



Powney Lodge No. 3099



Powney Lodge is named after its controversial first Master W. Bro. Lt. Col. Cecil Du Pre Penton Powney of Brambridge Park, Eastleigh, who joined New Forest Lodge No. 319 from St Hubert Lodge No. 1373 on 12 January 1904. Three months later, he modestly presented New Forest Lodge with a framed photograph of himself! Just seven months after joining that lodge, the brethren elected him Worshipful Master by 55 votes to 39, in preference to the Senior Warden. At the following meeting, 42 votes to 28 votes confirmed the Minutes of this election and W. Bro. C. P. Powney was duly installed as Master of New Forest Lodge on 13 September 1904.

On Thursday, 11 May 1905 by dispensation granted by the Provincial Grand Master allowing the installation of W. Bro. Cecil Powney, Worshipful Master of New Forest Lodge No. 319 as First Master of Powney Lodge, thus becoming Worshipful Master of New Forest Lodge's third 'daughter' lodge. Also by dispensation, the brethren attended a service at St Thomas Parish Church in Masonic regalia before the consecration in 'The Literary Institute' in New Street; this was also by dispensation due to a lack of space at the Masonic Hall in Ashley Lane. Bro. The Revd Canon Benjamin Maturin, Past Provincial Grand Chaplin a member of New Forest Lodge conducted the Church Service. He later became a joining member of Powney Lodge. He was incumbent of St Thomas' Church, Lymington for over fifty years. The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Sir Augustus Webster conducted the consecration.

It was surprising given the controversy surrounding the recent events in New Forest Lodge that most of the Founders and first joining members were from that lodge, in fact, forty-three of the original fifty-two. The Founders were:

Lt. Col. Cecil Du Pre Powney	PPSGW and WM of New Forest Lodge
William Henry St Clair Johnson	IG of New Forest Lodge
Stephen Hayward	Steward of New Forest Lodge
Edward Abraham Gibbs Stone	IPM of New Forest Lodge
Francis Hill Parr	Organist of New Forest Lodge

Hamilton Henry Montague Dent SW of New Forest Lodge

Herman Barker Hahlo of New Forest Lodge

Col. Barkley Cairns McCalmont *CB* no lodge number given.

John Selley IG of Lodge 2208 and New Forest Lodge.

William Alexander Robertson Steward of New Forest Lodge.

Col. William Watts *CB* PPSGW of Dorset.



Mrs St Clair Johnston made the first 'Lodge Banner' bearing the crest of Colonel Powney, which the Founding Senior Warden Bro. St Clair Johnston presented to the lodge on 16 May 1906.

Other Founding gifts include:

A handsomely framed photograph of the Founders given by the Worshipful Master — This photo was taken outside the home of W. Bro. E. A. G. Stone, 'Poplars' in New Street. It now hangs in the members robing room at the Masonic Hall.

Bro. Herman Barker Hahlo gave the lodge three handsomely Illuminated Tracing Boards.

Bro. Col. Barkley Cairns McCalmont donated a complete set of Working Tools in a box.

Bro. Hamilton Henry Montague Dent gave a set of three gavels.

Bro. S. G. House presented a Volume of the Sacred Law with cushion.

These items are still in regular use by the lodge.

W. Bro. Powney remained a member of the lodge until his death on 18 April 1936.

A curious minute records a Lodge of Emergency on 17 January 1906 "to Ballot for and if elected to initiate the Rt. Hon. Shelley Leopold, Baron Abingor, of Boscombe House, Bournemouth." The ballot was "left in the hands of the Master, W. Bro. Col. Powney, who declared Lord Abingor "unanimously elected!" The passing to the second degree of Bro. Baron Abingor took place in February and his raising on 21 March. He was apparently eager to make progress in order to take office in a new lodge where he was to be a founder. There is no record of his attendance at Powney Lodge after this!



This particular procedure and other matters did not go unnoticed. Because on 25 July 1906 the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, Sir Augustus Webster examined the Minute Book in open Provincial Grand Lodge and made the following comments:

“There are various irregularities shown in the foregoing Minutes regarding the admission of Candidates and joining members. In the starting of a new lodge, these may have been, to some extent, unavoidable, but in the future, the Rules of the Book of Constitution, covering these and other matters must be strictly adhered to.” — **Fair warning indeed.**

In 1907 the then Worshipful Master W. Bro. S. Hayward was elected Mayor of Lymington. Also, in that year, an invitation was sent to the Provincial Grand Lodge to host the 1908 Provincial Grand Lodge in Lymington in conjunction with New Forest Lodge and New Forest Chapter. The invitation was accepted, and the meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge convened in Lymington in July 1908.

In 1908, with a general accord for the building of a new Masonic Hall in Lymington, an agreement to start a fund for placing three-fifths of all future initiation fees on deposit was given the go ahead. Unfortunately, the First World War delayed this dream, and it was not until 1927 that the vision came to fruition. (See more information below). That year members saw an increase in their annual subscription to 10 shillings and sixpence (52½p), which included the provision of four banquets.

In 1909, the lodge's finances were somewhat stretched so a request from Provincial Grand Lodge for a donation towards the Grand Lodge New Building Fund could not be considered. In fact, with only £4-£5 in the bank at the end of the year, the lodge asked for a reduction in rent from £10 to £8, which was granted the following year.

