



## Grand Council

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

Issue No 4. April 2004. A little move forward

**What a busy period we have just seen, the 19<sup>th</sup> of February witnessed the raising the Knighthood of Bro S.Radley. I did send my apology; most unfortunately, I was unable to attend. But I was informed that it was a most enjoyable evening.**

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**On the 21st of February I was pleased to be one of many visitors to the Snodland Province, at which time we witnessed the exaltation of Bro G. Huggins to the Roll of Honour, ably performed by Bro C. Mc Mahon R.O.H. It was nice to see and chat with some of those Brethren and Ladies, who we hadn't seen through the long cold winter period.**

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**The following Saturday a coach, safely driven by our own Bro John Simpson, "Many thanks Bro John, the weather was awful" took ten of the Brethren of Skegness Province, with their Ladies to the Rother Valley Province. To witness and I am pleased to say 'assist' in the Ceremony, which saw Bro K.Oxley raised to Knighthood by the capable hands of Bro J.R.Turner R.O.H. The Vice Grand Knight Commander and of course, Grand President for 1988. Another excellent evening.**

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Friday the 12<sup>th</sup> of March was soon upon us and the Skegness Province welcomed a host of visitors with a meeting of the 'Chaos Lodge', well it was the Tudor Rose One really, or was it the William of Waynefflete. Any way, the Brethren were so pleased to meet, we seemed to have run out of evening, because it was the early hours, before everyone had purchased enough gatta to see them to bed.

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As the sky cleared on Saturday morning, we saw Brethren gradually make their way to the Savoy Hotel in preparation for the Grand Knights Chapter Conference attended by a count in excess of fifty Brethren. The Conference closed just after five, but not before they had kindly donated £50.00 to 'Alive & Kicking' a local Charity. No doubt your Delegates will give a report on that, but we did meet up again in the evening for a Buffet

Dance "Thanks go to Bro J.W.English R.O.H. and the Brethren of Skegness for putting on a wonderful evening of entertainment, 'well, I certainly enjoyed it.

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Shush, I said I wouldn't mention this to anyone, so please don't tell, will you. It is reported that Bro Ken Hilton K.O.M. is 'sleeping with animals' on his pillow'. I am reliably informed that Bro Ken's good Buffess, not wanting him to be lonely at night when away over the weekend at Chapter Conference, packed a few cuddly little toy lambs n things, into his bags, prior to him leaving home.

The Nottingham Province is so impressed with this news, that they are considering asking Bro Ken if he will stand for the Office of Grand Primo again. This way, they can present him with a baaaaa for his Jewel. Sorry Bro Ken couldn't resist it and I know it will cost me a pint or two.

*I just love your good Ladies sense of humour.*

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Here's a little word or two from Dame Pat Willetts R.O.H. of the Nottingham Ladies Glade.

"Worth a fortune"

Did you know, we old folk are worth a fortune  
We have silver in our hair  
Gold in our teeth  
Stones in our kidneys and gas in our stomachs!

"Growing Old."

I have become older since I saw you last, and a few changes have come into my life.

Frankly, I have become a frivolous old woman!

I am seeing six gentlemen every day!

As soon as I awake, Will Power helps me out of bed, then, I go to see Jimmy Riddle, and then it's time for breakfast with Mr Kellogg. This is followed closely by the refreshing Company of Mr Tetley. Or, my other friend, whom I only know by his initials – PG.

Then comes someone I don't like at all – Arthur – it is.

He knows he is not very welcome, but he insists on being here, and what is more, he stays for the rest of the day.

Even then he does not like to stay in one place, so he takes me from joint to joint.

After such a hectic day, I am glad to get to bed (and with Johnny Walker too!). What a hectic life.

Oh yes, I am now flirting with Al-Zheimer!

The vicar came to call the other day and said that at my age I should be thinking of the hereafter. So I told him I did all the time, for no matter where I am, the bedroom, the kitchen, the living room or the garden, I will ask myself, now what am I here after.

Well I will close and hope that Will Power is your constant companion too. But do make sure that his friend Emma Royd does not creep up on you from behind! And watch out for that crafty one – Gerry Atric. Love from me.

*Thank you Pat, I like it!*

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On the morning of Sunday the 15<sup>th</sup> February 2004 the Brothers and their good Ladies of the Castle Lodge, No 1833, Worcestershire Province, caught the coach from Reditch to start their mini holiday. The destination was the St Branocks Hotel, Newquay, Cornwall.

