

# WESTBOURNE LODGE

No. 733

Consecrated February 4th 1858

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1858 - 2008

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A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LODGE  
COMPILED FOR THE  
CENTENARY CELEBRATION  
AND UPDATED FOR THE  
150<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY

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24<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2008

## FOREWORD

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The earliest records take us to the Manor House Tavern, Westbourne Terrace North, Paddington. The old inn no longer stands having been demolished in the early 1960s. Westbourne Lodge has in its possession two ashlar, one rough and one smooth made from the stone of the pillars which stood at the entrance to the Tavern.

Westbourne Lodge derives its name from the Westbourne river "one of the little rivers of London" which flowed close by the inn on its course from Hampstead to the Thames at Ranelagh, and was covered in and lost to sight in 1856, only two years prior to the consecration of the Lodge. The choice of the name "Westbourne" therefore appears most appropriate, having more significance than may have been generally realised.

# WESTBOURNE LODGE

No. 733



HALL STONE LODGE

**Founder and Patron Lodge**

ROYAL MASONIC HOSPITAL

**Patron Lodge**

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR GIRLS

ROYAL MASONIC INSTITUTION FOR BOYS

**Grand Patron Lodge**

ROYAL MASONIC BENEVOLENT INSTITUTION

THE MASONIC SMARITAN FUND

**Gold Award**

METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE, RMBI LONDON APPEAL

**Founding Lodge**

METROPOLITAN GRAND LODGE OF LONDON

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## FOUNDERS

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W.Bro.	A. D. LOWENSTARK	-	-	W.M.
Bro.	C. A. COTTEBRUNE	-	-	S.W.
”	H. A. STACEY	-	-	J.W.
”	J. CALDWELL	-	-	Treasurer
”	C. A. COTTEBRUNE	-	-	Secretary (Acting)
”	B. ROUSSEN	-	-	S.D.
”	F. A. DIETRICH	-	-	J.D.
”	W. HARRISON	-	-	I.G.
”	W. DUNDAS	-	-	
”	R. SLAVE	-	-	
”	H. W. POTTS	-	-	

## THE WESTBOURNE LODGE HISTORY FROM CONSECRATION TO THE CENTENARY

The Consecration of the Lodge took place on February 4th.1858 at the Manor House Tavern, Westbourne Terrace North, Paddington. The Officers officiating were:

W.Bro. W. Watson. P.G.S., P.M. No. 23, Master.  
 " J. Daley, P.M. No. 752. S.W.  
 " J. Dyte, P.M. No. 25, J.W.  
 " T. A. Adams, P.G.P. P.M. No. 206, I.P.M.

and there was an assembly of 40 brethren.

The Warrant, dated January 1st, 1858 was signed by the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Zetland, and by W.Bro. Wm. Gray Clarke, Grand Secretary. It authorised meetings on the third Thursday of every month, and was endorsed "The Lodge cannot be moved east of the Edgware Road nor south of the Bayswater Road without the express permission of the M. W. Grand Master written upon this Warrant." The Lodge was numbered 1035.

After the Consecration Ceremony, by Dispensation eight candidates were initiated, and the Minutes of the Meeting conclude with the somewhat Micawberish statement:

Collected	...	...	...	£38	17s	0d
Brt. forward	...	...	...	£10	1s	6d
				£48	18s	6d
By Expenses	...	...	...	£48	18s	0d
Balance in hands		Treasurer's	...			6d

The Minutes of a preliminary meeting of Founders record that the original Initiation Fee was £5-5s-0d., the Joining Fee £1-1s-0d, and the Visitor's Fee 10s. 6d.

There is no record of a sponsor Lodge, although there are indications of a fairly close association with Domatic Lodge No. 206 (now No. 177). Three of our Founders were members of Domatic Lodge; a Consecrating Officer was a P.M., and the Master was present at the Consecration. One of our earliest Initiates became a Joining Member, and later occupied the Chair before becoming Treasurer of Domatic Lodge.

The Lodge met on ten subsequent occasions in its first year, two Meetings being Emergencies.

At the third Meeting the By-laws were approved, and the Lodge unanimously authorised the opening of the Lodge of Instruction.

Records of the earliest years leave two outstanding impressions. The first is the pronounced cosmopolitan character of the Lodge, and the second is the tremendous enthusiasm for work. Among the Founders' names are some, which suggest foreign origin: in the first eight years no fewer than 44 Initiates bear unmistakably foreign names; several instances occur of Brethren of Continental Lodges becoming Joining Members, and of E.A.s and F.C.s of such Lodges joining Westbourne Lodge and being Passed and Raised therein, and there is an expression of thanks by the W.M. and a number of Brethren for the cordial and fraternal hospitality they had received when visiting a French Lodge in Paris.

Perhaps the most startling record is one 'which exemplifies both the impressions above referred to. In August, 1860, the W.M.: after Raising three F.C.s, announced that he had been asked to Raise a Frenchman who did not understand English, a F.C. of Lodge 25, and the ceremony was repeated in French for his benefit. After this the ceremony was again repeated, in order to raise a Brother, Initiated in the Westbourne Lodge and Passed in Lodge 196. Next, two E.A.s were Passed, and to complete this *tour de force* a candidate was Initiated. The W.M. appears to have occupied the Chair without relief; there is no record of

the work of the other Officers, which must have been arduous, or of the hour at which the Lodge was closed.

Of the eight candidates Initiated after the Consecration ceremony, seven were Passed at the second meeting, and six Raised at the third. Frequently four or more candidates took a Degree together: the three Degrees were worked at nearly every meeting, including Installation and Emergency; mention is made of Sections of the Lectures being rendered in Lodge and it was usual to close in each Degree.

At an Emergency Meeting in the first year, called "to initiate a courier about to leave England", the Lodge worked at minimum regularity, the W.M., S.W., J.W., the Secretary, two members and one visitor only being present.

In August 1858, it was decided to limit the Regular Meetings: to five, to be held in February, April, June, August and October. At the next meeting a visitor from an overseas Military Lodge appealed in person for relief. Bro. Secretary appears to have had prior notice of this intention, as he had reluctantly to state that from his information there were paramount reasons why the appeal could not be entertained. At the end of the year the retiring Master was presented with the first P.M. jewel in appreciation of his services.

The Minutes of the 14th Meeting record the thanks of the Lodge to Bro. Caldwell for his gift of a Bible. Seventy-two years later another Minute records the thanks of the lodge to W.Bro. Arthur R. Dodd for "renovating the V.S.L. which has been in constant use in the Lodge since its consecration." Today, 27 years, later, the same Book is in constant use, on it, every one of the 667 Initiates of the Lodge has taken his obligation.

The Lodge moved to the Mitre Tavern, Craven Terrace, Upper Hyde Park Gardens, in 1861, and two years later to the New Inn, Edgware Road. It was in this year, 1863, that the Lodge number was altered from its original "1035", and from that date the familiar "733" has designated our position on the register.

The first reference to the Charities occurs in 1864, when ten guineas was voted to the Master's list supporting the "Festival of the Boys' School."

In 1865 thirteen meetings were held, eight being Emergencies, and fifty-five candidates were initiated-five at the Installation Meeting, at which the 2nd and 3rd Degrees were also worked. To compensate perhaps for this pressure of work, the Brethren decided to hold a "Summer Banquet" at Broxbourne. If the banqueting was as enthusiastic as the Lodge working, the Minutes might have been entertaining, but beyond a debit item of £25 15s. 10d. in Lodge accounts, no details are extant. During the year a petition for assistance was recommended to the Board of Benevolence the first, regrettably, of very many.

A proposal to raise the fees was not carried, and the Lodge devoted some of its accumulating funds to satisfying appeals, doubling the value of the I.P.M. jewel, and to the purchase of an harmonium.

The presentation of "jewels" was not confined to the annual recognition of the services of the retiring Master. Over a period of years references occur to such presentations to other brethren in recognition of special services, the value, by standards of the time, often being considerable.

In early years the Lodge owned more of the Temple equipment than at present, for the purchase of chairs for the Master and Wardens is recorded, and later of an American organ to replace the Harmonium. There is no record of the ultimate fate of these items.

