



County Gate Lodge No.7849

The first 50 years.

Foreword

Whilst writing about the history of the Lodge, it is quite apparent that a debt of gratitude is owed to our former Lodge Secretaries for their diligent record keeping which has been of great value in creating this summary of the 50 years of the Lodge. The determination of our Founders culminated in the Lodge Consecration, which was held on Tuesday 6th November 1962 at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London W.1. The minutes of that first meeting are reproduced in this booklet. There were no word processors in those days and all the minutes had to be hand written, a time-consuming process. Much has happened and there have been many changes in the first 50 years of County Gate Lodge, and I have had to cherry pick the more notable events. The next 50 years will bring its own challenges though I'm sure the younger brethren will maintain the form, traditions and excellent standards we currently have. Whilst we continue to enjoy our Freemasonry, the Lodge has a future.

W.Bro. David May, PPrDGDC, Secretary.

The Formation of the Lodge: -

Very little documentation has survived regarding the build up to the formation of the Lodge but it is clear that all did not run smoothly at the conceptual stage. It seems that two Brethren on the original list of founders wanted senior offices in the new Lodge but had been offered junior positions. Further to some meetings involving the founders, the two Brethren involved would not agree to accept those offices and were eventually asked to withdraw from the number of founders, which they did. Much of the organisational side of the formation had been completed when a certain Bro. James Crawford, who had moved into the area from the North West of England a year or so earlier, was invited to become a founder member. Quite how the name County Gate was chosen is not documented, however, there may well be a connection with the road "County Gate" which connects Footscray Road, Sidcup, to the A20 Sidcup By-Pass.

Once all the formalities were agreed with the Province of Kent and with United Grand Lodge, a Sponsoring Lodge was required. Some of the principal founders were members of Sydney Lodge No.829 which led to an approach to them to sponsor County Gate. Having been presented with the required documentation, Sydney Lodge duly became sponsor for County Gate Lodge and on Tuesday 6th November 1962, at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London, W1, the Lodge was Consecrated. Lodge meetings were held at the Shirley Woolmer Masonic Centre in St John's Road, Sidcup on the 5th Saturday of the month where that occurred, with at least one meeting being held on New Years Eve. Whilst the Festive Board was held in the dining room, there was no bar at that time and liquid refreshment prior to dinner was sought in the Black Horse Public House in Sidcup High Street.

Some of the members were not happy with the date fluctuating so much and looked to have more regular dates. In 1984, All Lodges and Chapters meeting at Sidcup were asked to pay a large sum of money to assist with the upkeep of the Centre. County Gate Lodge declined to pay this and sought alternative accommodation for their Lodge meetings. Dartford Masonic Centre which was owned and run by Emulation Lodge No.299 agreed to allow us to hold our Lodge meetings there and in 1985, although Saturdays were not available to us, it became our new home and we then became a mid-week Lodge with fixed dates. This also didn't please everyone, as you will see later in the booklet.

County Gate Lodge adopted the Nigerian Emulation Ritual (1960) as taught by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement at that time. Minor variations were included, but these related principally to the Rubric, those instructional pieces printed in red in the book of ritual. This continues to be the working of County Gate Lodge, together with other procedural arrangements which have been introduced over the years. The ritual as worked by our

Lodge has since been documented in the form of a booklet which is referenced should any queries arise at the Lodge of Instruction.

As you look through this booklet it will become apparent that Freemasonry was flourishing in the early years with many of our meetings conducting two Degrees, each with two Candidates. It's a far cry from the situation today with many Lodges struggling to get new members and the overall number of Masons in decline. The Province of West Kent is a leading light in trying to attract new members and has introduced many initiatives to help Lodges recruit and retain new members. Ultimately, it is down to us, the members of County Gate Lodge to procure new members if the Lodge is to survive for the next fifty years. We have a good reputation as being a friendly Lodge and it is vital that we continue to enjoy our Freemasonry. Caution does have to be exercised in the selection of new members as large numbers are not always beneficial.

And so, to the minutes of the Consecration meeting. These are reproduced as a copy of the handwritten version and are all the more interesting for the detail contained therein. Few Brethren get the opportunity to attend the Consecration of a Lodge and witness first hand the ritual involved, so hopefully they will be of interest. These minutes provide a glimpse at the procedures employed at the time, and which haven't changed very much at all over the years.

**Minutes of the Consecration meeting of the
County Gate Lodge No. 7849.**

Held at the Café Royal, Regent Street, London W.1.

On Tuesday November 6th 1962 at 2.45 p.m.

The Brethren, having signed the attendance book, entered the Lodge and were called to order by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies to receive the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, the Rt. Hon. The Lord Cornwallis, KBE, MC, PGW who entered in procession with the Provincial Wardens, Officers of the United Grand Lodge of England, and the Executive Officers of the Masonic Province of Kent.

The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master then appointed his officers as follows :-

<i>Prov SG Warden.</i>	<i>W.Bro. The Hon Fiennes N.W. Cornwallis</i>
<i>Prov JG Warden.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Sqdn. Ldr David A. Lloyd, DFC, DFM, PAGDC</i>
<i>Prov Snr G Chaplain.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Rev John W. Henderson AKC, Prov G Chaplain</i>
<i>Prov Jnr G Chaplain.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Rev Cannon Neville M. Granville-Sharp M.A.</i>
<i>Prov G Treasurer.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Frederick W. Friday PGD</i>
<i>Prov G Secretary.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Alexander McKenzie Smith, MBE, PGD</i>
<i>Prov GDC.</i>	<i>W.Bro. John C.H. Twallin M.A., PGD</i>
<i>Prov DGD.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Francis G.V. Lovell, PGStd.Br</i>
<i>Prov DG Org.</i>	<i>W.Bro. John H.D. Smart</i>
<i>Prov AG Secretary</i>	<i>W.Bro. Windham J. Stebborn, PGStd.Br</i>
<i>IG</i>	<i>W.Bro. Frederick C. Fox, PG Purst.</i>

He also requested the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Sydney E Day, JP, PGD and the Assistant Provincial Grand Masters W.Bro. Daryl J Branson, FCIS, PGD; W.Bro. Brig. John M Stebbings, MC, EM, TD, DL, PGD; W.Bro. E D Y Grasby, MD, FRCOG PGD; W.Bro. Sir James E T Richie, Bart., TD, SGD to assist him during the course of the Ceremony.

