



# UNITED GRAND LODGE of ENGLAND



## UNIVERSITIES SCHEME

### NEWSLETTER - SUMMER 2015

#### Celebrations and Changes

Welcome to the latest edition of the scheme newsletter, in which we are able to report not only that the scheme is ten years old, has sixty-three member lodges (about the size of a mid-size Province), but that its first 'specially consecrated' member lodge - The Iron Bridge Lodge No. 9897 has joined.

In tandem with its ten year milestone, The Chairman and President carried out a reorganisation of the national committee of the Scheme, which had grown commensurately and had thus become unwieldy and unfit for purpose. Details of the revised committee structure are included on page 3.

Scheme Committee member, W Bro. Robin Felleman, highlights details on the scheme census project and the data that he expects to be able mine and Paul Grier, Scheme webmaster, tells us about the planned changes

to and refresh of the Scheme website and how parts of this will not only be linked to your own social media channels, but also controlled by your lodge - there is also an advert for some volunteer coders to assist with these changes - please help if you can!

Lastly and not leastly, we also highlight a short piece on how a US lodge member set up a Student's Union-approved Masonic Society. If you have some good practice in your lodge that you want to highlight nationally - do get in touch at [news@universitiescheme.org](mailto:news@universitiescheme.org)

#### Anniversary Dinner

The Scheme celebrated its tenth anniversary with an informal dinner at the Oxford and Cambridge Club, which looked forward as much as it looked back.

On Monday 19 January, current and past members of the Universities Scheme committee gathered with the High Rulers of the Craft and the Royal Arch to celebrate ten years of success of what has been described as one of the most important recent initiatives for English Freemasonry. The guest list was indeed a

reflection of that, with the Pro Grand Master, Deputy Grand Master, Assistant Grand Master and Second Grand Principal all present along with PProGM Lord Northampton, the President and Deputy President of the Board of General Purposes, and the Grand Secretary, as well as the Metropolitan Grand Master.

With the Scheme having developed from two lodges to sixty-two over the first ten years, and now expanding into the Royal Arch, it has achieved much, especially as new lodges are now being specifically consecrated specifically to for the Scheme (see article on The Iron Bridge Lodge on Page 4).

There was only one speech, given by the President, RW Bro. David Williamson, PAGM, which we reproduce on Page 2.





## Scheme Committee restructured

To mark the tenth Anniversary of the creation of the Universities Scheme, the President and Chairman set about restructuring the Scheme Committee to provide sharper focus and greater autonomy to regions.

The Committee is now as follows:

### President

RW Bro. David K Williamson PAGM

### Chairman

W Bro. C Edward Lord OBE JP PAGDC  
*Also Co-Ordinator for Overseas Districts*

### Deputy Chairman

W Bro. Daniel M Johnson AGSTB

### Vice-Chairmen

W Bro. Surg Cdr Nigel F J Scott-Moncrieff RN PJGD  
*Also Regional Co-ordinator for South East England and the Home Counties*

W Bro. Dr David R Staples PAGDC MetDepGDC  
*Also Regional Co-ordinator for East of England*

### Secretary

W Bro. Dan P Large  
*Also Regional Co-ordinator for the North East*

### Other Members of the Committee

W Bro. Oliver Coddington  
*Assistant Secretary*

W Bro. David B M Cavaye SLGR  
*Strategic Planning Co-ordinator*

W Bro. David J Thompson PAGDC  
*Special Projects Co-ordinator*

### Regional Co-ordinators

W Bro. Julian R Soper PAGDC  
*Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London*

W Bro. Jeffrey P B Bennett MetDepGSwdB SLGR  
*Deputy, Metropolitan Grand Lodge of London*

W Bro. David C T Roberts-Jones DepGOR SLGR  
*Deputy, South East England and Home Counties;  
also Communications and Official Visits Co-ordinator*

W Bro. Daniel Hayward  
*East Midlands*

W Bro. Mark Greenburgh PPrAGReg (Warks)  
*West Midlands;  
also Talent Transfer*

W Bro. Dr Andrew Green PPrSGD (Leics & Rutland)  
*North West England and North Wales;  
also Social Media and Inter-Visiting Co-ordinator*

W Bro. Paul Grier PGPurs  
*South West England and South Wales;  
also Website Co-ordinator*

W Bro. Paul Raper PGStwd  
*Yorkshire*

## Improving reach and setting up a University Masonic Society

by Bro. Eddy Kirk - a Master Mason of Southampton University Lodge.

Freemasonry is a peculiar system of morality, veiled in allegory and illustrated by symbols, or so they told me, but the thing I never anticipated was how much I would enjoy it!

Southampton University Lodge No. 7022 is warm and friendly, a great place for student members to sit alongside alumni and past professors to share stories, laughs and at times, a great deal of wine. On coming into the Lodge, I was asked to assist with the refreshing of our Lodge website. The whole time I was asking myself how can I make this more attractive, more accessible to students of my age? Facebook is the social life-force of my generation and love it or hate it, you cannot ignore it. In my opinion every lodge should have at least a Facebook page in conjunction with their website, and if you really want to get things going a Facebook group and Twitter account as well. My lodge had neither. So after approval from our lodge committee, I set those up too.