No installation banquet took place on 25 May 1910 in respect of the death of King Edward VII. The Worshipful Master gave the money he had put aside for the installation to the Royal Masonic Institute for Boys.

In 1912, the lodge 'Poor Box' Account stood at £2. 2s. 4d (£2. 11½ p) and members agreed that this balance together with the days' poor box collection is given for the relief of suffering caused by the 'Titanic' disaster. Many families in Southampton were severely affected by this tragedy as many of the crew who were lost came from that town.

Following his initiation Bro. Col. Stacpoole *CVO CMG* presented to the lodge a gavel made from stone quarried from King Solomon's Mines in Palestine together with a stone from the same quarries engraved with a Square and Compasses. These are still in possession of the lodge.

1913 – Saw the laying of the foundation stone of the Lymington Cottage Hospital. Sadly, the Provincial Grand Master refused an application to allow the members to attend the ceremony in Masonic regalia. However, a donation of five guineas was sent to the hospital fund. (Note: *The foundation stone is preserved and is positioned in the garden of the new Lymington Hospital built on the site of the Wellworthy Ampress Works, which form part of the business empire of W. Bro. John Howlett of whom more later*).

In spite of the failure of their application to Provincial Office concerning the hospital, the lodge agreed to send the 1s. 2d (58p) requested to clear the debt on the furnishing of the new Provincial Office in Portsmouth.

1914 – Saw Powney Lodge member W. Bro. The Hon. Archibald Dudley Ryder appointed Senior Grand Warden of the United Grand Lodge of England.

This period of the First World War as for many lodges saw great sadness and bravery relieved by occasional high points. Here are some Minute Book entries made during that period:

Two weeks after the outbreak of war, the lodge sent hearty good wishes to Bros T. W. Pelfrey and S. D. Hewitt, who were on active service with the British Army and to Bro. A. L. Gachet, who was serving with the French Army.

On 19 May 1915, the Worshipful Master W. Bro. H. Woods made a very feeling reference to the sad loss sustained by the sudden death of Bro. T. W. Palfrey from cholera. Although on Active Service with the 7th Battalion of the Hampshire Regiment in India, he had been appointed Junior Warden. He left a widow and seven young children. The lodge immediately petitioned the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys and Girls on behalf of the three eligible children.

The brethren agreed to use £200 from the Lodge Building Fund to buy 4.5% War Loan.

In 1916, the brethren temporarily appointed two members as Lodge Wardens to cover for those on military duty until their return.

New Zealand and Canadian service personnel stationed at Brockenhurst, who attended the lodge, were invited to become honorary members for the duration of their stay.

Congratulations were extended to W. Bro. E. A. G. Stone, the Founder Immediate Past Master, on his election as Mayor of Lymington— an Office he was to serve on several further occasions.

In 1918, Grand Lodge asked brethren for strict economy in the consumption of food because of the scarcity through the war. It also made an appeal for donations to the Grand Lodge Fund for sending food parcels to English Freemasons who are prisoners of war in Germany. A contribution of two guineas was agreed, and a collection by the brethren provided tobacco for lodge members serving with colours abroad.

Lieut. A. B. Sammons, Officer Commanding, 177 Wing, Royal Flying Corp, American Division at Beaulieu was proposed for membership of the lodge. The Grand Lodge would not agree to his initiation without a waiver of jurisdiction from the Grand Lodge in America where he was normally resident.

With the end of World War One, the lodge was still meeting in Ashley Lane but started to look forward again and in 1924 passed a notice of motion given by W. Bro. E. A. G. Stone "*That time is now ripe for the building of a new Masonic Hall.*" These notions for a new hall was something of a false start as in 1924 there was still uncertainty among members.

In fact, of the 200 eligible members of New Forest and Powney Lodges combined only 26 voted in favour with 19 against the purchase of 10 High Street, Lymington. However, by 1925 both the lodges had voted in favour of the acquisition.

Since the formation of Powney Lodge, it had met each month of the year except for June, but in 1924, Byelaw No. 1 was amended removing the July, August, and December meetings. The situation remains to this day.

In April 1930, a letter from the Mayor of Lymington was read out inviting members of the lodge to attend a presentation to Alderman Stone one of the lodge founders, giving him the Freedom of the Borough of Lymington. He was Mayor for three periods between 1917 and 1933.

1935 proved a significant year for the lodge and Freemasonry in general. There was an official visit on 20 February when, accompanied by Officers of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge, the Rt. Hon. Bro. The Earl of Courtown *OBE*, Senior Grand Warden (England) attended the lodge. This visit was at the request of the Rt. Hon. Provincial Grand Master Hubert G. Giles, who was unable to attend. The Worshipful Master vacated the chair for the Senior Grand Warden, who delivered the Traditional History and presented the Working Tools. The Worshipful Master resumed the chair and completed the ceremony.

On September 18 a letter dated 8 July was received from the Grand Secretary. It was communicating the death of the Lord Amptill *CGSI GCIE* the Most Worshipful Grand Master and informing all lodges to enter into six months of Masonic mourning. Moreover, the letter requested that brethren should wear three rosettes of black crepe on badges and chain or collar.