In 1865 the dates of Meetings were altered to October, November, January, February, March and April. In August (The Book of Constitutions was invoked as "Bro. G. was called upon to pay the Lodge expenses of Bro. N.", and the erasure of nineteen names on account of arrears indicates some financial instability. At an Emergency Meeting in May, 1867, in addition to four Initiations and four Passings, two visiting brethren were Raised and one Passed.

A proposition was carried that eligibility for the office of Master of the Lodge should depend on the aspirant's ability, certified by three P.M.s, to open and close the Lodge in the three Degrees, and to work the 1st and 2nd Degrees in a creditable manner. The first List of Members appears in the Minute Book for 1867, and shows a total of 131.

In October a petition was presented to Supreme Grand Chapter for authority to hold a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with the Lodge. The petition was granted and the Westbourne Chapter No. 733 was consecrated in the following year-1868.

In these early years the records of assistance voted from Benevolent and Lodge Funds, and petitions to the Board of Benevolence recur with distressing frequency, and while it would be wearisome and unseemly to record them in detail, it must be said that the Lodge always met its obligations in a most generous and sympathetic manner, and the Benevolent Fund, in spite of numerous calls, was always equal to the occasion.

The first printed copy of the audited accounts was attached to the Minutes in 1868. The Lodge and Benevolent Fund accounts are not separated, although the respective balances are stated. An item, "Secretary's percentage"-repeated regularly for a number of years-appears, and will be referred to later. Another proposal to raise the annual subscription was unsuccessful, and in October the Lodge moved to Lord's Hotel, St. John's Wood, where it remained for twenty-one years. The next year's audit statement shows the Benevolent Fund as a separate account, and an item of income, "Ball account £24 12s. 6d.," suggested that the social activities of the Lodge were not always a liability.

In April, 1870, Bro. Stacey, a Founder, was elected an Honorary Member, and the Lodge voted 40 guineas to the Boys' School to qualify as Vice-President.

Later in the year the W.M. initiated a candidate who, in the fullness of time became one of the great pillars of the Lodge John Welford member for forty-nine years, Honorary Member for six, Treasurer for thirty-four years, and appointed Grand St.B. in 1899. The 107th Meeting in October was notable, it being the first occasion with no work recorded.

An Emergency Meeting was held on the day preceding the Installation in 1873, at which the three Degrees were worked, and the Regular Meeting on the following day was, for the first time, devoted exclusively to Installation. At the November Meeting the brethren exercised their right to elect the Master of their choice, for the ballot favoured the J.W. by a large majority.

In 1874 a Notice of Motion proposed an alteration of the By-law relative to "Secretary's Commission". This By-law provided that the Secretary should receive 5 per cent on the first £100, and 22 per cent on each succeeding £100 collected, and not be exempt from paying Lodge dues. The proposal was to substitute exemption from dues for the commission. The motion failed to find a seconder, and the original By-law remained in force until 1880.

Bro. C. Thomas was elected to succeed Bro. R. Bradley, the original Tyler.

In the following year Bro. Stacey was elected Steward for the Installation of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales (later H.M. King Edward VII) as M.W. Grand Master. The second ticket to which the Lodge was entitled was disposed of to the highest bidder, and the Benevolent Fund benefited to the extent of five guineas. A proposal was agreed to that the Lodge should qualify as Vice President of each of the three Masonic Charities by donating to the lists of brethren accepting Stewardships, £10 0s. 0d. if the Stewardship was for the "aged Freemasons" and £10 10s. 0d. if for the Boys' or Girls' School. The Initiation fee was raised to £10 10s. 0d. and the Joining fee to £4 4s. 0d.

The first mention of Grand Lodge honours occurs in 1876, when W.Bro. Cottebrune is referred to as P.Gd. Pursuivant. Some investigation of Grand Lodge records elucidated that W.Bro. Cottebrune was appointed Asst. Gd. Pursuivant in 1872, and Grand Pursuivant in 1873. No mention of these appointments occurs in our Minutes, and to avoid all unwarrantable claim for the Lodge, it was sought to ascertain if they had been given through his Mother Lodge. But reference to Domestic Lodge 177, of which he was a member at the date of our Consecration, showed that he joined that Lodge in 1856 "from France", and

resigned there from in 1859. It has not been possible to trace that he joined any other Lodge in England, so, with some slight reservation, we may accept that these honours presumably came to him by reason of his membership of Westbourne Lodge.

The Lodge received a reproof in 1878, when the Grand Secretary wrote to the W.M. stating that he had been informed of an irregularity in the Lodge's working of the 3rd Degree, and enclosing for his guidance the regulations laid down by Grand Lodge on the subject in 1816.

The year 1880 marked the beginning of a period of unbroken service on the part of two very distinguished Members, which was to last for the next thirty-five years, when Bro. Welford was installed Master, and Bro. S. R. Walker was appointed Secretary. The item "Secretary's Commission" disappeared from the annual accounts and the beautiful script of Bro. Walker's Minutes became a joy to the historian. Bro. Hart, Organist since the Consecration twenty-two years previously, was presented with a jewel on being reappointed, and the Lodge doubled the value of the I.P.M. jewel in recognition of exceptional services.

The large membership apparently caused some concern among certain Brethren, for there was a proposal to increase both the Initiation and Joining Fees to 25 guineas until the number of paying Members was reduced to 80, but the motion was not Carried. This slate of affairs apparently altered, for within a year or two the Lodge was troubled by continual resignations. The finances of the Lodge also occasioned some apprehension, and the election of Treasurer was deferred. A committee was appointed to adopt a method of keeling the Lodge books, and the Initiation Fee was raised to 15 guineas. The expediency of this measure may have proved doubtful, for shortly after the election of W.Bro. Welford as Treasurer in 1882 the whole question came under review. The Initiation fee was reduced to 12 guineas, the Joining fee raised to seven, and the annual subscription to three.

During the summer recess in 1882 the S.W. passed to the Grand Lodge above, and at the October Meeting the J.W. occupied the S.W. Chair, and the Secretary, Bro. S. R. Walker, that of J.W. In 1883 Bro. Walker was appointed S.W. and a "Secretary's Jewel" voted to him in appreciation of the excellent manner in which the books had been kept during the preceding three years. After serving as Master and I.P.M., W.Bro. Walker was reappointed Secretary in February, 1886, which office he then held continuously until 1918. The long partnership as Secretary with W.Bro. Welford as Treasurer lasted until the resignation of the latter from office in 1915.

In February, 1887, proposals from Grand Lodge to commemorate the Jubilee of Queen Victoria were considered. The proposals did not commend themselves, and after discussion a reply was sent to the Gd. Secretary that the Lodge "did not agree with the proposals". At the next meeting the W.M. presented the first Banner, and on the sum of fifty guineas being voted to his "list" for the R.M.I.G., responded by adding alike amount in the name of the Lodge. Nor were the other Charities neglected, and at the end of his year the Lodge voted to double the value of the I.P.M. jewel in recognition of his exceptional services during the Queen's Jubilee year, by which much had been added to the lustre of the Lodge.

1888 marks the first endeavour to move from Lord's to a more central situation, but at an Emergency Meeting called to discuss the matter, the Motion to move was lost. At a second Emergency Meeting held eleven months later the decision was reversed, and it was unanimously decided to move to the Holborn Restaurant. The necessary Dispensation was received; on April 18th, 1889, the 208th Meeting was held at the new venue, and "the Holborn" was to remain the home of the Lodge for the next sixty-five years.

An Emergency Meeting was held in June, 1889, at which C. H. Lilly was Initiated. In October, Bro. Lilly proposed C. T. Brown as a candidate, and he was Initiated at the same meeting. After his Initiation Bro. Brown proposed, and Bro. Lilly seconded W. M. Roberts, who wits Initiated a month later. These three friends will be well remembered by a number of the senior Members of the Lodge. Bro. Lilly was later to succeed Bro. Welford as Treasurer, and Bro. Brown to succeed Bro. Cottebrune as third Director of Ceremonies.

A period of comparative quietness prevailed for the next few years. In 1891 there were no Initiates, and on two occasions no Degrees were worked. The Treasurer can hardly be

envied when twenty-five guineas was voted to the R.M.B.I. while the Balance Sheet showed a debit balance of £6.

In 1892 a Dispensation was received from Grand Lodge authorising the Brethren "to wear Craft Clothing at the Banquet, it being Ladies' Banquet night." This practice was normal for a good many years, and the profits or losses incurred in running Ladies' Nights appeared regularly in the accounts.

