



THE TEMPLE TIMES

Freemasonry In The Community

Spring Edition 2005



CHAIRMAN'S COLUMN

By W.Bro John Bermon

Welcome to the spring addition of the Temple Times. We are distributing this issue by post to all members so that you may be updated during the summer shutdown as I am aware some lodges have already had their last meeting of the current Masonic season.

The obvious big news is that the move of premises is to proceed. At the Extraordinary General Meeting held on 17th February last 75% of the temple representatives voted in favour of the move and in the poll conducted by province 77% voted in favour, 62% of the voting cards issued were returned.

Conditional contracts have been exchanged and it is hoped that the purchasers planning permission will not be unduly delayed.

I am indebted to all members of the Board for their support during the last few months in particular W.Bros Ray Clare and Dave Spring for their work in acquiring the property. W.Bro Jeremy Davenport for his legal expertise and W.Bro Dennis Baum for his agreement to head our appeal for funds. Separate reports on the property and the appeal appear in this edition.

We will continue to operate as Southend Masonic Centre Ltd but a different name will be used for the banqueting. Ideas please to the General Manager.

I do hope that all brethren will support the move even if they were not in favour. Our aim is to provide you with a superb new Masonic venue. I must stress that there will be no increase in prices at the Centre apart from the inflationary increase of 5% on food and beverage items which was announced at the Annual General Meeting. I would however draw your attention to a £8.90 increase in Grand Lodge Fees.

Our new Head Chef Nick Grist commenced at the beginning of February and has settled in well. My thanks to Greg for doubling as General Manager and Chef during January. New menus for 2005/6 will be issued shortly and some new and interesting dishes will be available.

Finally brethren I hope you all enjoy your summer break.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR APMG

By W.Bro Gordon Sanders

For some considerable time the Board and I myself have been concerned about the long term future of Woodgrange Drive.

As you know the Province were concerned that every member be given an opportunity to express their view to vote accordingly. That vote and the votes of the Lodge Representatives were overwhelming.

I am now satisfied that we have taken all the necessary steps to obtain the support of a large majority of members. Whatever our views in the past, for this venture to be a success we must now give our full support to make this what I believe, will be the premier centre in Essex - with 100% effort from all concerned.

SOUTHEND'S NEW WEBSITE

By Bro Greg Bermon

I have great pleasure in announcing that the new website for Southend Masonic Centre is now live. The website allows brethren clear and easy on-line access to a variety of useful information. News and events are updated weekly and all brethren are able to put details on the website via the office. We are also able to put links to other lodge websites and visa versa. By signing up to our on-line newsletter we can keep you up to date with all temple activities at the touch of a button. Log on @:

www.southendmasonic.co.uk

SOUTHEND'S NEW MASONIC CENTRE

By W.Bros Ray Clare & Dave Spring

The current position on the new premises is that our Architect is finalising the internal designs, and tenders are being invited for the building work. All being well the build programme will commence early June 2005. This will allow occupation of our new building for a grand opening ball on New Years Eve 2005.

The logistics of a complex move like this, where the Temple's core business will need to continue with as little possible disruption to brethren is paramount in our thoughts.

Our original plan gave us a 10 week window during the summer shutdown in which to move all the parts of our present home that we are going to take with us to the new centre. Unfortunately due to numerous reasons we were unable to stick to this timeframe, with the next available window being the end of the year. This gives a 3 week period with Christmas and the New Year in the middle to achieve the same goal.

At the Secretaries meeting in September we will be able to give a clear update of the timetable for the move as the building work will then be at the halfway stage.

PRECISE PLANNING IS THE KEY AND WE NEED YOUR HELP

We will give plenty of notice and we will move your belongings with great care but you will appreciate that it will be impractical for the Temple to pack for 98 organisations. (If you have ever moved home! ?)

Your Lodge, Chapter, or additional order can assist us by reducing the amount of stored equipment held at the Temple, delicate items, things that can get broken when moved. Over the next 9 months these should be taken and stored somewhere else; you will have plenty of space at the new Centre but the less we need to move at Christmas the better. At the appropriate time later in the year we would ask brethren to have your Boxes/Lockers/Cupboards emptied, packed and ready to go. We will also be asking you to sign for and remove belongings from the display cases, and then keep secure until we have suitable accommodation for them.

We look forward to having progress tours (by appointment only) of our New Home, these will be advertised and booked through the Office.

BRETHREN PLEASE NOTE THAT THE NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR THE OFFICE IS office@southendmasonic.co.uk

NEW PREMISES APPEAL

By W.Bro Dennis Baum

We now have a committee for the New Premises Appeal which comprises David Badger; Emlyn Carter; Chas Elliott; Colin Felton; Matt Harper-Ward; Frank James; Tony Lister; John Murray; Barry Stedman and Maurice Webb. Our purpose and responsibility is to raise between £250K - £500K in order to reduce the borrowing requirements for the new Centre.