On September 26, a communiqué was received from the Most Worshipful Grand Master, HRH The Duke of Connaught and Strathearn *KG* informing brethren of the death of Lord Cornwallis *CBE*, Rt. W. Deputy Grand Master and that there would be a further six-month period of Masonic mourning.

At the 1936 installation meeting on 20 May the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. C. O. Vicary notified the brethren of the death of W. Bro. Cecil Powney, founder and first Master of the lodge — a letter from his daughter was read thanking brethren for their messages. The lodge stood in silence as a token of respect to departed merit. At the meeting on 17 February 1937, brethren agreed to obtain a suitable case to hold the Jewels of the late W. Bro. Col. Cecil Powney. The Jewels are still on display in the lodge during our meetings to this day.

At the first lodge meeting of 1939, the quarterly communication of Grand Lodge referred to the resignation of the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Connaught and nomination of HRH Duke of Kent as Grand Master.

The period of the Second World War again proved that despite a desire for normal life to continue, all aspects of life were subject to sudden disruption. Here are some Minute Book entries from that six-year period.

The first communication from The United Grand Lodge of England in September 1939 signed by Sydney A White, Grand Secretary stated:

“Having regard to the emergency order of HM Government, I am to inform you that until further notice all Masonic meetings are to be suspended. It is hoped that this may only be a temporary measure as it is fully appreciated that it is desirable that when possible the brethren should have the opportunity of meeting.”

In response to the communication, the Secretary E. C. Elliott, Past Master of Powney Lodge curtly wrote to its members: *“The regular meeting of the Lodge has been postponed until further notice.”*

1940 – Saw the reporting of the death of one of the lodge founders, W. Bro. E. A. G. Stone on 17 January.

In September, members were informed that the nearest air raid shelter was in Grove Gardens and an appeal from the Mayor for subscriptions to the Spitfire Fund of Lymington Borough Council was received. The Grand Lodge communication referred to melting down Masonic Jewels for national purposes, and the Provincial Grand Master requested ‘Lodge Warrants’ be sent to Provincial for safe storage. It transpired that the collection of lodge warrants was sent for storage in the Cheddar Caves. However, on opening the parcel on their return after the war, damp storage conditions had ruined the documents. Fortunately, for Powney Lodge the Secretary W. Bro. T Elliot had a precautionary copy made and mistakenly sent the copy for ‘safe keeping’! Therefore, Powney Lodge still has its original 1905 warrant in perfect condition.

Due to several brethren being away on government business, parts of lodge meetings and ceremonies were cancelled.

1941 – The Grand Lodge Communication included items regarding lodge meetings during an air raid, donations to the Spitfire Fund and brethren in distress through the aerial attacks, and somewhat disturbingly about ‘Masonic Imposters’. Furthermore, the lodge sent two guineas to Provincial Grand Lodge to help replace regalia destroyed by enemy action,

At the November meeting, the Worshipful Master vacated his chair to allow the W. Bro. E. Knight (Past Master of New Forest Lodge) to initiate his son.

1942 – The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Earl of Malmesbury sent a message to all members concerning the war, which was printed on the back of the January summons. The November meeting opened at 3.40 pm there then followed two third degrees and one initiation. The meeting closed at 7 pm.

1944 – Mr Edward Ralph Blachford was initiated at the April meeting. Ted went on to become one of the most respected members of the lodge serving in many offices, notably as Director of Ceremonies and as a Trustee of the Masonic Hall. W. Bro. Ted was subsequently appointed a Past Grand Standard Bearer of the United Grand Lodge of England.

That same year another active member Bro. Arthur Stevens was installed as Worshipful Master. He was initiated in 1931 and was a link back to our Founding Master W. Bro. Col. Powney having been a member when Colonel Powney attended the lodge. Arthur was very active in the lodge and was instrumental in the Founding of Brockenhurst Lodge No. 7040 and Lyndhurst Lodge No. 8012. He remained a member of Powney Lodge for more than 60 years.

1945 – The lodge petitioned for the founding of Test Valley Lodge, No. 6181 to meet at Totton. The Founders fee was ten guineas.

1946 – At the installation meeting in May, the brethren were informed the loan on the Masonic Hall was all paid up. The total cost of the land, building and furnishings was £6487.

At the November meeting, brethren were asked to supply particulars of their war service and decorations by the time of the next meeting. The information was for inclusion in the lodge records and the records of Grand Lodge and Provincial Grand Lodge. However, there is no mention of this in the Minutes of the following meeting!

1950 – The lodge petitioned for the formation of Brockenhurst Lodge No. 7040, our second ‘daughter’ lodge.

1952 – Saw W. Bro. John Beagley elected Mayor of Lymington. He had been Worshipful Master in 1934. He was a partner in the Lymington Slipway and Engineering Co. which operated on a site adjacent to Bridge Road. The company was involved in yacht building and marine engineering, supplying the Navy with many Craft during the Second World War. Following retirement, he was deeply involved in the establishment of the Lymington Community Centre.

1954 – Members received an invitation from the founders of Eling Manor Lodge No. 7337 to attend the consecration of the new lodge at Lymington Masonic Hall on 6 April.

