov.SGW., W.Bro.M.W.N.Ashcroft visited the lodge in May, and received a cheque for £1000, from the Ladies Night Account, for the 2013 Festival Fund. W.Bro A.I.Evans was made an Honorary Member of the lodge. After the meeting the Ladies and guests joined the members for a musically based lecture given by W.Bro. M.Rizzardi of Abbey Lodge. Mrs K.StClair responded to the toast to the "visitors" at the festive board.

The Prov.G.L. meeting held in June 2013 saw the appointment of W.Bro.M.I.Bridge as Prov.JGD. and his father-in-law, W.Bro.D.V.Toon promoted to PPr.JGW. A certificate was presented to the lodge for achieving an average of over £450 per member given to the 2013 Festival Fund, together with two glass goblets to be used by the wardens at the festive board.

In November W.Bro.E.A.Ford gave a presentation entitled "The Third Degree Tracing Board – Beyond The Fascade". As in many years past, the members approved the purchase of M. & S. vouchers for distribution to widows of former lodge members. The members received with sadness notification of the death of W.Bro.E.Eyley a member of the lodge since 1965 and Master in 1975.

The ladies joined the members for dinner after the December meeting.

One of the first duties in January 2014 saw the approval of the lodge subscription increased to £140 per annum, for full members and £68 per annum for country members.

In February Mr. M. Allen was initiated, and an application, approved, for transfer to country membership for W.Bro.M.Stanhope.

The installation meeting in March began with a eulogy to W.Bro.M.W.P.Cripwell, a member since 1981 and Master in 1993. W. Bro. M. I. Bridge was installed as Worshipful Master for the second time, the ceremony performed in the presence of the APGM., W.Bro. D.W.Phillips. Notification was received from U.G.L.E., that W.Bro.E.A.Ford was to be promoted to P.J.G.D.

Several candidates were now being put forward for membership and one of these Mr. N. Barker was initiated at the April meeting.

The Royal Arch representative informed the members of the forthcoming 150th anniversary of the formation of Abbey Chapter No 624 in May and this would be celebrated by a unique ceremony in which all five R.A.Chapters meeting at Ashfield House would take part.

In October 2014, W.Bro. D.N.Davies was welcomed into the lodge as a joining member. Mr. S.C.Hickey was initiated, Christmas gifts were approved for the "lodge widows" and a notification was received of the imminent replacement of the lodge caterers.

Mr J.L.Bird was initiated in November and at just 21 years of age is one of our youngest candidates for many years.

The ladies joined the members after the December meeting for a Christmas dinner, at which a donation

for £250 was made to Mrs J.Roach, the widow of the late Bro J.Roach, for Christies Hospital for research into stomach cancer.

The first meeting of 2015, opened with a eulogy to W.Bro.G.Foster a member since 1982 and W.M. in 1994. Mr J.A.Cox was initiated.

In February the lodge received a gift of £150 from the family of the late W.Bro.G.Foster. A number of new collars for lodge officers were purchased and suitable inscribed.The Ladies Night held in February 2015 saw many members and their wives enjoy an evening dinner, a quiz and dancing to a "live " band. The charity collection raised the sum of £300, which the Principal Lady, Mrs Louise Bridge donated to the Teenage Cancer Trust.

The installation meeting in March 2015 of Bro.C.J.Palmer was witnessed by the DPGM. W.Bro.J.V.Renaudon, the Past.AGM. W.Bro.J.K.Thomas, the Prov.SGW. W.Bro.J.P.Ashcroft and a goodly number of acting provincial officers.The date of the April meeting was changed by dispensation to Friday 17th April 2015. The principal item of the ceremony was to initiate Mr Neil Davies, the brother of one of our Past Masters. W.Bro. Keith Davies who was also able to take part in the ceremony. The working tools were presented to the candidate by one of our entered apprentices , Bro. J. Byrd.

Just as the date of the April meeting was changed, due to a clash with Provincial Grand Chapter A.G.M. so was our May meeting also changed by dispensation to Monday 11th May 2016 due to clash with Provincial Grand Lodge A.G.M. Our meeting witnessed the passing of Bro. S. Hickey with the working tools being presented by a fellowcraft Bro. N.Barker.