We have decided not to actively target individual members but to organise large-scale fund raising activities which we hope that members will support. Examples of what is already in hand are listed below:

- Individual and / or Lodge donations will be gratefully received at any time and can be made as single payments or by monthly standing order – please use the enclosed form NOW so that all donations can be recorded and ultimately allocated to the appropriate permanent records and honorifics.
- There will be a Grand Opening – New Year's Eve Ball – Saturday 31st December 2005 – For obvious reasons we don't wish to start selling tables/taking money until after we have completed the purchase in June. There will be a live band. We anticipate the tickets will be in the region of £50 per head. Details will be available from the Temple Office in due course.
- A Tombola is being organised by Emlyn Carter and any prizes that you can collect/donate would be very much appreciated and should be left at The Temple Office.
- A Commemorative / Souvenir Brochure(s) will be arranged and collated by Dennis Baum and David Badger. The brochure will be repeated for the dedication ceremony and annually at the New Year's Eve Balls. **ANY SUGGESTIONS OF INFLUENTIAL CONTACTS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.** This brochure will be targeted at Lodges – 5 pages; Chapters 3 pages; Marks 2 pages and all other units 1 page each. A cost of £500 per page / advert, with 200 pages is under consideration.
- Consecration / Dedication Ceremony – 2006. – Barry Stedman will be compiling a “*History Of Freemasonry in Southend*” together with a DVD of the existing Centre which will include the move to the new premises. Barry would appreciate copies of any Lodge / Chapter histories which contain items of historical note that could be included.
- Monthly Sweepstake (500 club). – Ticket price of £10 per month, payable annually in full, or by standing order. £7,950 will be distributed annually in prizes. Tony Lister and Frank James are organising this and can be contacted for tickets or alternatively please complete the enclosed form.
- Commemorative Plaques. – Maurice Webb and John Murray will be organising this part of the Appeal. Target audience = Individual Units (lodges, chapters, etc..) – More information to follow in due course.
- Sponsored Walk. – Colin Felton and Matt Harper-Ward will be organising this for June 2006.
- A Golf Day – being arranged by Frank James.

Any offers of assistance will be greatly appreciated and should be directed to any member of the Board, Appeals Committee, or direct to me.

I hope that you will appreciate that the Committee have not been idle and will be working hard to secure our future in the New Centre and I sincerely hope that you will support the activities that are being arranged for the benefit of current freemasons and generations to come.

Yours sincerely and fraternally

Dennis Baum—Appeal Committee Chairman

12 Marine Avenue, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex. SS9 2JE.
Tel: 01702 470644 (home) 07860 653877 mobile. dbaumfam@aol.com

ROCHFORD v SOUTHEND CRICKET MATCH

The Annual Rochford Vs Southend Masonic Centres cricket match is this year being held on Sunday 26th June, 12 Noon, at the Rankins Ground, Stambridge.

There will be a licensed bar, barbeque, raffle & prizes and a bouncy castle for the kids. Family & friends are welcome. If you would like to play in the match or know someone who would like to play, umpire, keep score or participate in any way we want to hear from you. Contact Trevor Darby on 01702 529398 or 07787 354366 or tdarbysmp@aol.com

BOOKEEPER REQUIRED

The Centre is looking to employ a part time book keeper in the office. Candidates need a strong finance background, capable of taking figures to trial balance, and a full understanding of the Sage Accounting system. All candidates irrespective of gender, age or Masonic affiliation would be welcome to apply for the position. Applications to the General Manager.

ACCOUNTANT? SPARE TIME? WANT TO HELP YOUR CENTRE?

Please contact Trevor Darby On 01702 529398 or 07787 354366 or e-mail on tdarbysmp@aol.com.

ORANGEAID WEEKEND

The ORANGEAID appeal is being organised by the Essex Provincial Stewards Lodge to raise funds to purchase a new 'D' Class inflatable inshore Lifeboat for the R.N.L.I. The current Master W.Bro Chris Williams set a target of £25,000 to be raised.

At 26 different Masonic locations in Essex over the weekend of 3rd-5th of June 2005 there will be fund raising events taking place as part of Essex Freemasonry's continuous commitment to the community. The Southend Centre has joined with Rochford to organise a 24 hour sponsored walk between the two centres on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th June. If you, your family or friends are able to take part, or simply wish to make a donation please contact Richard Jordon 01702 580192 or Emlyn Carter 01702 304913.

ANNUAL JUNIOR SOCCER TOURNAMENT

The 4th annual Southend Masonic Junior Soccer Tournament is being held on Sunday 28th August 2005, from 10am-5pm, at Southend Borough Football Combination Ground (Eastwoodbury Lane, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex).

This event is packed with fun activities, side stalls, a licensed bar, BBQ, ice creams & hot/cold refreshments. This is great family day out and with over 300 children taking part in the competition Contact Tony Quatrill on spectre@the38.fsnet.co.uk or 07970 923673 for more information. Sponsorship monies should be sent to Tony at 38 Bellhouse Crescent, Leigh on Sea, SS9 4PT