1955 – Saw the 50th Anniversary of the lodge with the Provincial Grand Master R.W. Attenborough attending. The Worshipful Master W. Bro. H. B. Longman drew the members’ attention to the lodge banner, expertly restored by Mrs Walton, wife of the Senior Warden. Interestingly and coincidentally, the wife of the Founding Senior Warden made the banner originally.

W. Bro. John Howlett *OBE* was congratulated on his being granted the Freedom of the Borough of Lymington. The lodge passed a resolution conferring honorary membership of the serving Worshipful Masters of New Forest and Brockenhurst Lodges, if not already a subscribing member. A letter from New Forest Lodge reciprocating that action was received. It stated that a motion gained the approval of members in open lodge for the Master of Powney Lodge to become an honorary member of New Forest Lodge if not already a subscribing member.

1959 – W. Bro. Syd Lawrence having made a considerable and lasting effect on the youth of Lymington was congratulated on his *MBE*. He was Master of the Lodge in 1949 and was probably the town’s first Probation Officer. He went on to found the ‘Lawrence Boys Boxing Club’, which has continued to flourish and produce excellent boxers for more than eighty years in Lymington. Many men have cause to be thankful for his good influence in their youthful and formative years.

The Trustees of the Masonic Hall were authorised to take steps to acquire land adjoining the Masonic Hall behind 11 High Street, Lymington.

1964 – Members of Powney Lodge agreed to support the petition by New Forest Lodge for a warrant to form a new lodge to be named ‘Lymington Lodge’.

1965 – The lodge was informed of the death of the Worshipful Master W. Bro. J. S. Hancock, who had died three weeks before he was due to install his successor, Bro. P. F. Finch.

1968 – Saw a changing of the guard between two prominent stalwarts of the lodge when Bro. L. M. Enticott retired as Lodge Secretary after fourteen years, to be succeeded by W. Bro. Charles Lowings, who was to occupy that Office for more than 20 years—Charles Lowings was Deputy Town Clerk, and Leslie Enticott was Borough Treasurer. They were both highly respected in the town for the devotion they showed to the well running of the Borough of Lymington.

1969 – Saw the retirement of another stalwart of the lodge when W. Bro. John Spracklen retired as Director of Ceremonies after serving in that office for over twenty-five years

1973 – Saw the election of W. Bro. Peter Fenwick as Lodge Treasurer a position he was to hold for over thirty years. Peter worked as a deputy to Leslie Enticott in the Borough Treasurers Department. For many years, Leslie Enticott was Secretary to the Masonic Hall Trustees. Peter would relate, that when a junior clerk, being sent across the High Street from the Town Hall (then situated on the High Street) to pay the hall caretaker his weekly wages. Peter, ended up as Senior Accountant for the New Forest District Council with the responsibility for preparing the Council's budget, which he did for over thirty years.

1980 – On 20 February, the lodge learned with much regret that the Worshipful Master W. Bro. Frank King had died since the previous meeting. His sons: Brothers Rodney and Martin King, both members of the lodge subsequently presented a Working Tools Chest in his memory. Another generation of the King family became a member in January 2011 with the initiation of W. Bro. Rodney's son, Johnny.

W. Bro. Robin J. McGarel-Groves *OBE* PDepGSwdBr was initiated in Athlumney Lodge in March 1944. At that time, London was being bombarded with V1 and V2 rockets. He remembers the critical moment of his initiation, when asked what his predominant wish was, a bomb dropped nearby, and all the lights went out!

Following his illustrious military career in the Royal Marines, he retired as a Brigadier. During, his time in the Royal Marines he served in many theatres of war including the D-Day landings and the Arctic Convoys. For the latter, he eventually received the prestigious Ushakoff Medal from President Putin. W. Bro. Robin recalls being part of the liberating forces in Hong Kong where he was put in charge of barracks built for 700 men. Within two days, the barracks became home to more than 16,000 Japanese, Korean and Formosan military and civilians awaiting repatriation. He decided to form a committee of the captive Military Officers and get them to organise themselves! He was keen to ensure that prisoners in his care were properly treated in complete contrast to British prisoners of the Japanese. Furthermore, he recorded the calorific value of every meal the prisoners received, which proved useful when a Formosan Major General accused him of starving the prisoners. He rounded up many of the broken-down vehicles and got the Japanese to repair them creating the first post-World War 2 bus service in Hong Kong. Amongst the haul of

confiscated weapons, he found sacks of Japanese Yen, which he deposited with HSBC Bank for safekeeping, later discovering that there were over 20 million Yen.

W. Bro. Robin also had a very illustrious Masonic career. He moved back to the Lymington area with his family where he had the choice of any number of lodges. So it was a great honour and privilege when he selected Powney Lodge, which he joined on 19 March 1980, the lodge's 75th Anniversary.

He attained high Grand Rank in both the Craft and Royal Arch and was a member of Athlumney Mark Lodge becoming Grand Sword Bearer to the Grand Master, Lord Harris. He was a founding member of Athlumney Royal Ark Mariner Lodge, and a member of Faith and Fidelity Preceptory of Knights Templar styled the Early Grand Encampment of England. The Preceptory had had Edward the Seventh when he was Prince of Wales as their Eminent Preceptor. He became a member of Athlumney Rose Croix Chapter and was its Recorder for nearly twenty years and become an Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies to the Supreme Council of the order.