Our first lodge meeting following the summer break, in October, received the financial reports of the lodge. Despite there being a slight surplus for the year, forthcoming known increases indicated a rise in subscription charges would be necessary. An increase of £2 per quarter was therefore proposed and accepted. Sadly the death of W.Bro. Bob Camplbell, one of our most supportive members, was reported. His active participation in all social and official lodge functions and meetings will be greatly missed. Due to the absence of Bro. M. Allen, Bro S. Hickey received rapid advancement to become a Master Mason at this October meeting. W.Bro. Richard Warrior treated all members present to cake, port and cheese to celebrate his 40th anniversary of his entry into freemasonry.

In November Bro. J. Byrd was passed to the degree of a fellowcraft. The customary purchase of gift tokens for the "lodge widows" was approved, the W.M. and Almoner undertaking the responsibility of visiting each widow still residing in the area.The now customary arrangement for December enabled the lodge members to entertain their own wives/partners plus several lodge widows to a Christmas dinner. W.Bro. E.A.Ford gave a talk and photographic presentation on The Masonic Memorial Garden at the National Memorial Arboretum.

Ladies Night in February 2016 saw a change in the usual format with a speaker being engaged to entertain everyone present rather than the customary "live music". A charity collection raised £120 which the Principal Lady, Mrs D. Palmer donated to the Syrian Refugee crisis appeal.March 2016 saw W.Bro. G.C.Aitkenhead, installed for his second time as lodge Worshipful Master. This was witnessed by the P.G.M., R.W. Bro. Dr. Alexander I. Stewart, and also by W. Bro. R. Aitkenhead, the

Worshipful Master's father. W.Bro. D. StClair relinquished his position as Director of Ceremonies after so ably overseeing the lodge ceremonies for 10 years. To mark the occasion the P.G.M. presented to the lodge a pair of warden's columns which had kindly been donated by W.Bro. D.StClair.The April meeting was held on Friday 8th April 2016 by dispensation from P.G.L. as P.G.C. was being held on our usual second Tuesday date. At our meeting a new member, Mr R. Harrison was initiated into freemasonry. The lodge received a new square and a pair of compasses purchased from the proceeds of the sale of regalia formerly owned by our late W. Bro. Bob Campbell.

Again our May meeting date was changed due to the A.G.M. of P.G.L. being held on our usual second Tuesday date. This year W.Bro. G. Aitkenhead would receive his first appointment as an acting officer within the province as Prov.J.G.D. Unfortunately after 49 years of membership, W.Bro. Michael Stanhope decided he was no longer able to attend future lodge meetings and tendered his resignation.

Despite the absence of the W.M. at the October meeting, the Third Degree raising of Bro. M. Allen was undertaken by three Past Masters. We also received notification of the future installation of the new P.G.M., W.Bro. J. Lockley , which would take place on the 22nd November 2016.

The donation of £270 to the Tutbury Toddler Group was acknowledged.

In November the lodge approved the purchase of M. and S. vouchers to a total value of £330 to be distributed to the "Lodge Widows" at Christmas.

The lodge carried out a ceremonious visit to Abbey Lodge on the 6th December 2016. December also saw us entertaining our wives, partners and some "lodge widows" to a Christmas dinner. There they were entertained to a most interesting talk given by Mr Alan Hiley of the "Magic Attic" the local history archive. A suitable donation was made to Mr Hiley to help with the purchase of an outside portable gazebo for use by the Magic Attic. Presentations were also made to the bar and catering staff in recognition of their service throughout the year.

The Ladies Festival was held in February. Congratulations were recorded to Bro. S. Hickey and his wife Sian for organising the event.

February also saw the lodge making a donation of £250 to Peter Harrison of Hanbury to help with mobility equipment following his motorcycle accident. Notification was received of two impending Provincial promotions, that of W.Bro. C.D.Priestley to P.Pr.J.G.W. and W. Bro. R.Warrior to P.Pr.G.Supt.Wks. both to take place at P.G.L. in May 2017.

March saw the lodge under the direction of a new W.M., W.Bro. D.N.Davies, a ceremony witnessed by the Past A.P.G.M. W.Bro. D.W.Phillips and many other Provincial Officers.

In April and May two consecutive Third Degree ceremonies were undertaken in the raising of Bro's N.Davies and J.A.Cox.

A change of date for the Past Masters to perform their usual once a year ceremony was made in October with the "oldies" undertaking the raising of Bro. R.Harrison. It was also reported

that W.Bro. Eddie Ford had been honoured by the Grand Master conferring upon him The Grand Masters Order of Service to Masonry. This is the highest honour the Grand Master can confer on any mason and is limited to no more than 12 throughout the world.

