

The quarterly newsletter
of the District Grand
Lodge of the South Island

DEGREES SOUTH



MAY 2013

GRAND MASTER RECOMMENDS TRANSPARENCY AND OPENNESS

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IMPORTANT DATES

- 17th & 18th May - Annual Communications in Christchurch hosted by Conyers Lodge at the new Shirley Lodge rooms.
- 8th June - Phoenix Lodge Installation
- 24th June - Winchester Lodge Installation
- Saturday 3rd August - Combined Midland English Meeting hosted by the Lodge of St John.

At the Annual Investiture Quarterly Communications the MW Grand Master addressed the Brethren as follows:

Brethren, today our concern must be for the future, especially with the approach of our three hundredth anniversary in 2017. In planning for this great anniversary, I believe these times demand innovation, and imaginative thinking, whilst retaining our principles. In this I make no apology for again reminding Brethren of the need truly to demonstrate transparency, and to work towards regaining our enviable reputation in society. To do this we have to show how and why we are relevant and to concentrate on the positive aspects of Freemasonry, in particular our generous tradition of giving to a wide variety of causes.

In regards to transparency we still have some way to go in dispelling the myths that remain 'deep rooted' in many people's minds, not least the media. Very considerable progress has been made in this direction already, but challenges remain, and there is still work to do to overcome prejudices and misconception.

I am very pleased that we have already achieved two firsts of some importance in tackling this challenge. The first of these was the commissioning of the first ever independent, third party report, written by non-Masons, on the future of Freemason-



ry. This Report has been highly successful and has itself acted as the catalyst for the second of our two innovations, namely the first media tour, conducted by the Grand Secretary, and which achieved a reach of more than 117 million people.

I recommend that you all take advantage of this active spirit of openness to talk with equal frankness to your family and friends. I think that if you follow this advice, you may well be surprised by the positive reception you will gain.

GREYMOUTH LODGE IS ON THE MOVE



After much discussion it was unanimously agreed that Greymouth Lodge make a permanent move to Freemasons' Hall, Shantytown, effective end of March.

The W.M.'s honours board will be placed on the refectory wall, and the 1233 charter hung inside the temple. Greymouth look forward to this, their seventh home since 1867, and especially to having a much closer working relationship with Advance Mawhera Lodge 61 New Zealand Constitution.

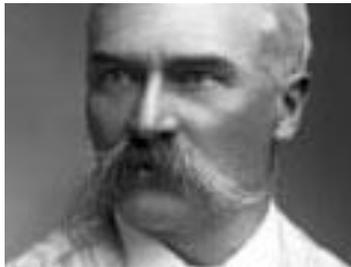
SAMUEL KIRKPATRICK

Samuel Kirkpatrick was born at Newry, County Down, Ireland, probably in 1853 or 1854, the son of Rebecca Montgomery Marshall and her husband, William Kirkpatrick, a draper. He went to school in Newry and then studied at Walton College, Liverpool. After five years with a wholesale food merchant Kirkpatrick emigrated to North America, working for tea wholesalers in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh. He travelled to California in 1876 and worked in two large fruit canneries in San Francisco.

Kirkpatrick arrived in New Zealand in January 1878 and worked as a traveller for Renshaw, Denniston and Company of Dunedin. In October of that year he contacted a Nelson group investigating the establishment of a fruit processing business. Kirkpatrick agreed to manage the enterprise and leased a former textile mill in Bridge Street as premises. He returned to Britain in 1880 to arrange the shipment of a canning plant. His widowed mother and an aunt came back to live with him.

S. Kirkpatrick and Company began production in 1881 with a 10-horsepower boiler, two steam-jacketed jam pans and a steam vat for preserving fruit. Early output reached 1,000 cans a day, each can being handmade on the premises. The company's range of products soon included vegetables and potted meats. Its distribution agencies covered New Zealand and extensive advertising resulted in the 'K' label becoming recognised throughout Australasia.

Production had doubled by 1896 when Kirkpatrick purchased land at the corner of Gloucester and Vanguard streets for a new factory, which he furnished with the most up-to-date machinery and best quality fittings available. Engineers from Hobart installed automated machinery to produce cans in such a way as to prevent the contents becoming contaminated through contact with solder or metal edges. The factory continued to grow as a result of Kirkpatrick's energy and enterprise. In 1899 he took over a Wellington coffee and spice merchant, and his 1904 purchase of the Nelson Fish Company added



chilled, frozen and smoked fish to his production.