The Lodge was opened in the three Degrees and the opening hymn sung.

The Provincial Grand Secretary read the Dispensation from Grand Lodge authorising the meeting to be held in London.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies called the Brethren to order and the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master was saluted in ancient form.

The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master addressed the Brethren on the motive of the meeting and called upon the Grand Chaplain to give the opening prayer.

The Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies addressed the Consecrating officer, who suitably replied, and gave directions to the Director of Ceremonies.

*The Founders of the County Gate Lodge No. 7849,
W.Bro. A.E. Smith, PAGDC, LGR, PPrDGReg
W.Bro. W.H. Ladd, PPrGStdBr
W.Bro. W.E. Wood
W.Bro. G.W. Corkett
W.Bro. G.E. Coombes
W.Bro. A.C. Wetherill
W.Bro. F.S. Hyland
Bro. L.R.E. Smith
Bro. T. Palmer
Bro. R.V. Whitbread
Bro. S. Hinkley
Bro. E.L. Perea
Bro W.M. Steel
Bro E.J. Jobson
Bro. A.W. Kent
Bro J. Crawford*

.... were arranged in order and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies read the Warrant. The Consecrating Officer enquired whether the petitioners approved of the officers named in the warrant and they signified their approval in Masonic form.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain then addressed the assembly on the principles of the Institution, in the course of which he gave an inspired oration and charged the Founders to be ever mindful of the responsibilities they had attracted to themselves.

The anthem led by the choir, was then sung, followed by the reading of the first portion of the Dedication prayer by the Provincial Grand Chaplain.

The Brethren turned towards the East, and the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master pronounced the invocation.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain then verses 1 to 16 Chap 2 second book of Chronicles, and the Consecrating Officer directed that the Lodge Board be uncovered.

The Consecration Ceremony then continued with the elements of Consecration being carried round the Lodge.

The Provincial Grand Chaplain read Psalm 72 verse 16.

Led by the choir, the Brethren sang in unison whilst the Consecrating Officer scattered Corn - the symbol of Plenty and Abundance; poured Wine – the symbol of joy and cheerfulness; and poured oil – the symbol of Peace and Unanimity.

The Founders of the Lodge were again arranged in order and the Provincial Grand Chaplain read verse 13 of Chapter 2 Book of Leviticus

The Consecrating Officer sprinkled Salt – the symbol of Fidelity and Friendship, and the Brethren responded, led by the choir.

The Consecrating Officer, the Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master, dedicated the Lodge and the anthem was sung, followed by the Provincial Grand Chaplain perambulating the Lodge with the Censer.

The second Portion of the Dedication Prayer was read.

The Founders were again arranged in order and the Consecrating Officer Constituted the Lodge, followed by the anthem and the Patriarchal Blessing.

The Right Worshipful the Provincial Grand Master vacated the chair, which was then occupied by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W.Bro. Sidney Ernest Day, JP, PGD.

The Lodge was resumed in the Second Degree, and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies presented W.Bro William Henry Ladd, PPrGStdBr, Master designate. He was suitably addressed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, who requested him to advance to the Pedestal and recite the obligation as Master Elect.

The Lodge was resumed in the Third Degree and all those below the rank of Installed Master were requested to retire.

During the Brethren's absence, W.Bro. William Henry Ladd, PPrGStdBr, was Installed as first Master, in a distinguished manner by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Kent, W.Bro. Sidney Ernest Day, JP, PGD.

W.Bro. Albert Edward Smith, PAGDC, LGR, PPrDGReg, was appointed and invested as Acting Immediate Past Master.

All Master Masons were then admitted, the Master was saluted in ancient form and proclaimed for the first time as Master of the County Gate Lodge No.7849, and the working tools were presented.

The Lodge was resumed in the Second Degree, all Fellowcrafts were admitted, the Master was saluted in ancient form and proclaimed for the second time as Master of the County Gate Lodge No.7849, and the working tools presented.

The Lodge was resumed in the First Degree, all Entered Apprentices were admitted, the Master was saluted in ancient form and proclaimed for the third time as Master of the County Gate Lodge No.7849, and the working tools presented.

The Warrant of the Lodge was presented to the Worshipful Master by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master of Kent,

W.Bro. Sidney Ernest Day, JP, PGD together with a copy of the Book of Constitutions.

W.Bro. William Edward Wood and W.Bro. George William Corkett, Wardens designate, were invested with their collars by the Worshipful Master.

It was proposed by W.Bro. Wood and seconded by W.Bro. Corkett that the election of Treasurer should be left in the hands of the Worshipful Master, whereupon he appointed and invested W.Bro. George Edward Coombes as the first Treasurer of the Lodge.

It was proposed by W.Bro. Frank Sydney Hyland and seconded by Bro. Leonard Richard Edgar Smith, and carried unanimously by the Brethren that Bro. A E Adams be elected the Tyler. The Worshipful Master then invested him with his collar of Office.

The Worshipful Master then proceeded to appoint and invest the Officers of the Lodge as follows: -

<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Bro. Leonard Richard Edgar Smith</i>
<i>D.C.</i>	<i>W.Bro. Frank Sydney Hyland</i>
<i>S.D.</i>	<i>Bro. Thomas Palmer</i>
<i>A.D.C.</i>	<i>Bro. Sidney Hinkley</i>
<i>Almoner</i>	<i>Bro. Eugene Lucio Perea</i>
<i>Organist</i>	<i>W.Bro. Albert Charles Wetherill</i>
<i>Asst. Sec.</i>	<i>Bro. William Mark Steel</i>
<i>I.G.</i>	<i>Bro. Edwin John Jobson</i>
<i>Steward</i>	<i>Bro. Alfred William Kent</i>
<i>Steward</i>	<i>Bro. James Crawford</i>

The Worshipful Master intimated his intention of appointing Bro. Richard Vernon Whitbread as Junior Deacon. Bro. Whitbread having indicated his acceptance of this office, but being unable to be present, the Worshipful Master indicated that it would be his pleasure to invest him at some future date.

W.Bro. Ernest Dudley Yarnold Grasby, MD, FRCOG PGD delivered the address to the Master.

