
R.A.O.B.

News
round



Grand

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

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Council

A Review of Province Life.

Lincoln Province

Bro Ray Routledge R.O.H. writes:-

Dear Bro Ray, again I have been looking at my old photographs and enclose one of Bro Fred Stevens R.O.H, of the Snodland Province for your Memory lane feature. As you can see, he is standing with one of our Ladies with an elegant pair of knickers.



I don't know if they were hers, but whatever, they both had a big smile! Many of our Members will remember Bro Fred with fond memories, yes, we all loved him! I can recall that he always carried a hip flask and would offer a 'tot' that could blow your

head off. He was a very special Brother and enjoyed his Buffaloism to the full.

I further enclose a photograph of a presentation from the Newport Lodge to the Children's Ward of Lincoln Hospital.



In centre left, Bro Jim Harris R.O.H. Who was our Lodge Secretary for over forty years and next to him, our new Lodge Secretary, Bro Brian Gartland R.O.H. Accompanied by two nurses from the ward?

Members of our Lodge attended a 'Charity night' at which Bro Jim's Wife Pat won a life size Teddy Bear. Both are in there 80's and it was of little use to them, so it was raffled off, at which time we had to decide what to do with the proceeds. Bro Brian and I paid a visit to the children's ward and introduced ourselves, told them of our Order and asked if they needed anything to assist the children. The nurses were dumbfounded and reeled off their needs.

Later we returned with a combination T.V –D.V.D, two VHS players and a second DVD player. Brian organised engraved plates for each item, explaining they were from the R.A.O.B and the nurses were over the moon.

Best wishes to all, Bro Ray Routledge R.O.H.

Nottingham Province, Bro Gren Handley R.O.H. regrets to inform us of the death of Bro Jack Newton R.O.H. of the Nottingham Province. He had been ill for a while and passed away on Saturday the 20th of November at 7pm. His funeral was on Wednesday 30th at Wilford hill, Nottingham. Afterwards at the British Legion in Clifton. A most respected Member of the Nottingham Province, he will be sadly missed.

Newark Province

Bro Paul Wright R.O.H. writes: - I am pleased to report that all in the Lodges are well. Bro Bert and Bro Ron are both well and off on a Tinsel and Turkey bash down on the south coast. Bro Syd celebrates his 82nd Birthday on the 25th and we are having a surprise party for him in the Lodge. He is very frail nowadays, but we pick him up and get him to Lodge every week and he manages a sip or two of his Gatta but enjoys the company. We all went for a meal the other night and I will e mail you some piccies asap.

My Daughter Penny graduated from Nott's Uni and I went along to see her robed and presented with her diploma. It was a very posh gown and mortarboard etc. She has done very well and now has more letters after her name than I do.

Yours faithfully and fraternally, Bro Paul

Congratulations to the following Brethren

To Bro J.Huskinson of the Atlas & Ivy Lodge, No 1609 – Nottingham Province on passing his Primo Exam. He is to be raised the 2nd Degree on Saturday the 14th of January 2006, at the Embankment Social Club, Trent Bridge, Nottingham. Lodge opens at 7.45pm.

To Bro Stephen Booth of the William of Waynefleete Lodge, No 2170 and Bro Peter Bailey of the Tudor Rose One Lodge, No 2166 – Skegness Province, on passing their Primo Exams. They are to be jointly raised to the 2nd Degree on the 28th January 2006, at the M.A.R.'s Bar, Roman Bank, Skegness. Lodge opens at 7.30pm. Hope you can be there and please join us afterwards for a Social Evening, all are welcome.

To Bro's M.Stevens C.P and B.E.Smith C.P. The Alexander Lodge, No 1699 will be raising them to

Knighthood on the 18th of February 2006, at the Hardwicke Arms Hotel, Arrington. Cambridgeshire. The Lodge opens at 6.45pm, with Regalia visits starting at 7.15pm. Please try your best to attend.

To Bro J.E.Thompson of the Pride of the Wolds Lodge, No 2176, Grimsby Province, on passing his Primo Exam. He is to be raised to the 2nd Degree on the 3rd of February 2006. For further details telephone the Grand Lodge Secretary.

Congratulations also to Bro's Andrew Smitherman & Trevor Botley of the Nevill Lodge No 2054 – Snodland Province. They are to be raised to the 2nd Degree on the 25th March 2006. Details later

Essex Province.

