



## Grand Council

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

Issue No 5, May 2004. Who said we couldn't do it?

## Essex Province

This is a letter from the C.A.B.P. Committee (Campaign for the Abolishment of Bogus Pianists) issuing an

## OFFICIAL WARNING

It has come to the notice of this Committee that one, namely G.T.Gurden has imported into the United Kingdom a quantity of Ivory and Ebony, and the said substances being attached to a metal frame with strings with a timber covering.

If this information is correct then the above named person is guilty of contravening the importation of Protected Species Act Ivory and Ebony being strictly controlled by the above named Act, therefore the above named G.T.Gurden is liable to prosecution under the said act. This Act being strictly enforced by the European Commission. However due to the fact that the above named G.T.Gurden resides on the Island of Sark, which although part of the United Kingdom is outside the jurisdiction of the European Commission then the penalty cannot be enforced.

Therefore be warned that if the above named G.T.Gurden fails to display the hereby presented candelabra on the above mentioned timber covered metal frame at all times, then he renders himself liable to prosecution by the authorities whenever he enters the United Kingdom Mainland.



Above, Bro Geoff receiving his candelabra, reputedly chewing a wasp?

*Editor, Bro Geoff looks so pleased? It's a most fraternal thought from the Brethren of Essex.*

## 'Buff Oonery'

The answer to the anagram in last months Mag was 'Organised', well, did you get it.

Here's No 4. "Evil Stare" one word, 9 letters. Clue, They're yours. Answer in the next issue.

## Mastin Print

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Dennis King of Mastin Print, Skegness, for his unstinting support. This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year in succession that he has most kindly sponsored the Orphans Draw and without him, we would have incurred heavy costs and the Orphans would not fare so well. Dennis, on behalf of the Orphans, Many thanks.

*Editor, any Brother or Province wanting a print job doing, you will not find a better quote. Support those, who support us!*

## Brighton Province

A letter from Bro Jim Stracey R.O.H. The Sir Walter Raleigh Lodge No 1909.

May I, through 'News Round' extend my sincere thanks to everybody concerned in my elevation to the Roll of Honour on the 27<sup>th</sup> March last? Special thanks to Bro Jack Odey R.O.H. the Exalting Officer for doing a first class job and that was the view of many.

It was great to see some old faces from the past, especially Bro's Sid Ellis R.O.H. and Wayne Downey R.O.H. from my Mother Lodge – Rising Sun Lodge, No 1428 – which I'm sorry to say is no longer functioning. The four Redhill Ruffians from the Acorn Lodge (GLE) also turned up to recount some tales of the past. Lastly – thanks to the

Brighton Grand Lodge and Knights Chapter and not to forget Bro Ernie Taylor's wife, Bernice, for her catering expertise.

*Editor note, well done Brother Jim, it is nice to read a letter like that, let's have some more.*

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#### **The Grand President visits the Essex Province**

On Saturday the 24<sup>th</sup> April the Worthy Grand President Bro Steve Minchin K.O.M, his Wife Mandy, along with my Wife Sandra and myself had the pleasure of attending a dinner dance at Withem, Essex. The Sir Frederick Lodge, No 1259 very kindly invited us as their guests, and they were most hospitable, this culminating in the presentation of a cheque to the Orphans Fund.

In giving thanks to the Brethren of the Lodge, the Worthy Grand President made a comparison with his own Province of Luton, they having recently held a buffet dance as opposed to a dinner, due to rising costs and a shortage in attendance. "But", he commented "if other Provinces were made more aware of a pending dinner dance, there would be many Brethren, who would be more than willing to bring their own good Ladies and pay for the privilege of attending".

P.S. I later received a card from the Grand Presidents Lady in which she writes? Dear Ray, would you please convey my thanks and appreciation to all concerned for such a lovely evening last Saturday. The meal was lovely, as was the accompanying musical ensemble however the more memorable event was meeting such a warm and friendly group of people who made me feel so welcome! I have not enjoyed myself so much for quite some time!  
Yours sincerely, Mandy Minchin

*Editor, I heartily agree with the Grand President and his good Ladies comments and it is after all, in these days of fewer Raisings, a wonderfully relaxed and sociable way to meet each other occasionally.*

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#### **Skegness Province**

Well, last month we witnessed Bro J.R.Turner R.O.H. being installed to the position of Grand Knight Commander and well deserved too. But the Tudor Rose

One Lodge No 2166, in their usual manner kept his feet on



the ground or rather, brought him to his knees.