The weather was sunny but cold on the Monday morning and everyone was in good spirits (some more than others after the night before). The coach took them to Charlestown and many photographs were taken with the tall ships in the background, and then on to St Austell.

On their return to the hotel, hot Cornish pasties and glasses of cider were a very welcome sight. In the evening the Brothers visited the Silver Jubilee Lodge, No 10167, G.L.E. held at the Griffin Pub in Newquay, while the Ladies were entertained in the hotel.

Tuesday saw us all invading first, Truro, and then Falmouth. Cream teas were arranged for when we arrived back at the hotel. Again the weather was cold but bright. The evening was spent wining, dancing and generally socialising.

Wednesday was a 'free' day and most of the party went walking. A song and dance night was held after the evening meal.

Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> February 2004, it was back home to reality. Every one agreed that the food was delicious, the hotel was clean, bright and very friendly, entertainment was

excellent and even the weather behaved for us. In fact everyone had a good time.

Bro J.Jeffs R.O.H. the Grand Lodge Secretary

Editor, *many thanks for the article Bro John, please send more as and when.*

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The answer to the anagram from 'Buff Oonery' in last Months Mag was 'Secretary', easy, was it.

Here's No 3. "Sad region" one word, 9 letters. Clue, but with it. Answer in the next issue. *He's good, isn't he?*

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Brother Albie, true to the traditions being manfully gained by him has outwitted the Train Service's this time.

They cancelled all trains into Skegness on the weekend of the Grand Knights Chapter Meeting, but ever resourceful, he came, complete with his new leg brace on, which was "Tastefully set out as a Jewel Carrier" in the car driven by our Worthy Vice Grand President. Well done, Albie, but the stories I am assured will continue.

*He tells me that he has on occasion ventured abroad.*

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Bro Geoff Gurden R.O.H. of Sark Province, the Channel Isles, sent a very nice letter to Bro Arthur Steven R.O.H. and the Snodland Province, in response to the way that visiting Brethren were looked after, during their visit to the Raising of Bro Gordon Huggins R.O.H.

Dear Bro Arthur

I am writing on behalf of Brothers Steve, Ross and myself to thank you personally for your most wonderful welcome and hospitality this weekend. We would also wish that you convey our thanks to your Province for their warm welcome and for the contribution which was sent to aid our expenses. Now we tried vainly to donate this back and every Brother we spoke to would have none of it so here's what we have to say on the subject.

Firstly, many thanks – it was a wonderful gesture by all of you, and the thought behind the gift was very much appreciated. But when Snodland Brothers visit us they come at their own expense and it was not right or fair that we should do otherwise. Therefore we have had a chat and decided the following; When our new Island Hall was early in the planning stage the Sark Buffs thought they would like to contribute a set of three flagpoles to stand outside the entrance area, bearing a brass plaque stating

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that they were a gift of the Sark R.A.O.B. And a second one in memory of a deceased Brother of the Island, Bro Reg Adams, our former Registrar of many years. We now propose to add the name of the Snodland Province to that first plaque together with our own so that the Province will have a part of a foreign field that will be forever Snodland. We like the idea – we hope it meets with your approval. That’s the idea in principle but details of the siting and number of flagpoles may be dictated to us differently.

Please convey our fraternal greetings – we have conveyed impressions of Snodland to the Sark Lodge and we’ll have more visiting with us next time! We fancy pinching your motorway bridges and putting them between us and Guernsey!

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Brother Geoff

*Editor, what a tremendous gesture, but I am not sure about the bridge though Bro Geoff, if you join the Islands up, wouldn’t the vat inspector be able to drive across? Ouch!*

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Speaking of Snodland Province, I received a Fax from Mary ‘The Witch’ Eccelston with regard to the raffle they held recently on behalf of Demelza House, a local Hospice.

Dear Friends

09/03/2004

On behalf of all the children, families and staff at Demelza House, I would like to thank you very much for your generous donation of £352.00 received today. Please be sure to pass on our thanks to everyone for their support.

Your support will enable over 300 children with life-limiting conditions and their families to be supported by care staff at Demelza House Children’s Hospice.

A mother said: “When my daughter smiles it makes all the hard work and constant worry disappear. Demelza House has the same ability to ease the strain and enable us to smile and enjoy being mother and daughter, rather than daughter and carer and lastly, mother. Demelza House has also given us something very precious indeed, normality.”

Thank you for everything you do to make such a vital difference to their lives.