It is our sad duty to inform you that Brother Ron Sewel R.O.H passed to the Grand Lodge above on 4th November after a long period of illness. His funeral took place on 17th November at The Priory Church of the Virgin Mary, Little Dunmow. Some 20 Brothers of the Essex Province saw him off in true Buff style as he was laid to rest with his late Mum and Dad.



Brother Ronald Archibald Sewell R.O.H.

Bro Richard Allerton R.O.H. As Chaplain to his Province, gave the following eulogy:-

As we pay our last respects and give thanks for the life of Ron. We all have our own thoughts and memories which will remain with us for the rest of our lives.

I have been given the privilege of saying a few words of my own and to try and explain his life within the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes. How well did you know our Brother Ron? Or may I ask how well you think you knew our Ron.

Like all of us mortals he had his failings. Underneath that brash, sharp sometimes impatient facade was a very private person.

Extremely passionate in his beliefs, a very loving and caring person not only with his human friends but also with his animal and bird friends. If I tell you that his Puss Cat only received Prime Steak then you can appreciate how caring he really was. Another side of Ron's character was the little pranks and games he liked to play on people which I can assure were reciprocated in one form or another. He took great pride when one of his schoolboy pranks came to fruition. At this moment in time I can imagine him having a little laugh at myself trying to explain his exploits to you.

Following in his Uncle Harold's footsteps, Ron was initiated into the Buffalo Order in 1964, just up the road in Felsted; it's interesting to observe that the secretary of the lodge at that time was his cousin Horace. Quite a family affair. Exactly one year later he was raised to the second degree or that of Primo. This was a remarkable achievement in that day and age, he was then elected to the office of Grand Primo in 1969. During this time he also took over the mantle of Delegate for the Province and attended the annual meetings of the Grand Council all over the country including the Channel Islands. In 1973 together with his late friend Ken Wilkinson he was raised to the third degree or that of Knighthood and then together again in 1977 they were exalted to the Roll of Honour. That was in fact the day after I was initiated into the order. Ron was also elected in 1979 to the position of Knight Commander of the Knights Chapter of St. Osyth. Quite a Buffalo Career, in fact Ron attained all the honours possible within the province. But it didn't all stop at that, up until some 18 months ago, he was Secretary of the Essex Grand Lodge, a position he held for in excess of 25 years, he was also Knight of Records of the Knights Chapter and City Secretary of the Maynard Warwick Lodge in Great Dunmow.

Because of his private ways nobody will ever fully appreciate or know the amount of work and deeds

he unselfishly carried out for his fellow beings. The world he leaves being the loser

As you can see The Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffaloes was his life, I am proud to have been part of that life and of his extended family within Buffaloism. Ron, not only from myself but from all the members of that great family. Our heartfelt thanks for your, Respect, Guidance, Love and Friendship over the years.

Ron Sewell was not only a Good, True and Loyal Buffalo but an Upright and Honest Man.

Right Honourable Sir Ron Sewell, past Grand Primo past Knight Commander, we Salute You.

Snodland Province



On Sunday Morning the 30th October, the Two Grand Council Trustees, Bro's Richard Allerton R.O.H. & John English R.O.H, accompanied by Bro G.R.Cooke R.O.H. the General Secretary, paid a visit to the Snodland Province and on behalf of the Grand President and the Grand Council, were most pleased to present a cheque for the sum of £3188.00, to the Snodland & Gillingham Local Widows & Orphans Fund. Bro Frank McAlister R.O.H in receiving the cheque on behalf of the fund and giving thanks said that, this was a very happy ending to a longstanding problem. The fund could now move forward with renewed energy.

Afterwards at the behest of the Province, the Council Officers graciously accepted dinner at a local Inn and were to put it mildly, 'roundly stuffed'. A letter of thanks was received from Bro A.E.Stevens on behalf of the Two Provinces and a letter of reciprocation was sent in return. Thanks for a wonderful day.

Lest we forget,



Sunday the 13th of November saw Buffs from many Provinces attending services and placing a wreath in memory of those Members of her Majesties forces, who had given their lives in conflict.

The photograph representing one of many shows the placing of a wreath by Bro Peter Normandale R.O.H. Grand Primo of the Worcestershire Province.

Luton Province, the 19th of November

101 registrations were taken as Bro Steven Minchin prepared himself, 'with a little help from his friends' for his exaltation to the Roll of Honour at the hands of our Grand President, Bro Michael Fielding R.O.H.



