

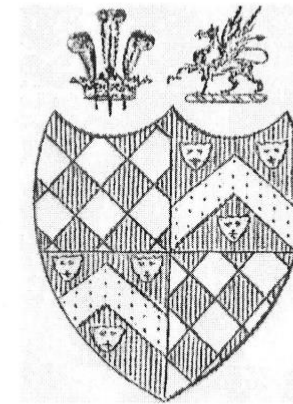
Fitzwilliam Lodge No.3023

1904 - 2004

FITZWILLIAM

LODGE

No. 3023



**CENTENARY**

**1904 - 2004**

Celebrated on Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2004  
at

The Masonic Hall, Wellgate, Rotherham

**FOREWORD**

It is both a privilege and a pleasure to be invited to write the foreword to this history of Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 3023.

The Province of Yorkshire, West Riding has long been rich in the quality of its Lodges, and I am pleased to say that Fitzwilliam Lodge can be numbered amongst the most respected.

The Lodge has now completed 100 years of continuous working and I think it is a good time to reflect on what has been achieved in that period, and I congratulate W.Bro. Hill and those who assisted him in compiling this most important document. I particularly like the references to non-Masonic matters, as it proves that “Freemasonry in the Community” is not something new, the members of the Lodge have been practicing this for at least 100 years.

The Lodge must now look forward, having reflected on the past, to ensure that all the hard work and great foresight of the founder members is used as a firm foundation for the future.

Fitzwilliam Lodge can now look forward to a glorious future, and I, and indeed the whole Province of Yorkshire, West Riding congratulate you on your Centenary, and may God be with you in all your future undertakings.

J.Trevor Broadley.

Provincial Grand Master.  
Yorkshire, West Riding.

*Preface*

Fitzwilliam Lodge was consecrated on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1904 by W.Bro. R.Wilson, P.G.D., Deputy Provincial Grand Master of West Yorkshire, at the Masonic Rooms, High Street, Rotherham, in a ceremony commencing at 5.00 p.m.

The members of the Consecrating team and the founders of the Lodge are detailed in this booklet, along with lists of all the Masters (a total of 98) and members of the Lodge (a total of 270) during its first 100 years.

In the preparation of this review of the first 100 years of Fitzwilliam Lodge, great help has been received from many of the members, particularly:-

W.Bro. R.M.Hudson P.P.J.G.W., W.Bro. J.M.Tagg P.P.A.G.D.C., W.Bro. D.J.Hebden P.P.J.G.W., W.Bro. J.B.Fish P.P.S.G.D., W.Bro. J.S.Beaven, and W.Bro. C.C.Souter P.P.J.G.W. of Phoenix Lodge No. 904 whose researches into the formation and Founders of the Lodge gave us a starting point for this booklet.

In the compilation of a booklet of this type, it is difficult to avoid just presenting lists of facts and figures, which may be important from an historical point of view, but don't necessarily make interesting reading. The writer has tried to include items that give some feel for the many brethren that have been proud to declare themselves members of this wonderful organisation in general, and Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 3023 in particular.

During its one hundred years of existence, Fitzwilliam Lodge has had many worthy and distinguished brethren as its Worshipful Master, but it has also had many who never progressed that far, but still made a significant impact by their membership.

Many things have changed during the past 100 years, but many things have stayed the same. The future of the Lodge is in the hands of the current members, and members yet to come – it is therefore in good hands!

May 2004

W.Bro. K.Hill P.P.J.G.D.

The first Lodge to be formed in Rotherham was called the Druidical Lodge, and was one of the few Lodges established under the Grand lodge of York. It was consecrated at the house of a Mr. William Charlton on the 21<sup>st</sup> December 1778, and continued to meet at the Red Lion Inn until York Grand Lodge ceased in 1792.

In the neighbouring county at Retford the North Nottinghamshire Lodge No. 587 was founded in 1792, but it was later transferred to Worksop, taking the name of Phoenix. However, it did not flourish and was moved again, this time to Rotherham, where it had its first meeting at the Crown Inn on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July 1808. The last recorded meeting was on the 24<sup>th</sup> June 1830.

In 1861, several members of the Britannia Lodge of Sheffield agreed to recommence masonry in Rotherham. The following year, on the 4<sup>th</sup> February 1862, Bro. Henry Webster, the Senior Deacon of the Britannia Lodge, became the first Master of the present Phoenix Lodge at a meeting in the Prince of Wales Hotel, Masborough. This Lodge flourished so well that it soon became obvious that the town could support a second Lodge.

In 1877, there was a petition to form a Lodge at Wath-on-Dearne but it received insufficient support.

On the 30<sup>th</sup> October 1903, Bro. Cheesewright of the Phoenix Lodge chaired a preliminary meeting of eight brethren to discuss the formation of a second Rotherham Lodge.

As a result, a petition was sent to Grand Lodge on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 1903, for a warrant to form a Lodge called the Fitzwilliam Lodge.

The petitioners were Bros. F.Cleeves, J.Gibbs, A.Robinson, G.Foster, C.A.Locke, J.Cheesewright, W.Thompson, R.A.Wilkinson, H.Hampton-Copnall, A.Holmes, H.Gough, B.Heald and W.Liversidge.

A further meeting on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 1904 confirmed that Lord Fitzwilliam had granted the use of his title and arms.

At the same time, the Phoenix Lodge agreed that the new Lodge could use the facilities and furniture at the High Street Masonic Rooms.

The Province of Yorkshire West Riding confirmed that it would be given the number 3023.

The fees for the new Lodge would be :- Initiation 10 gns, Subscriptions 3 gns. (the latter to include supper but not liquor).

On Monday the 16<sup>th</sup> May 1904, the Lodge was consecrated under the auspices of W.Bro. R.Wilson Dep.P.G.M. of West Yorkshire, in the High Street premises. At the end of that ceremony W.Bro. F.Cleeves was installed as the Master, W.Bro. J.Gibbs as S.W., and W.Bro. A.Robinson as J.W.

In 1958 Fitzwilliam Lodge, along with the other Rotherham Lodges, moved into the present premises in Wellgate, which were dedicated on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> February 1958, by the Provincial Grand Master, R.W.Bro.Henry Clifford Smith J.P.

Frederick Cleeves – First Master of the Fitzwilliam Lodge – 1904

Frederick Cleeves was born in 1841 in London, and in 1868 moved North to live in Rawmarsh, and to work at the Parkgate Iron and Steel Company.

In 1875 he became connected with the local coal industry, and developed the commercialisation of anthracite coal, founding the company Cleeves & Co.