*Editor, makes you feel humble, doesn’t it!*

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I received a letter from Bro J.R.Turner R.O.H. The Grand Knight Commander of the Grand Knights Chapter of St George. In which he says

I would like to take this opportunity to say thank all of the Minor Chapters that voted for me as the Grand Knight Commander for 2004/5. I have a big task, but I will try my best to do it.

Also to the Skegness Province, who gave me the chance to be their Delegate to Grand Knights Chapter?

I said when I was installed that I would try to visit as many Chapters as I can.

THANKS

Bro J.R.Turner R.O.H.

Grand Knight Commander

*Editor, Congratulations Brother John*

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The good Buff took a pair of underpants from his drawer and when he shook them a little dust cloud appeared. Mary, he shouted “Why did you put talcum powder in my underwear?” and Mary responded, “It’s not talcum powder John, it’s miracle grow.”

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Dates for your diaries

On Saturday the 27th of March 2004. Bro J.Stracey K.O.M. had had the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge, No 1909. I was unable to be there, but was informed that a good few Brethren were in attendance, congratulations Bro Jim.

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Also on the 27th of March 2004, the Sir Walter Miles Lodge, No 2129 held their 25th Anniversary celebrations, and it was a glorious success. There was an abundance of food and the company was excellent, well done Brother’s.

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On Saturday the 22nd May 2004. Brother Alan Nixon K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Pride of Bramley Lodge, No 2152.

The Ceremony is set to start at 8pm and will be performed by Brother J.W.English R.O.H. Grand President for 1998. Venue, the Sunnyside Community Centre, Flanderwell Road, Rotherham. South Yorkshire.

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Thirty-two years ago, the Earl of Ancaster Lodge presented a bench to St Wilfrid's Church, Alford in Lincolnshire. Bro T.Baker K.O.M. and Bro J.R.Turner R.O.H. who attended the original presentation were asked if there was any way that the Buffs could repair it. That was not an option, it was beyond repair and so Members of the Skegness Province presented a new one.



Shown above are Bro Tom Baker K.O.M. seated with John Turner R.O.H. Church Elders, the Mayor of Alford and Members of the Skegness Province.

*Editor, If this bench lasts as long as the previous one, then I hope that I am at the presentation.*

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*From Bro Eddie.* The catfish has over 27,000 taste buds. (What on earth could be so tasty at the bottom of a pond.)?

An Ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain. (Some people I know.)?

Marriage changes passion, suddenly you're in bed with a relative. *Think about it.*

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*From Bro Des.* Two elderly buffs and their Buffesses were having a quiet conversation one evening when one turns to the other and says 'Arthur, I have been meaning to ask you,' 'how's your course going at the memory clinic'. 'Outstanding' says Arthur, 'they teach us all the latest psychological techniques: visualisation, association and so on. It's made a huge difference to me'. 'That's great' says his fellow Buff, 'What was the name of the clinic again'. Arthur goes blank, then wrinkles his brow, 'Wait there, I can do this'. He closes his eyes and his lips move as he thinks to himself. 'What is that flower called with red petals and thorns?' he says. 'You mean a rose'

says his friend. 'Yes that's it. Says Arthur, and turns to his Buffess, 'Rose, what was the name of that clinic'.

A late edition from Bro Denis Warren R.O.H. Luton Province. Window on Success

It is with some pride that we submit the picture above, showing the Worthy Grand President, Bro Stephen Minchin K.O.M. presenting a cheque for £1,500.00 on behalf of the Luton & District Grand Primo's Charity Fund to Christine Creamer, along with her colleague, Annabelle MacBryne. The Ladies represent the Woodlands school, which is based in the Luton & Dunstable hospital and endeavours to assist youngsters to keep up their education

Whilst in the ward. The cash is earmarked for toys and specialist equipment to help in the great work the school does. Also present was Bro G.R.Cooke R.O.H. the General Secretary, who was also presented with a cheque for £500.00 for the Grand Council Orphans Fund. It was a trifle worrying to hear shortly afterwards that Bro Ray was planning a holiday in Minorca.

The event was the Luton & District Grand Lodge Buffet Dance, which was greatly enjoyed by all. What a pleasure



it is to drink beer and do a little bit of good at the same time.

Editor, thanks for the comment Bro Denis, I know someone who has a bottle of single malt that is going to be severely depleted for that.

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Until next time, being sociable and happy means good times and good Buffing  
G.R.Cooke R.O.H.

The Editor