

FOREWORD

It is impossible to give a full history of the Lodge and its achievements, but so that we who have to carry on the work, and for those who have yet to join us, we ought to acknowledge certain key events.

These past one hundred years have been characterised by their absence of acrimony, and the records show evidence of harmony, continuing interest, consistent application and success in these areas which form the basis of true Masonic achievement. Generally speaking, the relationships within the Lodge have proceeded on an even tenor and this must in great measure be attributed to the continuing service and cheerful work on the part of individual members, and to the quiet support given by those who may not have received specific mention in the records.

If we can continue during the next one hundred years to give in similar measure an interest in the particular affairs of the Lodge and the well-being of Masonry as a whole, when the Centenary of the Lodge is celebrated, those who are then its members must look back with pride at such achievement and be inspired to continue the great work.

THE FOUNDING OF THE LODGE

The Founders met seven times during the months March to October 1924 and the objects underlying the formation of the new Lodge are mentioned later. A further aim was the encouragement of young masons, rather than that the Founders should fill the Offices which they had held previously.

While it would be difficult and lengthy to paraphrase the proceedings of the meetings, it is interesting to note some of the main points which formed the basis of discussion. During their deliberations, the first proposals made by the Founders were that the name should be "**LINTON PARK LODGE**", subject to permission being obtained from the Provincial Grand Master, (Col. F.S.W. Cornwallis), that the Lodge should meet on the first Wednesday of the month and that meetings should be held during the months October to April with the exception of January.

The installation would be held on the first Wednesday in April, as an amendment to an original proposition that it should be held on the first Wednesday in October.

It was later reported that the name "**LINTON PARK**" had been submitted to the Provincial Grand Master, but as it was possible that this name would

not be allowed by Grand Lodge an alternative title, "**CHILLINGTON MANOR**", had also been put forward. This action was confirmed.

It would appear that "**LINTON PARK**" (the residence of the Provincial Grand Master) as a name for the Lodge was unacceptable, probably for the reason that it was considered invidious that open and direct reference to personal connections or affairs of a living Provincial Grand Master should be made. However, no direct mention is made of this, but obviously the alternative "**CHILLINGTON MANOR**" was adopted. Reports of the later proceedings show that the Provincial Grand Master was not in favour of the first Wednesday in the month for the meetings of the new Lodge as Grand Lodge and Grand Chapter meetings were held on the same day. As a result it was decided that the second Wednesday would be most appropriate. Strangely, the Quarterly Communications of Grand Lodge are now held on the second Wednesday of the month.

Again, no direct reference was made to the month in which the Installation of new Masters should be held, but doubtless our Founders decided that it would be desirable to hold this at the beginning of each New Year of the Lodge's life.

After considerable discussion as to whether the consecration of the new Lodge should be held in September or October, the final decision, no doubt to conform to the Provincial Grand Master's wishes, was for October, a cold luncheon price 12s.6d. inclusive of wines and tea after the ceremony, being provided. That amount equates to £0.62 and would be the equivalent of £26.35 as at the Centenary in 2024

CHILLINGTON MANOR

Chillington Manor, after which the Lodge is named, is now part of Brenchley House, the present location of the Maidstone Museum in Faith Street. The building consists of an ancient Tudor gallery to which rooms and wings have been added through the years. Chillington, as a sub-manor dating from 1343, was contained within the Archbishop of Canterbury's Manor of Maidstone, and was possessed by the College of Priests. Association with the latter can be recognised in the Ancient College, near All Saints Church, part of which has close connection with Freemasonry, being the meeting place of three Craft Lodges and other orders.

In the 16th Century, Chillington Manor came into the possession of the Wiat or Wyatt family, the most famous of whom was Sir Thomas Wyatt, the

instigator of the unsuccessful rebellion against Queen Mary ("Bloody" Mary) in 1554.

Maidstone's first M.P., Nicholas Barham, built the present Elizabethan portion of the house, allowing the older Tudor Gallery to remain at the back.

In 1874, the crown-posted 15th Century "Court Lodge" from East Farleigh was transferred and added. It is interesting to note that Peter Mapplesden who lived at Court Lodge joined Wyatt in his ill-starred revolt and made the short walk along Pudding Lane and was beheaded in the High Street.

The building became a museum in 1858, when the then owner, Dr. Thomas Charles, died and left his collection of antiques to the borough.

