

European Masonic Association Newsletter

Number 5.

Autumn 2009

Editorial

Brethren

Please take a few minutes to read your Newsletter. Over the next twelve months there are a few ventures I hope you will be interested in and will support.

The Autumn gathering in Spain is now a fond memory, but to those of you that were there the memories of a good time will linger on. My thanks go to David Tabner who was the initiator of the Spanish visit through his association with the ex-pat members of Lafayette Lodge No. 50.

It is always a shame when we leave these gatherings without any new recruits to our European Masonic Association. I have given out joining forms and left forms with the Lodge Secretary but to date have not had a single recruit from Spain. The Story was the same after our last visit in 2008. Never the less we did take on two new members from the UK whilst we were in Spain. We still need more.

The forthcoming year is going to be a busy one for the EMA with gatherings in Dover UK in April, Frankfurt Germany in October and hopefully, in November /December we have been invited to support a Visit to India for a period of 9/10 days. The EMA, has indicated its support for this venture. This trip for obvious reasons cannot in any way be under the auspices of the EMA but we have indicated we will support the endeavours of our Brother Suresh Gupta.

(Please see page 7 for the proposed details and costs.)

The EMA is a Friendly and Fraternal Association, we have wonderful visits to other European Lodges and in general have a great Social Time together. I would like to see even more integration and mixing of our own members at our gatherings and not in little groups from the same Provincial areas. By mixing and integrating we will surely learn more about one another and certainly more about our fraternity and of course we will be making a daily advancement in our noble science.

If you have any moans or groans or even any suggestions lets hear from you. It would make a change to have someone else's views and comments other than my own.

Gordon Reeves

Secretary/Editor

SPAIN 2009

Freemasonry in Spain

In the Twentieth Century Freemasonry was suppressed for over fifty years in Spain.

During General Franco's Dictatorship Freemasons were treated particularly harshly The Death Penalty could be imposed if you were found to be a practicing Mason. Some of our Brethren did loose their lives, shot by firing Squad. They were generally found guilty of acts of terrorism or that was what the Franco Regime wanted the world to believe. Today Spain is Free and Democratic and has once again got a Royal Family which is appreciated and in some cases adored by the population. Freemasonry is just beginning to expand once again. Recruitment is still very difficult because the people still have an inept fear of the past when Freemasons were persecuted.. There are several New Lodges that have been founded mostly by ex pats now living in Spain. Indeed there has been several New Provinces Consecrated in recent years under the Spanish Constitution and recognised by United Grand Lodge of England.

The EMA would welcome any Spanish Brethren into our Association and collectively we wish The Grand Lodge of Spain every success in breaking down the barriers and taboos of the past.

Gordon Reeves. Secretary EMA

Visit to Malaga

The Story of the week. As seen Through the Secretary's eyes.

MONDAY. The day started with a leisurely drive to Gatwick with time to spare before boarding the 11.00hrs. Aer Lingus flight to Malaga. Nothing untoward during the flight which touched down on time at Malaga Airport. We cleared emigration and passed through Customs out into the Airport concourse where we found a little man holding up his notice for Mr Gordon Reeves. That's me I exclaimed. Ah hello Mr Reeves I have your taxi to Tamisa Golf.

I didn't realise just how far it was, about fourteen miles from the airport. We just sat back and enjoyed the ride, the scenery was beautiful. We arrived at the Hotel and as they say first impressions count. We were impressed. Although the Hotel seemed to be miles from anywhere we were overjoyed with the views we had from our balcony. We overlooked the pool and the Golf Course with the Mountains as a back drop, it was very peaceful and tranquil. We knew we were going to enjoy our time at this Hotel.

Unpacked and changed we made the most of the sunshine for the rest of the day. We met up with the Irish brethren and their ladies who had arrived a little earlier. They had the same thing in mind as ourselves to get as much of the sun as was possible.

Joan and I made for the Restaurant where we had a light dinner. The Menu was in English and was truly International but was a little pricey. **The food was good.** After a Spanish Measure of Brandy it was off to bed for a well earned nights rest..

TUESDAY was a free day, nothing to do except laze on the sun bed around the pool and take a little golf viewing on board. Being a golfer I found it so easy to criticise the the stance, the swing and all those idiosyncrasies we golfers go through before hitting that little white ball. It was easy for me standing on the side lines but I would have loved to have had a round whilst we're here in Spain. I wasn't going to pay 75 Euro's for the pleasure, at least not while the exchange rate is almost 1 euro for the pound. Maybe next year.

