
R.A.O.B.

News
round



News from R.A.O.B. Grand Council
Provinces

Grand

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E-mail raobgcuk@aol.com Web Site, raobgc.org.uk

Council



*Down Your Way,
A Monthly Review of Province Life.*

As most of you are aware, Bro John Jeffs R.O.H. the Grand President 2004 was admitted to hospital very recently, he was very ill indeed. It is pleasing to report that he is now home and feeling a little better. By request, I enclose the following letter from his Wife Josie

John and myself would like to thank everyone for their enquiries and get well cards. He came back home on Monday the 15th August. His heart has stabilised at a lower level and unfortunately he lost the function of one of his kidneys but he still has the ability to joke with people.

I would in particular, like to thank Ray & Sandra Cooke for their invaluable help on the Monday and Tuesday and their continued support. Also Jack Odey for listening, advising and practical help.

Three snippets you might like to know.

Although he lost his eyesight for over an hour (lack of oxygen to his head – I think there could be a joke there somewhere) the moment he could see again he was cracking jokes with two female paramedics – he said to put them at their ease.

He “crashed” again at the hospital and after one and three quarters of an hour, when I was finally allowed to see him in the resuscitation room, he said that the staff there

hadn't got a sense of humour as again he was trying to crack jokes. That's my John – always thinking of other peoples' feelings.

When the nurse came to take his catheter out, after his one kidney had started to work, he said to her “I'm really fed up with you lot – all you've done for the last four days is take the **** out of me”.

He still wants to go to the Raisings in Sark in September and God willing we will be there.

Again thank you to everyone

Josie Jeffs, John's Buffess

Members of the Bristol Province at the R.A.O.B. fun day on Saturday 6TH August at Weston-Super-Mare.

Photo, Bro's P. Melksham, T. Rees, R. Bees and M. Butterfield,



The Brothers of the Bristol Province flew the flag of the Grand Council at the R.A.O.B. Fun Day at Weston-Super-Mare on the Beach Lawns, close to the sea front. The event is held on an annual basis and is organised by the G.L.E. with, on this occasion, members of the Bristol Province Grand Lodge. This was the ninth consecutive year the event was held with various provinces of the G.L.E. taking part. The day started off a bit wet and windy then brightened up as the day progressed. The sunshine and the large number of stalls encouraged a steady flow of visitors, which made the event very successful, allowing the Bristol Province to take some £250 on a tombola stall. A great time was had by all those that attended and many new friends were made, with some having intentions to visit lodges within the Bristol Province. (Although most of these promises of a visit were made in the very popular beer tent. We can only but wait and see)

With the stall and arena now being packed away plans are being put into place for next years event. Maybe we will see you there. More information closer to the date.

Hot off the Press? When Sandra and I went to see Bro John Jeffs in Hospital, by kind agreement with the Grand President and the Benevolent Committee, we delivered a mobility scooter in the hope that he may be able to use it.

Just a few short weeks later and I received the following photograph from his good Lady Josie and it shows Bro John taking his dogs for a walk. Susie on the left, Storm on the right and the old dog in the middle.



Josie informs me that, Bro John allows her to take the dogs out too, when it's raining!

Nottingham Province

Dear Ray

Together with other Brothers from the Hand and Heart Lodge, we visited the R.A.O.B. Tudor Rose One Lodge 2166 at Skegness and District Province on Wednesday night, 10th August, 2005 and we would like to thank you for a very enjoyable evening.

You mentioned that not enough news items were getting through to the Monthly News Review, and as I have just written my autobiography which only took 6 months, I thought I could manage to put a few words down to contribute.

We travelled to Skegness by hired Mini Bus on a Lodge visit, Wednesday morning and stayed at the Merrydale Hotel on Glentworth Crescent. It's the second time I have stayed there and we were well looked after by the Proprietor Bob and his good lady.

It was good to see a strong Lodge at the Tudor Rose One and I was also pleased to see your son Tony was back in form again. The last time I saw him was at a Consecration Ceremony at a pub in Wainfleet which at the time was

being run by a Buff, Clive Jones, CP. I know Tony has had a difficult time after his accident and he has spent some time wheelchair bound.

Another fellow Brother in our Lodge Charlie Jackson. ROH, tells me the last time he saw Tony he was on elbow crutches. When he walked into the Mars Bar pub to attend the Lodge it was just like nothing had happened and it was really great to see that he had overcome all the obstacles.

What I found really amazing was meeting Brother Tom Baker KOM, aged 97 years, who joined The Order in 1931. 74 years a Buff. That's got to be a record. I thought Brother Roy Lale ROH, held the record for the longest serving member, he joined in 1940 (I was 2 yrs old then) I call him The Memory Man, I have visited his Lodge quite a few times now, The Sir Robert Lodge at East Leake, Newark Province and I could listen to him recount his memories for hours. He has a photographic memory. One of the most interesting men I have ever met.