And so to the future…

So, after nearly 70 years, Andresey Lodge No. 6408 continues to flourish but it has not always been plain sailing. Shortages of candidates at times have seen lectures given and papers prepared but Traditions and Standards have been maintained throughout.

The use of electronic mail for correspondence and the issue of Lodge Summons has undoubtedly saved considerable costs to the Lodge. The introduction of the internet has also seen many applications for membership arising, which would not have been possible previously.

Freemasonry in the Community actively encouraged press publicity and when charitable presentations are made, the production of a twice yearly magazine 'Within your Province', the use of Lodge and Provincial websites and the inclusion of a site of remembrance at the National Memorial Arboretum, all add to an improvement in the conception of the public to Freemasonry. It is hoped that the high moral standards expected of Freemasons will not detract from candidates making applications, but encourage them to do so.

It is interesting to make a comparison between costs applied in 1947 to those applicable just 70 years later. Meal costs for example were originally set at 4/6d and now cost £17. Applying an accepted inflation factor for the period would result in a meal cost of only £8.93 today. However we did not have minimum wage legislation or VAT in 1947.

On the other hand the original rent paid in 1947 was set at £175 per annum and is currently £2848. This compares with £6947.50 if applying the same inflation standard, a considerable saving.

To comply with the Grand Masters instructions the 585th and 586th regular meeting did not take place. A new method of communication was now becoming widely used- "zoom", something of necessity during the covid pandemic, our first meeting in April 2020, using "zoom" was hilarious.

By October 2020 a vaccine had been developed and a programme of vaccinations implemented. Some form of normality was therefore re stored.

At our October 2020 meeting a comprehensive list of items were discussed and these would be implemented at later dates. However, it was agreed to sponsor the formation of a new lodge, the "Science Fiction and Fantasy Lodge". The death of W.Bro S.T.Wass was also recorded. Unfortunately, due to further COVID virus restrictions, meetings were again suspended so that no meetings could take place between November 2020 and September 2021. The lockdown did not stop charitable giving with a donation to the Young Ones for £250. (Photo you in mask facebook)

In October 2021 the deaths of W.Bros R. Davis Lee and E. Robinson were recorded. All officers appointed and invested in March 2020 were reappointed including that of our Worshipful Master, W.Bro S. Hickey. Several charity donations were proposed including £500 to the 2024 Festival, £250 to the Young One's Charity and £25 vouchers to all of the lodge widows.

November saw the initiation of Mr Christopher Robson. December gave us the opportunity to invite guests' wives and partners to a white table evening.

In January 2022 we received a presentation of a paper written by W.Bro E.A. Ford entitled “Symbolism of the First Degree”.

Mr David Cooper was initiated in February and a proposal made to donate £100 to the Gresley Colliery Brass Band Junior Section. With Roulette and Black Jack our Ladies Night was based on an imaginary visit to Las Vegas. (photo ladies night 2022)

March 2022 saw the installation of our new Worshipful Master, Bro Neil Barker. Unfortunately, due to the COVID restrictions and his employment abroad our current Worshipful Master, W.Bro S. Hickey had not been able to occupy the Worshipful Master’s chair during his two year as lodge master. W.Bro. D StClair occupying the chair to install our new Worshipful Master on this occasion, a ceremony witnessed by W.Bro. M. Santopietro A.P.G.M. A proposition was received to donate £250 to Dementia Awareness Charity.

A second degree passing ceremony of Bro C. Robson was undertaken in April. It was reported that the consecration of our daughter lodge, the “Science Fiction and Fantasy lodge” would take place in Wolverhampton on the 9th July.

Following a dispensation to hold our May meeting on the 24th May due to a clash with Provincial Grand Chapter the brethren wives and friends received a talk by Kate Murphy on Sinai Park House. (photo SinaiHouse)

On our return after the summer break Bro D. Cooper was passed to the second degree in October. Unfortunately following receipt of the lodge accounts the subscriptions would need to be increased to £180 from next March.

In November the lodge donated a further £500 to the 2024 festival, £250 to the Young One's Charity and a sum not exceeding £300 was agreed for Christmas gifts to the lodge widows. A very interesting visit to Sinai Park House was organised.

