



UNITED GRAND LODGE of ENGLAND

UNIVERSITIES SCHEME



NEWSLETTER - AUTUMN 2015

Celebrations and Counting Down - One Week to Go!

It has been a celebratory season of 'firsts' since the last newsletter.

As you can see below, the Scheme's first dedicated Royal Arch chapter joined in September having been preceded by two specially consecrated lodges, respectively the first such consecrated lodge in the District of South Africa (Western Division) and the first such consecration in the Province of Staffordshire. I am delighted to add them to our still-growing membership, proving the

Scheme is in very good health! I look forward to celebrating that fact at the forthcoming Scheme Conference, on which, as you may imagine, the last touches are now being put in place. A small preview of what to expect is shown on page 3 and I hope to see as many of you as possible in Leicester in a few weeks, either during the sessions, or over a drink, since we have made much more time available this year for general networking and conviviality, with the hope that increased time for refreshment will put the conference's labour into sharper relief!



Edward Lord OBE JP PAGDC, Scheme Chairman

First Scheme Chapter

E Comp. Oliver Coddington, Assistant Secretary to the Scheme Committee was closely involved throughout the process of bringing Ravensbourne into the Scheme as its inaugural Chapter and gives us some background on the process...

On Friday 25 September 2015, Ravensbourne Chapter No. 1601 was formally welcomed into the Universities Scheme as its first Scheme Chapter as well as welcoming two new exaltees into the order itself.

This represented the culmination of work by members of the Chapter, especially E Comps. Dan Large, Oliver Coddington and Paul Gardner, to bring it within the scheme and also to revive the Chapter itself. *Cont...*



First Scheme Chapter (cont...)

In 2012 a small group had joined the Chapter, which was in the unenviable position of considering whether to hand in its charter due to falling attendances and membership. The Chapter welcomed these joining members and subsequently exalted two younger individuals (one of whom was an initiate of a Scheme Lodge, Phoenix No. 173). From this base, as well as from a number of other joining members (both younger and older) the Chapter was in a strong position to present a business case for joining the Scheme.

After over 10 years in existence the Universities Scheme recognised that in certain circumstances Scheme Chapters would provide an ideal opportunity to allow younger masons

the opportunity to complete their journey in pure, antient freemasonry and do so in a way that complemented both them and the Scheme itself. London was ideally suited to such a chapter as it has a large number of Scheme Lodges concentrated in a small geographic area and also a large number of Scheme members. Such a chapter provides an ideal opportunity of masons to join a unit which is not simply solely linked to their mother lodge. It thus enables them to broaden their masonic connections and should also help promote inter-visiting of Scheme Lodges as such connections are made.

The Chapter was welcomed into the Scheme by its President, ME Comp. David Kenneth Williamson, Third Grand Principal.

Also in attendance was the Metropolitan Grand Lodge and Chapter's Universities Scheme Liaison Officer, E Comp. Simon Duckworth PGSwDB, AMetGSupt, who addressed the companions at the Festive Board afterwards and commented on how pleased he was to see such a move by the Scheme. He also welcomed the two exaltees into the Chapter and into the Royal Arch, E Comp. Stephen Fenton, PGSwDB, AMetGSupt, E Comp. Richard Gardiner PGSJ, MetGInsp and E Comp. John Skinner AGDC, the Chapter's Senior Visiting Officer, were all in attendance to support the Chapter's progress. The Chapter meets on Friday 26th February 2016 and Friday 27th May 2016, with a social event to be held in October 2016, and would be delighted to welcome visitors to this new venture within the Scheme.

Editor's Note: The newsletter hopes to carry details of the second Scheme Chapter, Universities Chapter No. 4047, and its inaugural meeting in our next edition!

Called to Refreshment: Universities Lodge No. 2352, Durham

Universities Lodge is one of the two Lodges which take their student members from the University of Durham. Based in Durham City, its student members are selected from those based there (rather than Stockton, home of Fraternity Lodge). University life in the Durham is strongly based around the college system, and one way in which the Lodge aims to both introduce itself, and normalise freemasonry amongst student members, has been through the introductory dinners of the Tristram Club. Bro. Ben Tattersley, Inner Guard, takes up the story...