W.Bro. Sir James Edward Thomson Richie, Bart., TD, SGD delivered the address to the Wardens.

W.Bro. Daryl James Branson, FCIS, PGD delivered the address to the Brethren.

Bro. Alfred William Kent proposed, and Bro. Thomas Palmer seconded that W.Bro. Frank Sydney Hyland should represent the Lodge on the Provincial Charity Committee. This was carried unanimously.

W.Bro. Frank Sydney Hyland proposed, and Bro. Sidney Hinkley seconded that the Founders of the Lodge be constituted into a committee for the purpose of framing the Bye-Laws of the Lodge. This was carried unanimously.

The Worshipful Master then addressed the Consecrating Officers thanking them for their presence, and for giving their time in the Consecration of the Lodge. He then proposed that a vote of thanks should be accorded to the Consecrating Officers and duly recorded in the minutes of the Lodge. This was seconded by W.Bro. George William Corkett and carried with acclamation.

W.Bro. Albert Edward Smith, PAGDC, LGR, PPrDGReg then proposed in suitable terms the election of the Consecrating Officers as Honorary members of the Lodge. This was seconded by W.Bro. Wood and carried unanimously.

On behalf of the Consecrating Officers, W.Bro. Sydney Ernest Day, JP, PGD, Deputy Provincial Grand Master for the Province of Kent, replied appropriately.

The Worshipful Master rose for the first time to enquire whether any Brother had ought to propose for the good of Freemasonry in General or the County Gate Lodge No.7849 in particular.

The Worshipful Master rose for the second time to enquire whether any Brother had ought to propose for the good of Freemasonry in General or the County Gate Lodge No.7849 in particular.

The Worshipful Master rose for the third time to enquire whether any Brother had ought to propose for the good of Freemasonry in General or the County Gate Lodge No.7849 in particular.

The Secretary reported that he had received a number of apologies for absence, each containing fraternal greetings and best wishes for the future success of the Lodge. Also, he was in receipt of applications for joining membership from the following Brethren: -

Bro. Thomas William Taylor

Bro. Leonard Sydney Day

Bro. Martin Lilley

And a form for initiation from: -

Mr Arthur Henry Carloss, 164 Coombfield Drive, Darenth, Near Dartford, Kent.

The Lodge was then closed in antient form – the Brethren singing the closing Hymn.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Founders had their photographs taken, and Luncheon presided over by the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, The Right Hon. Lord Cornwallis, KBE, MC at which 144 were present.

Signed on 29th December 1962

W. Master	W.H. Ladd
Senior Warden	W.E . Wood
Junior Warden	G.W. Corkett

144 Brethren dined afterwards at the Café Royal.

The Founders of the Lodge.



THE COUNTY GATE LODGE
No. 7849

FOUNDERS

W.Bro. Albert Edward Smith, P.M., P.A.G.D.C., L.G.R.,
P.P.D.G.Reg.

„ „ William Henry Ladd, P.M., P.P.G.Std.Br.

„ „ William Edward Wood, P.M.

„ „ George William Corkett, P.M.

„ „ George Edward Coombes, P.M.

„ „ Albert Charles Wetherill, P.M.

„ „ Frank Sidney Hyland, P.M.

Bro. Leonard Richard Edgar Smith

„ Thomas Palmer

„ Richard Vernon Whitbread

„ Sydney Hinkley

„ Eugene Lucio Perea

„ William Mark Steel

„ Edwin John Jobson

„ Alfred William Kent

„ James Crawford

W.M. ... W.Bro. William Henry Ladd, P.M.

I.P.M. ... W.Bro. Albert Edward Smith, P.M.

OFFICERS

S.W. ... W.Bro. William Edward Wood, P.M.

J.W. ... W.Bro. George William Corkett, P.M.

Treasurer ... W.Bro. George Edward Coombes, P.M.

Secretary ... Bro. Leonard Richard Edgar Smith

D.C. ... W.Bro. Frank Sidney Hyland, P.M.

S.D. ... Bro. Thomas Palmer

J.D. ... Bro. Richard Vernon Whitbread

A.D.C. ... Bro. Sydney Hinkley

Almoner ... Bro. Eugene Lucio Perea

Organist ... W.Bro. Albert Charles Wetherill, P.M.

Asst. Sec. ... Bro. William Mark Steel

I.G. ... Bro. Edwin John Jobson

Steward ... Bro. Alfred William Kent

Steward ... Bro. James Crawford

Tyler ... Bro. A. E. Adams

The following section details Initiates, joining members and W. Masters only, as to list all the Degrees undertaken would severely lengthen the document.

The First Year of the Lodge.

The first Regular Lodge meeting was held on Saturday 29th December 1962 at the Sidcup Masonic Centre. Bro. Thomas William Taylor of Sydney Lodge No.829, Bro. Leonard Sidney Day of Lodge of Fortitude No.105, and Bro.Martin Lilley of Lesney Park of Erith Lodge No.3965 were successfully balloted for and became the first joining members of the Lodge and were all invested as Stewards. At the same meeting, Mr Arthur Henry Carloss was successfully balloted for and became the first Initiate into County Gate Lodge. There was also an application for membership read out in the Name of Mr John Louis Blew.

Letters of thanks were proposed to W.Bro. J A Louch for his gift of the VSL, Bro.Wiffen of Sydney Lodge No.829 for presenting a set of linen reproduction Tracing Boards and to Bro. J.P. Haymen for his gift of the broken column. The very first collection raised £5.0.0. (Five pounds, no shillings and no pence in old money).

At the second meeting on 30th March 1963, Bro Carloss was passed to the 2nd Degree, Mr John Louis Blew along with Mr Frederick George Abnett Smith were balloted for and Initiated. Just for good measure, Bro George Francis Gable of the East Wickham Lodge No.7308 was successfully balloted for and became a joining member. The meeting started at 3.30 p.m. and whilst the end time was not recorded, the Brethren dined at 7.30 p.m. Sad to note that one of the founders, Bro.Thomas Palmer passed away on 12th May 1963. The Installation meeting on 6th July 1963 saw W.Bro. William Wood installed as the new Master and Bro. Thomas C. Ackerman-Craig of the Union of Waterloo Lodge No.13 became a joining member. Bro.John Blew took his first step of his masonic career by becoming a Steward of the Lodge.