He was also chairman of the Hull Forge Iron & Steel Co.

He was a very keen and accomplished amateur actor, and heavily involved in Freemasonry.

At the time of his death in 1925, he was the oldest surviving member of Phoenix Lodge, having been installed as Master in 1883.

He was one of the Founder Members of Phoenix Chapter, which was consecrated in 1887, and was installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Principal of Phoenix Chapter in 1888.

In the craft he had served the office of Prov.S.G.W., and held the rank of P.G.D. of England.

In 1904, he was appointed P.G.M. of Mark Masons of West Yorkshire, a position he still held at the time of his death.

In 1916, he was appointed Grand Inspector General (33<sup>rd</sup> Deg) in the Ancient & Accepted Rite for the North East district.

Away from Freemasonry, he had also served as Master of the Worshipful Company of Patternmakers of the City of London on two separate occasions.

#### John Gibbs – First Elected Master of the Fitzwilliam Lodge – 1904-05

John Gibbs was born in 1841 at Towcester, Northamptonshire, and following the death of his father, went to live with an uncle from an early age.

He moved with his uncle to Rotherham in 1851, and attended a local school.

In 1856, he left school and went to work for the Sheffield and Rotherham Joint Stock Banking Co.Ltd.

Following several promotions, he became the manager in 1869, and grew in status and reputation, and was held in very high esteem by all those who knew him.

The business thrived, and new, impressive, bank premises were built in 1893, at the corner of High Street and Wellgate.

He held very many and varied public appointments, including being treasurer of several school boards, the Rotherham Corporation, the Board of Health, and the Rotherham Hospital.

He was also a director of the British Waggon Company.

He was a very active and prominent Freemason, and was installed as Master of Phoenix Lodge in 1890.

He was exalted into Phoenix Chapter in 1887, and in the late 1890's he was installed as 1<sup>st</sup> Principal, a position he held for 4 consecutive years.

In 1893, he was Prov. Grand Treasurer for Yorkshire West Riding.

He died in March 1917.

Masters of the Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 3023 (\* denotes Founder Member)

W.Bro. F.Cleeves P.G.D., P.P.G.W.	1904*
W.Bro. J.Gibbs P.P.G.Treas.	1904-05*
W.Bro. R.A.Wilkinson P.P.G.D.	1905-06*
W.Bro. W.Thompson	1906-07*
W.Bro. H.H.Copnall	1907-08*
W.Bro. H.C.Barr P.P.G.W.	1908-09
W.Bro. A.M.Spencer P.P.G.D.	1909-10
W.Bro. W.J.Board P.P.S.W. (Notts)	1910-11
W.Bro. G.W.Roberts P.P.A.G.D.C.	1911-12
W.Bro. C.N.Hodgson P.P.G.D.	1912-13
W.Bro. T.R.Chislett	1913-14
W.Bro. A.H.Horsley P.P.G.S.W. (War)	1914-15
W.Bro. E.B.Martin	1915-16
W.Bro. O.C.Morgan	1916-17
W.Bro. W.Whitfield P.P.G.D.	1917-18
W.Bro. A.S.Blenkinsop P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W.	1918-19
W.Bro. Rev.A.G.Allton P.P.G.C.	1919-20
W.Bro. R.A.Oxley	1920-21
W.Bro. D.W.Rees P.P.G.D.	1921-22
W.Bro. T.W.Edwards P.P.G.Swd.B.	1922-23
W.Bro. H.Rhodes	1923-24
W.Bro. T.A.Turner P.P.G.D.	1924-25
W.Bro. J.Clarke P.P.G.D.	1925-26
W.Bro. J.W.Robson	1926-27
W.Bro. W.S.Thompson P.P.G.D.	1927-28
W.Bro. R.J.Foster P.P.G.D.	1928-29
W.Bro. G.B.Garnet P.P.G.D.	1929-30
W.Bro. C.J.Newbould P.P.A.G.D.C.	1930-31
W.Bro. E.J.Twigg P.P.G.W.	1931-32
W.Bro. W.L.Dibb P.P.G.D.	1932-33
W.Bro. G.H.Lodge P.P.A.G.D.C.	1933-34
W.Bro. D.B.Jenkinson P.P.A.G.S.of W.	1934-35
W.Bro. F.W.Field P.P.G.D.	1935-36
W.Bro. R.W.Allison P.P.G.D.	1936-37
W.Bro. H.Herdman	1937-38
W.Bro. G.A.Hebden P.P.A.G.D.C.	1938-39
W.Bro. G.A.Hebden P.P.A.G.D.C.	1939-40
W.Bro. A.S.Blenkinsop P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W.	1940-41
W.Bro. W.H.Daine P.P.G.D.	1941-42
W.Bro. W.H.Daine P.P.G.D.	1942-43
W.Bro. W.S.Thompson P.P.G.D.	1943-44
W.Bro. A.Vernon P.P.A.G.D.C.	1944-45
W.Bro. H.G.Duncan P.P.G.W., P.D.G.Stwd. (Gib)	1945-46
W.Bro. W.Pickin	1946-47
W.Bro. H.Hart O.B.E., P.P.A.G.D.C.	1947-48
W.Bro. J.Hutchinson	1948-49
W.Bro. D.Charles P.P.G.W.	1949-50
W.Bro. J.Peck	1950-51
W.Bro. P.R.Alcock P.P.S.G.W.	1951-52
W.Bro. H.Saul P.P.G.W.	1952-53