In the words of the Immortal Bard 'the joint was heaving'. Bro Steve received congratulations from as far as New Zealand and other far flung places such as Wigan etc.



Though some Brethren were unable to get back in time, the Lodge was still closed with a count of 96 and a wonderful evening of entertainment, humour and good food ensued. The evening culminated with a presentation from the Grand President on behalf of Grand Council, a cheque for the sum of £16,100.00 was presented to the Luton Grand Lodge Charity Funds. Receiving the same on their behalf, Bro Ray Underwood R.O.H gave thanks, stating that this was a wonderful way to end the evening and begin a new era of understanding.

The Members of the Farley Lodge, No 1697 also sent a letter of thanks to all Members for an excellent turnout and in particular, to our Grand President Bro Michael Fielding R.O.H. for a Ceremony that was as perfect as possible.

Brighton Province.

Bro Jack Odey R.O.H. Grand President 1991 writes:-I would like to thank all Brothers in the Order for their support over the past few months. It has been a tremendous help since the loss of my good Lady Pat. Without the support of all the Brothers in the Brighton Province and that of Sandra, Josie, Ray and John it would have been even harder to cope. Many thanks also to Malcolm Maloney K.O.M. for the very kind words he gave at Conference and to Ray Routledge R.O.H. who presented me with the commemorative plaque, so that I could fix it to the scooter which is being used by Bro John (Was boss 04). It was a very poignant moment which I will remember for a very long time.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish each and every one of you a very Happy Christmas and once again, many thanks for your support.

Jack (Was boss 91)

London South West Province

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since birth; records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape.

He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, life isn't always fair and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple sound financial policies (Don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults not children are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place.

Reports of a six year old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; Teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher was fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition. Common sense declined when parents attacked teachers for doing the job that they had failed to do in disciplining their unruly children. He declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Parosol, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student; but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common sense took a beating when he couldn't defend himself from a burglar in his own home and the burglar sued him for assault.

Common Sense finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realise that a steaming cup of coffee was hot. She spilled a little on her lap and was promptly awarded a huge settlement.

Common Sense was preceded in his demise by his parents. Truth and Trust; his wife Discretion; his daughter Responsibility and his son, Reason. He is survived by three step brothers; I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame and I'm a Victim.

Not many attended his funeral, because so few realised he was gone. If you still remember him, pass this on, if not join the majority and do nothing.

Keep up the Good Work.

Bro Ron Wilson R.O.H.

Snodland Province



Dear Bro Ray, during a gathering of Buffs on the Island of Sark for the raising of three Brother's, a Member of the Neville Lodge decided he would like to take up residence on said Isle, Photo 'bottom left' and become a member of the Loyalty Lodge, as the Island was declared a Bear Sanctuary by the Neville Lodge, due to the declared love of Teddy Bears by Bro Ross Henry R.O.H. His own Ted was kidnapped at the raising of Bro Chris McMahon in February of this year.

It only seemed fitting that this Brother was put in charge of all the Bears which had mysteriously assembled on the Island. Bro Bear Behind R.O.H. was introduced into the care of Bro Ross and he was able to attend the Knights Chapter meeting on the Sunday Morning.

When I and several other Brother's attended the Loyalty Lodge on Monday evening to make merry, Bro Teddy R.O.H. was missing and when Bro Ross was asked why, he said, "He is under lock and key until you B***** leave the Island". (I think he meant Brother's)

Yours fraternally, Bro John Eccleston R.O.H.

Editors note, Tell you what Bro John, congratulations must go to your good Buffess Mary, what a cracking job she made of the Regalia. Pity it's hidden in a (Bear) Bare cupboard in Sark.

Worcestershire Province

Bro Gerry Paggett R.O.H. One of the original Members of the 'Holmewood Lodge' celebrated 60 Years of wedded bliss to his childhood sweetheart recently. The happy couple marked the milestone occasion with a family party at the Jubilee Pub in Studley. They received a telegram from the Queen.



*EDITOR – MAY WE TAKE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO
WISH ALL BRETHREN AND THEIR FAMILIES
THROUGHOUT THE GLOBE, A VERY MERRY
CHRISTMAS AND A MOST PROSPEROUS NEW
YEAR. RAY & SANDRA*