It was around this time that a few more students were initiated into our lodge including Matt Poudevigne and Reetam Singh, good friends of mine who also wanted to see more student members in our lodge. Somehow the idea of starting a Southampton University Masonic Society was floated in conversation and later that year, we founded it, with the aim of raising awareness of freemasonry in the student population. We approached the Students

Union, who had no objection, other than it had to be open to all students. This suited us, as the whole point of the Society is to promote knowledge and awareness of Freemasonry in the University community and beyond and not a membership drive for our or any other Southampton-based lodge. We were therefore able to organise a stall at the Freshers' Fair along with all the other societies and teams which helped us to start raising awareness immediately. We organise lectures from prominent freemasons, including the Provincial Grand Orator, David Gosney our Provincial University Scheme Chairman and more recently a lady Freemason from a local women's Lodge, with the aim of educating people about our values and what we do. We also arrange meet and greets, where we basically sit and eat pizza and chat over a drink!

I would encourage any Mason in the university scheme who wants to make Freemasonry more accessible and more approachable for younger men to think about what they can do to spread the word about freemasonry! If you want to email me for advice or to discuss any problems, contact me at [info@sulodge.org](mailto:info@sulodge.org) or follow our lodge on twitter [@SotonUniLodge](https://twitter.com/SotonUniLodge).



Left: Bro. Eddy Kirk

Below: Members of the Southampton University Lodge No. 7022



If you feel like sending us a short piece of good practice connected with your lodge, please do at [news@universitiesscheme.org](mailto:news@universitiesscheme.org)

# First Universities Scheme Lodge consecrated in Shropshire

Just a few days after the Universities Scheme celebrated its 10th Anniversary, a new Lodge.

The Iron Bridge Lodge No.9897, was Consecrated in the Province of Shropshire on Saturday 24th January 2015 as the 62nd Universities Scheme Lodge. The Chairman of the Scheme, W. Bro Edward Lord, along with W. Bros Paul Grier and David Staples represented the Scheme President, who was visiting another Scheme Lodge the same day, and joined 170 Brethren to witness the historic occasion.

This was a very unique occasion as The Iron Bridge Lodge is the first Lodge to be Consecrated as a Universities Scheme Lodge; all the previous Scheme lodges having pre-existed. The Province of Shropshire felt that none of the existing lodges in the Province were able to support the Scheme and therefore took the decision to Consecrate a lodge specifically



Left to Right: W Bro. John Williamson, W Bro. Andy Delamere, RW Bro. Peter Taylor

to cater for the younger Mason where later starting times and earlier finishing times will be adopted.

The Consecration took place at the Harper Adams University, located close to the village of Edmond, in Shropshire with the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Peter Allan Taylor presiding as the Consecrating Officer. Founder member W. Bro John F Williamson PAGDC took charge of the Installation of the first Master, W. Bro Andy Delamere. W. Bro Andy Green, a member of the Universities Scheme Committee, is also a Founder member of the Lodge and will act as Primus Mentor.

The new Lodge will meet in the centre of Telford and welcomes new members who are students, staff and alumni from any of its 'local' Universities. It has already launched its own website ([www.theironbridgelodge.co.uk](http://www.theironbridgelodge.co.uk)) and social media channels: Twitter - [twitter.com/ironbridge9897](https://twitter.com/ironbridge9897) and Facebook - <https://www.facebook.com/theironbridgelodge>

The Lodge is already planning a double Initiation at their meeting in May 2015.

The next edition of the Newsletter will feature the Universities Scheme Chapters!

## Changes made to Scheme website



As the Scheme has evolved, so have our communications needs. We have established active social media channels for members of the Scheme Executive, and continue to publicise our Lodges' own social channels on our website.

The current website was created in the early days of the Scheme, and we recognise that it now needs to evolve – in some ways to bring our brand more up to date, but primarily to facilitate the management of the site and ensure it can more easily be updated by the relevant parties. We also know that we need to centralise much of our data surrounding the Scheme Lodges to make our own internal communications more efficient.

We are currently putting together a brief for a new website. This will include an administration area to enable Lodge pages to be updated by more than just our harried webmaster, and will allow Lodges to ensure that their own core information is up to date. We are also adding functionality to enable our Lodges to provide some text about the Lodge, to appear on the public-facing website and help attract new candidates.

If you have any suggestions for how the site could be improved over and above this, please do feel free to email [webmaster@universitiesscheme.com](mailto:webmaster@universitiesscheme.com)

## Your Lodge?

Got a story to tell?

If your Lodge has news of any good practice or a good story, which you would like to share with other members of the Universities Scheme, then please send your text and pictures to [news@universitiesscheme.org](mailto:news@universitiesscheme.org)

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## Date for your diary!

Fifth University Scheme Conference is in Leicester on 7th November!

We will have more details on the programme and the various streams that can be chosen by attending delegates in the next newsletter, but in the meantime do make sure that someone is going from your lodge!

## Can you help?

Do you have a keen member or know someone who might be able to help us develop the new website?

Rather than rushing into spending money with a commercial development agency, we are interested to hear from any volunteer(s) who might like to help us build our new site.

Website designs will be provided along with a detailed site brief and full wireframe guides, but if you have demonstrable skills in PHP and MySQL and would like to be involved in the core site build, please drop a line to [webmaster@universitiesscheme.com](mailto:webmaster@universitiesscheme.com) with examples of your work.

## Quick Contacts

Article submission:  
[news@universitiesscheme.org](mailto:news@universitiesscheme.org)

US Website:  
[webmaster@universitiesscheme.com](mailto:webmaster@universitiesscheme.com)

US Census:  
[census@universitiesscheme.com](mailto:census@universitiesscheme.com)

Layout: [Howard Griffin](#)