



On the Square

Issue 17



December 2016

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE CORBY MASONIC COMPLEX

Brethren

As we all look forward to 2017 and our tercentenary celebrations, it is once again time for me to reflect on the preceding twelve months.

In truth 2016 has been a difficult year for the commercial aspect of our wonderful complex, whilst masonically the complex remains a strong vibrant unit, we have seen a downturn in the use of the complex for outside events. What has been so gratifying has been the response to this from our brethren, your support has steadied the ship, we are seeing a bounce in bookings and although an increase in capitation has proved necessary for the 2017/18 season I am certain the future continues to look bright for our complex.

We have seen an increase in visiting and influx of a younger generation in significant numbers, so much so that we are having a 'New Masons' evening for them all at the end of January.

Our one team approach was never more evident than the attendance at this year's service of remembrance held in Corby Old Village. Every one of our Lodges was represented, with many of our members there in a dual role representing other community organisations in Corby, showing that our membership is drawn from a wide and diverse background.

As always my thanks go to Jason, his team and the members of the committees who do so much to make the complex tick.

I would like you all to remember in your thoughts those brethren who have passed to the grand lodge above during the past twelve months, their widows and relatives, not forgetting the widows and relatives who themselves have also passed away.

Finally let me end by wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year.

Jimmy
Complex Chairman

This publication is only as good as its contents. If you have any ideas, photos or indeed would like to advertise events associated with your lodge, chapter or preceptory, please contact Steve Burton (email steveburton4@sky.com or Tel 01536 745471). This newsletter can also be found online at [Corby Masonic Complex Website](#) along with information regarding hiring our complex.

Spotlight on the Lodge of Unity



Our youngest Lodge has some brethren of a certain vintage at the helm (from Left W. Bro Dave Genner - next year's master, the current incumbent Bro Eddie Storey and the immediate past master W. Bro Dave Nixon) - what a trio, talk about past, present and future.

In another of our series of spotlighting lodges it's the turn of Unity. Back in the early 1990's a number of keen young masons in the Corby area, finding that their path to the chair of King Solomon was likely to be a long one, decided to petition for a new lodge to hasten their journey to the chair. The original idea of consecrating a new lodge in the Corby area came from W. Bro Barry Ball and Jim Spence who approached W. Bro Bill Barry to become the founding secretary of the new Lodge.

The Lodge of Unity no. 9495 was consecrated at the Masonic Hall, Rockingham Road, Corby on the 20th February 1993 by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro H.B. Smith accompanied by a number of Provincial Grand Officers. After the Past Provincial Grand Master R.W. Bro. R S E Sandbach had taken the chair and appointed the officers of the consecrating team, the Provincial Grand Master entered the Lodge and addressed the brethren present on the object of the meeting and called upon the Chaplain W. Bro F.E. Pickard to give the introductory prayer.



When the 22 Petitioners had signified their approval to the warrant as read to them by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro K.A.J. Smith, the Chaplain delivered an oration and the Dedication Prayer. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro O.N.N. Hart then occupied the chair and installed W. Bro J.S. Spence PPrGSwdB as the first Worshipful Master. W. Bro E Blackley was invested as the Immediate Past Master.

These days the Secretary is W. Bro Peter Lattimore, take it from me they have a good time. Give them a visit - email Peter on lattimore888@btinternet.com. Meeting dates are on the fourth Monday in January/February and the third Thursday in March, April, October, November and December - installation is in October.

2017 Masters selected for Tercentenary passing Ceremony

At a packed 'X Factor' style audition held at Corby Masonic Centre on Saturday 29th October, various Masters of Lodges from across the Province demonstrated ritual with the hope that they would be selected to take part in the 2nd Degree ceremony to be held on 25th March 2017 in the Main Temple at Great Queen Street, London to Pass Bro Luke Howard. As a result of the audition four brethren from Corby (below) have been selected to take part in that ceremony. Tickets for this event are on sale now. Please see your lodge secretary for details.



- J Russell, Thistle and Rose, 6644
- Graham Rodger, Ferraria, 8489
- A McWilliam, Corbie, 9155
- E Storey, Lodge of Unity, 9495

Comedy Night

On Saturday 29th October 2016, the Corby Masonic Complex held its second Comedy Night. It was a great success with around 130 in attendance. The



compere and three comedians went down well. It must be said that the Headliner, Christian Reilly 'The Singing Comedian' was the star of the show with his brilliant unique brand of musical comedy. Garry and Caroline provided a variety of bar snacks and puddings which were very well received by all. All of this as well as a couple of hecklers thrown in – pity they weren't thrown out!