Hand and Heart Lodge No. 18 Nottingham Province

I believe there is much pleasure in visiting other Lodges, especially when it is unannounced and I feel that more brothers should do the same. It keeps the Order ticking over. We were impressed by the way The Tudor Rose One recruited new initiates to The Order and also helped and encouraged them to go on to higher Offices in the Order. We gained much from our visit and some of the ideas we can take back to our Lodge and other Lodges.

I remain Yours Fraternally

Rick Spouge. R.O.H.
Hand & Heart Lodge No 18 and Brave Old Oak Friendly Lodge No 108

Congratulations and '25 Year, Long Service Awards' to: -

Bro P.Izzard R.O.H of the Sidley Del La Warr Lodge, No 2089. Sussex East Province. Awarded a Certificate for 25 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Bro John Bishop R.O.H of the Wyvern Lodge, No 1757. Luton Province. He was fortunate to be at Conference and was awarded a Certificate for 25 Years Loyal Service to the Order, by the Grand President Bro Michael Fielding R.O.H.

Further congratulations and '50 Year, Long Service Awards' are extended to:-

Bro G.P.Lucas R.O.H. of the Alexandra Lodge, No 69, Grimsby Province. Awarded a Certificate for 50 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Bro C.H.Izzard R.O.H. of the Sidley Del La Warr Lodge, No 2089. Sussex East Province. Awarded a Certificate for 50 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Bro G.T.Hancock R.O.H. of the Woden Lodge, No 343. South Staffs Province. Awarded a Certificate for 50 Years Loyal Service to the Order.

Well done those Brethren, Could you be on next years list!

Barbados, a letter from Bro Sam Williams C.P. a much missed Member of the Tudor Rose One Lodge - No 2166, Skegness Province.



Dear Bro Ray, I am extremely pleased to be able to inform you that the buffs are alive in Barbados.

I attended a lodge this Wed. just gone. It wasn't too well supported, but all present were true buffs. I've attached some photos for you, and you may be surprised to see "Grand Surrey Banner". The Lodges here (2) are under the Grand Lodge of Ontario, two lodges, the Montpelier and Lunar. I had a wonderful time, some of the ritual is slightly different, and seems to be a blend of GLE and GC. Ladies glades are thriving, tending to be a bit on the Masonic/mechanic ritual, but nevertheless, thriving.

Everyone is stuck at second degree, there is no PGL, no Knights' chapter, and no primo lodge, I did briefly mention the concept of primo lodge, to great interest of those attending. I believe that somewhere in the grand Surrey Banner archives, you may find reference to the "Pride of Barbados" lodge. This was founded by Bro. Sam Clarke C.P. and another Bro. whose name escapes me. Methinks with a bit of luck and hard work, there will be another Tudor Rose Lodge over here in Barbados (with some help of course!)

Monica and myself are quite well, as we hope you and Sandra are too. I haven't had a newsletter for a while, but I think that's because my ISP only gives me a small mailbox, your files are so big, I think they're getting bounced!

All the best for now
NMOHS
Sam and Monica

Rother Valley Province



Members of the Pride of Bramley Lodge, No 2152 are shown presenting a cheque to the Blue Bell Wood Children's Hospice. *Well done Brother's. Let's have more of these photos from the Provinces.*

Sark Report.

As I write this the reaction is setting in – hoarse of voice, brain hurting, liver quivering in an alcohol broth; all the aftermath of a coordinated invasion by forty five Buffs, wives and guests for an extended weekend. Some say it was a Raising.....hellraising was nearer the mark.

We had planned to welcome our guests and thought we knew when and where they were coming from. Wrong. The planned welcome for Bro Ken Hilton from Nottingham Province went awry when he arrived early, unsportingly avoiding the inflatable sheep that we were intending to fly from the harbour flagstaff to honour his coming. Brother Alistair Weir and his wife came from the wrong direction altogether (whoever heard of coming via Jersey of all places!) Then the bulk of the invasion force arrived – Thursday 5pm – the poor boat hull down as she struggled to bring them all over. And the noise! My dear boy, you couldn't hear the seagulls shrieking for all the laughter and handshaking going on. So up the hill in the tractor drawn bus and guess where it stops? You're right of course – the pub. Some of us vainly attempted to set a good example by going straight past it but to no avail – those of no moral fibre whatsoever - the majority - stopped for a pint.

Thursday evening had been set aside for a prayer meeting and a time of quiet reflection but somehow that didn't happen, and on Friday the support troops arrived. Our Immediate Past Grand President had

pre-ordered his Presidential stretch limo and drove off in style to inspect his palatial accommodation and have his Worcester Province bodyguard check it for bugging devices. The General Secretary and the two Grand Council Trustees felt it was incumbent upon them to inspect my wine rack through the bottom of a glass (under the guise of an official meeting you understand), during which time Bro.Ray Collett was wandering about lost as he'd never been to Sark before or forgotten when; and where everyone else went is anyone's guess. But we all met up on Friday evening for a meal in the marquee that was to serve as our Lodge HQ for the weekend, to be followed by a further prayer meeting and time for quiet reflection etc., etc., which didn't quite seem to happen again.