More arrivals during the day, Elmars and Roma plus half of the Staffordshire Brigade and a few Yorkshire Terriers. These are the folk that support all our Gatherings. It was nice to greet them all once again. We continued our sun worship after lunch, unfortunately you have to keep moving the sun bed around the pool to avoid the shadows cast by the Hotel itself. My only criticism would be that the Hotel had been built facing the wrong way but then, who am I to criticise? Enough tanning for today time to relax on our balcony before showering and changing for dinner this evening. Dinner was once again a choice from the International a la Carte menu and with Twenty members of our Association dining together it was going to be enjoyable. The banter across the tables was up to the usual and expected standard. You really wouldn't believe that we had only been apart for six months since the last gathering in Londonderry. There was so many stories and tales to tell. It really was great to be amongst our dear friends again

WEDNESDAY dawned, David 'T' had arranged through the Hotel for our group to have a coach for the day. An additional day out to pastures unknown was the billing. After a leisurely breakfast we all assemble in the Hotel lobby to await the arrival of our coach. I'm afraid there were still a few thick heads from the night before but I'm sure we'll all make a quick recovery once we get going. "Where we going?" the cry went up. David, in a truly magnificent Yorkshire dialect announced. "Were going to a little town up in the mountains called RONDA. Well! You can imagine the laughter and banter that was forthcoming about a certain area in South Wales (Rhondda). The only difference was that in Wales its a Valley, where we were going was way up in the Sierra Nevada Mountains where earth reaches heaven.

The coach headed out of Malaga, passing all the new real estate, which isn't selling in the current financial climate, along this part of the coastline. After passing through Fuengirola we made for the mountains. Europe has certainly been good to Spain, new motorways everywhere, all paid for out of the EEC coffers under the heading Essential Re-generation. Our journey was to take about two hours, most of which was ascending the mountains via the winding roads, around hairpin bends, through dubious chicanes and passing some areas with sheer drops of several hundred feet on one side. We clearly saw the remnants of several cars that didn't make it. Putting all that to one side, the scenery and the vistas were really spectacular, well worth holding our breath for as we journeyed up the mountain. Occasionally you would see the old cart-tracks which were once the only thoroughfares through these mountains and which are now being replaced by these Super Highways; highways literally. We arrived at what seemed to be quite a lively little town. The bus pulled into the bus station. Not quite a Victoria Bus Station as in London but never-the less big enough to service a vast area with cheap and assessable public transport. We were let off the leash for three hours to wander and roam at will. Wander and roam we all did. Some wandered into the nearest bar whilst others roamed the streets of this small but interesting town of Ronda. The town was big enough not to get lost in and small enough to have a tourist street just like Oxford Street which took us a good hour and a bit to explore. At one end the road led out of town at the other end was a small pedestrian square flanked on one side by the Bull Ring where the bull is killed every Saturday and from where the restaurants are supplied with fresh beef for Sunday Lunch. I am told that it always used to be the practice that the bulls were immediately butchered after their day in the ring and the meat was then distributed to the poor of the city. I think I would get fed up with beef after a couple of weeks. I recall my own Children crying when **Tommy Steele** sang about the Little White Bull who wanted to be a Black Bull and to fight in the Bull Ring like all the other Bulls. They were too young to realise in Spanish Bull fights there is only one winner and it wasn't the Bull.

I think they are now mature enough to know what a sad and cruel sport Bull Fighting really is..Across the Square directly opposite the Bull Statue is the Tourist Information Office, the Bank and the Police Station. It is from here that the Ronda Go Cart will take you on a leisurely ride around the Old Town for a small fee, 25 Es. The go carts are not the motorised type. They are just one horse power. and are only licensed for Ronda. Its one heck of a ride to the next town along these mountain roads, if they were ever allowed out of

Ronda. To one side of the Tourist Centre was a well laid out park, with all the usual facilities and lots of flowers in decorative gardens. It was through the Park to the Old Town, I didn't quite venture that far, but I did see **John Thomson** heading that way.