The 'Tristram Club' was inaugurated on the 28th of November 2011 with a black-tie dinner held in the State Rooms of Durham Castle. The idea behind the Club (named after Henry Tristram, the founding Master of Universities Lodge) was to provide student members of the Lodge with an opportunity to socialise with their Brethren outside of lodge meetings – and to provide an opportunity for their non-Masonic friends to come and experience a taste of "Lodge life".

We have at least one formal dinner annually – normally towards the end of the first term of the academic year, to aid new members of the University in starting their Masonic career. The dinner serves to inform and entertain both prospective and newer brethren alike, providing an opportunity for the prospective brethren to experience dining with a Masonic theme, as the dinners are of a formal nature and not dissimilar to a festive board; and newer brethren with the chance to show their friends what Freemasonry is all about. We are lucky to have



a range of congenial venues to choose from: as well as the Castle, we have dined in Hatfield College; private members' club, and Prior's Hall in Durham Cathedral. Last year the Club held a Pimms and Croquet party in the Fellows' Garden at Durham Castle at the end of the Academic Year as well.

The continuity of the Club inevitably lies in the watchfulness of the longer-term members of the Lodge, but the preference is for students to take the lead in organising its events. It has been very successful, both in promoting a sense of fellowship among the younger members of the Lodge, and in securing candidates for initiation 'with a favourable opinion preconceived'.



Top: Durham University

Above: Bro. Ben Tattersley

Countdown to the Conference

W Bro. Dr. Andy Green, PPrSGD (Leics & Rutland), who is heading up the local organising committee, gives us a glimpse of what is on at this year's conference in Leicester on Saturday November 7th.

Perhaps the biggest difference at Leicester, will be time to confer, chat and exchange views, tips and practicalities with other conference delegates! One of the feedback points from the last conference was the request for more opportunity to network. With that in mind, there will be more time for discussion and interaction. The Conference will this year concentrate on two plenary sessions: one on the key area of talent transfer and the other in giving feedback from the analysis of the data collected in the recent census.

As Universities Scheme Lodges we do have student members that move from their University base once they have graduated. One of the plenary sessions will present 'Moving On' guidance to assist Lodges in their thinking on this process, aiming to ensure the smooth transfer of graduating members to a relevant Lodge in their new locale. The other Plenary session will focus on the results from the first Scheme Census allowing a full insight into the success of the Scheme during the past ten years including total number of Initiates and the associated retention data.

At the end of the conference, our founding President will retire from the role to which he has dedicated himself so tirelessly, and hand over to RW Bro. Sir David Wootton, Assistant Grand Master.

Right: Freemasons' Hall, Leicester



Every Lodge when joining the Scheme undertook to attend the Universities Scheme Conference. There is still time to register. Click [here](#) to do so.

New Scheme Members - Part 1

W Bro. Kenneth Marcus, PJGD, DistGMentor informs us about the latest overseas Scheme Lodge - Universitas Lodge No. 9917...

We in South Africa, Western Division are particularly excited at the establishment of our first Universities Scheme Lodge, Universitas Lodge No. 9917, which was consecrated on Thursday, 27 August 2015. The Universitas Lodge is the 64th lodge to be part of the

Universities Scheme. What made the evening so special was that the Universitas Lodge is the first to be consecrated outside of England and Wales, and thus the first lodge, to be formed within a District specifically for the purpose of becoming part of the Universities Scheme.

Our District Grand Master was keen to see the establishment of such a lodge and co-ordinated efforts by a small group focused on a timeline leading to a proposed consecration in late October. These endeavours included a meeting with the Vice Chancellor of the University of Cape Town, wherein it was determined that male-only entities would not be acceptable on the campus. Valuable advice and support was received from a Scheme Lodge in Johannesburg as well as from the UGLE. The Lodge Steering Committee made steady progress towards an envisaged date in October, including the pivotal decision that a new lodge be formed. This provided a new focus and the necessary decisions were taken.