W.Bro. G.G.Brooke P.P.G.Reg.	1953-54
W.Bro. G.E.Vere J.P., P.P.G.W.	1954-55
W.Bro. R.S.Thompson P.P.D.G.D.C.	1955-56
W.Bro. A.P.Badger T.D., P.P.G.D.	1956-57
W.Bro. H.G.Stafford	1957-58
W.Bro. A.G.Shepard P.P.G.W.	1958-59
W.Bro. F.Ogley P.P.D.G.Swd.B.	1959-60
W.Bro. R.R.Wadsworth P.P.A.G.S.of W.	1960-61
W.Bro. H.Rhodes P.P.G.W.	1961-62
W.Bro. C.Markham P.P.G.W.	1962-63
W.Bro. A.E.Gould P.P.G.W.	1963-64
W.Bro. A.B.Jackson P.P.A.G.D.C.	1964-65
W.Bro. W.Gardner P.P.G.Stwd.	1965-66
W.Bro. C.Saul P.P.G.W.	1966-67
W.Bro. J.Hebden P.P.G.W.	1967-68
W.Bro. R.Cutts P.P.G.D.	1968-69
W.Bro. R.H.W.Denham P.P.G.D.	1969-70
W.Bro. E.A.Roberts P.P.G.Std.B.	1970-71
W.Bro. D.S.Melville P.P.D.G.D.C.	1971-72
W.Bro. R.W.Crocker P.P.A.G.Swd.B.	1972-73
W.Bro. G.F.Peet P.P.G.D.	1973-74
W.Bro. A.Birks P.P.G.D.	1974-75
W.Bro. N.L.C.Harry	1975-76
W.Bro. P.L.Hearn P.P.D.G.Swd.B.	1976-77
W.Bro. R.W.L.Wilkinson	1977-78
W.Bro. D.A.Harper Prov.D.G.Chap.	1978-79
W.Bro. R.M.Hudson P.P.J.G.W.	1979-80
W.Bro. M.W.Field	1980-81
W.Bro. D.R.Gannicott	1981-82
W.Bro. G.Cocker P.P.A.G.S.of W.	1982-83
W.Bro. G.Crane P.P.G.Reg.	1983-84
W.Bro. C.R.Crocker	1984-85
W.Bro. R.B.McLaren P.P.S.G.D.	1985-86
W.Bro. R.W.Pickering P.P.G.S.of W.	1986-87
W.Bro. P.Graham P.P.G.Reg.	1987-88
W.Bro. J.Curtis P.P.J.G.W., P.P.G.Swd.B. (Essex)	1988-89
W.Bro. S.Ainsworth	1989-90
W.Bro. D.J.Hebden P.P.J.G.W.	1990-91
W.Bro. M.G.Woodcock P.P.G.Swd.B.	1991-92
W.Bro. E.Elliott	1992-93
W.Bro. D.J.Palmer P.P.G.Swd.B.	1993-94
W.Bro. C.R.Guest	1994-95
W.Bro. J.B.Fish P.P.D.G.Reg.	1995-96
W.Bro. J.M.Tagg P.P.A.G.D.C.	1996-97
W.Bro. K.Hill P.P.J.G.D.	1997-98
W.Bro. V.Colley P.P.A.G.Reg.	1998-99
W.Bro. K.Watt P.P.J.G.D.	1999-00
W.Bro. T.Bolton P.P.J.G.D.	2000-01
W.Bro. C.J.Webb	2001-02
W.Bro. M.D.Belk	2002-03

W.Bro. J.S.Beaven	2003-04
W.Bro. J.B.Orr <i>M.B.E.</i>	2004-05
W.Bro. J.Dixon P.P.S.G.D.	2005-06
W.Bro. D.J.Worrall	2006-07
W.Bro. J.Dixon P.P.S.G.D.	2007-08
W.Bro. E.Turner	2008-09
W.Bro. D.Unwin	2009-10
W.Bro. C.J.Hamer	2010-11
W.Bro. D.J.Hebden P.P.J.G.W.	2011-12-13
W.Bro. G.Hawley	2013-14
W.Bro. C.J.Hamer	2014-15
W.Bro. T.M.Whitworth	2015-16

Consecrating Officers for the ceremony held on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1904

W.Bro. R.Wilson P.G.D., Dep. P.G.M. (West Yorks)  
W.Bro. H.S.Childe P.G.D. of England  
W.Bro. W.Postlethwaite P.G.W.  
W.Bro. J.Elstone Cawthorne P.G.D.C.  
W.Bro. John Stokes P.G.S.D.  
W.Bro. H.Riley Smith P.S.G.W.  
W.Bro. James Browne P.G.Chaplain  
W.Bro. Ensor Drury P.G.D.  
W.Bro. H.G.E.Green P.G.Sec.

Fitzwilliam Lodge Officers elected on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> May 1904 (Founder Members)

W.Master	W.Bro. F.Cleeves P.G.D., P.P.G.W.
Acting I.P.M.	W.Bro. J.F.Cheesewright
S.Warden	W.Bro. J.Gibbs P.P.G.Treas.
J.Warden	W.Bro. A.Robinson
Treasurer	W.Bro. C.A.Locke P.P.A.G.D.C.
Secretary	Bro. R.A.Wilkinson
S.Deacon	Bro. W.Thompson
J.Deacon	Bro. H.Hampton Copnall
D. of C.	W.Bro. G.Foster P.S.G.D.
I.Guard	Bro. Rev.Albert Holmes
Steward	W.Bro. H.Gough

also :-  
Tyler W.Bro. T.W.Roome P.P.G.S.W.

The Consecration and Installation ceremony was attended by the 9 Consecrating Officers, 13 Past Provincial Officers, and 55 other Brethren from 16 different Lodges.

At the end of the meeting, Bro. H.C.Barr, Entered Apprentice of Sancta Maria Lodge No. 2682 in London, and Bro. A.M.Spencer, Master Mason of Phoenix Lodge No. 904, were proposed and seconded as joining members of the Fitzwilliam Lodge.

Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 3023 – First 25 years – 1904-29

During its early years, Fitzwilliam Lodge held several Lodges of Emergency, to initiate new members, and to bring in joining members from other Lodges. On several occasions multiple ceremonies were conducted.

Having asked for and received approval from his mother Lodge, Sancta Maria No. 2682 in London, Bro. H.C.Barr was passed to the second degree at the regular meeting of Fitzwilliam Lodge held on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1904.

At a Lodge of Emergency held on 11<sup>th</sup> August 1904, Bro. H.C.Barr was raised to the degree of a Master Mason by W.Bro. J.Cheesewright, acting as W.Master. Following that ceremony on the same evening, the W.Master, W.Bro. F.Cleeves, took the Chair and passed Bro. C.V.B.Boyle to the degree of a Fellowcraft (note :- Bro. H.C.Barr was Installed as W.Master of Fitzwilliam Lodge at the meeting held on Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November 1908, having served the previous year as Junior Warden !).

At a Lodge of Emergency held 1<sup>st</sup> August 1907, Bro. T.R.Chislett was passed to the 2<sup>nd</sup> degree. The Master W.Bro.W.Thompson asked that it be recorded in the minutes that ‘For the first time in the history of the Lodge, Emulation working was used throughout’

At the regular Lodge held on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1913, Bro. A.G.Allton suggested that a collection for Charities should be made at each Lodge. The suggestion was acted upon immediately, and the amount of £1 0s 0d was handed over to the W.Master W.Bro. C.N. Hodgson. The collection became a regular feature at every subsequent meeting.

At the meeting held 28<sup>th</sup> January 1915, it was reported that W.Bro. R.A.Wilkinson had presented to the Lodge a wooden Charity Collection Box for use at future meetings.