Having completed our shopping, which we swore we weren't going to do, but you know its for the grandchildren. We headed back to the Central Square for a beer and a coffee and to spend the rest of our time in Ronda just watching the world go by. The town of Ronda is miles from anywhere up in the mountains, but clearly it is very popular with the visitors and the tourists. Well! It has got a tourist Info Centre and a Bull Ring, but I certainly didn't see much more. The journey back to the hotel was just as hairy as it was on the way up. The only difference was the brake retarder on the coach was working overtime. It was very efficient. Again there were spectacular views on the way down, as we held our breath and plenty of cars that didn't make it in the ravines. Perhaps, being an ex Traffic Cop, I take things too seriously, but what a waste of a set of wheels, by missing the bends and driving over the cliff into the ravines. I don't honestly believe anyone would have survived had they been in the cars as they went over the top. I was glad and far more comfortable when we got back to sea level. Never-the-less the extra day out was well worth it.

Thank you David Tabner.

Tonight we again dined in the Hotel. Some of the brethren decided to eat out and sample the local restaurants. As is almost the norm on such occasions we all met for a nightcap in the Hotel bar. **Just one?**

Wil and Heneke de Clercq should have arrived by 4.30pm this afternoon. Somehow Wil missed the turning in his hire car and took his dear wife on tour of the Costa del Sol. He eventually caught up with us at around 11.00pm. **Welcome Wil.**

THURSDAY The official start of the EMA visit to Spain. Wil and Heneke were welcomed by all the brethren at breakfast. The rest of the morning was deliberately left free and by mid-day everyone should be here. Suresh Gupta arrived just after Breakfast. He was on the early flight having left home at midnight. Shirish Patel with his wife and Sister arrived safe and sound at midday.

A full House! Let the festivities begin. Everyone was now settled into the Hotel and all looking forward to an enjoyable week-end.

At 4.00pm all the Brethren assembled in the bar area (where-else) of the Hotel, to meet our hosts for the rest of the day. The members of **Lafayette Lodge No 50 under the Spanish Constitution**, mostly ex-pats, were already there to greet us. By the time we assembled in the Lodge Room for our Meeting, the ice had thawed between us and we were all able to work with that Love and Harmony which distinguishes us from the rest of the popular world. This was only the third eeting of this Lodge since its reinvention, having only been re-founded and Re-Consecrated on the 16th of February this year.

The Lodge was duly opened by the WM and he extended a warm welcome to all the visitors especially the members of the EMA. The Meeting proceeded in the same manner and style as our own meetings back in the UK.

Mr David Pollack was initiated into Freemasonry in a very sincere manner by the Worshipful Master **W.Bro Jack Nicholls** ably assisted by all his Officers. The White Gloves were presented by 'yours truly'. The Charge after Initiation was delivered by the Senior Warden **W.Bro Carsten Steiner** in an enjoyable and sincere way. The Initiate **Bro David Pollock**, although he didn't know it at the time, was Initiated into our beloved Order in an excellent and most enjoyable manner. **W. Bro David Tabner**, our Assistant Speaker, expressed the thanks of the EMA in general for the way we had been received and welcomed by the members of Lafayette Lodge. He said "This is what Freemasonry is all about and long may it continue". He presented the Lodge with a cheque for **250 Euros** to be used in any way the Lodge may decide. David also invited the Spanish Brethren to 'chat up' The Secretary for an EMA Joining Form. We will be delighted to welcome you all into our Association.

The Lodge Room was cleared and prepared for the Festive Board. The Brethren assembled and received the WM and our newly made Brother. Before settling into the Soup course, the Main was paraded before us Roast Suckling Pig with the proverbial apple in its mouth. It all looked fine to me. After the thoughts about that baby Pig had past we all without exception tucked into a hearty Festive Board. The usual courtesies and toasts were honoured and exchanged, W.Bro The V Rev Dr Peter Miln proposed the toast to the Visitors Dr Miln apart from being a man of the cloth was a very articulate speaker and a man of many words. His command of the English language was second to none and he was a wit. To witness such a tirade of the English Language was a privilege. Someone was going to have to respond. Unfortunately, before we had even sat down to dine I had agreed to respond for the visitors. How I wanted the ground to open up and swallow me. Follow that was a cliché which springs to mind. After a few suitable words of thanks from me we moved on and we were able to join our ladies for a night cap before retiring.