He was later to become Inspector General for the District of Hampshire Dorset and the Isle of Wight and also an Assistant Provincial Master in the Craft Province of Hampshire and Isle of Wight. He served for six years in that office. About a year later, he accepted an invitation to join the Supreme Council of Rose Croix in which he served for six years and later made an honorary member.

1980 – The lodge celebrated its 75th Anniversary.

1982 – Saw the retirement of W. Bro. E. R. (Ted) Blachford after ten years as Director of Ceremonies. W. Bro. P. E. (Phil) Finch also retired after fifteen years as Chaplain. In September W. Bro. Fred Webb, a former Treasurer, celebrated fifty years membership of the lodge.

On 19 October 1983 the Pro-Grand Master Most Worshipful Brother, The Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis *OBE DL* visited the lodge in a semi-official capacity as a guest of W. Bro. Robin McGarel-Groves. They had been friends from boyhood. The Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, the Very Worshipful Bro. J. L. L Seville accompanied the Pro-Grand Master. Also, present were the Deputy Provincial Grand Master the Very Worshipful Bro. Surgeon Captain G. S. Irvine and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. A. J. Phillips; the Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro. J. Baker and the lodges' own two Grand Officers and ten other Grand Officers. The Worshipful Master J. M. Barrett presided and initiated Mr Gordon Burgess. W. Bro. John Toombs presented the Working Tools and W. Bro. Ted Blachford delivered the 'Charge after Initiation'. The Pro-Grand Master presented Bro. J. S. Clay with his Grand Lodge Certificate. As you can imagine, it was a splendid and memorable evening. After the ceremony, W. Bro. McGarel-Groves took the trouble to introduce the Pro-Grand Master to every member of the lodge individually.

1985 – On 16 January, the Provincial Grand Master The Right Worshipful Bro. Thomas Langton, supported by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and three Assistant Provincial Grand Masters, invested W. Bro. R. J. McGarel-Groves as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master. It is customary for such investitures to occur at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held at the Guildhall, Southampton. It was a mark of the man that W.

Bro. Robin chose his investiture to be in his own lodge thereby enabling all the members of Powney Lodge to share in the experience.

Later, as the company emerged from the Masonic Hall, a blanket eight inches of snow covered the ground. The Provincial Grand Master under the protection of the Provincial Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. R. K. Mills-Goodlet managed to catch the last ferry to the Isle of Wight. Somewhat in vain, they only made it to Newport where they spent the night in the office of their other travelling companion the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. Baker. The Deputy Provincial Grand Master the Very Worshipful Bro. Surgeon Captain G. S. Irvine fared less well when he came across a signpost marked 'New Milton' clearly not on course for his home port of Gosport!

1989 – This year recorded the sad loss of W. Bro. Charles Lowings PPGReg, who had served the Lodge as Secretary, for over two decades. W. Bro. E. H. (Ted) Nineham replaced him as Secretary. The lodge received a letter from W. Bro. Harold Clipstone PGStB, who in his 90th year wished to be relieved of his duties as Visiting Grand Lodge Officer to Powney Lodge. Harold had been a superb VGO offering his support and vast experience to the Lodge over many years.

At the meeting on 18 October, the lodge resolved to contribute £200 towards the Lymington Parish Church Cupola restoration fund.

1991- The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. A. K. (Tony) Barnes reported the passing of the Grand Lodge above of W. Bro. F. G. Hayward PJGD. W. Bro. R. J. McGarel-Groves paid tribute to W. Bro. Hayward's outstanding work in the Province and in the manner with which he had performed his duties.

There was an official visit on May 15 by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. R. K. Mills-Goodlet PSGD, accompanied by many Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master accepted the invitation of the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Tony Barnes to occupy the chair. He then took item seven on the agenda to present a Provincial Grand Lodge Certificate to W. Bro. A. J. (Arthur) Stevens PPJGW. The Secretary read a commendation giving details of W. Bro. Arthur's Masonic career during sixty years as a member of the Craft and Powney Lodge. A special mention was made of his efforts in forming Brockenhurst and Lyndhurst Lodges and of his involvement in the New Forest Mark Lodge. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master in presenting the certificate to mark his sixty years' service thanked W. Bro. Arthur for his endeavours and hard work he had put into Masonry during this period. W. Bro. Arthur expressed his thanks for the presentation and his regret that despite such long service to Masonry he had never received Grand Rank, which rather surprised the Assistant Provincial Grand Master! The Worshipful Master then rose and formally congratulated W. Bro. Arthur on his election as honorary member of Powney Lodge to mark their appreciation of his service to the lodge.

1992 – The lodge received a letter from W. Bro. B. S. (Ben) Baker, the Mayor of Lymington expressing his thanks to the Worshipful Master and Brethren of Powney Lodge for their donations towards his Christmas appeal in aid of local charitable causes.

18 November, saw the election of W. Bro. H. E. (Ben) Longman PAGDC as an honorary member marking the lodge's appreciation for his services to the lodge, including

Masonic Mentor to all new members for many years. The next regular meeting of the lodge, (January 1993) would mark fifty years since W. Bro. Ben's initiation.