On a number of occasions the Brethren have, over the years, marked their appreciation of special services, by subscribing for and presenting testimonials to various Officers of the Lodge. The first was in 1896, when W.Bro. Walker, Secretary, was the recipient of a silver tea and coffee service and silver salver, diamond earrings for his wife, and a diamond bracelet for his daughter. Two years later W.Bro. Welford, on completing eighteen years as Treasurer, received a silver tea and coffee service, kettle and tray. That these presentations were not allowed to militate against regular Masonic obligations, is shown by the donation of twenty guineas to each of the three Charities during the year between these dates. Shortly after this a presentation consisting of "a handsome P.M. Jewel with Offices and Dates, also an Address on illuminated vellum" was made to W.Bro. Cottebrune "as a memento of his many valuable services to the Lodge since its Foundation."

The Boer War passed un-noted in our annals, with the exception of the record of a donation of twenty guineas to the "Daily Telegraph" War Fund. The turn of the century was marked by the 271st Meeting of the Lodge when, on January 26th, 1900, four candidates were proposed, balloted for and initiated "by fiat."

In 1899 W.Bro. Welford, Treasurer, was Honoured by the M.W. Grand Master, by appointment as Grand Standard Bearer. This was the first Grand Lodge appointment which the Lodge can claim for one of its Initiates.

Another Initiation "by fiat" is recorded in 1901, when the candidate was R. J. Houlton, later to be Secretary of the Lodge.

After half a century of use, the Officers' collars and gauntlets apparently showed the marks of time, and were renewed.

In 1902 W.Bro. Cottebrune was honoured by the M.W. Grand Master, by appointment as PGStB. The "Freemason" of that date refers to him as having been "one of the most familiar figures in Metropolitan Masonry for a generation", and to his many years of service as one of the Vice-Presidents of the Board of Benevolence. He held office as GSwdB in Grand Mark as far back as 1862, and was appointed AGDC. in Supreme Grand Chapter in 1893.

In 1904 the Minutes were, for the first time, signed by the Master on confirmation.

At the Installation Meeting in 1907 two appointments were made, which, taken collectively, constitute an unique record. W.Bro. Cottebrune, PGStB., was, for the forty-first consecutive year, appointed Director of Ceremonies, and Bro. J. E. Walker; for the first time, Organist. W.Bro. Cottebrune, the last surviving Founder, first S.W., second Master, and later Secretary, Treasurer, and then Director of Ceremonies, was continuously in office for forty-nine years. Bro. James E. Walker was Initiated in 1906 in Earl of Carnarvon Lodge No. 1642. He was Master in 1914 and 1918, and Treasurer from 1919 to the present time. He was appointed Deputy Grand Organist, and Grand Organist in Supreme Grand Chapter in 1940, and has, with one short break been Organist of Westbourne Lodge from 1907 to the present time. W.Bro. Cottebrune was not present at the Installation in 1907, but both he and Bro. Walker were present at the April Meeting following, in the active years of office of these two distinguished Brethren, the whole lifetime of the Lodge has been spanned.

In 1908 London Rank was instituted; W.Bro. S. R. Walker, Secretary, was recommended, and became the first P.M. of the Lodge to be so honoured. The Lodge presented the appropriate Clothing and Jewel, so establishing a custom which has been continued down to present times.

The accounts for 1910 made a poor showing, no balance being available to carry forward in General Funds, although the Benevolent Fund was in a strong position with £359 in hand.

Another period of comparative quietness seems to have descended on the Lodge and the next few years saw a slowing tempo and a diminution of activity. It was usual for one Degree only to be worked at any meeting, and on several occasions there was no work at all. The membership fell, and the Initiation fee was reduced to ten guineas. It was not until towards the end of the First World War that the Lodge shared in the widely experienced upsurge of Masonry, which has been sustained down to present days.

After thirty-four years, W.Bro. Welford resigned from the Treasurership in 1915, and the Brethren presented him with an inscribed silver rose bowl in token of their appreciation of his long service.

The early 1914-18 war year meetings were characterised by small attendances-frequently fewer than thirty being present. Fees of Members on active service were remitted, and two Emergency Meetings were called to Initiate candidates about to proceed overseas on service. A donation was voted in response to an appeal for relief for Masons interned in enemy prison camps, and other appeals were also generously supported. W.Bro. B. Clark's investiture as I.P.M. was postponed, as at the end of his Mastership he was absent on active service. Bro. Passenger, Tyler of the Lodge, was invested and acted at one meeting while on leave from France, and shortly afterwards news was received that he had died from wounds.

By 1917 the resumption of three Degrees at each meeting indicates greater activity, and a return to more normal conditions in the Lodge. At the end of the war letters were sent to all members still serving with H.M. Forces, wishing them a safe and speedy return.

W.Bro. S. R. Walker resigned from Secretaryship in 1917 and he became a Country Member. The Brethren marked their appreciation of his thirty-six years of service by presenting him with a cheque for £100 0s. 0d. and granting him Honorary Membership.

In 1919 the Initiation fee was raised to £12 12s. 0d. and other fees and dues also increased. W.Bro. B. Clark was welcomed back after three years' active service, and received the P.M. Collar and Jewel voted to him in 1916. Proposals for Initiation were numerous--no fewer than ten at the October Meeting--and the Lodge voted one hundred guineas to the "Freemasons' War Hospital and Nursing Home" in order to qualify as a Founding Lodge to that Institution.

In a period of great activity and substantial progress, the year 1920 is outstanding. The Installation Meeting itself was noteworthy. Lodge opened at 2.10 p.m. with one hundred Brethren and visitors present, and the 3rd and 2nd Degrees were worked. After calling off, the Installation was followed by Initiation. The Lodge then enjoyed an extra-ritual ceremony when a procession of P.M.'s entered, bearing a new Banner, the gift of W.Bro. Tapper, P.M., which was presented to the W.M. for his acceptance on behalf of the Lodge. The Banner, which is in use today, was handed into the care of the Treasurer, who "cheerfully promised to see that it was safely protected."

The finances of the Lodge were in a very satisfactory condition, for alter all regular-expenditure for the year had been met, and some £140 had been given to special donations, there still remained a balance of over £55.

At the April Meeting the W.M. vacated the Chair to enable W.Bro. Sharpe to initiate his son, and at an Emergency Meeting in May, the W.M., W.Bro. F. Dodd, initiated his brother Arthur. Two further Emergency Meetings were necessary, and at each of the eight meetings, two candidates were Initiated, two Passed and two Raised.

The appeal of the M.W. Grand Master, launched in April, for £1,000,000 "to erect a central home for English Freemasons in the Metropolis of the Empire, dedicated to the Most High, and in memory of our many Brethren who fell during the war," was received with great satisfaction, and the Lodge unanimously pledged its support to the amount of ten guineas from each Member.

The Lodge qualified as "Hall Stone Lodge" in 1923, and the W.M. received the Jewel and Collarette from the M.W. Pro. Grand Master, Lord Ampthill.

In 1921 the Initiation fee was raised to twenty guineas, and other fees and dues pro rata. The first M.M.M. (Masonic Million Memorial) jewels were presented by the W.M. to three

qualifying Brethren, and the Lodge received the Masonic Roll of Honour from the Grand Secretary. In 1922, five tickets for the Especial Grand Lodge for the Investiture of Bro. H.R.H. the Prince of Wales as Grand Senior Warden, and the unveiling of the portrait of the M.W. Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, were disposed of, one each to the W.M., Treasurer and Secretary, and the remaining two by ballot. An Emergency Meeting was called for December 21st, when, by dispensation, four candidates were initiated, Mr. J. R. Mills and Mr. R. A. Mills, father and son, being initiated first.

In 1923 £100 was voted from Lodge funds to the Benevolent Fund. In March, 1924, the Lodge met in mourning at the passing of W.Bro. Welford, J.P., P.M., PGStB., Treasurer for thirty-four years.

In 1924 the Lodge unanimously voted to defray the cost of the IPM's visit to, and sojourn in, a sanatorium in Switzerland. In the fullness of time W.Bro. Beasley returned, happily restored in health.