FRIDAY Day trip to the Rock **GIBRALTAR**

A, not too, early start this morning. The coach arrived in good time to pick us up and quite surprisingly everyone was ready for a day in Gibraltar. The coach meandered along the coastal road of the Costa del Sol. We seemed to have done this journey before this week. Not to worry the scenery is very pleasant. Although we are all now in the EEC it seems so futile that the Spanish refuse to put any signposts to Gibraltar on their roadways. There are none until you cross the boarder and cross the runway into the town itself. Ninety eight per cent of the population, voted by referendum, to stay British. By any standards that's a high percentage. Gibraltar is a little bit more than just the Rock. Its a deep water port and is still a Royal Navy Base used for running repairs to our ships. Being a Sovereign Base there is still a front line Garrison within the confines of the Rock and strategically it is clearly a listening station for the Med and Middle East. (Is that supposed to be a secret). Half the population are Military personnel. During the day the population is doubled by the workers crossing the Boarders from Spain. It is cheap to live in Gib. It is a Tax Haven providing you are prepared to live and stay in the Square mile or so that is Gibraltar. Crossing the boarder back from Gibraltar you will get checked and scrutinised by Spanish Customs Officers and pay you will if you have more than the due allowance.

Most of our party decided to take the afternoon bus tour up the Rock. It was well worth the twenty euro price tag. The well informed Driver / Guide was able to impart a wealth of information about Gibraltar's History and its inhabitants including the Apes, the only free roaming Apes in Europe. "The Rock" apart from being hollowed out by man over the centuries to make Offices, a Hospital, Living Quarters and Air Raid Shelters and even a Waterfall, there is also a natural Pulrassic Cavern with stalactites and stalagmites, (I can never remember what goes up and what comes down) which is open to the public. Well worth a visit. Then of course there are the Barbary Apes, never trust them, but for histories sake they are well worth putting on your "To See" list

. Our time in Gib was now coming to a close so we headed back to our coach for the return journey to the Hotel. Our departure from Gibraltar was delayed by British Airways who at the very moment of our leaving Gib required the roadway to land one of their 747s. It was in all our interests to give way as the runway forms part of the roadway leading in and out of Gibraltar.

The Runway stretches out to sea on reclaimed land. The foundations were laid from all the rock dug out of "The Rock" when they tunnelled through it making all the facilities within.

SATURDAY EMA Members Meeting and Gala Dinner.

The Minutes of the EMA MEETING can be found on **page 11** of this Newsletter.

After the Members Meeting the Ladies joined us for a buffet lunch. The afternoon was left free to prepare for the Gala Dinner this evening. There was a slight change to the norm this evening where we usually have a Gala Dinner and where we invite guests. This evening Lafayette Lodge No 50 are hosting the Dinner and we, the EMA, are the Guests. A wonderful gesture from our hosts was the

free bar until midnight. The Highlight of the evening was a Five Course Gala Dinner with Wine and Liqueurs'. There was a cabaret for our enjoyment and with the minimal of

formalities throughout the evening, it gave plenty of time for Roma's Dancing classes. Before the evening came to a close, W.Bro David Tabner thanked the brethren of Lafayette Lodge that were present for their hospitality, adding we would be delighted to see them at our next gathering in Dover UK in April 2010. The evening ended with a good old rendering of Auld Lang Sine.

SUNDAY

After Breakfast we said goodbye to Suresh Gupta, Shirish Patel and Wil deClercq, who were heading back home this morning. For the rest of us, well we had another full day to be spent

at leisure, ready to fly back to the UK in the morning refreshed and tanned taking with us many happy memories of yet another successful EMA gathering. _

Gordon Reeves Secretary

HOTPRESS

OUR NEW WEB SITE HAS GONE LIVE

www.europeanmasonicassociation.org

Give it a hit, let me know what you think of the site. Over the next few months we will add items to the pages. The Newsletter will be added and changed every six months. If you have any ideas how to improve the site please let me know. If there is anything you dislike about the site likewise, please let me know.

You cannot overwrite or change any text, this can only be done through me..

Gary Comer is our Web Site Manager and will become a non-executive Committee Member.

Bro Ken Hestletine will be installed in the Chair of Saltscar Lodge No 5173 in Redcar, North Yorkshire on the 16th of September 2010. Anyone who would like to attend please contact the Secretary. *****

Congratulations to **John Thomson** on being Installed into the Chair of his Lodge. Had we have known, John, it was going to happen, I'm sure many would have liked to have been in attendance, myself included. Welcome to the Masters Club John.