A joint Lodge of Emergency, between Phoenix 904 and Fitzwilliam 3023, was held at the Rotherham Assembly Rooms on Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 1913, to host the half-yearly meeting of the Provincial Grand Lodge of Yorkshire West Riding.

W.Bro. D.Mullins, W.Master of Phoenix Lodge occupied the Master’s Chair during the first part of the proceedings, and the S.Warden’s position was taken by W.Bro. C.N.Hodgson, W.Master of Fitzwilliam Lodge.

W.Bro. Richard Wilson J.P., P.G.D., Dep.P.G.M., presided over the Provincial Grand Lodge meeting, and W.Bro. Ensor Drury of Sheffield acted as Dep.P.G.M.

The meeting was attended by members of 83 of the 95 Lodges in the Province.

Lodge activities continued pretty much as normal during the 1914-18 War, but at the regular Lodge held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 1915, a communication from Grand Lodge was read, confirming that any Brother unable to attend due to being engaged in Service of the Crown, would not be liable for his subscriptions during the period of the conflict.

At the regular Lodge held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1919, W.Bro. A.M.Spencer P.P.G.D. presented to the Lodge “a lighter and snuffer for the candles”, and was heartily thanked by the W.Master W.Bro. A.S.Blenkinsop, for this generous gift.

At the regular Lodge held 28<sup>th</sup> October 1926, it was reported that the Grand Secretary had written to all Lodges appealing for contributions to the Masonic Million Memorial Fund, with the intention of raising £1m to finance a new “Peace Memorial” building in London, which would become the home of the United Grand Lodge of England.

The Foundation Stone of the new building was to be laid on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 1927. It was decided by a Meeting of the Past Masters, to recommend to the members of the Lodge that a subscription of 1 guinea each be made to the Fund.

Fitzwilliam Lodge Officers at the time of the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – May 1929

W.Master	W.Bro. R.J.Foster
I.P.M.	W.Bro. W.S.Thompson
S.Warden	Bro. G.Bromley Garnett
J.Warden	Bro. C.J.Newbould
Chaplain	Bro. Rev.L.Webster
Treasurer	W.Bro. C.N.Hodgson P.P.G.D.
Secretary	Bro. G.W.Southern
D. of C.	W.Bro. T.W.Edwards
S.Deacon	Bro. W.L.Dibb
J.Deacon	Bro. G.H.Lodge
A.D.C.	W.Bro. T.A.Turner
Almoner	W.Bro. G.W.Roberts P.P.A.G.D.C.
Organist	Bro. Granville Naylor
Asst. Organist	Bro. H.G.Duncan
I.Guard	Bro. D.B.Jenkinson
Stewards	Bro. H.C.L.Carr
	Bro. F.W.Field
	Bro. H.T.Harris
	Bro. J.W.Stoddard
Tyler	Bro. B.N.Ridings

At the regular meeting held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> May 1929, a third degree ceremony was carried out. Bro. H.Green was raised to the sublime degree of a Master Mason.

Also at this meeting, W.Bro. A.S.Blenkinsop (Master in 1918-19) was congratulated by the W.Master, W.Bro. R.J.Foster, upon securing Provincial Honours, having been appointed Prov. Asst. G.D. of C.

This regular meeting was attended by 24 members, and 10 visitors from 8 different Lodges, and at the end of the meeting, the collection on behalf of Masonic Charities amounted to 17 shillings.

The Fitzwilliam Lodge continued to flourish, with a regular influx of new and joining members.

As an example, the Installation meeting held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1931 was attended by 30 members of Fitzwilliam Lodge, and 53 visitors from 21 different Lodges.

Something that may be of interest to the golfers in the Lodge is the fact that at the Lodge meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> September 1932, the Secretary read a communication from the Prov. Grand Secretary, informing the Brethren that the Prov. Grand Master, Lord Harewood, had on 25<sup>th</sup> May 1932, appointed W.Bro. Tom Coombs P.G.D. to be Asst. Prov. Grand Master.

Past Masters Nights were now an annual feature in Fitzwilliam Lodge, but differed slightly from our current practice. For example, at the Lodge meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> May 1936, the most senior Past Master, W.Bro. G.W.Roberts P.P.A.G.D.C. took the chair and opened the Lodge. He then vacated the chair and requested that W.Bro. T.W.Edwards P.P.G.Swd.B. continue with the proceedings, the main business of which was a second degree ceremony, with Bro. W.Pickin the candidate.

In 1939, no Lodge meetings took place during September and October. At the Installation meeting held on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> November 1939, the W.Master, W.Bro. G.A.Hebden was re-elected W.Master, and placed in the Chair of K.S. by W.Bro. W.S.Thompson Prov.J.G.D., who was the Lodge Organist.

The meeting was attended by just 17 members, with no visitors present.

After the W.Master had been installed, it was proposed that it be put on record the names of the Lodge Brethren who were serving in H.M.Forces. The names were :-

Bro. A.Vernon	S.Warden
Bro. H.G.Duncan	J.Warden
Bro. J.B.Bradford	Secretary (later killed in action)
Bro. F.W.Ward	

During the war years the meetings were fairly irregular, with some being held on a Saturday.

At one meeting, held on Saturday 29<sup>th</sup> January 1944 at 3.00 pm, the W.Master, W.Bro. W.S.Thompson P.P.G.D. initiated his own son, Mr. R.S.Thompson, and it was recorded that this was the first time this had occurred in Fitzwilliam Lodge.

It was also noted that the candidate's grandfather, W.Bro. W.Thompson was Master in 1906-07, and was a Founder of the Lodge.

After the war things soon got back to normal, and Lodge attendances started to increase again.

In 1948, the Installation meeting had to be moved from the original date of 25<sup>th</sup> November, due to clashing with the Installation of the Prov. Grand Master.

The meeting took place a week later, on 2<sup>nd</sup> December 1948, and Bro. J.Hutchinson was Installed as W.Master in the presence of 36 members, and 68 visitors from 22 different Lodges.