Kirkpatrick played a major role in Nelson's development, through his encouragement of fruit growing and horticulture and his employment of seasonal and permanent labour. He was concerned to provide good working conditions for staff, who in turn regarded him with great respect. Kirkpatrick played cricket, hockey and later bowls, and became president of the Nelson Hockey Association. In 1924 he presented the silver 'K' Cup as the trophy for the interprovincial women's hockey competition.

Kirkpatrick was a Freemason and held the rank of deputy grand master of the District Grand Lodge of Westland and Nelson. He also served a term as a city councillor from 1898.

Samuel Kirkpatrick was a dapper man with a neatly trimmed beard and a retiring disposition. His marriage, at Nelson on 24 December 1896 to Edith Collings, was sadly cut short when she died of tuberculosis on 6 October 1899. He died on 21 May 1925 while on holiday at Parakai near Helensville. As part of his will he provided money to convert his large house in Mount Street into a home for the daughters of deceased Freemasons. These terms eventually were later considerably broadened to include any girls sponsored by a masonic organisation. Samuel Kirkpatrick's wishes are still being followed today as masonic-sponsored boarders are now accommodated at Nelson College for Girls boarding facilities while their expenses for board, living costs and tuition are paid for by the masonic lodges, Kirkpatrick's Estate and Kirkpatrick House, which is now Club Nelson Backpackers.

“As part of his will he provided money to convert his large house in Mount Street into a home for the daughters of deceased Freemasons”

CONTINUED SUPPORT NEEDED FROM LODGES

After the recent Kirkpatrick House Trust AGM the Trust Chairman, W Bro Tony Hunter, expressed that the Trust is keen to see a continuation of an older tradition which has fallen by the wayside, that of Lodges dedicating one of their collections for the Trust. Or possibly making a specific grant to the trust.

He hoped that each Lodge, if it is not already doing so, would consider re-instating this tradition so that the Trust Funds can continue to grow in order to keep up the good work which has seen over 200 Girls educated over the last 90 years or so. Currently eight girls are at Nelson College with annual costs of approximately \$110,000.

COMMEMORATIVE SCROLL RETURNS TO GREYMOUTH

The Priory Lodge No 4671, Yorkshire West Riding, recently came in possession of various documents, formerly the property of a W Bro James Bamber. Bro Bamber had been initiated into the Duke of Connaught Lodge No 2940, meeting at Colombo in Sri Lanka, in November 1917.

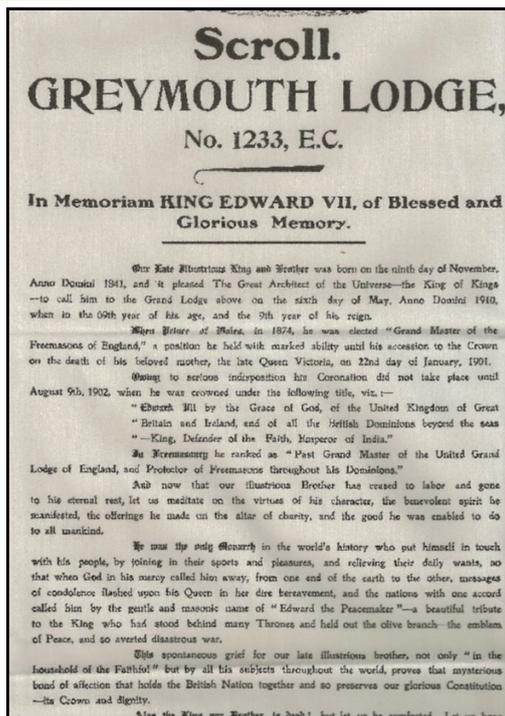
Amongst those papers was a commemorative scroll (pictured), printed on silk, in tribute to the life of King Edward VII. The scroll is dated 20th May 1910.

As Prince of Wales the late King had served as Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, up until his accession to the throne.

The secretary of the Priory Lodge can find no indication of how the scroll came into Bro Bamber's possession but, on behalf of the WM and Brethren of the Lodge he was pleased to be able to return it to Greymouth.

Amongst the other papers was an Order of Service for a Memorial Service for the death of Queen Victoria dated February 5th 1901.