At the installation meeting in 1993, the delightful presence of W. Bro. Harold Clipstone on his 93rd birthday was marked by the presentation by the Worshipful Master of a bottle of sherry and bunch of flowers for his wife.

The April meeting in 1994 marked the 50th Anniversary of the initiation of then Leading Aircraftsman Ted Blachford. In that fifty years, W. Bro. Ted had a great influence on the lodge and local Freemasonry. Amongst other things, he was Lodge Director of Ceremonies, Preceptor of the New Forest and Powney Lodge of Instruction and a long-time Trustee of the Masonic Hall. To further mark the admiration and universal respect he had among the lodge members and local Masons in general, Ted was presented with an engraved glass bowl—all the engravings representing a number of his interests over the years. He and his family also had close links with sailing and the RNLi in Lymington. Both his sons who followed him into the lodge were also heavily involved in boats and the sailing community, the eldest son having been an Olympic Sailor.

In September 1995, W. Bro. Arthur Stevens attended lodge on the 65th Anniversary of his initiation. W. Bro. Ted Blachford rendered a summary of W. Bro. Arthur's achievements and presented him with a gift on behalf of the lodge.

1996 – Saw the passing of W. Bro. Ben Longman PAGDC and the happier celebration of W. Bro. E. E. Smith's fifty years as a member of the lodge.

In 1997, it was reported that without heirs W. Bro. Ben Longman's estate consisted of some legacies to local charities and organisations, including £2,000 to Powney Lodge together with the residue of his estate of £6,834. A portion of this inheritance went to the Masonic Hall Management Committee for the installation of a loop hearing system.

W. Bro. RJ McGarel-Groves reported to the lodge the death of W. Bro. Harold Clipstone PGStB just before Christmas 1999 at the age of 99 years.

The Lodge Almoner, W. Bro. Colin Reeves PPSGD was unable to attend the May installation meeting in 2000 as he was undertaking a charity cycle ride from John O'Groats to Lands' End. W. Bro. Colin was an excellent Almoner. Not only did he visit and keep in contact with sick and ageing members and our lodge widows, but he also undertook many other tasks asked of him: shopping, gardening, lawn and hedge cutting, and decorating. W. Bro. Colin was an excellent example of someone who truly understood the value of Freemasonry and lived his life with respect for and service to others. For many years, he collected used books and ran a stall at the entrance to the hall car park on a Saturday raising large amounts of money, which he donated for the upkeep and furnishing of the Masonic Hall.

In 2001, the lodge received a 'Bronze Award' from the New Samaritan Fund.

February 2002 saw Bro. Albert Doe PPAGStB elected an honorary member of the lodge in recognition of his long and reliable services as Tyler of the lodge. Bro. Albie was a master boat builder and had served his time in the Berthon Boat Company yard where he had built many boats from wood including the last wooden RNLi Lifeboat. He had also produced some delightful wooden objects for the lodge and acted as Tyler for other local lodges.

2003 – Recorded the sad passing of W. Bro. Arthur Stevens.

In April 2004, the lodge marked the 60th Anniversary of the initiation of W. Bro. Ted Blachford by presenting him with a certificate signed by the Provincial Grand Master. He also received a certificate signed by the Grand Superintendent marking forty years in Royal Arch Masonry at the same time.

In October, W. Bro. Robin McGarel-Groves treated the brethren to his recollections over the past sixty years of his personal, military, and Masonic life. W. Bro. Ben Baker PGStB then presented him with a certificate signed by Right W. Bro. Brian Bellinger, the Provincial Grand Master marking W. Bro. Robin's sixty years in Freemasonry.

2005 – Being a significant year marking the 'Lodge Centenary', many events were being arranged. Some of these included the preparation of a booklet by W. Bro. Ted Nineham assisted by W. Bros Robin McGarel-Groves, John Barrett, Gordon Burgess, Nigel Barrett, Ben Baker, and Peter Fenwick containing the history of the Lodge's first 100 years. W. Bro.



Robin McGarel-Groves' had repaired and refurbished at his expense the Lodge Bible, which is over one-hundred years old.

The 'Centenary meeting' took place on 19 October attended by the Provincial Grand Master Rt. W. Bro. Brian C. Bellinger and a host of Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge who together with lodge members and visitors totalled ninety brethren. The Provincial Grand Master took the chair, and the Provincial Senior and Junior Wardens occupied the respective places. The 'Centenary Warrant' was read aloud by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W. Bro. A. J. Digweed PGStB and then presented to the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. I. R. Frampton together with the Centenary Jewel. W. Bro. B. S. Baker accompanied by senior lodge and officers of the lodge, carried the new lodge banner into the lodge and presented it to the Provincial Grand Master for dedication before entrusting it to the Worshipful Master. The Dedication Chaplain W. Bro. The Revd David F Jones Assistant Provincial Grand Chaplain then gave an oration.

The Past Pro-Grand Master, The Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis *OBE DL*, accompanied by the Provincial Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Alan Hamilton PAGDC and Officers of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge attended the November meeting.

