



Eardulph News

Eardulph Lodge
Number 6645

Issue Number 3
October 2003

Happy Birthday Wilf

Happy
Birthday
to Wilf



Showler, our Assistant Secretary, who celebrated his 80th birthday on Monday, September, 8th.

Wilf, a retired Local Government Officer, and the Father of the Lodge in age terms, is one of the most popular members of our Lodge with

a kind word for everyone and remains a cheerful and sprightly character who shows no sign of slowing down as his many interests keep him very busy.

These interests include being a School Governor of Nettlesworth Junior School for the past 45 years as well as being a Parish Councillor for Plawsworth for 51 years and also being the Treasurer of his local Aged Person's Lounge.

His Masonic life is relatively young and began when he was initiated into our Lodge on Valentines Day in 1975. Having worked his way through the ranks he became Master in 1987 and was eventually appointed to Provincial rank in 1996 as Past Assistant Grand Registrar. He has been Assistant Secretary in the Lodge since 1992 and more than one Master has been grateful in the past when emergencies have meant that he has, temporarily, taken over the Secretary's duties. He is also an active member of Bernard Gilpin Lodge of Mark Master Masons and became their Master in 1989 and continues to work for the Lodge in whatever capacity he can and currently is their Junior Warden. He was promoted to Provincial rank in 1993 with the rank of Past Provincial Junior Grand Overseer. He is a member of Bernard Gilpin Lodge of Royal Ark Mariners and went through their chair in 1990, achieving Provincial Grand Rank in 2000. In addition he is a member of Bernard Gilpin Chapter where he became Z In 1998 and achieved Provincial rank in May this year with his appointment as Past Provincial Sojourner.

Wilf, who is a widower celebrated his birthday with a lunch at Bowburn Hall in the company of his son and family followed by a party with "the old folk" (his words) on the night of his birthday. His bowls club also held a small party 2 days later and, of course, he

was "serenaded with Happy Birthday" by the Eardulph brethren at our September meeting.

Congratulations and Happy Birthday Wilf, may you have many more of them !!

Congratulations also to:

Gerry Shotton, our longest serving member who celebrated his 75th Birthday on 19th September.

Jack and Sylvia Battensby who celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary on 1st August

Our Senior Warden, Don Patrickson and his wife Mary who became grandparents for the first time with the birth of little Tom born to Don's son Alan and daughter-in-law Jackie

Don't forget if you know of any anniversaries, birthdays or special events please let us know so we can include them in the next issue of Eardulph News

Warm up this Winter



Did you know that you could be eligible for a 100 % grant for cavity wall and loft insulation ?

Every householder over the age of 60 living in the Chester-le-Street District can claim up to £400.00 worth of insulation works to their home completely free of charge, regardless of income. You could easily insulate a 4 bedroom house. The work is carried out by approved contractors and one phone call is all it takes. Even if you are under 60 you still qualify for a 50% grant which would bring the cost of insulating a 3 bedroom semi down from £300 to £150.

The installation of cavity wall and loft insulation to your home can have a dramatic effect on the cost of heating your home reducing heating bills by up to a third which as well as being very healthy on your wallet helps the environment by reducing CO2 emissions.

For more information phone Andy Stephenson at Chester-le-Street Civic Centre on 0191 3871919.

Eardulph's 3 Masters

Within the next 2 months Eardulph Lodge should be in the rare and possibly unique position of having 3 reigning Masters in the craft at the same time. Already installed is our own Worshipful Master, who will of course, be superseded by (hopefully -if elected !)our Senior Warden Don Patrickson on November 14th, 2003. However, before then, two other brethren will be installed into the chairs of their "other" lodges.

First into the "fray" will be W. Bro Jack Battensby who goes into a chair for the second time in his Masonic career when he is installed as The Worshipful Master of The Millennium Lodge of Research on Friday September 26th at 11 am. Jack invites all Eardulph brethren to attend the Installation meeting and any further meeting they can attend during his year in office.

Next to be installed will be our current Junior Deacon, Vic Richardson, who will be installed into the Chair of his Mother Lodge, Canis Major, on Tuesday November 11th in a ceremony commencing at 4.30 pm. in Urmston, Manchester. We plan to run a bus to the meeting leaving Chester-Le-Street at 1 pm. and returning after the Festive Board at some ungodly hour. Tickets to the Festive Board will be approximately £12 and Vic has been kind enough to volunteer to pay for the bus. Please let either Vic or Stephen Willis know if you wish to attend. We at Eardulph News would be interested to know whether this is unique in our history. Can any of you old-timers recall anything similar?

A Mason's Thank You



I am a Mason. Four little words are important to me. I have never made any secret of my masonry, I am proud of it, and want others to know that I am a lucky mason. I belong to a successful and thriving Lodge where the feeling of camaraderie is palpable.

I am a happy mason when I enter a Lodge, be it my own or as a visitor. I am greeted by people who are pleased to see me and show it. Such acceptance and friendship is priceless.

Whether I am a good mason or not is for others to judge but I know that I am a better man for being a mason.

I will be eternally grateful to those who first introduced me to the Craft.

Dates for your Diary

September 26th—Installation meeting at Millennium Lodge of Research (W.Bro. Jack Battensby to be installed into the Chair)

October 1st—We will be performing our annual duty of stewarding at the Installation meeting of Sincerity Lodge. Volunteer stewards are requested to attend Birtley Masonic Hall at 7.15 pm.

October 20th—Ladies Night at the George Washington Hotel which is now a sell out event.

November 11th—Installation meeting of Canis Major Lodge. (Bro Vic Richardson to be installed)

November 14th—Our Installation meeting. Please confirm your attendance ASAP.

December 12th—At our regular meeting Danny Pollock will receive a certificate commemorating his 50 years in Freemasonry from the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro R.N. Dinning

The Lodge Crest

The Lodge's emblem appears very prominently in many places such as the monthly summons, the Lodge banner, Past Masters' jewels and of course at the head of Eardulph News, but have you ever paused to take a closer look or to wonder about its origins ?



The Crest which can be seen above was designed by W.Bro. Wilfred Usher, brother of the founding Master of the Lodge.

The Crest depicts on either side, the two great pillars which stood at the porch way or entrance to King Solomon's Temple. In the centre is the squared pavement upon which the high priest walked and overlooking that pavement is the Great Luminary of nature, the rising sun.

Centred above the pavement are the square and compasses and above and dominating them all are the sword and mitre. The mitre of course is the Bishop's hat and symbolises the link with the first Bishop of Chester-le-Street, Eardulph, and subsequently the Bishops of Durham. The sword represents the fact that in years gone by the Bishops of Durham were Prince Bishops and thus commanded and led their own armies into battle.

Editorial Team

Contact Information removed from Website copy