The Lodge was honoured in April, 1925, by a visit from R.W.Bro. Sir Alfred Robbins, PGW., President of the Board of General Purposes, who expressed great admiration at the work he had witnessed, and his appreciation of the beautiful music rendered by W.Bro. Walker, Our Organist.

Another presentation took place in November, when W.Bro. Tapper received an engraved silver salver from the Brethren in token of appreciation of services rendered. During the meeting the Lodge received the sad news that during the afternoon the Master had died in the Masonic Hospital.

The Installation Meeting of 1926, being the 50th anniversary of W.Bro. S. R. Walker's Initiation in the Lodge, the occasion was marked by a presentation from the Brethren of an inscribed wallet and a cheque. The St. John's Wood Lodge, 4806, elected him an Honorary Member, in commemoration of his Initiation at Lord's Hotel, and the Lodge returned the compliment by inviting the W.M., IPM. and Secretary of the St. John's Wood Lodge as guests at the next Installation Meeting.

The official Hospital "Founding Lodge" certificate was received in April, and a further fifty guineas was voted to the Hospital.

The Initiation and Joining fees were raised to twenty-five and twelve guineas respectively. A further fifty guineas was voted to the Hospital in the following year.

In March, 1929, the Lodge presented to W.Bro. Houlton, Secretary, a framed illuminated Address, and a cheque, subscribed by the Brethren as a mark of appreciation of his many services.

The 446th Meeting in February, 1930, inaugurated a notable year when Bro. W. J. Wood was installed Master. There were present in addition to twenty-four Officers and P.M.'s of the Lodge, six Officers of Grand Lodge, including the Assistant Grand Secretary, the Assistant Grand Superintendent of Works and the Grand Standard Bearer, eight members of London Rank, four Provincial Grand Officers and sixty visitors, together with sixty Members of the Lodge. Brethren who were present will long remember the brilliant occasion of the banquet which followed. It was W.Bro. W. J. Wood, *O.B.E.*, who presented the Lodge with the crest and die which appears on our summonses.

W.Bro. Sydney White, AGSec, and W.Bro. B. Holland, AGSuptWks, were elected Honorary Members, and it was unanimously decided to raise the sum of £1,000 towards the Building Fund of the Hospital.

W.Bro. R. Houlton, Secretary, was Honoured by the M.W. Grand Master, by appointment as PGStB., and the Lodge presented the appropriate clothing. The Lodge further signified its appreciation of the honour to W.Bro. Houlton and to the Lodge at this, the first Grand Lodge appointment for thirty years, by entertaining W.Bro. Houlton to a dinner at the Holborn Restaurant, which was enthusiastically attended by a full muster of the Officers and Members.

W.Bro. B. A. Holland, AGSuptWks, attended the Lodge on many occasions. He also honoured the Lodge of Instruction by attending one of its Festivals, and after expressing his admiration of the high standard of work, performed by Brethren too junior to hold office in the Lodge, invited the "team" to be his guests at a London Rank Investiture at Grand Lodge.

During 1931 the Lodge was honoured with further visits by W.Bro. Sydney White, Asst. Gd. Secretary and W.Bro. B. Holland, Asst. Gd. Sup. Works, and also by V.W.Bro. C. Nicholl, the Grand Director of Ceremonies.

The oak alms dish used in the Initiation ceremony was presented to the Lodge in 1931 by W.Bro. Arthur Dodd. The crest of the Lodge, which is carved on the inside, was the work of an artist at Windsor.

In his eighty-first year W.Bro. S. R. Walker was called to the Grand Lodge above. The Lodge met in Mourning at the passing of our venerable and well-loved Brother. Few Lodges can have the felicity of enjoying fifty-six years of such unremitting service on the part of one of its Members, and few Lodges could be more blessed than ours by the long half century of devotion to its interests so wholeheartedly afforded by W.Bro. Walker.

The Lodge suffered a further loss by the death of the Treasurer in October. Many Brethren will remember W.Bro. Ashton, who as D.C. and Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction, was responsible for much of the precise detail of our ceremonies which exists today.

The Accounts for 1933 show the Benevolent Fund balance to be over £1,000. In this year the Initiation fee was reduced to twenty guineas and the Joining fee to ten guineas.

With the opening and dedication of the Grand Temple at Great Queen Street, we record the receipt of the M.W. Grand Master's letter of thanks to all who contributed to the great work, and the Lodge's own contribution of £1,265 4s. 3d.

In 1934 the Secretary, R.M.B.I. wrote notifying the Lodge of the death of an annuitant, a widow recommended by the Lodge, who had died at the age of 95. The Institution had been able to help her over a period of thirty-four years by the payment of £1,455 – the greatest sum given to a widow up to that date.

Later in the year the S.W. resigned, and the W.M. was elected for a second term of office. The years 1934 and 1935 were exceptionally busy under W.Bro. C. Gregerson, a most energetic and accomplished Master. In the period the Lodge was honoured by visits from sixteen Grand Officers, including Rt. W.Bro. Sir P. Colville Smith, C.V.O., P.G.W., the Grand Secretary. To expedite raising the sum promised to the special fund for the Hospital, one hundred guineas was voted out of Lodge funds. The death of Bro. G. Smith, Tyler for ten years, necessitated a new appointment, and W.Bro. Llewellyn was elected.

A footnote to the Minutes of March, 1936, records that by the courtesy of the I.P.M., W.Bro. C. T. Brown officiated as I.P.M. at the banquet following the meeting, to the great pleasure of all the Brethren. W.Bro. Brown, the oldest Member, was initiated in the Lodge in 1889.

A letter from the Joint Hon. Secretary of the Hospital acknowledged receipt of a cheque in completion of our undertaking to name a bed in the Hospital by subscribing £1,000, and expressed appreciation of W.Bro. Wood's generosity in giving the amount necessary for its equipment and general furnishing.

In 1935 the Lodge met in mourning at the lamented death of the M.W.Pro. Grand Master, Lord Ampthill, followed two months later by the lamented death of the Rt.W. Deputy Grand Master, Lord Cornwallis. A further period of Masonic mourning was ordered in January, 1936, to express the profound grief of every Member of the Craft at the death of H.M. King George V. Bro. Llewellyn, Tyler of the Lodge, also received his call, and Bro. J. H. Gilchrist was elected and appointed to succeed him.

This year's Installation witnessed an unique occasion as the WM, W.Bro. J. R. Mills, invested his son, Bro. R. A. Mills as S.W., and his brother-in-law, Bro. T. Jones, as J.W., while Bros. G. L. and A. W. Lowe were appointed S.D. and J.D. respectively. At the banquet a handsome rose bowl was presented to W.Bro. Gregerson, inscribed with words of

appreciation of his services as Master for two successive years. W.Bro. C. T. Brown, a subscribing member for forty-seven years, was elected an honorary Member on his resignation, and fifty guineas was voted to the Master's List supporting the R.M.I.G. A donation was sent to the fund for rebuilding the Masonic Temple at Quetta, the former Temple leaving been totally destroyed by earthquake

1936 was, however, a sad year in the Lodge, for at the October meeting the Brethren received news that the Master had been called to the Grand Lodge above. At the next meeting followed the news that the Secretary, W.Bro. R. Houlton, too, had received his call, and the Lodge mourned the passing of these distinguished and well-loved Brothers. The Grand Secretary wrote paying tribute to the late W.Bro. Houlton's services as special collector to the M.M.M. fund, and to his courtesy and helpfulness in all dealings with the Grand Secretary's office during his long period as Secretary of the Lodge.

The year was marked by heavy calls on the Benevolent Fund, and payments of some £488 0s. 0d. left a balance of less than £1,000 for the first time since that amount had been recorded. The Grand Secretary, Sir P. Colville Smith, passed away in the following year.

The Lodge was Honoured in 1938 by the presence of R.W.Bro. G. Munri Gray, District Grand Master of Nigeria, at the Installation Meeting and by that of V.W.Bro. Sydney White, Grand Secretary, in April. The M.W. Grand Master honoured W.Bro. Clark, L.R., Secretary, by appointment as AGStB., and the Lodge presented the appropriate clothing in recognition of the honour, and in token of appreciation of his long services.

October, 1939. The Lodge met for the first time under the impact of World War II. Grand Lodge notices cancelling all Masonic meetings, and the later permission to carry on under certain restrictions were read, and It was decided that meetings should continue on customary dates, to be held in early afternoon; that not more than one Degree should be worked, and that light refreshments immediately on the conclusion of Lodge business should take the place of the usual banquet. The Secretary was instructed to keep in touch with Brethren who had already joined the Services.