Sadly, 2005 also marked the passing of W. Bro. Ted Blachford PGStB, who had been a very influential member of the lodge and was equally well respected by many other lodge's and orders for his commitment to Freemasonry locally.

During the year, the lodge had been able to support a few local charities including The Lawrence Boys Club whose founder, Syd Lawrence had been a member of the lodge.

In 2007, the lodge donated £1000 to the Lymington Amateur Rowing Club to assist in the rebuilding of their clubhouse. An additional £500 from the Tom Langton Fund complimented the donation.

Also, in that year W. Bro. Peter Fenwick PPGReg retired after serving as Lodge Treasurer for thirty-four years. He was also Secretary to the Masonic Hall Trustees for over forty years, retiring from that position in 2011.

In 2007, W. Bro. Brian Williams PPSGD recovered the Jewels of the lodge founder, W. Bro. Col. Powney and had them professionally cleaned and subsequently mounted in a presentation case for display during lodge meetings.

The Lodge Organist Bro. Adrian Taylor was elected as an honorary member in tribute to his service to the lodge, and for enhancing our meetings with his music of the highest and most enjoyable quality over many years.

In 2008, the Junior Warden Bro. Christopher Milnes paid to have the large framed photograph of the 'Lodge Founders' refurbished and re-mounted.

At the meeting on 18 February 2009, Bro. Ron Childs PPAGStB and W. Bro. Stan Stovell PPSGD of Daintree Lodge No. 2938 delivered an illustrated lecture entitled '*The China Fleet Lodge of Instruction*'. It was a fascinating and informative talk illustrated with some excellent historical photographs. One photo showed the destruction of the Masonic Hall in Singapore with a soldier standing in the foreground. It was a great surprise to the lecturers and everyone else present when W. Bro. Robin McGarel-Groves revealed that he was that soldier! — It was a photograph he had never seen before.

An official visit by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. J Michael Codd PSGD together with a team of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge Officers in March 2009 was marked by the lodge's presentation of a cheque for £1000 towards the Provincial 'Help for Heroes' Fund.

The Annual Ladies Night that year raised £400 for the Lymington Girl Guides. Many members of the lodge had been present at the annual Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service in Lymington for many years. However, 2009 was the first year that Lymington Freemasons were invited to join the Parade and lay a wreath. This new custom has continued with each lodge taking turns with their Worshipful Master laying the wreath.

M.W. Bro. The Lord Cornwallis *OBE DL* Past Pro-Grand Master died on 6 March 2010 and his lifelong friend W. Bro. Robin McGarel-Groves *OBE PDepGSwdB*, PAsstPGM paid a moving tribute to him. On that occasion, the Worshipful Master and W. Bro. Robin wore a black rosette. At W. Bro. Robin's request, he asked for the wearing of a black rosette in respect of Masonic mourning be put before the General Purposes Committee of the lodge. They subsequently agreed that in future, as a mark of respect, the Worshipful Master, Senior and Junior Wardens would each wear a black rosette when in Masonic mourning.

In January 2011, the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. J Michael Codd PSGD attended the lodge and presented a certificate signed by the Provincial Grand Master and lapel badge to W. Bro. Peter Fenwick PPGReg marking his fifty years in Freemasonry and referring to his very fascinating civilian and Masonic career. The Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Christopher Milnes presented W. Bro. Peter with a crystal decanter and glasses from the members of the lodge.

At the installation meeting on 18 May 2011, the lodge received a 'Bronze Festival Certificate' in recognition for the £22,784 pledged by members for the 2016 Royal Masonic

Trust for Boys and Girls Festival. The award was the first Bronze Award received by a lodge in the New Forest Group. In addition to donations to the RMTBG, the Lodge also donated £1000 to Zetland Court, £1000 to Oakhaven Hospice and £1000 to Prostate Cancer Research.

During the dinner following the October 2011 meeting, W. Bro. Colin Reeves PPGSuptWks recounted the lodge's history and gave details of the Founder and Primus Master W. Bro. Lieutenant Colonel Cecil Powney. He then presented to the Worshipful Master a cast replica of the 'Powney Tiger' that he had commissioned, requesting that it be displayed in front of the Master at all future festive boards. Rapturous applause greeted this generosity and the wishes of W. Bro. Colin are still carried out to this day. The original 'Powney Tiger' was cast in silver and presented to the Officers of the 3rd (Militia) Battalion by Lieutenant Colonel Powney on his relinquishing command after service from 1880-1884 and 1895-1916.

The Assistant Provincial Grand Master W. Bro. G. W. Tuck PSGD attended the lodge on 16 November 2011 accompanied by the Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. M Jones and a number of Grand and Provincial Grand Officers. In all over eighty members, officers and visitors attended to witness the presentation of a 'Silver Festival Certificate' to the Worshipful Master to mark the level of pledges and contributions from the lodge to the RMTGB. In return, the Worshipful Master presented him with a cheque for a further £1000 towards the RMTGB 2016 Festival. Later, at the dinner, two representatives from Zetland Court presented a certificate to the Worshipful Master as the lodge had qualified as Grand Patrons of the Friends of Zetland Court.

In January 2012, the lodge approved a request from Deanery Lodge No. 9191 to pass to the 2nd degree one of our Entered Apprentices Bro. Steve Owens. Deanery Lodge had an official visit on 26 January, and their candidate had sadly resigned.