The December meeting consisted of a short business meeting followed by a talk from Mrs Sheila Measham from the Young Ones Charity followed by a dinner for members wives and guests.

In February 2023 we held a lighthearted quiz devised by W.Bro E A Ford entitled “So you think you know all about freemasonry”. Medals were awarded to the winning team. A further £500 was proposed for the 2024 festival. W.Bro Paul foster was proposed as a joining member.

The March installation of Bro Neil Davies was witnessed by the Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro J Lockley. W.Bro M Santopietro APGM attended in May to see the lodge initiate Mr Jordan Davies the son of our Worshipful Master.

In November we raised Bro D. Cooper to the sublime degree of a Master Mason. Propositions were received to make a further £500 donation to the 2024 festival together with £25 gift vouchers as a Christmas gift for each of the lodge widows and a donation of £500 to Arthritis Action. This latter donation resulting from our Worshipful Master and his son undertaking a 24 hour table tennis marathon.

In December a short business meeting was followed by an illustrated talk by W.Bro E.A. Ford on the “delights of photography” following which brethren their wives and friends attended a Christmas dinner with musical accompaniment by the Gresley Colliery Brass Band who received a £200 donation from the lodge. A donation of £100 was made to the Ashfield House Steward and staff.

February 2024 saw a new member join the lodge, Bro T. Brandrick a former member of the now non-operating Dove Lodge. We also passed Bro J. Davies to the second degree. Our Ladies Night adopted a Casino Night theme. (photo ladies night 2024)

Following his re-election W.Bro N. Davis was proclaimed as Worshipful Master for the ensuing year, a ceremony witnessed by W.Bro J. Derry the APGM. Notice was received of Provincial appointments for 2024 with W.Bro C.D. Priestley being reappointed as Prov.A.G.Sec. and W.Bro.K.Davies being promoted to P.Pr.A.G.Swd.B.

In April W.Bro E.A.Ford gave an in lodge presentation on the future of Andresey lodge and the urgent need to undertake some positive proactive action on several ideas that he put forward. These included the adoption of Andresey Lodge as a photography themed lodge, attendance at village fetes in the area, the production of lodge leaflets, a digital marketing campaign, a £1 addition to dining fees to defray non-paying visitor costs, a ceremonious visit invitation, duck race and raffle proceeds to go to lodge funds, and several other ideas to try and increase lodge attendances and lodge memberships.

Once again, the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting fell on the regular May lodge meeting date so a dispensation was granted to hold our meeting one day earlier than usual. The lodge performed a demonstration of the second degree passing ceremony with W.Bro R.Armson giving an excellent explanation of the second degree tracing board. Unfortunately W.Bro R.Armson would not attend another meeting as his death was recorded at our October meeting.

At the October meeting we invited our mother, sister and daughter lodges to attend a ceremonious visit at which we demonstrated the first degree initiation ceremony. Regrettably due to poor eyesight and other health problems W.Bro A.May, Charity Steward had been forced into tendering his resignation from the lodge. His last duty was to submit various charity donations including £500 to the 2024 festival and a sum not exceeding £300 for Christmas gifts for the lodge widows together with £500 to two local charities. (photo fromNeil)

The November meeting witnessed a third degree raising ceremony of Bro J.Davies. The accounts for the year were approved although a substantial deficit was recorded. Accordingly, the Treasurer proposed an increase in subscriptions to £200 for a full member and £100 for a country member.

A white table invitation for lodge widows, wives and friends was now the norm for our December meeting.

In January 2025 the lodge invited guests from other lodges to attend and have their portraits taken in several photo studios set up for the evening.

Our February meeting was attended by the P.G.M. R.W.Bro J.Lockley to make a special presentation to W.Bro.P.Scragg on his celebration of 50 years in freemasonry and membership of Andresey Lodge. The PGM also presented two Grand Lodge certificates to Bros. D.Cooper and J.Davies. A digital marketing campaign had produced several interested candidates and these would be processed. (photo PScragg and PGM facebook)

The P.G.M. made a further visit in March to witness the installation of W.Bro.A.R.Johnson as Worshipful Master. Our thanks to W.Bro. A.R.Johnson for taking on this duty as a consequence of the death of W.Bro.R.Armson S.W.

Following a gap of over a year an initiation of a new member, Mr Askia Muhammad, took place in April. Mr Muhammad is the son of a lodge former member.