W.Master	W.Bro. G.G.Brooke
I.P.M.	W.Bro. H.Saul
S.Warden	Bro. G.E.Vere
J.Warden	Bro. R.S.Thompson
Chaplain	W.Bro. R.W.Allison P.P.G.D.
Treasurer	W.Bro. G.H.Lodge P.P.A.G.D.C.
Secretary	Bro. F.N.Harrison
D. of C.	W.Bro. D.Charles
S.Deacon	Bro. A.P.Badger
J.Deacon	Bro. H.G.Stafford
A.D.C.	Bro. A.G.Shepard
Almoner	Bro. R.Hall
Organist	Bro. J.W.D.Parkin
I.Guard	Bro. F.Ogley
Stewards	Bro. C.L.Blenkinsop
	Bro. R.R.Wadsworth
	Bro. H.Rhodes
	Bro. C.Markham
	Bro. A.E.Gould
Tyler	Bro. B.N.Ridings

A Golden Jubilee meeting was held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 1954, and it took the form of a Past Masters Night. The meeting was attended by 36 members, and 46 visitors from 15 different Lodges.

An initiation ceremony was performed, with Mr. R.W.Hughes being made an Entered Apprentice.

The collection for Masonic Charities at the end of the meeting amounted to £4 6s 0d.

The Acting Officers at the Golden Jubilee meeting were :-

W.Master	W.Bro. G.B.Garnett P.P.G.D.
I.P.M.	W.Bro. C.J.Newbould P.P.A.G.D.C.
S.Warden	W.Bro. E.J.Twigg P.P.A.G.D.C.
J.Warden	W.Bro. G.H.Lodge P.P.A.G.D.C.
Chaplain	W.Bro. R.W.Allison P.P.G.D.
Secretary	W.Bro. H.Hart
D. of C.	W.Bro. D.Charles
S.Deacon	W.Bro. A.Vernon
J.Deacon	W.Bro. H.G.Duncan P.D.G.Stwd. (Gib)
A.D.C.	W.Bro. H.Saul
Organist	Bro. J.W.D. Parkin
I.Guard	W.Bro. P.R.Alcock
Tyler	Bro. B.N.Ridings

At the start of this period, the Lodge meetings were being held in the Masonic Buildings, High Street, Rotherham.

The Regular meeting of Fitzwilliam Lodge held on 30<sup>th</sup> January 1958, was the last meeting of the Lodge held at those premises. At the meeting, the W.Master W.Bro. H.G.Stafford proposed, and W.Bro. A.P.Badger IPM, seconded the Motion that the Lodge By-Laws be amended to show that the future meetings would be held at the Masonic Hall, Wellgate, Rotherham. The W.Master then asked the Brethren to stand and reflect upon the many years during which the High Street building had served as accommodation for the purposes of Freemasonry in Rotherham.

In 1964, representation had been made to the Provincial Grand Master that "for the better conduct and management of the business of the said Lodge it is necessary that a Serving Brother should be admitted to assist in the duties thereof".

At the Regular meeting held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1964, Fitzwilliam Lodge had received Special Dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master to "initiate Mr. Kenneth Banks as a Serving Brother of the Lodge, free of fees and charges".

Mr. K.Banks was balloted for and elected, and then admitted into the Lodge and initiated by the Acting W.Master W.Bro. C.Markham.

From January 1965, Bro. K.Banks acted as Asst. Tyler to Bro. G.L.Hunt, until he was elected by the members, and invested as the Tyler in November 1965.

At the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> September 1969, the W.Master W.Bro. R.Cutts initiated his own son Mr. G.Cutts. His raising was arranged for the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> February 1971. At this meeting the W.Master W.Bro. E.A.Roberts entrusted Bro. G.Cutts, who then retired for preparation. W.Bro. Roberts then invited W.Bro. R.Cutts to take the Master's Chair, and he proceeded to carry out the 3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremony, much to the surprise of Bro. G.Cutts (who had been kept in the dark!). On completion of the raising ceremony, W.Bro. R.Cutts returned the gavel to the W.Master.

At the meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> October 1975, when Bro. N.L.C.Harry was elected as Master for the ensuing year, W.Bro. G.H.Fox P.P.G.Swd.B. was a visiting speaker, and delivered a talk on Masonic Charities. This was the first of what was to become a regular feature for future election night meetings (known as Scroll Night).

Two months later, at the Regular Lodge on 18<sup>th</sup> December 1975, an initiation ceremony was carried out. W.Bro. N.L.C.Harry was W.Master, Bro. P.L.Hearn was S.Warden, Bro. R.W.L.Wilkinson J.Warden, Bro. R.M.Hudson S.Deacon, Bro. M.W.Field J.Deacon. The candidate was a Mr. John Stuart Beaven (Lewis), who was initiated in the presence of 40 members of Fitzwilliam Lodge, and 12 visitors from 6 different Lodges. The Working Tools of an Entered Apprentice were presented by Bro. C.R.Crocker, and the Charge after Initiation was given by W.Bro. W.Gardner. (note :- W.Bro. J.S.Beaven is W.Master in Centenary year)

Fitzwilliam Lodge finished this period of its history in very good health, with very many deeply committed and active members.

As an example, the Installation meeting held on 24<sup>th</sup> November 1977, when W.Bro. P.L.Hearn installed his successor Bro. R.W.L.Wilkinson as W.Master, was attended by 49 members and 57 visitors from 21 different Lodges.

W.Master	W.Bro. D.A.Harper
I.P.M.	W.Bro. R.W.L.Wilkinson
S.Warden	Bro. R.M.Hudson
J.Warden	Bro. M.W.Field
Chaplain	W.Bro. J.Hebden
Treasurer	W.Bro. A.E.Gould
Secretary	Bro. E.H.Devine
D. of C.	W.Bro. C.Saul
S.Deacon	Bro. D.R.Gannicott
J.Deacon	Bro. G.Cutts
A.D.C.	Bro. C.R.Croker
Almoner	W.Bro. P.L.Hearn
Organist	Bro. G.Crane
I.Guard	Bro. R.W.Pickering
Stewards	Bro. J.W.D.Sunderland
	Bro. J.S.Beaven
	Bro. C.Denham
	Bro. P.Graham
	Bro. E.H.Culloden
Tyler	Bro. K.Banks

A regular Lodge meeting was held on Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> May 1979, and with the exception of the W.Master, it took the form of a Past Master's Night. The meeting was attended by 36 members, and 35 visitors from 13 different Lodges.

At the request of the W.Master, W.Bro. D.A.Harper, and to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Lodge, the Acting Secretary, W.Bro. R.Cutts P.P.G.D., read extracts from the minutes of the Consecration of Fitzwilliam Lodge, and the Installation of the first Master, at the meeting held in May 1904.

A second degree ceremony was carried out, with Bro. Roger Brittain being passed to the degree of a Fellowcraft.

The collection for Masonic Charities at the end of the meeting amounted to £9.03.

