

THE DEDICATION OF CLEVEDON MASONIC HALL WEDNESDAY 10th APRIL 2024

The main event during the Centenary year of Clevedon Masonic Club must be the Dedication of the building for use as a Masonic Hall, something that was not achieved when the building was first purchased in 1923.

The preparations for this event began some 24 months previous with the agreement of Provincial Grand Lodge of Somerset on the date that this would take place. Meanwhile the committee of Clevedon Masonic Club were insistent that any event must be all inclusive and must include all the Lodges or Chapters that meet at Clevedon Masonic Hall and as a result of this decision, early in the preparations the Mark Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Phil Voisey and the Inspector General of the Rose Croix, V Ill Bro Clive Lester were approached to enquire if they would be part of the Dedication Team, to which they readily agreed.

The committee also agreed that the meeting would be organised by Clevedon Masonic Club, rather than being organised by a particular Lodge and the Lodge officers for the Dedication would be drawn from the Masters or Principals of all units meeting at Clevedon. It was also obvious that The Poets' Suite at Clevedon Masonic Hall was not large enough to accommodate every one that would wish to dine and therefore an approach was made to Clevedon Community Association to enquire if the Princes Hall was available, it was and was booked for the event, on the condition that Zena's Catering would be allowed to serve the meal.

By early April all the invitations had been sent, most arrangements were in place and everyone that wished to attend was booked in a total of one hundred Brethren. Due to the numbers that wished to attend all seats in the Lodge were numbered and each seat was allocated to a particular member, Dining places were also allocated at the Princes Hall. The Lodge was set up to accommodate all brethren and, with the agreement of the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, also the Dedication Team.



Clevedon Masonic Hall, Wednesday 10th April 2024

Unfortunately, some of the brethren designated to fill offices were unable to be present including the Worshipful Master of Coleridge Lodge, W Bro Jon Legge, and whose designated office was to be Worshipful Master. The honour of being Worshipful Master was offered to W Bro Geoff Lester, the Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club who readily accepted. This would mean that W Bro Geoff Lester and R W Bro Phil Voisey, both members of a Clevedon Lodge would each have an active part within the Dedication.

Members of the Dedication Team started to arrive at 4pm for the rehearsal, by 5.30 all was ready, and the brethren started to take their seats in the Lodge, it was a great satisfaction to all those present to see the Clevedon Lodge Room full. This date was the designated date for a Coleridge Lodge, and this was held at 2.30, after the business was completed, the Lodge was 'Called Off. This meant that for the Dedication Meeting the Lodge only had to be 'Called On' by the Presiding Officers after which the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies, W Bro Garry Sharp was admitted and announced that the Provincial Grand Master and the Dedication Team accompanied by the Mark Provincial Grand Master and the Inspector General of the Rose Croix were without and demanded admission.



W Bro Geoff Lester welcoming R W Bro Ray Guthrie
Wednesday 10th April 2024

They were admitted in procession and took their respective offices. W Bro Lester then welcomed the Dedication Team and invited them to dedicate Clevedon Masonic Hall to which the Provincial Grand Master readily agreed. The Provincial Grand Tyler, W Bro Chris Parry was not present at the Provincial Grand Lodge Meeting and so the first business was for the Provincial Grand Master to invest him before proceeding with the Dedication Ceremony.

The Dedication Ceremony commenced with an opening prayer given by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro Bob Moore and was followed by an Oration that explained some of the finer points of a Dedication Ceremony this was also presented by W Bro Bob Moore.

A procession was then formed of the Dedicating Officers, and they retired from the Lodge Room in procession.

A few moments later the Dedicating Officers were re-admitted including the Provincial Grand Tyler, W Bro Chris Perry, with the Incense Censor and processed around the Lodge eventually halting at the South Side of the Tracing Board where the Inspector General of the Rose Croix, Very Illustrious Brother Clive Lambert, sprinkled Corn upon the Tracing Board, signifying Plenty & Abundance.



The Inspector General for Somerset pours Corn on the Tracing Board
Wednesday 10th April 2024

The procession was reformed, processed around the Lodge, and halted at the West Side of the Tracing Board where the Mark Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, Right Worshipful Brother Philip Voisey poured Wine on the Tracing Board, to signify Joy & Cheerfulness.



The Mark Provincial Grand Master
pours Wine.
Wednesday 10th April 2024

The procession was again reformed, and again processed around the Lodge Room, halting this time at the East Side of the Tracing Board where the Provincial Grand Master for Somerset, Right Worshipful Brother Raymond Guthrie, poured Oil on the Tracing Board, signifying Peace & Unanimity.

The Processional Hymn was then sung, during which the Dedication Officers retired from the Lodge. After they returned to the Lodge they resumed their places.