W.Bro. B. Holland, P.A.G.S.W., passed to the Grand Lodge above in 1940. A very regular attendant for a long time, W.Bro. Holland's genial anti commanding presence was greatly missed. On learning that W.Bro. J. E. Walker had been appointed DepGOrg the Lodge sent congratulations and presented him with the undress clothing appropriate to the rank.

The subscription to the Benevolent Fund was temporarily reduced from 21s. 0d, to 10s. 6d., as the balance of over £1,100 was deemed adequate for immediate requirements. A letter from the R.M.B.I. notified the death of Bro. Norris, once a Member of the Lodge, whom the Institution had been able to assist, as an annuitant, to the extent of £1,071.

Of these unhappy war years, 1940/41 will be remembered by all who resided in London as the period of most sustained enemy action. The Lodge never failed to meet, but its activities reached a very low ebb. The sympathy of all went to W.Bro. Goodchild, W.M. 1941, whose year of office was marked by the most trying and hazardous conditions (and later the loss of his home and personal injury) and the added deprivation of a Masonic year with no working; the only such year in our history. Attendances fell to lowest levels, and in April, 1941, he, with eight other Officers, one P.M. and three Members, held the Lodge.

With the easement which followed the last mass raid on London in May, 1941, the Lodge rapidly achieved a modified normality. The 1942 Installation Meeting was attended by sixty-nine Members and Visitors, and for the first time for a year there was a proposition for Initiation.

But all was not happy, as notification was received of the death of the M.W. Past Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, K.G. Grand Master for thirty-eight years. Following on this sad news came notification of the tragic death of the M.W. Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent.

W.Bro. Ellyatt, past Preceptor of the L. of I. and Almoner of the Lodge, was elected an honorary member and received a presentation and the good wishes of the Brethren.

Evidence of increased activity is shown by the necessity of an Emergency Meeting in January, 1943, while many will remember the most happy afternoon Ladies' Festival which marked the end of the Master's year.

Still greater activity during the year necessitated the three Degrees being worked at every meeting. This was the last year when this was done. It was decided that in future not more than two Degrees should be worked at any meeting except in case of special emergency. In all, the three Degrees were worked at one meeting on 190 occasions, nine of which were Installation Meetings.

The Lodge decided that in view of a balance of over £1,300, the annual subscription to the Benevolent Fund should be suspended temporarily.

At the Installation Meeting in 1945 W.Bro. C. G. Edwards, D.S.O., I.P.M., was presented with a P.M. jewel. This occasion was unique, in that the jewel was one of special design previously presented to W.Bro. John Welford in 1882. John Welford was a life-long friend of W.Bro. Cyril Edwards' father, and it is most appropriate that our W.Bro. Secretary now wears this distinctive jewel, with its historic and personal associations.

An Emergency Meeting was held on May 31st to mark the end of hostilities in Europe. The meeting, the 528th, was attended by ninety-one Brethren, and immediately after the Opening, tire Master, W.Bro. H. A. Crowell, addressed the Brethren, reminding them that throughout the war the Lodge had not missed a single meeting, but had met on the appointed dates in spite of the Battle of Britain, the Blitz, the V.1 and V.2 bombardments, at times with enemy action overhead. He paid eloquent testimony to the work of the Past Masters, Treasurer and Secretary, who had carried the burden during these difficult times, especially to the Masters who had occupied the Chair, and to the Brethren who had supported them. The 1st and 2nd Degrees were worked. The Lodge was closed with Special Grand Lodge Prayer, and the first verse of tire National Anthem was sung.

It would be outside the scope of this history to detail the service records of Members of the Lodge, but it can be recorded that Brethren served, each according to his capacity, from Civil Defence in the Capital to Squadron Leader Bomber Command; at sea both Navy and Merchant Navy knew Westbourne names; Combined Operations and Contraband Control numbered our Brethren among them; the Army and Air Force have records of our Brethren on the Continent of Europe, in Iceland and North Africa, in Nigeria, India and Burma, in Egypt, Palestine and Syria. And with humble and grateful thanks to the G.A.O.T.U., we record that every Member of the Lodge returned.

In 1946 the S.W., Bro. T. E. Green, having been called abroad on business for a period of years, W.Bro. Crowell was elected Master for the second successive year. Congratulations were extended to Bro. Boniface, J.W., on his being installed Master of the Nonesuch Lodge, Surrey.

In November W.Bro. Dorizzi received a presentation front the Lodge to mark the appreciation of the Brethren of his services as D.C. of the Lodge and Preceptor of the L. of 1. over a period of many years.

At the next (Installation) meeting, W.Bro. Crowch received a bar to his P.M. jewel, and a presentation in appreciation of his services as Plaster for the two years 1945 and 1946.

The Lodge met in mourning in 1947 at the lamented death of the M.W. Grand Master, the Earl of Harewood, K.G.

At the February Meeting, 1948, the annual subscription was raised to six guineas, fees for Country Members to 25s. 0d., and Visitors' fees also to 25s. 0d. A grievous loss was sustained by the untimely death of the S.W., whose failing health had prevented his investiture at the Installation.

Great satisfaction was felt by the appointment of W.Bro. Joslin, Treasurer, to the rank of P.A.G.St.B., and the Lodge presented the appropriate clothing in appreciation of his long services. In April a letter from the Secretary of the R.M. Hospital conveyed the welcomed news that the transfer of the Hospital under the National Health Service Act would not be

required, the result being that the Hospital would remain under the control of the Board of Management.

A proposal to form a daughter Lodge was widely discussed, but nothing materialised, and the matter was finally dropped.

In 1949 W.Bro. Gill presented to the Lodge a framed photograph of the late King Edward VII, together with H.R.H. the late Duke of Connaught and H.R.H. the late Duke of Clarence, in the regalia of G.M., G.S.W. and G.J.W. respectively, and the W.M. returned thanks to the donor for his generosity in presenting this picture-a very rare copy-to the Lodge.

At the October Meeting the lecture on the 2nd T.B. was delivered by the J.W. the first record of this in the Minutes and Bro. H. Jones was thanked for his good offices in having the Lodge Collars and Banner cleaned and renovated. A letter was received from the Secretary, R.M.B.I., announcing the death of an annuitant recommended by the Lodge and elected in 1926, whom the Institution were able to assist to the extent of £1,150.

W.Bro. D. A. Edwards presented the cushion whereon the Aprons of the various Degrees are now conveyed by the D.C. from the Master to the S.W. for the investiture of Candidates.

The meeting of February, 1950, was a most outstanding occasion when W.Bro. A. E. Bowels, Prov.G.T. (Middx.) was installed Master. There were present twenty-eight Officers and P.M.'s, forty Members and ninety-eight Guests-a total of 166. The Lodge was honoured by the presence of eighteen visiting Grand Lodge Officers, including:

Rt.W.Bro. Sir George Boag, P.Dist.Gd.M. (Madras).

Rt.W.Bro. Guy Wodeman, P.Dist.Gd.M. (Ceylon).

Rt.W.Bro. Sir Claude James, P.G.W., P.Dist.Gd.M. (Tasmania).

Rt. W.Bro. Sydney White, M.V.O., P.G.W., Gd. Secretary.

V.W.Bro. Dr. Moffatt P.G. Chaplain.

V.W.Bro. Philip Bull, Gd.D.C.

The proceedings both in the Lodge and later at the banquet provided an unforgettable experience for all who were privileged to attend.

At the March Meeting the W.M. instituted collection for the Samaritan Fund, which had not previously been a feature, and a first collection realised £8 18s. 6d. In April the W.M. presented the handsome case of working Tools which is now in regular use. Bro. T. Green, late S.W. of the Lodge, paid a visit in October, after five years' absence in the East, prior to his return to Karachi.

The Lodge met in mourning in November, 1950, at the lamented death of the M.W.Gd.Master, the Duke of Devonshire.

Two recently initiated Brethren wrote from abroad conveying greetings from their respective Lodges overseas, Bro. V. B. P. Mills from British Columbia and Bro. J. Richardson from British Guiana, both now holding Office.