Out of the blue, an urgent request was received from London, suggesting a consecration date two months earlier than originally envisaged and providing for only six weeks in which to pull everything together, but despite the tight timeable, everything was undertaken in time - eventually! To cap a rather stressful process



Left: The Consecration of Universitas Lodge No. 9917

leading to the consecration, the founders' jewels were delivered to the lodge thirty minutes prior to the start of the consecration ceremony! The Lodge badge (pictured) is synonymous with the Western Cape. The design depicts a representation of Table Mountain, Devil's Peak and Lion's Head, with the Protea, the national flower, endemic to the Cape. The Latin motto 'ERUDITIO ATQUE LUX' means 'LEARNING AND LIGHT'. The centre of the badge shows the three Great though Emblematical Lights in Freemasonry.

The consecration ceremony was carried out by the President of the Universities Scheme, RW Bro. David K Williamson, PAGM and he was supported by the Grand Director of Ceremonies, RW Bro. Oliver Lodge TD PJGW, the Grand Secretary, RW Bro. Nigel Brown PJGW, and VW Bro. James M Long, GSwdB. The District was simply delighted with the presence of the brethren from London who carried out their respective functions with dignity and decorum, assisted by a number of brethren from our District.

Although the Universitas Lodge is centered in Cape Town, there are a further two universities within a relatively short distance from the city. It is hoped that candidates from all three universities will be attracted to the Craft and Universitas Lodge.

The Universitas Lodge meets in the Masonic Centre, Pinelands in Cape Town. Brethren travelling to the Cape are most welcome to join the Lodge for meetings. Its website is www.universitaslodge.org.za and it can be contacted at secretary@universitaslodge.org.za

New Scheme Members - Part 2

The Universities Lodge of Staffordshire No. 9907 was consecrated on 5th September 2015 at Shelton Masonic Hall in Stoke-on-Trent, Staffordshire, writes W Bro. Peter Hughes, PPrJGW (Staffs), organising Secretary and lynchpin of a wide range of brethren that came together to "make it all happen"...

The concept for the Lodge took root in Jasper Lodge No. 3934 in about 2009 when that Lodge was having problems with numbers. It came to my notice that the UGLE Universities Scheme could perhaps, offer a solution. There were after all two Universities within three miles of the Hall where Jasper met, with a joint student population of almost fifty thousand! It soon became clear that taking on Scheme membership would involve changes for an existing lodge which would not sit well with every member and in fact would create many more problems than membership would have solved!

Reluctant to let the concept go however, the idea was revived by Simon Palfreyman, WM of Jasper, and myself. Following 'in principle' discussions with the West Midlands Scheme representative Mark Greenburgh, and with the very active support of the recently appointed Provincial Grand Master of Staffordshire, RW Bro. Dr. I. A. Stewart, a brand new Lodge was determined as the most likely route to success. An appeal for Founders followed and very quickly produced almost thirty from all over the Province (and beyond) including several academics. All shared a common enthusiasm and in particular a clear understanding of the

objects and peculiar problems that the founding of a Scheme Lodge would create.

The Consecrating Officer was RW Bro. David Williamson, PAGM and President of the Universities Scheme assisted by a team from Grand Lodge. The Installing Master was the abovementioned RW Bro. Stewart who installed as the primus Worshipful Master W. Bro David Firth, PPrGSuptWks (Cheshire).

The event was attended by approximately 130 Freemasons and representatives from many other Provinces were among their number. The Consecrating Officer was able to confirm the new Lodge as members of the Universities Scheme and of the Association of Legal University and Medical lodges (AMULL), (see page 5 for more details). The Lodge will serve the Universities of Keele and Staffordshire primarily and has already received application forms from 14 students eager to join following attendance at the Freshers' Fair in mid-September. The first meeting in October will be a triple initiation.