The Lodge was tyled at 8:00pm and opened in the second and third degrees where the "Dead March" was played followed by a spe-



cial Litany. After a Memorial Address by the Lodge Chaplain, Rev Bro York, there followed the proclamation of King Edward VII in the East, with honours 9 times, the West with honours 7 times and the South with honours 5 times.

DAILY ADVANCEMENT- THE ROYAL SOCIETY

In 1597 a college was founded in London by a Sir Thomas Gresham, the son of a Lord Mayor of that city. An unusual college, by today's standards, in that it did not confer degrees nor did it offer courses, instead it had eight professors who offered lectures, each in his own field of study, and these lectures were open to anyone who wanted to attend, their salaries were paid from the rents of shops in Exchange Square, which Sir Thomas had built after having spent a few years dealing in the Bourse, in Antwerp. These lectures have continued to be given by Gresham College, to this day, it is the oldest institute of higher learning in London. The original chairs were in Astronomy, Divinity, Geometry, Law, Music, Physic and Rhetoric, *do these have a familiar ring to them?*

When the Civil War started in 1642 it was, more than anything else, a religious war a war between various factions of the Protestant faith, fought because any deviation from the extreme dogma of Puritanism which, in their opinion was "Gods Will" was then viewed as a heresy. It was a war in which fathers fought their sons and brothers fought their brothers, a war that rent the nation apart.

Throughout all of this the Gresham Lectures

continued and the regular attendees, when they could not all meet in London because of the conflict, would gather for discussions in Oxford. There was a group of these regular attendees who began meeting around 1645 to discuss the ideas of Francis Bacon. When in 1660, a dozen of them met at Gresham College, following a lecture by Christopher Wren, who was the Gresham Professor of Astrology at that time, they decided to found a "College for the Promoting of Physico-mathematical Experimental Learning." Among them were Robert Boyle, John Wilkins, Sir Robert Moray and Christopher Wren himself.

It was the time of Galileo who had to deny his findings that all of the planets revolved around the sun, in deference to the church's view that the Universe revolved around the Earth, this he had to do to save his life. Francis Bacon wrote "The Advancement of Learning," while Guy Fawkes was trying to assassinate the king and blow up Parliament, in an attempt to stop any such advancement.

Originally there were twelve who made up that "Invisible College" and propagated the Royal Society.

Continued over...

"It was the time of Galileo, who had to deny his findings that all of the planets revolved around the sun, in deference to the church's view that the Universe revolved around the Earth. This he had to do to save his life."

Richard Taylor - Editor

85 Brophy Road

RD21 Geraldine

7991

Phone: 03 693 9111

Mob: 021 1589 021

E-mail: stay@taylorsatgeraldine.co.nz

Degrees South Deadlines:

July 31st for the August edition

October 31st for the November edition

January 31st for the February edition

April 30th for the May edition

REGALIA

W. Bro. R.A. (Dick) Scadden has contacts to import regalia etc. "These are good quality, and keenly priced"

Aprons \$45, Collars \$30 to \$35, Gloves \$7 pr., Soft apron case \$50 to \$60, can place apron inside without folding same.

Postage is around \$5 to \$10 per item. Actual quoted prices depend on exchange rates etc.

Ph. Fax 03 782 8293,

e mail rascadden@xtra.co.nz

Degrees South are unable to endorse these products but would be interested to have feedback from Brethren purchasing from this supplier.

...cont.

First there was Christopher Wren, who was a Freemason. Viscount Brouckner, the first elected president of the Royal Society was a Royalist and a Freemason. John Wilkins was a Church man; he had been chaplain to Prince Rupert, a Parliamentarian and like Wren and Brouckner, he was a Freemason. Sir Paul Nealle was a supporter of the Stuart Cause and a Freemason. Robert Boyle was the man who invented the vacuum chamber or the vacuum pump. He also was a Royalist and a Freemason. A most important member of this group was one Sir Robert Moray. He received his education at St. Andrews University and continued it in France. He became a Colonel in the French Army with the Scots Guard, Quartermaster General of the Scottish Covenanters Army in 1641 and General of the Scottish army which invaded England in 1646. He was made a Freemason in the field at Newcastle in 1641 by twenty odd Masons of Edinburgh Lodge (Mary's Chapel). His initiation was also attended by some English Masons. The remaining members of the original Twelve were Alexander Bruce, Earl of Kincardine, Dr. Jonathan Goddard, Dr. William Petty, Mr. William Ball, Mr. Laurence Rooke, and a young business man, Mr. Abraham Hill. It is not known if these six men were masons but