In April, 1951, the Lodge learned with great satisfaction that W.Bro. C. Gregerson had been honoured by the M.Wor.Gd.M aster by appointment as P.G.St.B. through Britannic Lodge No. 33 of which he was Treasurer. The Lodge also offered Bro. Gregerson congratulations in that the W.M., the S.W., the J.W., the S.D., the J.D., the A.D.C. and the I.G. of the Lodge had all been his Initiates into Freemasonry.

In February, 1952, the Lodge met under the shadow of the death of M.W.Bro. His late Majesty King George VI, P.G.M.

Owing to the absence abroad on business of the W.M., W.Bro. E. H. Stagg, the Chair at the March Meeting was taken by our senior P.M., W.Bro. B. Clark, P.A.G.St.B., Secretary, whose able conduct of the work occasioned a vote of congratulation from the Brethren. W.Bro. Clark made further history at the April Meeting by being absent from the Lodge for the first time for twenty-four years.

At the November Meeting W.Bro. G. Joslin, P.A.G.St.B., Treasurer, announced his impending retirement from office, to the great regret of the Brethren, and the Installation Meeting, 1953,

saw many changes. W.Bro. B. Clark, P.A.G.St.B., Secretary, followed his old friend and colleague, W.Bro. G. Joslin, P.A.G.St.B., into voluntary and Honourable retirement from active office. W.Bro. L. Dorizzi, L.G.R., was elected Treasurer, and W.Bro. C. G. Edwards, D.S.O., was appointed Secretary. The office of J.W. was vacant owing to the untimely death of Bro. McBain, and the S. and J. Deacons were appointed S. and J. Wardens, while W.Bro. G. H. B. Crooks, P.P.Dep.G.D.C. (Berks), was elected to succeed the late Bro. Gilchrist as Tyler. It was confirmed by unanimous vote that provision of a seating plan and table cards should be resumed to facilitate banqueting arrangements, and that Brethren be asked, by printed notice on the summons, to co-operate by the prompt return of attendance cards. Later in the year the Lodge was shocked to learn of the serious illness of the W.M., W.Bro. C. Terkelsen, which was to keep him away until 1955, when he returned, happily restored to health. In his absence the work was shared by all P.M.'s, and in November the Lodge witnessed the unusual occurrence of the Treasurer working a Degree, and the D.C. giving the Charge to the Initiates.

In the history of the Lodge many instances have occurred of blood relationship between Brethren. Fathers have introduced sons as candidates, a son has introduced his father, brother has followed brother through the offices, Masters have initiated sons and nephews, father and son have been initiated at one and the same meeting, and before these words appear in print, we shall have welcomed an Initiate whose father and grandfather have both been Masters of the Lodge.

In February, 1954, the Lodge mourned the passing of Rt.W.Bro. Brig.-Gen. W. H. V. Darrell, Assistant Grand Master.

In April presentations in the form of cheques, subscribed by Members of the Lodge, were made to the recently retired Treasurer and Secretary, in token of esteem and appreciation of their many years of service in various offices. W.Bro. B. Clark was initiated in - 1908, Master 1916, L.G.R. 1927, Director of Ceremonies 1928/36, Secretary 1936/53, A.G.St.B. 1930, and for many years Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction. W.Bro. G. Joslin was initiated in 1910, Master 1922, P.A.G.St.B. 1948, Treasurer 1932/52 and for many years Treasurer of the Lodge of Instruction.

It was now decided that the Charity Box should be a permanent feature of the Festive Board, and that the proceeds should be devoted to one of the Masonic Charities or the Samaritan Fund, as the W.M. might direct.

The 575th Meeting in October, 1954, was the last to be held at the Holborn Restaurant. The Lodge unanimously voted to record on the Minutes its happy recollections of sixty-five years' association with the "Holborn", and regrets both at having to leave its now traditional home, and that the much-loved Temple and building would shortly cease to exist. Dispensations were in due course received to remove the Lodge to the Mayfair Banqueting Rooms, Bryampton Street, W1, and the Lodge of Instruction to Reggiori's Restaurant, 1-3 Euston Road, N.W.1.

On learning that W.Bro. Boniface, P.M., had been appointed to Grand Rank in the Province of Surrey, the Lodge voted to contribute to the cost of the appropriate clothing. The Lodge heard with great interest an account by W.Bro. Crouch of his experiences in Canada when visiting the St. Andrew's Lodge No. 6, Grand Registry of Quebec, and the Albion Lodge No. 1 founded by Officers of General Wolfe's Army, where he had been most cordially received.

W.Bro. C. G. Edwards, D.S.O., L.G.R., Secretary, presented the handsome oak Charity Column now in regular use at the Festive Board, which the W.M. accepted with sincere thanks on behalf of the Lodge.

In April the Lodge mourned the passing of W.Bro. C. Gregerson, whose forceful and dynamic personality had for many years exerted great influence on its affairs. Initiated in 1921, W.Bro. Gregerson occupied the Chair in 1934 and 1935, and acted as Master for a third year while

I.P.M. in 1936. He was D.C. of the Lodge 1946-55, and successively Secretary, Deputy Preceptor and President of the Lodge of Instruction. Appointed L.G.R. in 1941, and P.G.St.B. in 1951, he also held Office as P.A.G.D.C. in Supreme Grand Chapter and P.G.St.B. in Grand Mark.

An historic relic came to light in 1956, when, during demolition of some old property in Hanwell, a Grand Lodge Certificate was discovered. This was eventually sent to W.Bro. Treasurer, and proved to be that issued to Bro. M. C. Joy, Initiated in the Lodge at Lord's Hotel in February, 1877, and Master of the Lodge in 1885.

W.Bro. T. Green paid another visit to the Lodge during a second period of leave from Karachi. W.Bro. Green, now a District Grand Officer (Punjab), entertained the Lodge of Instruction with a most interesting and instructive talk on Freemasonry in India, and on his Masonic experiences during his travels in India, Burma, Singapore, China and Hong Kong. During his long absence he maintained full membership of the Lodge, and contributed regularly and generously to each successive Master's list.

The work at the October meeting was intentionally limited to Initiation. After the Ceremony W.Bro. G. A. Dodd, L.G.R., Director of Ceremonies, gave the Lecture on the 1st T.B. (for the first time in the Lodge), preceded by an explanation of the origin and purpose of Tracing Boards, and their historical development over the past three hundred years. W.Bro. C. G. Edwards, D.S.O., L.G.R. Secretary, then presented Grand Lodge Certificates, with the full traditional explanation. The slight variation from customary procedure was appreciated, and it was suggested that a similar Agenda might occasionally be arranged in future.

The Installation Meeting, 1957, marked the Jubilee of W.Bro. I. E. Walker as Organist. He was conducted by the D.C. to the Master's pedestal, the Brethren standing to Order, and in conveying to him the grateful thanks of the Brethren, the Master paid eloquent testimony to his great services extending over half a century. To all present this was a most moving and unforgettable occasion.

The Lodge Samaritan Fund, available for purposes outside the scope of the Westbourne Lodge Benevolent fund, was inaugurated on the suggestion of W.Bro. Treasurer, and to enable relief to be given without any delay a small Committee was appointed to administer the Fund, the Members being the Master, Treasurer, Secretary, Almoner and Director of Ceremonies. At the Festive Board later that day a table collection of some seventeen guineas launched the scheme.

On October 17th, 1957, a presentation was made to W.Bro. James E. Walker, P.Dep.Gd.Organist, to mark his fifty years of service to the Lodge. The presentation, to which the Brethren had subscribed, took the form of a handsome Ivory Maul, which carried the following inscription:

"Presented by the Brethren of Westbourne Lodge No. 733  
to W.Bro. James E. Walker, Past Deputy Grand Organist,  
on 17th October 1957 as a mark of affection and appreciation  
of his 50 years of service to the Lodge  
1907-1957."

In thanking the Brethren, W.Bro. Walker expressed his appreciation not only for the gift, but for the deep sense of affection and comradeship underlying it. As a symbol of his gratitude to the Great Architect for the long span of years given to him to enjoy his Freemasonry, he asked the W. Master to accept the Maul from him, to be used by the Lodge in perpetuity.

The Maul has been suitably engraved accordingly.

The 591st Meeting on 21st November, 1957, brought the first century of the Lodge's existence to a close.