Future EMA Events planned

1) **15th to 18 April 2010- Dover UK**

2) **22nd to 26th October 2010**

Frankfurt Germany

3) **April 2011 Llandudno**

North Wales

PLEASE CHECK YOUR AVAILABILITY DONT WANT TO MISS YOU.

Spring 2010 - Dover UK

Thursday 15th April to Sunday 18th April 2010.

The County Hotel

Townwall Street, Dover, Kent, CT16 1SZ, England, UK

www.county-hotel-dover.co.uk

+44 (0)1304 509955

PROGRAMME

THURSDAY 15TH

12 Noon Arrival and Registration.
3.00pm Coffee /Tea
4.45pm Brethren to Lodge 5 minute walk. SNARGATE LODGE
7.00pm Dinner in Hotel for the Ladies with Caberet
11.00pm Brethren Return.

FRIDAY 16TH

7-9am Breakfast
9.30am-5.45pm To be arranged local tour and attractions
7.30 Dine together in Hotel

SATURDAY 17TH

7.30am Onwards Breakfast.
10.30am EMA Meeting in Hotel
1200 noon A Short Masonic Talk
1 00pm Ladies join us for a buffet lunch
Afternoon Freetime
6.30pm Bucks Fizz /Sherry Reception.
715pm Gala Dinner.
.9pm to midnight Dancing (Cabaret)
The BAR will remain open until you drop . **But** No cash will be taken after 10.30pm all payments to room accounts. There will be a Raffle during the Evening.

SUNDAY 18TH

8am to 10am Breakfast.
Midday Farewell.

COST £235. 00 per person includes Hotel Full Board, Coach Trip , All Entrance Fees and Gratuities Buffets and Gala Dinner /Dance Entertainment.

The Masonic Festive Board is not Included

Booking Form.

DOVER UK.

~~15th to 18th April 2010~~

Please Print

~~Name..... Masonic Rank.....~~

~~Address.....~~

~~.....~~

~~..... Post Code.....~~

~~Phone..... Mobile.....~~

~~E:mail.....~~

Please reserve..... Single / twin / double rooms for the period

15th to 18 April 2010 for (Names of Guests.

()

~~.....~~

~~.....~~

Total Cost per person £235.00

I enclose a Deposit of £100 per person Balance to be paid by 28th February 2010

~~Please make cheques payable to The EMA.~~

~~Extra nights~~ can be arranged at a special ~~rate~~ for either Bed and Breakfast or Bed

~~Breakfast and Dinner.~~

Extra nights required from..... To

Signed..... Print Name.....

~~.....~~

Please return to Gordon Reeves. 77 Buckthorne Road.

Minster on Sea Sheppey Kent ME12 3RD . Tele: 01795 870361

E.mail g_reeves@madasafish.com

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I've Travelled Far

I've wandered the highways and byways
Through the valleys, the hills and the plains
I've travelled in all types of weather
In the Sun the Wind and the Rains
I've crossed streams, rivers and oceans
And arrived on many a shore
I've even climbed all the mountains
And I've reached up to heavens door
I've done all the things that I wanted
And now age must take its toll
When the tally is made of who's done what
I'll be there on that nominal roll
No matter where I travelled
Or how ever far I roam
There is no place I'd rather be
Than the place I call my home.

Gordon Reeves 2005.

Minutes of the Forty First Meeting of the EMA held at The Tamisa Golf Hotel Malaga Spain

The Minutes of the Forty First meeting of the European Masonic Association held on Saturday 17th October 2009 at The Tamisa Golf Hotel Malaga Spain starting at 10.30am.

There were present **Bro David Tabner** Assistant Speaker, **Wil de Clercq** Assistant Speaker, **David Parkhill** Treasurer, **Gordon Reeves** Secretary and nineteen other Brethren all of whose names appear in the Attendance book.

The Quaich was circulated and the brethren partook of the Golden nectar sharing in true Brotherly Love.

4) The Meeting was opened at 10.35am by Bro David Tabner, our Assistant Speaker.

He welcomed all the Brethren to Spain adding he hoped our gathering will be a memorable visit.

The Secretary read an E.mail from **Ian Benton** our Speaker. Ian wished everyone a happy time in Spain, he said he was sorry not to be with us this week but his previously booked holiday clashed with these dates. He promised not to let it happen again.