FROM THE ASSISTANT DISTRICT GM

Brethren, I greet you all well from the top of the South, and hope that you and your families are well. I suppose as many of us are creeping into the upper age limits, we need to take extra care of ourselves, especially as winter is almost upon us. Since my last contribution to the newsletter, I unfortunately have to report that we have lost from our fraternity two very prominent freemasons. The first being Vern Powell who died on the 1st December 2012 and more recently, Vern Anderson on 2nd April this year. Both brethren were past Masters of the Lazar and Dunedin Lodges respectively and will be sadly missed.

Recently the Greymouth Lodge has had a shot in the arm, so to speak, with a number of joining members, two new initiates and a move to a new location for their meetings. In November last year the Lodge initiated its first candidate since 1993, a Mr Thomas Ealam who was supported by his Father and his Grandfather who are both freemasons and recent joining members of Greymouth Lodge. The following month the Lodge initiated a second new member, a Mr Shane Thomson, once again at Shantytown. In April, Greymouth Lodge moved its charter officially to its new home in the Lodge Rooms at Shantytown. This historic move was achieved through a great deal of work having been done by the Secre-

that's not to say that they weren't.

The man who chaired the first meeting was John Wilkins, the son of a goldsmith from Oxford he went on to become the Bishop of Chester. Sir Robert Moray chaired the next few meetings of this fledgling organization, until a President had been duly elected and one of the first things that he established was that neither religion or politics would be discussed while a meeting was in session, that rule, which sounds so familiar to us, as Freemasons, is in effect within the Society to this day. He also insisted that minutes be kept of all the meetings and in the minutes of the first meeting we find the following:

"And to the end that they might be better enabled to make a conjecture of how many members of this society should consist, therefore it was desired that a list might be taken of the names of such persons as were known to those present, whom they judged to be willing and fit to join them in their design, who, if they should desire it, might be admitted before any other."

Trevor-Roper the eminent historian says *"At the time of its formation, The Royal Society embodied a new philosophy and a new scientific attitude, and its prompt recognition by the restored monarchy of Charles II, showed a new attitude on the part of the monarchy*

For not only was the patronage of scientific research by the Stuart monarchy something new in itself: it was also in this instance, politically surprising."

The fact was that most of the scholarly

tary Wor Bro Doug Stapleton PADGM.

I recently returned from Greymouth, along with Wor Bro David Marsh DGDC, having taken part in, and chaired a ceremony of raising Bro Ealam to the 3rd degree. I had been asked by the Secretary if I would take the chair for this ceremony as the Worshipful Master, Wor Bro Jack Sheehan was very ill and there was doubt as to him being able to attend the meeting at all. This I agreed to. Happily Wor Bro Jack was fit enough to attend and to open and close his Lodge, handing over to me to do the work of the evening. The most memorable part of the ceremony was once again the candidate being supported by his Grandfather, Wor Bro George Crossley who was the Senior Deacon, and his Father Bro Philip Ealam who was the Junior Warden and also presented his son with his Master Mason's certificate at the end of the ceremony. Finally, his Uncle Bro P Crossley, a Master Mason of the Ashley Lodge No. 28 NZC, who had just applied to be a member of the Greymouth Lodge that evening. Could you get much more of a family affair than this? The evening finished with a most enjoyable get together in the refectory afterwards.

At this time we all wish Wor Bro Jack Sheehan much strength in his fight against his illness and hope to see him continue in the chair of his Lodge.



Sir Robert Moray

and scientific minds, who were original fellows of the society, were also Parliamentarians, whereas the Royalist fellows, who were mostly interested amateurs, provided the funding for their experiments.

What was it that melded these disparate groups into an effective working unit? Perhaps the answer was the fact that more than half of them, from both sides, were Freemasons who had all taken oaths, at their various initiations, to love and support their Brothers, *they had a commonality that bound them.*

To some extent there are some who would have it that The Royal Society was the real wellspring of modern Freemasonry.

Acknowledgment to VW Bro Norman McEvoy (The Educator website)