At the Meeting, W.Bro. Mills, P.M., L.G.R., Initiated two Candidates, his son, a Lewis, and also the son of Bro. D. T, Williams. At the banquet many references were made to the happy augury of our two youthful Brethren coming forward in worthy succession to their fathers in the service of the Lodge. The Almoner, W.Bro. H. A. Crowch, L.G.R., announced that during the past three years the Lodge had contributed over E1,000 to the Masonic Charities.

W.Bro. B. Clark, P.A.G.St.B., was unanimously elected as Centenary Master, all the Officers signifying their desire to remain in their respective positions for the Centenary year.

It was announced that each Officer was presenting a new. Collar appropriate to his Office, that the Collar jewels were being engraved with the name of the donor of the Collar; and that the Past Masters were presenting a Master's Collar with silver chains. and emblazoned crest to commemorate the forthcoming Centenary.,

At the conclusion of Proceedings the W. Master, W.Bro. Frank Jackson, commanded the Brethren to assist, for the last time in one hundred years, in Closing the Lodge, and in accordance with' ancient custom the Lodge was closed in due form with solemn prayer and in perfect harmony.

### **THE MASONIC CHARITIES**

We have always endeavoured to honour the injunction to maintain in their fullest splendour those truly Masonic Ornaments Benevolence and Charity. The Lodge is a Patron of the three Institutions and a Founder and Patron of the Hospital, as the following contributions show:

Royal Masonic Institution for Girls	£3,532 – 4s – 0d
Royal Masonic Institution for Boys	£2,247 – 4s – 0d
Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution	£2,460 – 8s – 6d
Royal Masonic Hospital	£2,412 – 2s – 7d

But the assistance the Lodge has been able to afford through its own Benevolent Fund exceeds any of these amounts.

The extent to which the Institutions and Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund have assisted Members of the Lodge and their dependents will come as a surprise and a challenge.

Ten daughters of Brethren of the Lodge have been educated by the R.M.I.G.-eight at the Schools and two by out-education grants. Fifteen Brethren of the Lodge, twelve widows and a daughter have received annuities. The cost greatly exceeds the total of the Lodge's contributions to the Institutions, and we should record our grateful thanks to them, and to the Grand Lodge Benevolent Fund for the help and assistance so generously afforded.

### **THE LODGE OF INSTRUCTION**

No history of the Lodge would be complete without mention of the Lodge of Instruction. The high standards of the work, to which Members are entitled, and which they accept as customary, would be impossible without the training which the Lodge of Instruction affords. As already recorded, the Lodge of Instruction is nearly as old as the Lodge, having been constituted three months after the Consecration, and the services of those Past Masters who, as Preceptors throughout the century have devoted so much time, knowledge, patience and enthusiasm, to the training of successive generations of Brethren for office cannot be too gratefully acknowledged. It is the duty of every Brother to make a daily advancement in Masonic knowledge, and in the friendly and informal atmosphere of the Lodge of Instruction, he will not only receive all the assistance he requires, but will accumulate a fund of knowledge, and gain that measure of confidence which will enable him in the fullness of time, to take leis part in the affairs of the Lodge with pleasure and credit to himself, and to the satisfaction of the Brethren. The Lodge of Instruction will celebrate its 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary on the 9<sup>th</sup> June 2008.

The Lodge of Instruction operated a Benevolent Association, open to all Members of the Lodge, through which Brethren could make contributions to the various Masonic Charities by

direct instalments or through the Covenant Scheme, and so qualify for Stewardship at the Annual Festivals.

### **THE WESTBOURNE CHAPTER**

The Westbourne Chapter, 733, was consecrated in 1868. While membership is not limited to Brethren of the Lodge, it is preponderatingly Westbourne in personnel. Brethren who wish to extend their Masonic activity will be assured of a warm welcome into the Royal Arch Degree. W.Bro. Secretary will always be happy to put them in touch with Members of the Chapter, which meets at Freemasons' Hall, Gt. Queen Street, WC2, on the second Thursdays of January, April and September.

### **THE SOCIAL SIDE**

It can but be regretted that few details of the social side of the Lodge's activities have come down to us from early times. Over a period of many years a committee was appointed annually "to arrange the summer outing", but beyond the reference, already recorded, to the Broxbourne "outing" in 1865, no details are extant. In recent times three very successful outings come within personal recollection. W.Bro. Wood, in 1930, arranged a visit to the Dunlop works at Birmingham; a few years later W.Bro. Arthur Dodd organised a down-river outing by steamer to the Thames coast, repeated in the following year as a combined coach and steamer outing, both of which were enjoyed by a large party of Brethren with their ladies, and each occasion was blessed by perfect summer weather.

From Lodge accounts for 1869, an item of income "Ball account £24 – 12s. – 6d suggests that our Ladies' Festivals date back to quite early times. The "Annual Ball" later became "Ladies' Banquet Night" and from 1892 onwards for a number of years dispensations were regularly received for Brethren to wear Craft clothing on such occasions. These happy functions have now become firmly established as the "Ladies' Festival" with which we are all familiar. and which for a very long time has been held annually towards the end of each Master's year of Office. The war was responsible for some interruptions in the continuity, but no complete break was caused, and many will remember the happy afternoon "Festivals" which made such welcomed oases in the desert of those dreary days.

W. Bro. George Dodd  
Historian  
1958

## **THE RECENT YEARS 1958 – 2008**

The history of the Lodge laid out above, was, with minor changes to the tense of some items to make it readable today, written for the Centenary in 1958. Since that time Westbourne Lodge has seen several changes in fortune and a number of distinguished brethren holding office in the Lodge. Your historian for the recent years, will mention some events in the history of the Lodge, but of course it is the brethren who make the Lodge what it is, so they will be the main focus of this part of the Lodge History. There is insufficient room to mention them all, but there are a number of Brethren who have by their service and their actions shaped the character of the Lodge, we are grateful to them for what Westbourne Lodge is today and without detriment to the rest of the members, it is they who have been singled out for special mention.

### **The Centenary Year**

The Centenary year was not mentioned in the previous history, it was of course current events and the history was written up to the end of 1957. So it is worthy of mention. The Centenary Meeting was held on Thursday 20th February 1958. the Minutes and signature sheets show 217 attended the meeting and dined. The meeting included the installation by the outgoing Master and presentation of the Centenary Warrant by the Guest of Honour who was the Assistant Grand Master R.W. Bro. Major General Sir Allan Adair Bt. etc. The Worshipful Master for the Centenary Year was W. Bro. Bertie Clark PAGStB, who had been initiated into Westbourne Lodge some fifty years earlier in 1908, his long and meritorious

service to the Lodge, earned him the honour of being the Centenary Master, but aside from Bertie, who has already been mentioned above there were other distinguished brethren serving the Lodge in other offices that year who are fondly remembered by brethren still in the Lodge today. The Treasurer was W. Bro. Len Dorizzi then LGR but later PAGStB, who in 1962 was presented with an embroidered Bible Cushion to mark his 50 years service in the Lodge and in 1972 was presented with a Bible to mark his 60 years service, both of which he re-presented to the Lodge and both of which are in use to this day.

Then there were the Edwards brothers, Cyril and Don, not only brothers, but partners in a City Grocery company. W. Bro. Cyril Edwards DSO then LGR but later PAGStB, was the Secretary, in which office he continued for many years, a very imposing man with strong military bearing, who kept immaculate minutes for which your historian is grateful, his brother Don who served as Chaplain, was a gentle man who was always in the shadow of his brother, but nonetheless served the Lodge for many years. The brothers always provided an impressive cheese board from their store which the members enjoyed, and which was accompanied by the cigars that were then provided as part of the festive board.

The D.C. that year was W. Bro. George Dodd LGR, who was well respected by the members and also the longest serving preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction in the post war years.

The A.D.C. W. Bro. Eddie Bush later succeeded Cyril Edwards as Secretary.

Other distinguished brethren present at the centenary were W. Bro. Alexander "Sandy" Pritchett brother-in-law of Eddie Bush he later became D.C. an office he served in for many years, rated as probably the best after dinner speaker the Lodge has had among its members in the post war years.