The next meeting on 31st August saw Bro's Blew and Smith Passed to the Second Degree and Mr Reginald Ernest Turrell along with Mr Thomas Dugald Gray were balloted for and afterwards Initiated.

Another Founder, W.Bro. A C Weatherill died on 11th November 1963 so we had lost two founders in the first year.

The final meeting of the year was held on 30th November 1963 and saw Bro's John Blew and Henry Carloss Raised to the Third Degree. Mr Ronald Anthony Diprose and Mr Peter Kennett were successfully balloted for and afterwards Initiated. The conclusion of a very busy Masonic year.

1964 : saw Albert White of the Lessness Abbey Lodge No.7393, Alfred Winchester of the Sydney Lodge No.829, Henry Winchester of the Borough of Hackney Lodge No.2944 and John Keith Winchester of the Sydney Lodge No.829 all become joining members and Leslie Broom, Peter Herbert, Derrick Dorbon, William Pressney and Frank Lover Initiated. Richard Whitbread became W. Master in July.

1965: brought Initiations for Sidney Hazell, John Browning and James Moss. Edwin Jobson was installed as W. Master. The W. Master made mention of the death of Sir Winston Churchill who passed away on January 24th aged 90.

1966: Mr Michael Hiseman, Mr Claud Grummitt, Mr Ronald Dennis Jones, Mr William John Eveson and Mr Ian Gwynn Carey were Initiated. Bro.Edward Neville of the Wendlesworth Lodge No.6640, Bro.Cecil Ernest John Holland, and Bro.Raymond Tooby, both of the Sydney Lodge No.829 became joining members. Sadly, two founder members passed to the Grand Lodge above namely W.Bro. George Corkett, on 25th February, and W.Bro. Albert Smith on 15th May. Bro. Sydney Hinckley was installed as Master in the same month that England won the football World Cup.

1967: Bro. William Traynor Kean of the Minto Lodge No.385 in Fyfe, Scotland and Bro.Charles Cunliffe of the Johore Royal Lodge No.3946 became joining members. William Trew, Dennis Stratton, Reginald Clayton, James Manning and John Browning were Initiated. Bro. James Crawford became W. Master.

1968: Bro. Thomas Taylor was Installed as Master. Bro.Leonard John Phillips of the Sydney Lodge No.829 and Bro.Roland Edward Booker of the Swanley Lodge No.5873 became joining members. Alec Brooks, Frederick Carver and Keith Washer were Initiated.

1969: Mr Arthur Baldwin, Mr Henry Andrews and Mr David Daniels were Initiated. Bro.Leonard Smith was Installed as W. Master. Bro. John Winchester passed to the Grand Lodge above on 1st October. Bro.John George Cook of the Khartoum Lodge No.2877 became a joining member.

1970: Mr Brian Porter, Mr John Medland, Mr William Brown, Mr Douglas Brooks and Mr Andrew Hazell were Initiated. Bro.Leonard S. "Happy" Day was Installed as W. Master.

1971: Mr Alexander Hanson and Mr Sydney Spreadborough were Initiated. Bro.Alec Brooks passed to the Grand Lodge above on 19th October. Bro.William Charles Batcheler of the Sydney Lodge No.829 became a joining member. Bro.Arthur Henry Carlross was installed as W. Master. David John Taylor and Frederick John Pearce were also Initiated and W.Bro. Isaac William Whittingham also of the Sydney Lodge No.829 became a joining member.

1972: Bro. Mark William Steel, a Founder member, passed away on 20th January. Bro.George Reginald Spurgeon of Ordinance Lodge No.2399 became a joining member as did Bro. Michael Joseph Farelly of Star of Kent Lodge No.6705. Mr Frank Alan Douglas Goddard was Initiated. Bro.John Louis Blew was Installed as Master. A plaque bearing the insignia of the Lodge, made by Bro.Ian Carey, was presented to the W. Master. Mr Geoffrey Michael Frank Stagg and Mr Robert James Kitterhing were Initiated.

1973: Mr William Traynor Keane and Mr Leslie George Pettis were Initiated. Bro. Frederick George Abnett Smith was Installed as W. Master. Bro. E.L. Perea, a Founder member, moved abroad and resigned from the Lodge. Mr Anthony Henry Sage was successfully balloted for in December 1972, however, in September it was Mr Frederick Henry Sage who was Initiated along with Mr Victor Philip Ball. Not quite sure what happened there! The R.W. Provincial Grand Master informed the Lodge that the Province of Kent was to become East Kent and West Kent and that this Lodge would be included in the West Kent Province. Mr Roger Walter Maguire and Mr Derek Frank Penney were Initiated.

1974: W.Bro. Alfred Winchester died on 3rd March. Bro.Sidney Hazell was Installed as W. Master. Bro.Victor John Rogers of Holborn Lodge No.2398 became a joining member. Mr Gordon William John Bonner and Mr Harry Tindall were Initiated. Annual Subscriptions were raised to £12.00 with non-dining set at £4.00. W.Bro. W C Batchelor died on 11th December.

1975: Bro. Frank P Sellors of Woolwich Lodge No.6610 and Bro. N R Ellis of Camelia-Thea Lodge No.7351 became joining members. Mr Gordon John Wain was Initiated. Bro. Albert William Ernest White was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. Victor Charles Harrison of Calthorpe Lodge No.5172, Castle Lodge No.7302 and Oxon Installed Masters Lodge No.7770 became a joining member. Mr Leslie Pettis was Initiated. Mr Douglas Graham and Mr Keith Franks were Initiated.

1976: Bro. Ronald Dennis Jones was Installed as W. Master. Mr Bernard Herbert Jeffries and Mr Geoffrey Peter Lawless were Initiated. Founder member W.Bro. Frank Sidney Hyland died on 4th September.

Mr Donald William Banyard and Mr David Alen Browne were Initiated.

1977: Mr Allen Edward King and Mr Joseph Warren were Initiated. Bro. Raymond Charles Tooby was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. John Blew took over from W. Bro. James Crawford as Secretary.

Mr Patrick Frank Piper and Mr John Edward Bird were Initiated. Mr Dennis George Barclay and Mr Geoffrey Vaughan were also Initiated.