Lest we forget ~ Remembrance Sunday 13th November



The Chairman W. Bro Jim Spence PAGDC and W. Bro Ron Stone laying wreaths on behalf of the Provincial Grand Lodge and Corby Masonic Lodge.



Rab's Posse

We all know, visiting is such an important part of freemasonry, we toast the visitors at every one of our meetings, but how much visiting do we actually do.

When Thistle & Rose reduced their number of meetings it was decided to start a visiting section, this has gained momentum through this first season exceeding expectations and providing support for our sister lodges in Corby on a monthly basis.

Known as 'Rab's Posse' they have already visited Ferrara and St Giles Lodges and are planning to visit Corbie on the 8th December plus Heritage and Trinity in the new year.

Thistle Rose held a remembrance themed meeting on the 23rd November which was attended by over 20 visiting brethren - clearly the word is getting around about how good it is to visit.

Typically there are about 12 in Rab's Posse. We even give a *sort of* rendition of the tylers song free of charge at the end of a festive board. If y'all want to invite the 'Posse' along y'all need to contact the sheriff AKA Rab Reid:

reidr3@sky.com



Notice Board & Events

Saturday 22nd December: **Christmas Party Night**

An extra date for this year.

Saturday 17 December: **Christmas Party Night**

£15 pp includes a two course dinner & buffet - **Sold Out**

Saturday 31 December: **News Year's Eve Party Night**

£30 pp includes a fork buffet and dancing to The Contenders.



Sunday 8 and 15 January 2017: **Panto 'Jack and the Beanstalk'**

Corby Masonic Players will be performing their pantomime Jack and the Beanstalk. There will be two performances at 1pm and 4pm.

The Pantomime will be free to members, family and friends and will include a festive selection box for each child. The bar will also be open on the day. Places need to be booked prior to Christmas Eve. All that we require is your name and the number of adults and children that will be attending and which performance. Please give this information to your Lodge Entertainments Officer, one of the cast members or to one of the Corby Masonic Centre staff.

Also to mark the Tercentenary we are planning to do a special 'community' performance of the pantomime the following Sunday. More details to follow.

Festival date	Lodge
11th February	Ferraria
4th March	Unity
8th April	Corbie
6th May	St Giles
3rd June	Thistle and Rose
10th June	Old Quintinians

Ladies Festivals

Don't miss out on the chance to thank the lady in your life for her support in your masonic life; book up early for your Lodge's Ladies Festival. Contact your Lodge Secretary for details.



Saturday 25 March 2017: **Grand lodge Visit/2nd Degree Ceremony**

This will be the first time that a Province has conducted a 2nd degree Ceremony in the Grand Temple and we are greatly honoured that our province has been chosen to conduct it.



Saturday 29 April 2017: **'Rock the Decades' @ Corby Cube**

£20.50 pp - Benefit concert in aid of local charities including 'lifelites'

**Sunday 11 June 2017:
Parade and Church Service**

The second main event is the Parade and Church Service at Peterborough Cathedral, which will start from Peterborough Town Hall at 2.45pm arriving at the Cathedral in good time for the 3.30pm evensong service. There will be no restriction on numbers and the event is open to Masons and non-Masons; male and female. (Children can also attend).

To register your interest in any of these events please contact your Lodge Secretary or Jason the complex manager in the first instance. Meanwhile, the entertainment committee is busy organising other events to help celebrate this special year, keep an eye on the [website](#) for details.



Need regalia? Don't forget to support the shop - good prices and easy to access

The shop is open before every Lodge meeting, and each morning between 9am and 12pm except Sunday and Wednesday. Buying from our shop helps you and the complex so tell your friends - especially those Masons from other centres.

And finally, the Ronnie Stone joke slot ...

Paddy was learning to fly, the instructor asked him to call control and do the emergency drill. *'No problem'* said Paddy

Paddy to control: *'Christmas day, Boxing day, New Year's day, Good Friday, Easter Sunday, Easter Monday'*

Control to Paddy: *'it's MAYDAY'*

Paddy to control: *'I knew it was one of those bank holidays'*