#### May 2004 Note :-

It is interesting to see that several of our present members held Office at that time, and that our most senior Past Master, W.Bro. G.Crane P.P.G.Reg. was Organist, and our present Master, W.Bro. J.S.Beaven was a Steward.

The early part of this period was really a golden-age for Fitzwilliam Lodge and its members, many of whom were very generous characters and committed masons. The Installation of Bro. D.R.Gannicott as W.Master on 26<sup>th</sup> November 1981 was attended by Rt.W.Bro. Norman H.Fowler, the Provincial Grand Master, along with 47 members of Fitzwilliam Lodge and 77 visitors from 26 different Lodges!

At the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 1982, the Secretary, Bro. G.Crane, reported the receipt of the notice of the Service of Dedication and Naming by H.R.H. The Duchess of Kent, of the new life boat presented by the Craft to the R.N.L.I., to be held on the 27<sup>th</sup> April 1982.

In Fitzwilliam Lodge, the Lodge Almoner had traditionally worked quietly behind the scenes, but at the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 1989, the Almoner, W.Bro. H.Rhodes P.P.G.Reg. gave the first Almoner's Report in open Lodge, and this item was added to the Agenda for inclusion at every future Lodge meeting.

In 1990, in a further development, the series of Peterborough Booklets were introduced, to be given to every candidate after the completion of each degree.

In 1998, thanks to advances in word processing and copying, it was agreed that the minutes of the Lodge meetings should be printed and circulated to all the members, so that anyone unable to attend would still be kept in touch with the proceedings.

During this period, two members of Fitzwilliam Lodge achieved 50 year membership. On 30<sup>th</sup> March 1989, W.Bro. Vernon Outram, Assistant Prov. Grand Master, made a formal presentation to W.Bro. P.R.Alcock P.P.S.G.W. of a Certificate from the P.G.L. of Yorkshire, West Riding. He also presented him with a silver Gallery Tray, donated by the W.Brethren and Brethren of Fitzwilliam Lodge as a mark of their appreciation and regard. (the tray is on display on the wall outside the upstairs Temple). On 27<sup>th</sup> May 1999, W.Bro. John G.Clifford P.S.G.D., Assistant Prov. Grand Master, attended the Lodge to present a 50 year Certificate to W.Bro. C.Markham P.P.J.G.W.

In 1995, Fitzwilliam Lodge achieved Patronage of the Grand Charity, during the 1996 Festival in the Province of Yorkshire, West Riding, which raised a total of over £3m.

This period was a time of great change within the organisation, when Freemasonry took a much more open approach in its dealings with the public and the media.

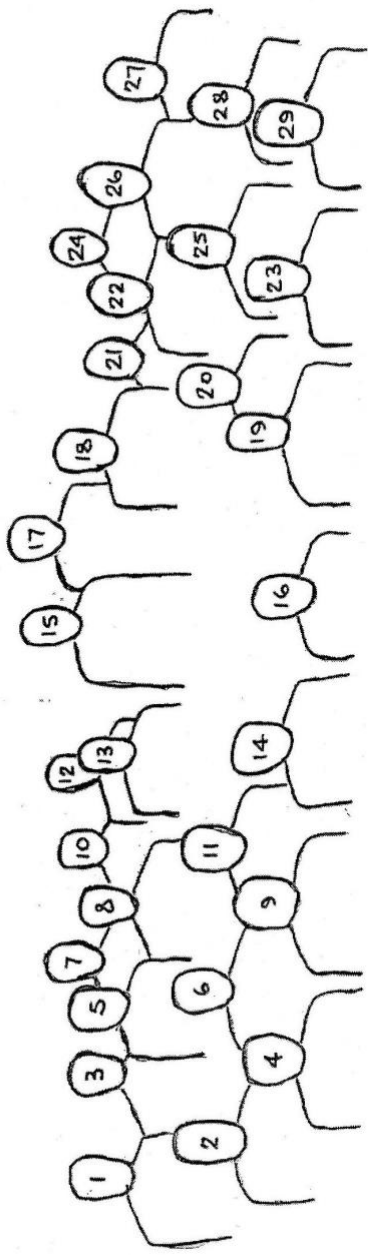
The Media Panel was established in the Province in 1996, with the aim of improving communications between the Craft, and newspapers and T.V.

Photographs of cheque presentations, including those made by Fitzwilliam Lodge, to organisations receiving support from the P.G.M.'s Fund, were published in the local newspapers.

In 1998, the booklet "Our Mission, Objectives and Values" was published by the P.G.L. of Yorkshire, West Riding, explaining the aims, objectives and values of Freemasonry in plain English, for the use of Masons and non-Masons alike.

The openness approach was exemplified by the national event "Freemasonry in the Community" week, held in June 2002, in which Fitzwilliam Lodge, along with all the other Rotherham Lodges, hosted an open day at the Masonic Hall, Wellgate. This was attended by the Mayor of Rotherham, representatives of several local organisations and charities, and members of the public.





Members of Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 3023 - May 2004

Key :-

- 1. Bro. P. Paddock
- 2. W. Bro. D. J. Palmer
- 3. Bro. G. Hawley
- 4. W. Bro. J. M. Tagg
- 5. Bro. P. Waudby
- 6. W. Bro. J. B. Fish

Remaining Members not shown :-

- W. Bro. G. Crane, Bro. J. D. W. Sunderland, W. Bro. R. B. McLaren, Bro. D. Pratt, W. Bro. M. G. Woodcock, W. Bro. C. R. Guest, Bro. D. Baron,
- Bro. S. Bentley, Bro. J. Lowry, Bro. S. Wilcox, Bro. W. S. Quinn, W. Bro. T. Bolton, Bro. K. H. Lewis, Bro. W. Baker, Bro. A. Brewitt, Bro. W. Duke,
- Bro. J. S. Parkin, Bro. P. G. Stone, Bro. R. Lawrence, Bro. R. Podmore, Bro. F. V. Shepherd.