1978: Bro. Cecil Ernest John Holland was Installed as W. Master. Mr Alan George Childs was Initiated. The Provincial Grand Master, R.W. Bro. J C H Twallin died on 24th October. Mr Ian Carey and Mr John Burke were Initiated.

1979: Mr Ramon John Stevens was Initiated. W. Bro. C E J Holland died on 4th June. Mr Ronald Neville "Bill" Boyce was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. William Traynor-Kean (Snr) died on 17th August. Mr Norman Harry Frank Lefort was Initiated. Full subs had risen to £30.00.

1980: Mr Alexander John Lewis was Initiated. W. Bro. Albert William Edward White died on 13th May. Bro. Keith Washer was Installed as W. Master. Mr Frederick James Manners and Mr Kenneth John House were Initiated.

1981: Bro. Douglas Edwin Daniel Brooks was Installed as W. Master. Mr James Clements Perry was Initiated.

1982: Mr Peter Hight was Initiated. Bro. Ian Gwyn Carey was Installed as W. Master. Mr Kenneth Alan George Jay was Initiated. Founder member W. Bro. Richard Vernon Whitbread died on 31st July.

1983: Mr Cavell Patrick Burchell was Initiated. W. Bro's. William H Ladd and George E "Tiddler" Coombes were made Honorary Members of the Lodge. Bro. Andrew Sidney Hazell was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. L R E Smith died on 16th October.

One of our Founders, W. Bro. James Crawford designed the Lodge Banner which was expertly crafted by the wife of W. Bro. Douglas Brooks. Once completed, a date was agreed for the dedication of the Banner which would take place on Saturday 29th October 1983. W. Bro. Gordon William Sinclair Davie, PrGDC, escorted the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, the Rev. Peter Churton Collins, into the Lodge accompanied by W. Bro. Cyril Maddison-Roberts,

APGM, W.Bro.Rev.Douglas Noble, Provincial Grand Chaplain and W.Bro.Stanley Scarlett, Provincial Grand Secretary. Mr Brian Harry Bateman was then Initiated.

As recorded in the minutes by the Secretary, W.Bro. John Blew: -

The County Gate Lodge Banner, duly veiled, was received into the Lodge in Procession comprised of Founders and Past Masters of and in the Lodge. At the invitation of the W. Master, the Banner was unveiled by the R.W. Provincial Grand Master and was dedicated with Hymn and solemn prayer. The dedicating prayer, oration and the Patriarchal Benediction were delivered by the Provincial Grand Chaplain. The W. Master thanked the R.W. Provincial Grand Master most sincerely for unveiling and dedicating the Lodge Banner and the Provincial Grand Chaplain for his oration.

A framed colour photograph (reproduced below) of the Lodge Banner was then presented to the R.W. Provincial Grand Master with a cheque for £150.00 to be given to the charity of his choice. After expressing his immense appreciation for the presentation, he announced that the cheque would go towards the 1990 Festival in the name of County Gate Lodge.

County Gate Lodge Banner



At the Lodge meeting on Saturday 31st December, notice of motion was given that the R.W. Provincial Grand Master, the Provincial Grand Chaplain, the Provincial Grand Secretary and the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies be elected Honorary members of the Lodge as a mark of appreciation and to commemorate the unveiling and dedication of the Lodge Banner.

1984: Mr Brian Day was Initiated by his father, W.Bro. L.S. Day. Pursuant to the Notice of Motion Members of the Lodge was carried unanimously. W.Bro. Davie was in attendance and thanked the Lodge on behalf of them all.

Bro.Alexander George Hanson was Installed as W. Master.

1985: At the meeting on 30th March, a notice of motion was signed by W. Bro's Blew, Washer, Jones, Hinckley, Brooks, Crawford and Bro.Graham stating that the Lodge should in future meet at the Masonic Hall, West Hill, Dartford, Kent. The Lodge had been asked to pay £850.00 to stay at Sidcup to help fund an extension to the dining hall.

W.Bro. Michael Joseph Farelly died on 13th January, Bro.Brian Day died on 30th March, just 12 months after joining the Lodge, and W.Bro. Ian Gwyn Carey died on 18th May. Bro.Leslie George Pettis was Installed as W. Master.

Further to the Notice of Motion at the previous meeting the financial implications of the situation which had developed over the past 9 months or so were discussed, and a vote taken. 26 voted for the motion to move to Dartford, 4 voted against with one abstention. It is recorded in the Installation minutes that 4 Brethren had submitted letters of resignation from the Lodge.

On Tuesday 17th September, our first Lodge meeting was held at the Masonic Centre, Dartford.

At that meeting, Bro. Stanley William Pearce of the Eltham Lodge No.8866 became a joining member and Mr John Edward Brown was Initiated.

1986: Bro. Joseph Warren died on 3rd January. The Lodge voted to join the Dartford Masonic Hall Lodges Association at a cost of 10p per member per annum. Bro. John Brown was raised to the 3rd Degree and his Master Masons apron was presented to him by Bro. Mike Ives of the Gundolph Lodge No.1050. Mr Anthony Michael Cushing was Initiated. W.Bro. W.E. Wood was voted as an Honorary member in recognition of his services to the Lodge. Bro.Victor Philip Ball was Installed as the 25th Master of the Lodge. W.Bro. L.S. Day died on 23rd June, some 15 months after his son passed away. On Wednesday 22nd October, I had the privilege of being Initiated into this Lodge. W.Bro. Ron Jones, my Proposer and next-door neighbour, delivered the charge after Initiation. My Secunder was none other than W.Bro. John Louis Blew.

1987: W.Bro. G.E. 'Tiddler' Coombes, a Founder member, died on 8th February. Full Annual Subscriptions had risen to £65.00. Bro. Roger Walter Maguire was Installed as W. Master. Mr Stanley Louis Morse was Initiated.