CONSECRATION OF THE CHILLINGTON MANOR LODGE NO.4649

The Chillington Manor Lodge was consecrated at the Concert Hall, Corn Exchange, Maidstone on 31st October 1924 by the Rt. W. Bro. the Provincial Grand Master of Kent, Col. F.S.W. Cornwallis P.G.W. Eng., who was subsequently raised to the Peerage under the title Baron Cornwallis of Linton (year 1927). Then Lord Cornwallis was later appointed Pro Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England (1935) but unfortunately died (1935) before being invested.

Those desirous of founding the Lodge were in many cases members of Robinson Lodge No.2046, which sponsored the petition to Grand Lodge for a Warrant. The precepts which the Founders postulated as underlying the object of forming the Lodge were: Research into Matters of Masonic interest, Zeal in Charity and the Secondary nature of refreshment after labour.

Among the prominent masons who were active in finally seeing their interest and energy result in the consecration of the new Lodge were:

W. Bro's Frederick E. Wallis, Wilfred J. Sharp, William J. Beecher, James S. Welch and Morton S. Dewsberry.

FOUNDING MEMBERS

The founding members were 35 in number:

W.Bro.	F. E. Wallis	Bro.	J. A. Joy
	M. S. Dewsberry		H. Cardwell
	W. J. Beecher		F. H. Rowcroft
	J. S. Welch		A. H. Sampson
	W. E. Bennett		A. F. Dyer
	W. H. Baker		A. W. Wyborn
	W. G. Clemetson		E. H. Holmwood
	C. H. Butler		R. Avery
	J. C. Hubble		W. Avery
	H. T. Sandford		E.L. Cook
	E.A. Avery		C. S. Beecher
	J. V. Reader		A. Robinson
	W. Clayson		F.F. Green
	A. R. Kemp		E. Avery
	W. J. Sharp		J. H. Harris
	A. A. Reader		W.A.N. Baker
	F.A. Gulland		G.W. Packwood Clarke
	W. H. Hayward		

They included a large number of masons who were prominent at the time of founding and who later occupied high positions both in the hierarchy and in the hearts of their fellow members. Some received recognition of their service by elevation to Grand Lodge Rank whilst many others were honoured by the Province.

W.Bro. Morton S. Dewsberry was Assistant Secretary to Provincial Grand Lodge, and in 1927 W.Bro. Wilfred J. Sharp was appointed Provincial Senior Grand Warden.

THE FIRST OFFICERS OF THE LODGE

W.M.	W.Bro.	William J. Beecher
I.P.M.	W.Bro.	Morton S. Dewsberry
S.W.	W.Bro.	Edward A. Avery
J.W.	Bro.	Frank H. Rowcroft
Treasurer	W.Bro.	William Clayson
Secretary	W.Bro.	James S. Welch
D.C.	W.Bro.	John C. Hubble
S.D.	Bro.	Arch. H. Sampson
J.D.	Bro.	Alfred F. Dyer
I.G.	Bro.	Robert Avery
A.D.C.	Bro.	Arthur W. Wyborn
Stewards	Bro.	William Avery
	Bro.	Ernest L. Cook

MASONIC CHARITIES

One of the principles on which the Lodge was founded was "Zeal in Charity", and since its inception the Lodge has been a generous subscriber to the Masonic Charities. As a result it has been designated:

Grand Patron and Founding Lodge - Royal Masonic Hospital
Patron Lodge - Royal Masonic Institution for Boys
Patron Lodge - Royal Masonic Institution for Girls
Patron Lodge - Royal Masonic Benevolent Institutions

The Worshipful Master also wears the Hall Stone Jewel and the collar-rosette commemorating the 250th Anniversary Fund for the Medical Research Fellowship.

In 1925, a Charity association was formed with a committee of eight members. W.Bro. W. J. Sharp P.P.S.G.W. was appointed as first Charity Representative and was a moving force for over 21 years. In 1933 he presented the Lodge Banner in recognition of the support given to his various appeals on behalf of the "Great Masonic Charities".

These efforts culminated in the Lodge achieving the honourable position of Premier Lodge of the 1940 Festival for the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys. As souvenirs of the occasion the Provincial Grand Master was presented with a beautiful piece of plate wrought by W.Bro. G. M. Clark and in 1941, acting on behalf of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. W. J. Sharp presented a very handsome rose-bowl to the Lodge. This rose-bowl, in recognition of the highest proportion of charity subscription per member of the Lodge, now graces our Lodge and acts as a signal reminder of one of the prime objects of Freemasonry, and as an inspiration to our present members to emulate the sterling efforts of the earlier members of the Lodge.

LODGE OF INSTRUCTION

The Lodge of Instruction was formed in October 1927, following a proposition in Lodge in March that year. The first Preceptor was W.Bro. J. S. Welch, who was also the first Secretary of the Lodge.