2) The Minutes of the last Meeting held in Londonderry, Ireland having been circulated vide The Newsletter were accepted as a true record and confirmed by the brethren that were present. Proposed by Bro **Elmars Miezis** and seconded by Bro **Jim Birkin**. That the Minutes as recorded be accepted. They were signed by the Assistant Speaker **David Tabner**.

3) There were several matters arising.

a) The Changes of By laws approved at our last meeting are now incorporated in the By Laws and anyone who wants a new copy must contact the Secretary.

b) The Secretary reminded the brethren that at the last meeting in Spain, Bro **Arnold Lawton** requested we keep photographs of all the members. It was agreed this would be a good idea and that new membership update forms would be sent to everyone to include a space for the inclusion of a photograph. To date I have only received twenty two.

Please let me have your completed forms back.

4) The Brethren were called to Order and stood in respect of departed Merit

To Remember Bro Reginald Talbot.

The Secretary said he was unable to put a face to the name of Reg Talbot. He said he was only made aware of Reg's demise by Members of his family who had come across some **EMA** Correspondence and had thought it proper we should know. Apparently Reg passed to higher Service way back in July this year. Reg joined the EMA five years ago but had never attended any of our meetings.

5) **Bro David Parkhill**, our Treasurer, gave an Interim Financial Report. He said we were in a good financial state all round. He

said all the accounts were in a healthy state and no increase in subscriptions were needed. We have a reserve of about £7000 in all accounts. He said only 43 members pay their subs by direct debit; he aims to increase this total this year.

There were no Questions

Bro Bob Cooper proposed and **Bro Arnold Lawton** Seconded that a vote of Thanks be recorded to **David Parkhill** for the way he has kept our accounts over the past year. This was carried

Unanimously. **David Parkhill** reminded the Brethren that although he accepted their thanks we are only halfway through the year a lot could change in the next few months.

6) To Ratify New Members.

There were two:

- 1) Bro Ivan Cooper d of b 27.04.1936 of Meadow Rise Cauldon Loowe Stoke on Trent Staffs ST10 3ET and
- 6) Bro Arthur Corbett. Details to follow.

7) Future meetings.

Dover UK 15th to 18th April 2010

The Secretary gave a Full report on the arrangements for this gathering. The Churchill Hotel on the Waterfront has been booked. A meeting of Snargate Lodge has been suitably changed to fit in with our arrangements. An outing to Canterbury and the Cathedral have been booked and a visit to The Province of East Kent Museum will be included. In Dover there will be the Annual White Cliff Experience Festival at this time. The cost will be **£235.00** per person which includes Hotel Bed, Breakfast and Dinners. All tours and entrance Fees, Two buffets, one Lunch out, a seven course Gala Dinner with Wine, a Bucks Fizz and Sherry Reception and Cabaret. Dover is the closest point to Mainland Europe to attract our European Brethren.

Frankfurt Germany. 15th to 18th October 2010

Bro Wil de Clercq reported on the provisional arrangements that were in hand with our German Brethren. The Sunday will be the Tour day and will include a Rhine Cruise with a visit to Rhudesheim and Boppard. The Lodge visit will be on Saturday in Frankfurt at Lodge Zur Einigkeit. The Ladies will Join us for Dinner

Wil will give a full report with costs at our next meeting.

Llandudno April 2011.

Bro Bob Cooper gave a

report on the early provisional arrangements for our Visit. Bob said all the foundation work has been done its now just a question of bringing it all together. Bob will give a full report with costs at our next meeting.

The Secretary said we are now looking for other venues for the future. At the present time there is every possibility of visits to Rome and Paris. For the present just watch this space.

8) The Newsletter.

Gordon Reeves our Secretary, reported that the Newsletter was now a feature of the EMA but due to logistical problems not everyone was receiving their copy. This is a matter that hopefully will be resolved in the new year. Those that receive their copies by E.mail there will be a download in MS Publisher as well as MS Word. If you can't receive either of these please let me know and I will put you on the mailing list. The Secretary informed the Meeting that upto now neither he nor David had charged any postage on the mail they send. Now that you only get three first class stamps for a pound I think that situation may soon have to change. Never-the-less, lets concentrate on getting everyone's mail to them.

Any items for inclusion in the next issue of The Newsletter must be submitted to the Secretary

9) Any Questions.