On Wednesday 28th October, the Lodge celebrated its 25th Anniversary meeting attended by 76 Brethren. W.Bro. G.W.S. Davie was present in his capacity of A.P.G.M. and after being escorted into the Lodge by his DC and a deputation of the Lodge members, took the chair. W.Bro. W.H. Ladd, one of the principal founders, had recently completed 50 years in his Masonic career and W.Bro. Davie spoke warmly of his association with W.Bro. Ladd, particularly as Founder members of the County Gate Chapter. The Provincial Grand Secretary, W.Bro. Henry Ross, read the citation which was afterwards presented to W.Bro. Ladd by W.Bro. Davie. Having vacated the chair in favour of our W. Master. W.Bro. Roger Maguire, I was raised to the 3rd Degree, which for me, with so much activity in the Lodge, was very much a day to remember. The Founders present, W.Bro's Ladd, Wood, Hinckley and Crawford, retired from the Lodge and returned with an embellished and inscribed Master's collar which they presented to the Lodge on behalf of the Founders and Past Masters of the Lodge to mark the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Lodge. The W. Master was invested with the collar by W.Bro. Davie, and that collar has been worn by our W. Master since then.

1988: Mr Peter Lloyd Manners was Initiated. W.Bro. Gordon William John Bonner was Installed as W. Master. W.Bro. Sidney Hinckley, a Founder member, died on 3rd August. One lasting story is of W.Bro. Sid tripping over the kneeling stool during a Third Degree – Entered Apprentices and Fellowcrafts will realise how this happened once you have completed your Third Degree.

1989: Mr Peter Brady Hennis was Initiated. Bro. Douglas Graham was Installed as W. Master. W.Bro. Roger Maguire takes over as Secretary from John Blew after 12 years service. Mr Roy Leonard Ashton was Initiated. W.Bro. William Henry Ladd, **PGStB**, PPrJGD, the Primus Master died.

1990: Mr Matthew Frederick Manners, son of Fred and Brother of Peter, was Initiated. Bro. John Edward Brown was Installed as W. Master.

1991: Mr Graham John Tilsed was Initiated. Bro. Kenneth John House was Installed as W. Master.

1992: Mr John Arthur Humphries was Initiated. Full Subs had reached £100.00. Bro. Cavell Patrick Burchell was Installed as W. Master. Mr Darron Thomas Kearns was Initiated.

1993: Bro. David William May was Installed as W. Master. The Rev. Richard Alan Freeman was Initiated. W. Bro. W E Wood, a Founder member, died on 22nd September.

1994: On 12th April, W. Bro. G W S Davie gave a talk on “The Importance of the Volume of the Sacred Law in Freemasonry”, our first ever talk. Bro. Stanley Louis Morse was Installed as W. Master.

1995: Mr Niall Patrick Derby was Initiated. W. Bro. John Louis Blew was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. Terence William Tanner of Holborn Lodge No.2398 became a joining member.
Mr. Barry Hayes Hudson was Initiated.

1996: W. Bro. D.E.D. Brooks died on 30th January. W. Bro. T W Taylor died on 3rd March. Bro. Peter Lloyd Manners was Installed as W. Master. Mr Alan John Burke was Initiated. W. Bro. R W Maguire died on 19th August.

1997: W. Bro. Alan Game, **PGStdB**, of the Lodge of Loyalty No.7156 became a joining member. Mr Keith Jones, son of W. Bro. Ron, was Initiated. Bro. William John Eveson was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. Kenneth Britnor Guest of Fleet River Lodge No.8107 became a joining member.

1998: W. Bro. G.W.J. Bonner was Installed as W. Master for the second time. Mr Hassan Falahat was Initiated. Mr Nigel Arthur Hudson was Initiated.

1999: Bro. John Ernest Burke was Installed as W. Master. W. Bro. Paul Stanley Burke of Allied Arts Lodge No.6239 became a joining member. This was also the year that it was announced that
W. Bro. John Louis Blew was to be appointed as an Assistant Provincial Grand Master and the article that appeared in the autumn 1999 edition of the West Kent News is reproduced below.

New Members of the Executive

Following past practice, we are now able to produce CVs of the newly appointed members of the Executive, in order that Brethren may share in a "getting to know you" exercise.

Assistant Provincial Grand Master

W Bro John Louis Blew PJGD

Bro John was typically modest when we sought details of his career and other aspects of his life, and out of courtesy we publish that which he has supplied, without pressing him for further detail.

Born in Darenth Village in 1940, where he still resides, he is married to Maureen and they have four children and four grandchildren.

John's career commenced in the Ordnance Survey Branch of the Civil Service, moving on in 1961 to work in Local Government until 1986, since which time he became a Senior Fire Safety Consultant within a professional practice in London.

His Masonic career proves to be surprisingly extensive, particularly when read by those who recall him solely as that quiet, dignified, and seemingly unruffled Brother who appeared on formal occasions in one Provincial DC capacity or another.

John was Initiated into County Gate Lodge 7849 in 1963, becoming Master in 1972 and again in 1995. He Joined West Kent Masters 5778 in 1978 and was made a Provincial Grand Steward in the following year, logically Joining West Kent Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge 8565 at that time. He is in fact the Master of that Lodge at present. In 1979 he became a Founder of Eltham Lodge 8866, serving as their Master in 1981.

Bro Blew was appointed Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1984, and four years later received Grand Honours when he was made PAGDC. John Joined the Fiennes Cornwallis Lodge 9279 in 1995, and three years later he was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon.

Finally, as we all know, Bro John was Appointed and Invested as Assistant Provincial Grand Master at the Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge in May.

In the Royal Arch he was Exalted in Sydney Chapter 829 in 1968, becoming their MEZ in 1977. In 1972 John was one of the Founders of County Gate Chapter 7849, and six years later served as their MEZ also. Companion John Joined West Kent First Principals 5778 in that same year. In 1982/3 John was Provincial Deputy Grand Director of Ceremonies, moving on to become Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies in the Royal Arch in 1992, which office he held until taking up his new appointment following Bro Roger Chapman's retirement in the Craft. Comp John was appointed PAGDC in Supreme Grand Chapter in 1988.

Good wishes are offered to John for success and enjoyment in the task which lies ahead.



2000: W.Bro. David Roy Williams of Dante Lodge No.3707 became a joining member. Mr Stephen James Burke was Initiated. W.Bro. John E. Burke was proclaimed W. Master for the ensuing year, the first time a W. Master had served two consecutive years, and in the Millennium year too.

W.Bro. A.G. Hanson died on 6th December.