- 7. Bro. G. Taylor
- 8. Bro. R. Birkbeck
- 9. W. Bro. P. Graham
- 10. Bro. J. A. Webb
- 11. W. Bro. D. J. Hebdon
- 12. W. Bro. C. J. Webb

- 13. Bro. J. B. Orr
- 14. W. Bro. D. J. Gill
- 15. W. Bro. J. S. Beaven (WM)
- 16. W. Bro. R. M. Hudson
- 17. W. Bro. M. D. Beik
- 18. W. Bro. J. Dixon

- 19. W. Bro. R. W. Pickering
- 20. W. Bro. V. Colley
- 21. W. Bro. K. Watt
- 22. Bro. A. F. Sandford
- 23. W. Bro. J. Curtis
- 24. Bro. E. Turner

- 25. Bro. C. Hamer
- 26. Bro. D. Urwin
- 27. Bro. D. J. Worrall
- 28. W. Bro. K. Hill
- 29. Bro. K. Banks

Fitzwilliam Lodge Officers at the time of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – May 2004

W.Master	W.Bro. J.S.Beaven
I.P.M.	W.Bro. M.D.Belk
S.Warden	Bro. J.B.Orr M.B.E.
J.Warden	W.Bro. J.Dixon
Chaplain	W.Bro. V.Colley
Treasurer	W.Bro. D.J.Palmer P.P.S.G.D.
Secretary	W.Bro. K.Hill P.P.J.G.D.
D. of C.	W.Bro. P.Graham P.P.G.Reg.
Almoner	W.Bro. R.M.Hudson P.P.J.G.W.
Charity Steward	W.Bro. K.Watt
S.Deacon	Bro. A.F.Sandford
J.Deacon	Bro. R.Birkbeck
Asst. D. of C.	Bro. S.Bentley
Asst. Secretary	Bro. D.J.Worrall
I.Guard	Bro. E.Turner
Stewards	Bro. P.G.Stone
	Bro. W.Duke
	Bro. D.Unwin
	Bro. R.Lawrence
	Bro. C.Hamer
	Bro. P.Paddock
Tyler	Bro. K.Banks P.P.G.T.

Remaining Members of Fitzwilliam Lodge No. 3023 – May 2004

W.Bro. D.J.Gill P.P.G.S. of W. (Staffs)	W.Bro. G.Crane P.P.G.Reg.
W.Bro. R.W.Pickering P.P.G.S. of W.	Bro. J.D.W.Sunderland
W.Bro. R.B.McLaren P.P.S.G.D.	Bro. D.Pratt
W.Bro. J.Curtis P.P.J.G.W., P.P.G.Swd.B. (Essex)	W.Bro. D.J.Hebden P.P.J.G.W.
W.Bro. M.G.Woodcock P.P.G.Swd.B	W.Bro. J.B.Fish P.P.S.G.D.
W.Bro. C.R.Guest	Bro. D.Baron
Bro. J.Lowry	Bro. S.Wilcox
Bro. P.Waudby	W.Bro. J.M.Tagg P.P.A.G.D.C.
Bro. W.S.Quinn	Bro. G.Taylor
Bro. J.A.Webb	W.Bro. T.Bolton
W.Bro. C.J.Webb	Bro. K.H.Lewis
Bro. W.Baker	Bro. A.Brewitt
Bro. J.S.Parkin	Bro. R.Podmore
Bro. G.Hawley	Bro. F.V.Shepherd

Fitzwilliam Lodge – Tylers

In the 100 year history of Fitzwilliam Lodge, there have only been six Tylers, three short term, and three long term, as follows :-

W.Bro. T.W.Roome P.P.G.S.W.	May 1904 – Nov 1904
Bro. T.Chester	Dec 1904 – Mar 1905
Bro. W.J.Evans	April 1905 – May 1921
Bro. B.N.Ridings P.P.G.T.	Sept 1921 – Dec 1964
Bro. G.L.Hunt	Jan 1964 – Oct 1965
Bro. K.Banks P.P.G.T.	Nov 1965 – Present

At the regular meeting of Fitzwilliam Lodge, held on Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> March 2000, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V.W.Bro. S.A.Hodgkiss P.G.Swd.B. announced that Bro. K.Banks had been awarded Past Provincial Grand rank in recognition of his services to Freemasonry. V.W.Bro. S.A.Hodgkiss P.G.Swd.B., assisted by W.Bro. G.H.P.Birch P.J.G.D., invested him with his collar, jewel, and apron.

This honour was richly deserved, and fully supported by the many Brethren present, and the members of all the Rotherham Lodges and other Degrees, many of whom had personally received his help when they had joined.

Fitzwilliam Lodge – Related Past Masters

In the history of Fitzwilliam Lodge, there have been several instances of fathers and sons occupying the Master's Chair, but there are two families where 3 generations have done so.

The first occasion was with the Thompson family :-

W.Bro. W.Thompson	1906 – 07	(Founder)
W.Bro. W.S.Thompson P.P.G.D.	1927 – 28	
“ “ “	1943 – 44	
W.Bro. R.S.Thompson P.P.D.G.D.C.	1955 – 56	

In more recent times, the feat was repeated by the Hebden family :-

W.Bro. G.A.Hebden P.P.A.G.D.C.	1938 – 39
“ “ “	1939 – 40
W.Bro. J.Hebden P.P.G.W.	1967 – 68
W.Bro. D.J.Hebden P.P.J.G.W.	1990 – 91

Note :-

At the Banquet following the Installation of W.Bro. G.A.Hebden on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> November 1938, a 9 course meal was enjoyed, consisting of :-

- Oysters.
- Clear turtle, or cream of celery soup.
- Steamed turbot with lobster sauce.
- Roast saddle of mutton, brussel sprouts and potatoes.
- Roast pheasant and chip potatoes.
- Plum pudding with brandy sauce, or peach melba, or Neapolitan ices.
- Savoury.
- Dessert.
- Coffee.

with each course accompanied by wines, sherry, or liqueurs!

## Members of Fitzwilliam Lodge through the ages – by W.Bro. R.M.Hudson P.P.J.G.W.

When Fitzwilliam Lodge was founded in 1904, it seems to have attracted the Professional men of the town to become members.

The first Elected Master of the Lodge, W.Bro. John Gibbs, was Manager of the Sheffield & Rotherham Joint Stock Banking Company. His son Sydney Gibbs achieved fame as tutor to the Imperial Family of Russia, until Czar Nicholas II abdicated in 1917. Sydney Gibbs escaped from Russia, but it is not known if he returned to Rotherham.

Several other local Bank Managers have been members of the Lodge over the years – W.Bro. C.N.Hodgson – Master 1912-13, W.Bro. T.R.Chislett – Master 1913-14, W.Bro. J.W.Robson – Master 1926-27, W.Bro. R.W.Allison – Master 1936-37, Bro. W.E.Brown, Bro. J.Calderbank, W.Bro. W.H.Daine – Master 1941-42-43, Bro. A.B.Hoggett, W.Bro. H.Rhodes – Master 1961-62, and W.Bro. A.E.Gould – Master 1963-64.

Two of Rotherham's Town Clerks have been members of the Lodge – W.Bro. H.H.Copnall, who was a founder member and Master in 1907-08, and W.Bro. W.J.Board who was Master in 1910-11.