Bro Suresh Gupta asked if the EMA would support a Visit to India in 2010. He said he would do all the arrangements through his Company in India. It would include a Lodge Visit in Delhi. He proposed to go in November when it wasn't too hot. The Secretary said there was no way Grand Lodge would approve the EMA taking on such a visit. India is not in Europe. no later than **28th February 20**

A general discussion then ensued, amongst the brethren. The main points raised were How much it would cost? What sort of Hotels would be involved? How safe is travel in India.? Would we have our own Tour Guide? **Suresh** said He would arrange the flights and tours through his Company in India. He said it would be a lot cheaper. The Hotels would be 3-4 Star. We would probably have the same coach driver and Guide throughout He would arrange something for the Non Masons to do whilst the Brethren visit his Lodge in Delhi.

Bob Cooper said There was no need to mention **The EMA**. We would simply be brethren paying a private visit to a private Lodge. He for one was very interested in making the trip. **Bro Suresh** said the costs would be in the region of £730:00 per person. Any excess would be picked up by his Company. (See next Page for Full Details Cost and Programme.)

The Secretary said He was quite happy to collect names of everyone interested in making this trip but emphasized any booking must be booked with **Suresh Gupta** and all monies must be paid direct to him. And not the EMA.

10) **Bro Bob Cooper** Thanked the Secretary for all his hard work and for all his help this past year. He asked that a vote of thanks be recorded Seconded by **Bro Joe Hart..** This was carried by the Brethren. There was No Other Business.

11) Bro **David Tabner** our Assistant Speaker said Although he was indirectly involved in the arrangements for this weekend he proposed a vote of thanks to the Members of Lafayette Lodge and especially Bros **Ron Petit** and **Jack Nichols** the Master for making it all work. **THANK YOU ALL**

12) **CLOSE** The Speaker declared the Meeting closed at 12. 40pm.

The Brethren were joined by the Ladies to partake of some light refreshments.

These are the Minutes as recorded by me on Saturday 17th October 2009.

Secretary

Signed *Gordon M Reeves.*

I NEED TO KNOW

If you

- 1) Have changed your address or your E.mail Address or your Phone Number If you have then let me know. Just send me an E:mail and I'll pick it up.
 - 2) Have completed a Photo Membership Form ?
 - 3) Have sent me your mug Shot ?
- If not why not ? **The forms were sent out more than a year ago.**
- 4) Have informed me who your Next of Kin are ?
 - 5) Have signed the Data Protection Disclaimer Form?
(That's if you don't want me to store your details or contact you.)
 - 6) You want be on the mailing list)

Gordon Reeves Secretary

Have you anything to
Communicate?

-

Then let the Secretary Know.

Have your say! It could be in the next issue of the

NEWSLETTER

The following Tour is NOT organised by the EMA

However the EMA has indicated that it will Support Bro Gupta's endeavours and you are cordially invited to join in this tour.

Masonic and Rotary Tour of India - 29.11. to 8.12. 2010

Proposed Programme

- Monday 29.11- Depart London Heathrow overnight flight to Delhi.
- Tuesday 30.11 Arrive Delhi To Hotel Day Free. Welcome Dinner in the evening.
- Wednesday 1.12. Sight seeing Tour of Delhi during day. Evening Free
- Thursday 2.12 Delhi to Agra to visit the famous Taj Mahal in Agra.
- Friday 3.12 Sightseeing Tour of Agra and Fatehpur Sikri
- Saturday 4.12 Agra to Jaipur—Visit an Indian Village during the day
- Sunday 5.12 Sight seeing tour of Jaipur
- Monday 6.12 Jaipur to Delhi. Masons to attend meeting of Kitchener Lodge.
Separate arrangements for the Ladies and non masons
- Tuesday 7.12 Shopping in Delhi. Every thing is cheap. Farewell Dinner..
- Wednesday 8.12. Return to UK.

Cost £700.per person and includes return flights eight nights accommodation in in 3* Hotels / Indian Families. All Breakfasts, Lunches, Dinners, Sightseeing and Coaching throughout.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED THEN CONTACT W.Bro Suresh Gupta

e.mail iwslondon@hotmail.com or Phone 020 8969 9493.

Deposit of £400 by 28th of February 2010

Balance £300 by 28th September 2010.

This trip is limited to fifty persons only.

Applications To

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