2001: W.Bro. Michael Christopher Palmer of Lullingstone Lodge No.1837 and William D'Aeth Lodge No.8710 became a joining member. Mr Paul Clifford Hollett was Initiated. Bro.Barry Hayes Hudson was Installed as W. Master. M.W.Bro. the Right Honourable Lord Farnham, Past Pro Grand Master died on 22nd March. W.Bro. W.J. Eveson died on 26th October. Bill was a great supporter of the Lodge and though by his own admission was not a good ritualist, supported the Lodge in every way he could. His real passion was old motorbikes and he waxed lyrical when talking about stripping down one of his collection of old motorcycles.

2002: Mr Terence George Green was Initiated. W.Bro. T W Tanner was Installed as W. Master. W.Bro. L G Pettis died on 8th October. Bro. P.C. Hollett died on 6th December. Paul was known for his wicked sense of humour and we were all devastated at his sudden passing.

2003: Bro. Alan John Burke was Installed as W. Master. Mr Peter John Marrable was Initiated.

2004: Mr Paul John Hudson, Nigel's brother, was Initiated. Bro. John Edward Sustins of Lodge of Loyalty No.7156 became a joining member. W.Bro. John introduced the presentation of the White Gloves to Initiates and this has been adopted as part of the County Gate Ritual. Bro. Keith Jones was Installed as W. Master. Mr Michael William James Brittain was Initiated.

2005: W.Bro. D.R. Williams. LGR died on 1st March. David had only been a member of County Gate for some 5 years but his sense of humour and dedication to Masonry impressed us all. Mr James Laybourn-Morris was Initiated. W.Bro. Victor Phillip Ball was Installed as W. Master for the second time. Bro. Terence John Ballard of Lodge of Loyalty No.7156 became a joining member. Mr Hann Macfoy, introduced to us via the Provincial office, was Initiated. Bro. Fred Sage died.

2006: Bro. Dennis Stratton died on 5th January. W.Bro. John Edward Sustins was Installed as W. Master having been a member for just two years. W.Bro. Brian Bowden-Brown of the Albert Lucking Lodge No.2717 (Essex) became a joining member. Mr Lee James Williams was Initiated. On the 19th September, we celebrated Jimmy Crawford's 50th year as a Freemason. He was Initiated into the Thurston Lodge No.2525 (West Lancashire) on 1st August 1956. The Lodge was called off and guests were invited into the Temple to witness W.Bro. John Louis Blew, attending in his official capacity as APM, speak very warmly about W.Bro. James's masonic career and afterwards present him with his 50-year Certificate. W.Bro. Blew is pictured below with W.Bro. James, his wife, Ada, and the W. Master, W.Bro. John Sustins.



W.Bro. H. Andrews died on 4th December 2006. He was a non-dining member for many years and was known only to the most senior members of the Lodge.

2007: W.Bro. R.N. Boyce died on 19th January. He hated being called Ronald Neville and was known to us all as Bill Boyce, he was one of those characters you only meet once in your life. A stickler for the ritual, Bill loved nothing more than being invited to assist in any ceremony. He moved to the New Forest to be near his daughter a few years before his death.

W.Bro. Greg Dunham, **PAGDC**, a visitor invited especially for the purpose, delivered the “Walking Charge in the 3rd Degree” following the Raising of Bro.Hann Macfoy, the first time this intriguing piece of ritual had been delivered at a County Gate Lodge meeting. W. Bro’s. Brian Bowden-Brown and Gordon Bonner have since delivered this charge after a Third Degree.

At the Installation meeting on Tuesday 17th July, a new VSL was presented to the Lodge on behalf of the Grand Officers, W.Bro. John Louis Blew. **PSGD**, W.Bro. Keith Washer.

PAGStBr and W.Bro. Alan Game, **PJGD**. The W. Master then presented the Lodge with a new set of Square and Compasses. The Provincial Grand Chaplain was present and dedicated the new VSL with some well-chosen words. Bro.Ian Carey was afterwards Installed as W. Master.

Mr Leopoldo Antonio DiMuro was Initiated.

2008: Mr Peter Carl Fallon was Initiated. W.Bro. K.J. House became W. Master for the second time. Mr Shane Byford was Initiated. Bro.Terence John Ballard died on 27th August, having been a member for just three years.

2009: Mr Marc Edward Smith was Initiated. Bro.Nigel Arthur Hudson was Installed as W. Master.

2010: Mr Martin Dennis Simmons was Initiated. W.Bro. Keith Washer, **PGStB**, one of our most respected and well-loved members, died on 16th February. Bro. R.L. Ashton, who had been a non-dining member for many years, died on 2nd March. M.W.Bro.the Rt Hon Lord Cornwallis, Past Pro Grand Master, died on 6th March. W.Bro. Brian Bowden-Brown was Installed as the W. Master. This proved to be an eventful Installation meeting due to our acting S. Warden, W.Bro. Barry Hudson, collapsing whilst seated in the S. Warden's chair. His life was saved by W. Bro's Keith Jones, Anthony Russell, MBE (Eltham Lodge No.8866) and Peter Jordan (Lullingstone Lodge No.1837) who had the requisite training in the use of the on-site defibrillator to keep him alive until the Paramedics arrived. This Lodge will be forever grateful to the members of Loyal Darenth Valley Lodge No.6206 who had the foresight to provide the Defibrillator for the DMC. After a stay in hospital and numerous tests, a mini-defibrillator was fitted into his chest and W.Bro. Hudson eventually made a full recovery.

Mr James Edward Russell was Initiated.

2011: Annual Subscriptions were now £210.00. Bro.Michael William James Brittain was Installed as W. Master. On 13th November, Remembrance Sunday, W.Bro. Ron Jones passed to the Grand Lodge above after a long period of poor health. Ron, and his wife Eileen have been my next-door neighbours for 35 years, and W.Bro. Ron was my Proposer into Freemasonry. We will all miss him greatly in many different ways. He had an impish sense of humour, well illustrated by a visit several years ago to the Sidcup household recycling Centre to dispose of a large bag of garden waste. He spotted one of our members, W.Bro.David Williams, unloading his car and whilst David was emptying one of his bags, W.Bro. Ron quickly put his large bag of rubbish into the boot of David's car and stood well back to see the reaction he got. The look of surprise and disbelief on David's face was an absolute picture according to W.Bro. Ron. I leave it to your imagination what David said to Ron after he stepped forward and owned up.

And so, to 2012, our 50th anniversary year.