In February 2012, the lodge elected two new honorary members to mark the considerable contribution each had made to the lodge over many years, W. Bro. B. R. Williams PPGReg for serving as Secretary and Treasurer and W. Bro. R. J. McGarel-Groves *OBE* PDepGSwdB PAPGM for the first-class guidance given through every situation and difficulty.

In March 2012, the lodge worked a double ceremony with Bros P. N. Peplow and M. R. Florit passing to the second degree.

At the September 2013 meeting, the lodge paid its respects to Bro. Albie Doe PPAGStB, who had passed to the Grand Lodge above in July. His son Bro. Alan Doe, who was visiting the lodge for that purpose from his home on the Isle of Wight, gave a very moving eulogy. Bro. Albie had served the lodge for many years as Tyler, as he had done for several other lodges. Bro. Alan fondly also recalled his father's unique and mischievous sense of humour.

In November 2013, the lodge bestowed an honorary membership of on W. Bro. Ben Baker PGStB. He had provided the lodge with commitment, dedication, and distinguished service over many years. His sound advice and respected council were invaluable to the lodge as it had been for the brethren of all the lodges meeting in Lymington serving for over thirty years as a Trustee. W. Bro. Ben is highly respected in the community having served the office of Mayor three times and elected an Honorary Burgess of Lymington and Pennington.

(Equivalent to Honorary Freeman) The third member of the lodge during its history to be so honoured.

In July 2014, the Provincial Grand Master appointed W. Bro. James Sampson Provincial Junior Grand Warden. This very high Provincial Office marked the great work W. Bro. James had done in the Province as Provincial Grand Steward and Provincial Senior Grand Deacon.

At the meeting in September 2014, the brethren paid tribute to the memory of two of the lodge’s great servants, W. Bro. P. D. Fenwick PPJGW and W. Bro. C. D. Reeves PPGSuptWks. The lodge received a Gold Award and Certificate from W. Bro. G. W. Tuck Assistant Provincial Grand Master and Past Grand Senior Deacon for the members’ contributions and pledges to the Royal Masonic Trust for Boys and Girls.

2015 – In January, the lodge marked the passing of W. Bro. Brigadier R. J. McGarel-Groves *OBE* PDepGSwdB, PPGM. He had been a Freemason for over seventy years. W. Bros Tony Barnes PPGReg, John Buck PPAGSwdB and Cliff Kent attended his memorial service in London.

In February, the Area Chairman, W. Bro. R. W. Dale PAGSuptWks visited the lodge to present W. Bro. Ben Baker PGStB with a certificate to mark his fifty years in Freemasonry. This event was a joyous occasion for the lodge.

In March, the lodge used the opportunity, with no candidate and it being Past Masters Night to open the lodge in each degree, receive an oration appropriate for that degree by W. Bro. M. E. Gannaway PPGSuptWks, and then close each degree in full.



Powney Lodge Honours Boards

Powney Lodge has two ‘daughter’ lodges—Test Valley. No 6181 and Brockenhurst No. 7040.

Lymington Masonic Hall



One of the most significant contributions made to Freemasonry in Lymington and the community, in general, is the building of the Masonic Hall at 10 High Street, Lymington. Freemasonry had existed in Lymington since 1764, with meetings being held in local Inns like the Crown Inn at Buckland, the Nag's Head and Bugle Hotel in the High Street. These hostelries were among other venues used before acquiring and converting an old chapel and cottages in Ashley Lane. The Chapel eventually proving inadequate, in 1925 the then two lodges in Lymington, New Forest Lodge No. 319 and

Powney Lodge No, 3099 elected a committee to investigate the purchase of land and arrange funding to build a new Masonic Hall. The committee consisted of W. Bro. Broomfield, W. Bro. Harris, W. Bro. E. Knight, W. Bro. Bowyer and W. Bro. G. Day for New Forest Lodge and Bro. J. Howlett, W. Bro. Humphries and Bros Bell and Willis for Powney Lodge.

Over the next two years under the dynamic chairmanship of Bro. J. W. Howlett (Founder of Wellworthy Ltd), the land was purchased, a local architect W. Bro. Ravenscroft engaged, and designs agreed, local builders invited to tender, and finances arranged. The total cost of the land, building and furnishings was £6,487.

The first meeting in the new Hall took place on 18 May 1927 when J. W. Howlett was installed as Worshipful Master of Powney Lodge. New Forest Lodge held their first meeting in the new Hall on 1 June 1927, and the Provincial Grand Master dedicated the new Temple on 14 October 1927. All loans were finally repaid in 1946.

Soon after the completion of the hall, local organisations were keen to hire it for annual dinner dances and a wide variety of entertainment and fundraising events that have continued to the present day.

Over the years, the hall has witnessed the consecration of many new lodges and side orders. Now more than 250 Freemasons enjoy the benefits of the brave foresight of those members of New Forest and Powney Lodge in creating the first custom-built Masonic Hall in the Province.

History compiled by W. Bro. Tony Barnes PPGReg – September 2015

Edited by W. Bro. Brian Crane, PPAGDC to Oxford and Ars Quatuor Coronatorum Style Guides – April 2018.