Photo, deep concentration as the game becomes serious?

And then it was Saturday. On a Sark weekend it is absolutely axiomatic that everyone plays Boule on the Saturday. You are given two steel balls and it really is amazing what can be done with them.....everyone not playing sits around soaking up the sun and anything else that just happens to be handy and gives kind, well-intentioned advice to the players. The Final was an amazing affair. Linda Blakesley had somehow transformed herself during the competition from shapely blonde bombshell to a six foot three inch, bearded and nameless individual, who was roundly abused by all present for the disappointing change. Life is so unfair..... Brothers Ray Routledge and Mick Normandale had teamed up and won the competition by determination, skill and sheer impudence. "Handicap that bloke next year" someone advised me. I am currently considering what sort of handicap might be appropriate.....and sharpening an axe. The Ladies had by now been taken off by horse and carriage for afternoon tea (TEA ? When did you ever see tea in bottles?) at Brother Steve Gilmore's restaurant.

Then we had the sort of Raising that seems to have become a Sark speciality; a Primo Raising followed immediately by two brothers being raised to the Third Degree. Brother Jim Hodge had made Primo by dint of answering all the questions in the examination in a strange sort of dialect that none of us could understand – lots of “Och ayes” and “Ah dinna ken the noo”, which got him through with flying colours as we hadn’t a clue what he’d said. Anyway –we’re all proud of him.

Brothers Roy Wornast and Colin Golds were our candidates for Raising to the Third Degree and the ceremony was ably performed by our own Knight Commander, Brother Tim Craft K.O.M.



Left to right the newly raised Knights, Bro Roy Wornast K.O.M. the installing Officer Bro Tim Craft K.O.M and Bro Colin Golds K.O.M. So sorry Bro Jim, but I don't appear to have a photo of you, but I will have, hopefully for the next issue.

Afterwards Bro John Jeffs, Immediate Past Grand President, presented Brother Ross Henry R.O.H. with a special certificate of achievement for representing the Order with distinction as a standard bearer at the sixtieth anniversary of the Liberation of Sark from German Occupation. Later in the evening the same brother was presented with what seemed to be three gross of teddy bears in assorted apparel – plus the two that had been foully kidnapped at Snodland last February. It would seem that teddy bears breed at an alarming rate of knots – and now we have become an official Buffs teddy bear sanctuary. Brother Ross' eyes were moist as he embraced his two lost loves and their offspring and everyone lived happily ever after. Enough of this drivell.

Sunday morning we held a Knight's Chapter meeting to complete the previous evening's exaltations and we are especially indebted to Bros.Ray Routledge, Dick Allerton and John English for their invaluable

assistance with the ceremony. Afterwards a pig-roast - and another prolonged prayer meeting raffle and auction, during which some unfortunate chap managed to bid successfully for a ceramic buffalo only to have it immediately kidnapped and held to ransom. Thence to visit the Sark Fire Station and the new Community Centre where Brother Dave Melling had laid on a champagne reception. Later that evening we prayed and reflected yet again.....



Sunday Morning, the attendance at Knights Chapter.

We sent twelve hardy souls around the island on a boat on Monday but sadly no-one was sick and all of them came back. Ah well –can't win em all. Monday night was Lodge night – a time of sanity and decorum. That was the idea but several members of a new and suspect group called the “Has Beens Lodge” or something like that – a bunch of vagrants without a Lodge Property to their name – managed to so disrupt the peaceful existence of the Lodge that no-one was able to maintain any order at all. It was great fun!

And now it is Tuesday and they've all gone home, and this is where we came in, and where, oh where, did I put the Aspirins, Anadins and Prozac ?

Bro. Geoff

Sorry but I couldn't resist this, just the look on Bro Ken;s face tells a story!



*Editor, isn't it strange the things people do, on the Friday following our visit to Sark; I caught the postman pushing a sheep through my letter box, from behind. On close examination, she had two Guernsey stamps attached and was addressed to me at PE25 **SOS**. It was signed by many Brethren who I can only assume having abused her, and then left their signature or mark had cast her aside.*

Dolly will have to baaa these marks for a long time. Oh! Hark, I hear the post again?

Luton Province

Bro Ray Underwood is once again organising a Charity Disco to be held at the Celtic Club, Chobin Street, Luton, on Friday the 4th November, with the proceeds being donated to our Orphans. The cost of entry is just £2.00 which can be purchased at the door and it open to all ages.

Any Brethren or parties, who may be interested in going to the event, will be made most welcome, the more the merrier in support of Bro Ray, who does a wonderful job.

Bro Fred Boakes will be raised to the dignity of Knighthood, by the Battle of Waterloo Lodge, No

2168, on Saturday the 8th October. Bro Ken Robeson will have the R.O.H. conferred upon him by the Castle Lodge, No 1833, Worcester Province, on Saturday the 15th October

Grand Presidents all, a meeting of the newly formed, Was Boss Lodge, No 2005..