Well, Brother John was assisting the City Constable really by picking up penny's from Rotherham, on the occasion of a mad visit by the Pride of Bramley Lodge No 2152. Thanks for that Lad's we owe you one. We have to visit anyway, to collect a certain snuffer and other items, for which we received a ransom note.

*Editor, payment will be in kind?*

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#### **Lancashire South Province**

Bro Albie Heaver K.O.M. the Grand Lodge Secretary writes, I have been doing some research on the Buffs of Wigan in the History Museum. I have found old newspaper clippings (Wigan Observer) 'that are on rolls of microfilm', going back to 1853. In 1890 the Buffs in Wigan had their first Annual Ball, it was attended by the Mayor of Wigan, local JP's, Doctor's and Military men, the Buffs were well known then so I am going back through the records year by year to see what else I can find.

If I can, I am going to organise a dinner Dance sometime next year as an Anniversary and have the Mayor of Wigan attending and the Local Magistrates, I have brought it up at the Lodge and it has been left in my hands. I will keep you posted on my progress.

I have also come across an old booklet dated 1903 and I thought it would be nice to dwell in the past occasionally and compare the price values of that period with today.

Three flipping Guinea's, that would just about purchase a good lapel badge today.



Roll of Honor or  
4th Degree.

Journal of the Grand Lodge of the  
United Kingdom of the Grand  
Ancient and Accepted  
Masons.

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in the year

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Entered and recorded  
in the year  
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*Editor, Very well done Bro Albie, this is just the sort of interest we need, many thanks. P.S. Put me down for two tickets! More in the next issue.*

Bro Albie also writes that, He and Sue went to Germany a couple of months ago to see his Daughter and Grandchildren, her Husband is in the army and was away in Bosnia. He continues, "we had a good time and the people were very friendly, when Sue and I left camp for the day to visit the nearest town we had to cross the road outside of the camp to get the bus. I looked right, as you do saw no traffic coming, went to the Centre of the road then looked left, as you do. Started to walk across and Sue grabbed me by the collar and pulled me back, just as some cars were coming from the right.

I had forgot that traffic goes in the opposite direction in Europe, I was very lucky not to have another broken leg. I could not believe though, that I did the same thing the next day in Holland. I was lucky not to be arrested. Anyway Sue and I are going to Tenerife in a couple of weeks. See you soon. *Editor, Bro Albie, you are priceless!*

#### Sark Province

Bro Geoff Gurden R.O.H. the Grand Lodge Secretary writes, As I listen to the radio they keep talking about discovering the fossilised remains of a nine-foot hamster "as big as a buffalo" (and I quote). Do we have a nine-foot

buffalo? And if so in what Province? I leave you considering the terrifying prospect of attending its Raising. *Editor, Cor, I wonder who's Buffess is doing the Buffet?*

#### South Staffs Province

On a sad note, Brother Ron Wigg K.O.M. the Grand Lodge Secretary has informed us of the death of Bro Neville Venables R.O.H. of the Woden Lodge, No 343. Commiserations go to his Family and of course the Members of his Lodge and Province; he will be sadly missed.

#### Newark Province

Bro Paul Wright R.O.H. The Grand Lodge Secretary writes, following the death of Bro George Lowery R.O.H. I am pleased to say that we are now sorted and Bro Chris Harris R.O.H. has taken over the duties of the Secretary of the Southwell Lodge and the Knight of records and we are in the process of getting everything back shipshape again. Although depleted in numbers we are trying very hard to keep the Southwell Lodge open.

I have spoken to Pauline Lowery and she is bearing up well and was pleased to see the buffis represented at George's funeral and asked that her thanks be passed on.

Bro Tom Banks is still fairly well and has gone back into a home for a couple of weeks to build him up a bit. Bro Ron Ward, who has been looking after Bro Tom with his good Buffess, has been ill with suspected gall stones and goes for a scan soon. It does not stop him though from attending lodge, running about after brothers and visiting Tom of course.