W. Bro. Albert Bowels MM LGR, who was an ex Police Protection Officer and served King George VI as his personal body guard during the Second World War, a great ritualist even in advancing years and after a stroke, he had amazing Masonic knowledge, he claimed he learnt his ritual reading his book outside the King's bedroom during the war years. The King presented him with a silver snuff box as a Christmas gift and he never failed to pass that snuff box around the table at the end of the festive board, much to the surprise and sometimes discomfort of newer brethren who took too large a pinch!

W. Bro. Rodney Mills who later became Treasurer, a very kindly accountant well loved by all the members, possibly because he always increased the fees below the rate of inflation.

W. Bro. Colin Shaw PAGDC, initiated in 1953, later served the Lodge in several offices as particularly as DC and Secretary, a consummate ritualist and loyal member, he will also be remembered for making the Ladies festival all the more enjoyable with his antics in the early hours.

W. Bro. Bertie Bryant, preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction for many years and employed as Manager at the Edwards Brothers grocery store.

Two of our Honorary members were active in the Lodge at that time and both were present at the Centenary, W. Bro. Anthony Walton LGR, who unfortunately is unable to attend the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Bro. Ken Colson, who I am delighted to say is with us at the meeting today.

### **Moving Home**

The Westbourne Lodge has on occasion led a fairly nomadic existence, for many years the Lodge had met at the Holborn Restaurant but in 1954 moved to the Mayfair Banqueting Rooms, where the Lodge remained until 1962 when the Lodge moved to the Dominions Hotel, Lancaster Gate, in 1971 the Lodge moved once more, this time a temporary move was made to the Windsor Hotel, Lancaster Gate, before moving again in 1972 to the Park Court Hotel, Lancaster Gate, where the lodge remained until 2000, when a change of ownership meant that the hotel, now renamed the Thistle Lancaster Gate Hotel, was no longer suitable and the Lodge moved to the Victory Services Club, this move proved only temporary, as a massive hike in costs brought about another move in 2002 to our current meeting place the Imperial Hotel, Russell Square.

## **Feast and Famine**

The attendance and dining the lodge has seen over the last 50 years has pretty much reflected the fortunes of Freemasonry in general, in the 1950s the average attendances at a normal meeting was around 70 – 80 with an installation attracting 100 plus, by the mid 1960s those numbers had dropped to 50 – 60 and 75 respectively, the 1970s saw a slight levelling of the decline in numbers with a normal meeting drawing an attendance of 47 – 50 and installation seeing an attendance of around 70. The 1980s and 1990s saw a more rapid decline in numbers with attendances dropping from 35 for a normal meeting and 50 for installation in the early 1980s to 20-25 for a normal meeting and 35 for installation by the late 1990s. By 2000/1, with attendances in the high teens on a normal meeting the Lodge members took a conscious decision to try and check this decline having decided against amalgamating with another Lodge. Attendances are now back up to around 28-30 for a normal meeting and 40-45 for Installation.

## **Memorable Officers**

During these years, the Lodge has seen a number of talented and distinguished members, many who have sadly passed to the Grand Lodge above, but some who are still with us.

The Lodge has been fortunate in having had a number of very good preceptors, who have guided the newer brethren through the progressive offices. W. Bro. George Dodd was the longest serving Preceptor in the post war years and was succeeded by W. Bro. Bertie Bryant who was employed as Manager at the Edwards brothers Grocery Store; another Preceptor of note was W. Bro. Jim Harwich who was a superb teacher of ritual having a natural understanding and sympathy with new brethren, and of course our current Preceptor W. Bro. Colin Jennings, whose gentle instruction and guidance has enabled a number of us to have a successful year as Master.

Upon the Secretary falls the responsibility of administering the Lodge, dealing with any problems and ensuring everything runs smoothly. When Cyril Edwards retired from the Secretary's office in 1968 his place was taken by W. Bro. Eddie Bush, who held that office until 1983. Eddie was not only active in Freemasonry but was honoured with an OBE for his services to Local Government and the Air Cadet movement. His successor was W. Bro. Eddie Clapp, father of our current Treasurer and in whose honour the Banner has been presented today. An efficient Secretary, ably assisted by his wife who typed all the minutes, Eddie was aware of the need for dignity and correct demeanour in the Lodge and at the festive board and always ensured correct protocol was adhered to. Which caused a few wry smiles when at the festive board after an official visit by the Group Chairman, the somewhat inexperienced Metropolitan AGDC, attempted to move from sung grace straight to the loyal toast without sitting down between, when Eddie's familiar voice bellowed, "No, sit down, you will rise for the Queen!" We have always been very careful to do so ever since. Eddie was succeeded by W. Bro. Colin Shaw and your historian notes a return to thankfully legible hand written script for the minutes, Colin's entertainments at the Ladies Festival have already been mentioned, but it would be remiss of me not to mention the time and commitment Colin put into Freemasonry, including founding Thames Mariner Lodge he was rewarded with appointment to Assistant Grand Standard Bearer by the MW Grand Master in 1985 and promoted to Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1993.

We have been blessed with a number of excellent Directors of Ceremonies, W. Bro. George Dodd who has already been mentioned served from 1955 to 1967 he was succeeded by W. Bro. Alexander "Sandy" Pritchett who served in that office from 1968 until his death in 1980, as has already been mentioned, W. Bro. Sandy was a very accomplished after dinner speaker and as a result was often called upon for toasts. He was succeeded by W. Bro. Colin Shaw, who held that office until 1987 when succeeded by W. Bro. Norman Gerber, who in turn was succeeded in 1989 by W. Bro. John Dean who served continuously in that office until 2004, John has to be one of the most competent DC's your historian has come across.

Almoner, has to be one of the most rewarding but unrecognised jobs in the Lodge, as all the Almoner's work is done outside the Lodge. However we would be very remiss not to give

recognition to them and we have had several who have given long and meritorious service to the Lodge. Those Almoners in this part of the history who deserve a special mention are:

W. Bro. Henry Crowch LGR 1955 – 1964 in those days there was no Charity Steward in the Lodge and that responsibility also fell to the Almoner, W. Bro. Henry during his 10 years in office not only dealt with half a dozen applications for Masonic Assistance each of which taking a month or more to resolve, but raised £3,359 from the members for Charity which is an amazing figure considering at that time a 3 Bedroom Semi-detached house could cost less than half of that amount.

W. Bro. Leslie Richards MM LGR, who was Jim Harwich's brother-in-law and very effective as Almoner served from 1977 – 1985

W. Bro. Norman Benson SLGR 1993 to date, who not only holds down the Almoner's job but has for a number of years been Festival Secretary for the annual Ladies Festival and has taken that to new heights with over 200 attending yearly, helping to raise considerable sums of money for the Master's nominated charities as well as enabling the Lodge members and their guests to thoroughly enjoy themselves.

### **Ritual**

Masonic ritual is something Westbourne Lodge has always taken seriously, and every candidate for the Master's chair is encouraged to put in the effort to ensure the candidate they are initiating, passing, or raising has a good experience and whilst most of us make a good fist of it with much effort and many hours spent talking to oneself, there are some for whom it comes naturally, who can do any ceremony pretty much at the drop of a hat and can always be relied upon to occupy the master's chair to do a ceremony when the need arises, however short the notice. Westbourne Lodge has been very lucky to have four of these brethren over the last 40 years, they are W. Bros. Eric Ford, Bill Shrubsole, Tommy Glasgow, (who has developed such an affinity for the master's chair that he is going through again next year for the fourth time so that he can be in the Chair in his 80<sup>th</sup> year) and Colin Jennings.

### **Whither Now?**

Over the last 150 years, Westbourne Lodge has been fortunate to have had many many brethren who have given freely of their time for the benefit of the Lodge and generously from their pockets to support a wide variety of Charitable causes. We have enjoyed bountiful times when members and new initiates have been plentiful and lean times when numbers were falling and candidates sparse to non-existent. It is all part of the rich tapestry that makes up the history of this old and honourable Lodge. Each thread with its own bright or gentle tone, each having its own strength and beauty, but incomplete without the others.

After the lean times of the late 1990s through to 2000 the Lodge is growing rapidly with nine initiates and six joining members in the last seven years. Today as well as dedicating a new banner, we are initiating a new member who at 21 years old is well placed to be able to attend the Lodge's Bi-Centenary in 2058. The spirit of the Lodge is strong and we are looking forward to good times ahead.

W. Bro. John Burnapp LGR  
Secretary  
24<sup>th</sup> April 2008