In February, I gave a talk on the ritual work we do in the Temple along with some of its meaning and symbolism. The April meeting dealt with the normal business of the Lodge and was followed by our customary white table. July saw Bro. James Laybourn-Morris Installed as W. Master for this very special year.

On 18th September 2012, The Worshipful Master was delighted to Initiate his friend of several years, Mr Ian Stuart Campbell, pictured below after the ceremony with his Proposer, the Worshipful Master.



Bro.Ian Campbell & the Worshipful Master, W.Bro. James Laybourn-Morris.

On the morning of Wednesday 3rd October 2012, came the tragic news of the sudden death of W.Bro. John Louis Blew, **PSGD**, **PAPGM** after collapsing at home the previous evening.

Medics were called and fought desperately for an hour and a half to revive him but were unsuccessful.

Such a terrible loss to his family, to this Lodge, and also to Eltham Lodge No.8866 of which he was a Founder Member. Freemasonry in general and the Masonic Province of West Kent in particular is the poorer for his passing and he will be sorely missed by all who knew him. W.Bro. John was a source of knowledge and support which simply cannot be replaced. W.Bro. John was looking forward to the 50th Anniversary celebrations of the Lodge he was so proud of and loved so dearly; and in March 2013, W.Bro. John would have celebrated his 50 years in Freemasonry. Plans were well in hand for a Long Service Certificate to be presented to him by the Provincial Grand Master, Rt.W.Bro. Jonathan Stewart Winpenny at our Regular Lodge Meeting in April 2013, but sadly it was not to be.

Up to and including the Regular Lodge Meeting held on 18th September 2012, all the Past Masters of the Lodge had been listed on the Summons, however, there comes a time when this is no longer practical due to the sheer number of them and the limited space available. The summons for that meeting was the last time that all Past Masters will be listed therein, and from November 2012 the Past Masters list will be reduced to subscribing Past Masters, certainly for the foreseeable future.

For the record, the following list provides full details of Past Masters of the Lodge. The Grand Rank (in bold) and/or Provincial Rank indicated is that currently held, or was held at the time at which their Lodge subscriptions ceased: -

- 1962 (Primus Master) W.Bro. William Henry Ladd. **PGStB**, PPrJGD
- 1963 W.Bro. William Edward Wood. PPrGSuptWks
- 1964 W.Bro. Richard Vernon Whitbread. PM
- 1965 W.Bro. Edwin John Jobson. PM
- 1966 W.Bro. Sidney Hinckley. PPrSGD
- 1967 W.Bro. James Crawford. PPrSGW
- 1968 W.Bro. Thomas William Taylor. PPrSGD
- 1969 W.Bro. Leonard Richard Edgar Smith. PM
- 1970 W.Bro. Leonard S Day. PPrJGD
- 1971 W.Bro. Arthur Henry Carloss. PM
- 1972 W.Bro. John Louis Blew. **PSGD**, PAPGM
- 1973 W.Bro. Frederick George Abnet Smith. PPrGStB
- 1974 W.Bro. Sidney Hazell. PPrJGW
- 1975 W.Bro. Albert E White. PM
- 1976 W.Bro. Ronald Dennis Jones. PPrGReg

1977 W.Bro. Raymond Charles Tooby. PM
1978 W.Bro. Cecil E Holland. PM
1979 W.Bro. Ronald Neville Boyce. PPrJGW
1980 W.Bro. Keith Washer. **PGStB**, PPrGSwdB
1981 W.Bro. Douglas Edward D Brooks. PPrJGD
1982 W.Bro. Ian Gwyn Carey. PM
1983 W.Bro. Andrew S Hazell. PM
1984 W.Bro. Alexander George Hanson. PPrGStB
1985 W.Bro. Leslie George Pettis. PM
1986 W.Bro. Victor Philip Ball. PPrGSuptWks
1987 W.Bro. Roger Walter Maguire. PrSGD
1988 W.Bro. Gordon William John Bonner. PPrJGW
1989 W.Bro. Douglas Graham. PPrGReg
1990 W.Bro. John Edward Brown. PM
1991 W.Bro. Kenneth John House. PPrGSwdB
1992 W.Bro. Cavell Patrick Burchell. PM
1993 W.Bro. David William May. PPrDGDC
1994 W.Bro. Stanley Louis Morse. PM
1995 W.Bro. John Louis Blew. **PSGD**, PAPGM
1996 W.Bro. Peter Lloyd Manners. PPrSGD
1997 W.Bro. William John Eveson. PM
1998 W.Bro. Gordon William John Bonner. PPrJGW
1999 W.Bro. John Edward Burke. PPrSGD
2000 W.Bro. John Edward Burke. PPrSGD
2001 W.Bro. Barry Hayes Hudson. PPrAGDC
2002 W.Bro. Terence William Tanner. PPrJGD
2003 W.Bro. Alan John Burke. PPrJGD
2004 W.Bro. Keith Jones. PM
2005 W.Bro. Victor Philip Ball, PPrGSuptWks
2006 W.Bro. John Edward Sustins, PPrAGDC
2007 W.Bro. Ian Carey. PM
2008 W.Bro. Kenneth John House. PPrGSwdB
2009 W.Bro. Nigel Arthur Hudson. PM
2010 W.Bro. Brian Bowden-Brown, PPrGSwdB (Essex)
2011 W.Bro. Michael William James Brittain. PM
2012 W.Bro. James Laybourn-Morris. PM

Past Masters in the Lodge: -

W.Bro. Alan Game, LtCdr, RD, RNR(Ret'd), **PJGD**, PPrJGW. PM Lodge of Loyalty No.7156

W.Bro. Michael Christopher Palmer. PPrGSuptWks, PM of Lullingstone Lodge No.1837.



The Portico at the entrance to the Dartford Masonic Club
Erected in memory of W.Bro. Keith Washer, **PGStB**, PPrGSwdB a highly respected member
of this Lodge and a Founder member of Eltham Lodge No.8866.

In conclusion, the author gratefully acknowledges the advice, help and encouragement of
W.Bro. Jimmy Crawford, and W.Bro. John Blew, which led to the production of this souvenir
booklet. W.Bro. John Blew was my proof reader and I hope and trust that there is something
in this booklet which will be of interest to all its recipients.

Sincerely & Fraternaly,
David May, PPrDGDC
Secretary.



County Gate Lodge No.7849