Bro. J.A.Mair, for many years the Director of Education for Rotherham, was initiated into the Lodge in 1911, and Bro. T.P.Collinge who was the Borough Engineer for Rotherham became a joining member in 1916.

Several local Medical Practitioners joined the Lodge – W.Bro. A.Robinson, W.Bro. C.A.Locke, and W.Bro. J.F.Cheesewright, who were founder members, W.Bro. H.C.Barr – Master in 1908-09, Bro. G.E.Mould, Bro. J.M.H.Bell, W.Bro. J.Clarke – Master in 1925-26, W.Bro. F.C.Collinson, Bro. W.S.Wildman, W.Bro. W.L.Dibb – Master in 1932-33, Bro. G.C.W.Clarke, Bro. A.Young, and also several local Dental Surgeons – Bro. R.P.Gwynne, Bro. H.T.Harris, Bro. P.H.Collinson, and in more recent times W.Bro. C.R.Crocker – Master in 1984-85.

Solicitors have also figured prominently in the history of the Lodge, such as W.Bro. R.A.Wilkinson – founder member and Master in 1905-06, W.Bro. H.H.Copnall – founder member and Master in 1907-08, W.Bro. W.J.Board – Master in 1910-11, Bro. J.P.Rhodes, W.Bro. E.J.Twigg – Master in 1931-32, Bro. D.M.Nicholson, Bro. J.B.Bradford who was killed in World War II, W.Bro. A.P.Badger – Master in 1956-57, W.Bro. F.Ogley – Master in 1959-60, Bro. C.L.Blenkinsop, W.Bro. A.B.Jackson – Master in 1964-65, W.Bro. M.W.Field – Master in 1980-81, and Bro. K.Rawlin.

The Head Teacher of Rotherham Grammar School, W.Bro. F.W.Field, came in as a joining member in 1926, and was Master 1935-36, and W.Bro. H.G.Duncan, initiated in 1928 and Master in 1945-46, was Deputy Head of the School after World War II.

The then Chief Constable of Rotherham, Bro. J.E.Cotton, was initiated in 1957.

Local Architects who have joined the Lodge include W.Bro. D.B.Jenkinson – Master in 1934-35, Bro. G.Cheesewright, W.Bro. J.Hutchinson – Master in 1948-49, and more recently W.Bro. R.M.Hudson, initiated in 1965 and Master in 1979-80, and Bro. G.Hawley, initiated in 2003.

Local Chartered Accountants who have been members include W.Bro. G.W.Roberts – Master in 1911-12, Bro. G.H.Hodgson, W.Bro. H.Hart – Master in 1947-48, Bro. C.E.Copley, Bro. A.G.Browning and W.Bro. D.Charles – Master in 1949-50.

One of Rotherham's best known businessmen was W.Bro. G.Bromley Garnett, a Wine and Spirit Merchant, who was initiated in 1921 and Master in 1929-30. He was followed later by his nephew W.Bro. A.Garnett Shepard, who was initiated in 1946 and was Master in 1958-59.

In the latter years, the character of the Lodge has changed, as more businessmen joined the Lodge in the 1960's – 1980's.

The local company Alfred Alcock & Son was a source of many new members.

W.Bro. P.R.Alcock, initiated in 1939 and Master in 1951-52, was a true stalwart of the Lodge, and over the years proposed at least 10 candidates for membership. These included W.Bro. E.A.Roberts – Master in 1970-71, W.Bro. D.S.Melville – Master in 1971-72, W.Bro. P.L.Hearn – Master in 1976-77, Bro. B.Coulson, as well as W.Bro. R.H.W.Denham – Master in 1969-70, and W.Bro. G.Cocker – Master in 1982-83.

Another Rotherham company, the Slag Reduction Co., also provided several members – W.Bro. H.G.Stafford – Master in 1957-58, W.Bro. R.W.Crocker – a joining member in 1957 and Master in 1972-73, W.Bro. R.W.L.Wilkinson – Master in 1977-78, W.Bro. P.Graham – Master in 1987-88, W.Bro. J.B.Fish – Master in 1995-96, W.Bro. K.Hill – Master in 1997-98, and Bros. C.Hadfield, N.Bone and F.Smith.

Of the members that joined in the 1960's, one of the real characters was Percy Hearn. He was a generous host, and an inveterate visitor, and it was said that his ambition was to visit every Lodge in the country. He was noted for drinking sherry and tomato juice. He was a much loved member of the Lodge and died in December 1988.

Another character from that time was W.Bro. Norman Harry, who was initiated in 1961. Unfortunately, by the time he became Master of the Lodge in 1975, he was too ill to take an effective part in Lodge affairs. He was very fond of a gin & tonic, and his well known phrase "A large one, old chap" used to resound round the dining hall.

Those convivial evenings in the bar after Lodge Rehearsal, before the breathalyser took effect, have long since disappeared. The Stewards would carry drinks to the upstairs bar, and W.Bro. Badger, a great raconteur, would regale us with his great fund of stories.

W.Bro. George Vere – Master in 1954-55, was a wonderful after dinner speaker, and his stories were always hilarious.

W.Bro. Arthur Gould – Master in 1963-64, a local Bank Manager, was a great friend, and was Chairman of the Management Committee. He was a wonderful speaker at the Festive Board, and was very proud of his knowledge of Latin.

W.Bro. Derek Harper – Master in 1978-79, became a great friend, and was a first rate Master. He was an excellent ritualist, and became Provincial Deputy Grand Chaplain, a very great honour. For family reasons he moved with his wife Betty to Somerset, and due to the distance involved, was unable to take any further active part in the affairs of the Lodge. This is most regrettable, as he was a most able Mason, and under other circumstances would undoubtedly have become a Grand Lodge Officer. He was a colleague of W.Bro. A.Birks and W.Bro. R.W.Pickering in the local company Thomas Hill & Co., manufacturers of locomotives at Kilnhurst.

Sadly, the great old characters from those past eras have been lost to the Grand Lodge above, and we are unlikely to see their like again.

The membership profile of the Lodge has changed over the years, reflecting the great changes that have taken place in society, and in business. Also, many organisations, such as the Freemasons, are finding membership declining, because there are so many other activities available to occupy people's leisure time.

W.Bro. R.M.Hudson P.P.J.G.W. – February 2004

P.S. Sadly, shortly after writing this article, W.Bro. Ralph Hudson P.P.J.G.W. was taken ill, and died on the 28<sup>th</sup> April 2004.