It was good to see Bro Albie on the mend at Grand Knights Chapter and the usual crowd. Must go now PC,s to build etc. Hope to see you all soon, Paul Wright R.O.H. *Editor, thanks for the letter Bro Paul and if any Brother requires a PC, this is the man?*

*Yes, I will place your adverts if you send them in, for a small consideration towards costs of course. Phone me!*

#### Cambridgeshire Province

Bro Alex Pitt R.O.H., the Grand Lodge Secretary sent a copy of a letter from a newly Initiated Brother

Gentlemen last time there was a presentation in the Market Inn, on Sunday the 4.4.04 I had not been in the Buffs for very long, only a few months. It was my first disposal if you like to call it that, of our funds. There were 6 charities designated on receiving equal amounts. Brother John our then Secretary had given a very good opening speech, explaining all about our group of merry men and how we raised funds to helping charity's, in helping residents or patients in their charge. I am absolutely sure the money we have given will be used for the best interest of their charges, although we sometimes put restrictions on the properties purchased, such as wheelchairs, nebulisers and so forth. Only so the items remain in the homes, units or wards to which the donations have been allocated, to helping the people of Huntingdon, as we, the Buffs intended. Last time I was not prepared, expecting only to be a witness to the presentations and not actually presenting a cheque. Next time I will be prepared for the task you set before me.

One of the reasons I joined the Buffs was because it is far easier coming out on a Sunday morning to have a few drinks and give freely what I can afford. This, to me, is what life is all about, helping other's. Because I am more fortunate today, to be able to do what some others cannot, who knows, tomorrow I may be in need of a friendly hand shake and I know there will always be people like you around who I am proud to call Brothers.

Yours T.M.Batsford

*Editor, It makes me feel proud to be a Buff too, well done that Brother, your letter came from the heart.*

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Three old sisters of the Glade ...92,94 and 96 years old respectively, all lived together. One day the eldest sister drew a bath. She put one foot in the water, paused, then called downstairs to her sisters, "Am I getting in the bath or out of the bath? I can't remember!" The middle sister started up the stairs to help, then paused and called back downstairs, "Was I going up the stairs or coming down?" The youngest sister, who was sitting at the kitchen table having tea, said, "I suppose I'll have to help. I hope I never get that forgetful!" and she knocked on wood. She got up, then paused, and called, "I'll come up as soon as I see who's knocking at the door."

#### Dates for your diaries

22nd May 2004 - Bro A.Nixon K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Pride of Bramley Lodge No 2152, Rother Valley Province.  
For information Tel 01709 548622

26<sup>th</sup> June 2004 - Bro B. Edwards K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Alexandra Lodge No 89 Grimsby Province.

26<sup>th</sup> June 2004 - Bro J. Cox K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Alexandra Lodge No 89 Grimsby Province.  
For Information Tel 01472 598933

11<sup>th</sup> July 2004 - Bro R. Spouge K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Brave Old Oak & Friendly Lodge No 108, Nottingham Province. For Information Tel 0115 8 773528

14<sup>th</sup> August 2004 - Bro A.L.Heaver has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Sir William Edmonds Lodge No 2133, Lancashire South Province. For Information Tel 01942 733714

28<sup>th</sup> August 2004 - Bro K. Hilton K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Atlas & Ivy Lodge No 1609, Nottingham Province. For Information Tel 0115 8 773528

18<sup>th</sup> September 2004 - Bro W. Rees K.O.M. has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Moor Lodge No 2112, Luton Province.  
For Information Tel 01582 738602

2<sup>nd</sup> October 2004 - Bro C. Bacon has the Roll of Honour conferred upon him by the Good Hope Lodge No 339, Essex Province.  
For Information Tel 01245 467241

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The Skegness Province will be holding a dinner dance on the 25<sup>th</sup> of September 2004 at the Ship Hotel, Skegness. To give honour to Bro John Turner R.O.H. the Grand Knight Commander for 2004 and Bro John Turner-Johnson R.O.H. the Assistant Grand Knight of Records. The Grand President for 2004 and his Buffess will be attending as guests. Tickets are on sale at £14.00 each and all are welcome to attend. Please come and join in our celebrations. To reserve tickets, please telephone Bro John English R.O.H. on 01754 766770.

G.R.Cooke R.O.H. The Editor