To close this part of the Ceremony the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro Bob Moore, delivered the Patriarchal Dedication.



The Provincial Grand Master
pours Oil
Wednesday 10th April 2024

The Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club, W Bro Geoff Lester, then rose and invited the three Dedicating Officers to accompany him to the South where he would be unveiling a plaque which would commemorate the occasion. The plaque was unveiled and was inspected by the Dedicating Officers.



Unveiling the commemorative plaque
Wednesday 10th April 2024

On returning to their seats the Provincial Grand Master, on behalf of the Dedicating Team, offered thanks to everyone involved in the organisation of the Ceremony.

Following this the Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club presented copies of the 'History of Freemasonry in Clevedon and Portishead' which had been produced by Very Worshipful Brother D John Bennett, to celebrate the centenary, one copy each to R W Bro Guthrie, R W Bro Voisey and W Bro Lambert for which he was thanked.

Copies of the book are still available at £30.00 and if you wish to purchase one please contact Clevedon Masonic Club Secretary by the usual means or Email clevedonmasonicclub@gmail.com



Book Presentation
Clevedon Masonic Hall
Wednesday 10th April 2024

W Bro Lester, Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club, informed the brethren that a competition had been organised for a design for new place mats to be used in the Poet's Suite and that suggestions had been invited from the brethren for this design. W Bro Lester then announced that the winning design had been submitted by W Bro Peter Harris, Peter was present and was presented with a bottle of whisky by way of thanks.

To complete the formal part of the evening, the National Anthem was sung and the Dedication Team together with the Provincial Officers retired from the Lodge, the Lodge was then closed with the retiring collection raising £100.00 for the Local Foodbank.

It is only a short walk from Clevedon Masonic Hall to the Princes Hall and despite the drizzle everyone arrived safely, the Bar was a little overwhelmed at first with one hundred brethren arriving at once but very quickly everyone was enjoying a well-earned drink. After about 30 minutes the brethren took their seats, Grace was given by the Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro Bob Moore, and dinner was served to the one hundred seated, in a very discrete and well organised way by the staff of Zena's Catering.



The meal was superb as we have come to expect from Zena's Catering and following the usual toasts the Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club rose and proposed the Toast to the Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Raymond Guthrie, to which he responded, thanking again all those concerned for a wonderful evening. A Toast was then proposed to the Dedicating Team by the Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club, W Bro Geoff Lester and the response to this toast was given by the Mark Provincial Grand Master, R W Bro Phil Voisey.

This was followed by a toast to Clevedon Masonic Hall proposed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Somerset, Very Worshipful Brother Ben Batley, to which the response was given by one of the two Clevedon Masonic Veterans present at the Dedication Ceremony, W Bro Paul Matthews. The evening ended with the Absent Brethren s Toast given by the Provincial Grand Almoner, W Bro Adrian Robson and the Tyler's Toast by the Provincial Grand Tyler, W Bro Chris Perry.

This evening marked a real moment of history in the story of Clevedon Masonic Hall in several ways. It had taken one hundred years for the Hall to be dedicated and one of the Dedicating Team, R W Bro Phil Voisey, is a member at Clevedon so it was a real achievement to have him take such a prominent part in the Dedication Ceremony. This honour was also reflected by W Bro Geoff Lester, Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club who is also a member of a Clevedon Lodge.



Clevedon Masonic Club produced a Commemorative Brochure for the Ceremony which also included a short history of the building both before it became Clevedon Masonic Hall and afterwards and copies of this are available at Clevedon Masonic Hall.

Each member dining at the Princes Hall was also presented with a Coaster Mat specially commissioned for the event and anyone who did not attend and would like one they can be obtained from the Bar at Clevedon Masonic Hall.

To those who were unable to attend this evening, we trust that this brief resume of what took place on this memorable evening at Clevedon Masonic Hall and will give you a feel of an historic occasion. Hopefully, it will also be a reminder to those who were present.



Ray Beckingham, Paul Middleton & Tim Coleridge
Wednesday 10th April 2024



Coleridge Lodge, The Princes Hall, Wednesday 10th April 2024



Eldon Lodge,
The Princes Hall
Wednesday 10th April 2024



Southey Lodge, The Princes Hall, Wednesday 10th April 2024



J de C & Tennyson Lodges, The Princes Hall, Wednesday 10th April 2024



Provincial Officers
The Princes Hall
Wednesday 10th April 2024



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Provincial Officers
The Princes Hall
Wednesday 10th April 2024



Tennyson Lodge
The Princes Hall
Wednesday 10th April 2024



Gordano Lodge
The Princes Hall
Wednesday 10th April 2024



The Princes Hall, Wednesday 10th April 2024



Dedicating Officers & Chairman of Clevedon Masonic Club
Wednesday 10th April 2024