The unique event was made the more memorable by the fact that mid ceremony the organist announced that the organ was on

fire! The crisis was dealt with by a retired fire officer and the Consecrating Officer smoothly continued the ceremony with barely a pause after an "organ transplant" was effected!

The enthusiasm and determination of the organisers and founders and importantly the flexibility of being a new venture have been a major factor in our ability to move from start to consecration in eighteen months! It has also underpinned the winning of the confidence of the students and importantly, the students' union and indeed of the many candidates queuing up to join the new Lodge. It has been a steep learning curve, but with huge support from the Scheme, the Province and from leading members of other Scheme Lodges, it is hoped we have laid solid foundations.

The route we have taken I believe has much to recommend it and I would heartily recommend the same to anyone interested in creating their own scheme lodge in the future as having clear advantages.

Below: The Consecration of Universities Lodge No. 9907



Do You Know amull?

The 15th Annual Festival of AMULL attended by nearly 150 members, friends, family and guests was held on Saturday 12th September in the historic City of Chester. But what is AMULL and what is its connection with the Universities Scheme?

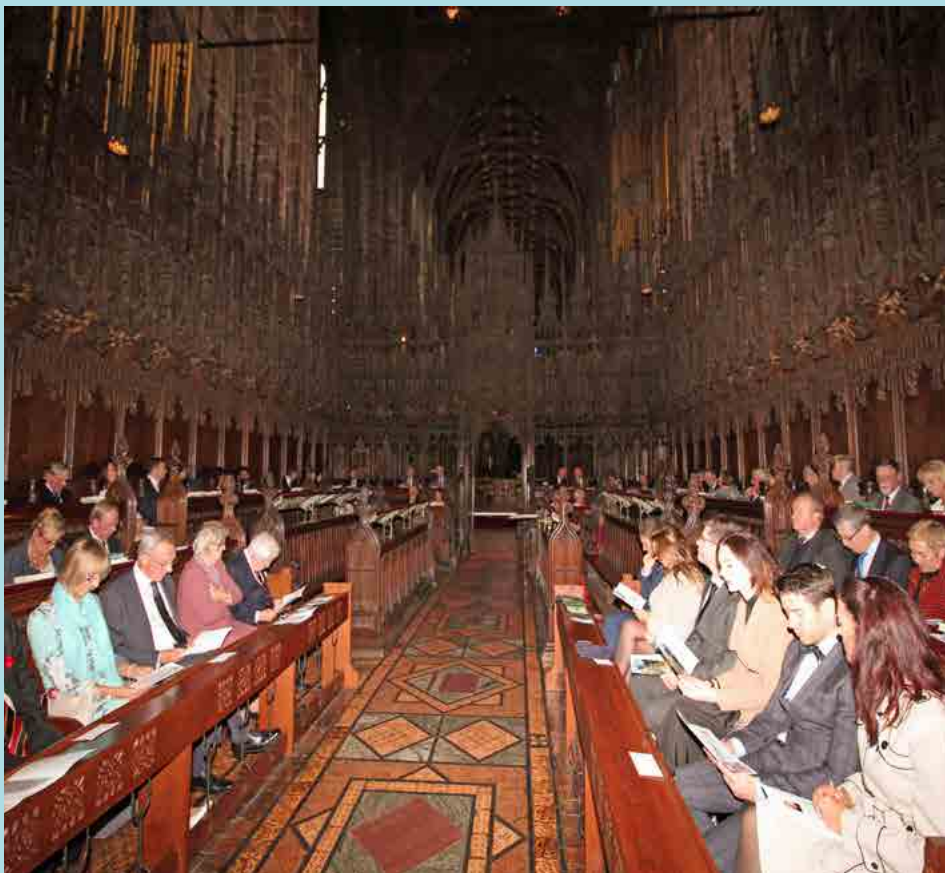
Founded in 1999, AMULL - the Association of Medical, University and Legal Lodges (<http://www.amull.org.uk/>) - is an association of professional and academic lodges. Originally set up on a similar basis to the Oxford and Cambridge Lodges' Council and Public Schools Lodges' Council, AMULL aims to bring together its medical, dental, legal and university lodge members in a special and enjoyable way at an Annual Festival to raise charitable funds for its series of student bursaries.

This Festival is now a firm fixture in the 'off season', summer masonic calendar and involves wives, partners and other non-Masonic guests completely as there is no Masonic ceremony although there is a Masonic theme. The Festival is generally held at a venue which is unusual and not always available to the general public and consists of an inter-faith service, an interesting and entertaining lecture, and a champagne reception followed by a lunch at the venue. A charity is designated by the host lodge and funds collected at the meal for that charity and to boost AMULL's own bursary funds for students in need of financial assistance. The first AMULL Festival was hosted by Rahere Lodge, No. 2546 in 2001.

The host lodge this year was the new [University Lodge of Chester No. 7744](#), whose organising committee, led by the AMULL Secretary, Prof. Mike Jones, had gone to considerable trouble to arrange a full weekend of inter-linked events, based around the abovementioned format. The weekend commenced on the Friday evening when those staying overnight in local hotels met up with some of the host lodge members for an informal 'meet & greet' in the Queen Street Masonic Hall - an absolute gem and well worth a visit just to see the Master and Wardens' Chairs. Saturday morning saw the members and guests assemble in the glorious ambience of Chester Cathedral for the ecumenical service, this year led by the Very Rev'd Gordon McPhate, Dean of Chester assisted by Nigel Pett, one of the current Asst Grand Chaplains. The numbers attending ensured that the Cathedral's quire was full and the service was enhanced by the powerful singing of the nave choir and the playing of the Cathedral's assistant organist, Andrew Wyatt.



Above: Dr Andy Green with new AMULL President, David Williamson



Following the service, the congregation became an audience as it moved from the quire into the Chapter House to be entertained and informed by an excellent and very witty speech from Simon Medland, QC whose lecture, "Chester – Cestrian and the Craft". Then it was off to the Gothic style Town Hall, built in 1869 for the usual drinks reception followed by a sumptuous lunch. For those with the stamina, an evening visit and BBQ at the world famous Chester Zoo concluded the programme.

During the year, AMULL sadly lost its Chairman, John Harvey, who was killed in a motor accident and the AMULL Committee duly approached David Williamson, the Past Assistant Grand Master and President of the Universities Scheme who accepted their invitation to become AMULL's new President and he and his wife Margaret attended. The toast to AMULL was given by the University Lodge of Chester Master, Prof Jim Middleton, with the response given by the new AMULL President.

In his speech, David underlined the basic aims of AMULL and its charitable backbone activity. He went on to present a bursary from the AMULL Charity to Dr. Andy Green of the [Wyggeston Lodge No. 3448](#), an associate member of AMULL, in favour of one of their members, Michael Perrin. Michael, a postgraduate student at Oxford University, had had his studies disrupted by cancer and having now fully recovered, was in need of extra funding in order to resume his studies, which the AMULL Charity had been pleased to generously support.



Top: Ecumenical service, Chester Cathedral

Above: AMULL members and guests

Predating the Scheme as it does, several of the Universities Scheme Lodges have been members of AMULL since its earliest days, but there is no reason why a further fraternal approach could not be beneficial for those Lodges that would be interested in joining AMULL and participating in the camaraderie and enjoyment of its Festival, particularly as you will already know its President!

Those interested should contact Mike Jones at mikejones42@btinternet.com. It was announced that in 2016 the AMULL festival would return to London and would be hosted by the Western Circuit Lodge No. 3154. Perhaps you will be there to see it first hand?



Above: The Consecration of Universities Lodge No. 9907

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.com

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The David Williamson Loving Cup

Brethren may wish to know that the eponymous 'travelling' Loving Cup and its associated protocols and practices will be explained at the Scheme Conference in Leicester when it will be presented to the Scheme by its donor.

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 with examples of your work.


Will you be bidding to be amongst the first to use it?



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