

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.

Dover has now come and gone. Our initial plans to encourage more Continental Members to come and join in our gatherings seems to have failed. Being the nearest point to mainland Europe, Dover was thought a good idea to get our Members to attend. Only the **Dutch Members** took up the mantle and attended. They were the sole representatives from mainland Europe but there again, they always are and have never let us down. What can we do to get more to attend from the rest of Europe?

That the weekend ever took place, was due to some very hard work from myself and especially from Joan. On a final briefing pre-arranged visit to the **Churchill Hotel**, Joan and I arrived and found the Hotel securely closed with security guards in place to bar our admission. "They're in Administration" we were told. Nothing I could say or do was going to change the situation. We no longer had a Hotel for our planned EMA gathering and what's more we may well have lost our £500 deposit. I had booked the Hotel way back in December and certainly had no inkling that there may be a financial problem. Where do we go from here at such short notice?

Dover, surprisingly does not have a lot of choice when it comes to suitable Hotels that could cater for groups such as ours. Some-what shocked and stunned by the situation we found ourselves in and with just two months to go we decided to look at the **County Hotel**. This Hotel has been under the cosh for a couple of years from the Local Authority. They want to demolish the Hotel to build a new Town Centre and Public Offices. All around has been flattened by the bulldozers but the Hotel up until now has been spared. The Hotel certainly hasn't had a lot spent on it these past years. It isn't five star quality and the outlook is a bit disappointing but it was comfortable and clean. We had to take a chance!!! Fortunately the management welcomed us, they of course wanted the business and a good deal was struck. **The rest is History.**

Lessons have been learnt and will be taken on board for any future bookings we make with Hotels or other Third Parties. The **Churchill Hotel** was a **Best Western Group Hotel**. When the chips were down, **Best Western** abandoned the Hotel and all its customers. They claimed that all their Hotels are Privately Owned and **Best Western is just the Franchise Company.**

The EMA Pearly King and Queen thank you all for your support and for all the encouraging messages we have received. A big thank you also goes to Terry and Rita Kingsbury (Secretary of Snar Gate Lodge) for their friendship and help during the difficult times and of course to Stella and the **County Hotel**. To all who were in Dover thank you. To those that missed out for whatever reason you missed a treat.

We have some new EMA Lapel Badges for sale at £3.00 each. Those Members that were in Dover have already got theirs.

I have not got any moans or groans to throw at you this time.

Gordon Reeves.

EMA Secretary/Editor.

Visit to Dover—UK

The Story of the Week as seen through the Secretary's eyes.

Wednesday For us the day started when we left Home on the Isle of Sheppey and made for Dover, a journey of little under an hour if we stick to the speed limit. Arriving at the County Hotel we were greeted by Stella our host for the duration of our stay. Stella who is the Functions Manager, put me at ease from the very start of our stay. She was more confident than I, that everything will go as we have planned. Joan and I



settled into our room and rested up a while before parking ourselves in the Lobby to greet all the Wednesday arrivals. The first through the Hotel doors was David Tabner and Joe Hart with their wives, closely followed by John Thomson and Arthur Corbett. No sooner had the first group checked in when the Scots arrived in the form of Alex and Liz Marr with Alex and Helen

Anderson. Albert and Wendy were next through the door. All the Wednesday arrivals were safely checked in. We all dined together in the Hotel Restaurant and had a few night-caps before retiring for an early night.

Thursday Today is the day, I thought to myself as we made our way down for breakfast. Its too late to change anything now. We have all morning to ourselves I doubt if anyone else will arrive before 12 o'clock so we have a little time to walk or in my case ride into town. After Joan had spent most of my money in town we returned to the Hotel where we learnt that a Volcano in far off Iceland had erupted.

All flights from Ireland and Scotland had been grounded because of an

aerial dust cloud blown up by the eruption. Oh ??? I thought, how are the Irish going to get here. “Your friends from Ireland have arrived” said a voice from behind the reception counter. “Oh Hi Stella” said I. “Yes they have just gone out for a **fry up** they should be back shortly”, she responded. Well that’s a relief they got here safe and sound. It will all be over by the time they come to leave. The volcano should have blown itself out by then. Suresh arrived with his little suitcase. How does he travel so light? Suresh was closely followed by Ian and Barbara Benton and a host of others including all the remaining Dutch Brethren. Joan and I had already met up with the Overhands when we went shopping earlier. All checked in, all the formalities completed, its time for lunch and a little un-winding before we depart for Dover Masonic Hall and Snar Gate Lodge.

At 5pm the Brethren assembled for the short walk to the Masonic Hall. We were joined by Albert Pascall, Joe Ellis and Mike Willett all members of the EMA who live locally. It was nice to see them. On entering the building I sensed it was going to be a good evening for everyone. The members of Snar Gate Lodge greeted us as old friends and certainly made us feel very welcome. There was just time for a quick drink in the bar before taking our seats in the Temple. No seats were reserved for us, which was good, it made EMA members sit amongst the members and visitors of Snar Gate Lodge. The Temple was packed and a few extra seats had to be bought in. There were thirty two members of the EMA present from a total of one hundred and seven seated in the Temple. A truly magnificent turnout. Amongst the Visitors was the Assistant Provincial Grand Master of East Kent and the Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro Roger Odd who is to become Deputy Grand Master of East Kent on Friday 16th April 2010.

The Lodge was opened in due form with prayer. A dispensation to hold this Meeting signed by the Provincial Grand Master was read by the Secretary. The Master of the Lodge W.Bro David Bell welcomed the members of the European Masonic Association. He said that this was his first working Meeting since becoming Master of the Lodge and although he was pleased to see us and having a packed Temple is quite awe inspiring for your first Meeting, and it is also a very nerve racking experience. Never-the-less please enjoy your visit to Dover and your evening with us.

The work in the Temple this evening was to Raise Bro Madden. The Brethren were treated to a very sincere and competent Ceremony of Raising. The work and ritual, by all the participating Brethren, was excellent. Indeed, all the work in the Temple by the Lodge Members was carried out in a very efficient and purposeful manner. The Deacons work was worthy of a special mention. Bro Steven Madden, the Candidate, will in due time, realise just how well and sincerely he was Raised.

As is **our** usual custom, the Lodge was presented with a cheque for £250, by our Speaker, **W.Bro Ian Benton**. Ian thanked the Lodge for their welcome to Dover and said they should use the money for what ever purpose they see fit. The Worshipful Master responded by thanking Ian and the EMA for there generous donation and said it will be put to good use.

The After proceedings and Festive Board were equally as enjoyable as the Meeting itself. The food and wine, which flowed quite freely, was excellent. The usual formalities were observed. The Speech to the visitors was given by W.Bro Roger Odd the Provincial Grand Secretary. He welcomed us on behalf of the Province and asked why we hadn't been to East Kent before. He proceeded to tell us a little about the Province of East Kent and the changes that are taken place. In extending a welcome to all the visitors and to the EMA in particular. He wished us a good stay in Dover and hoped we would visit this Province again. W.Bro David Tabner gave a light hearted response on behalf of the visitors and the EMA.

David thanked the Provincial Secretary for his kind words and welcome to this Province. David proceeded to tell a few stories, which met the approbation of the brethren (*made them laugh*). Several of our members had winning raffle tickets which lightly fuelled the evening. Our Masonic evening ended at about 10.30pm.

The Ladies were not forgotten or abandoned whilst we men folk were doing our thing. They were making merry in the Hotel, wining, dining and being thoroughly entertained by "Kurly" W.Bro Geoffrey Howells.

We all got back together for a night cap in the Hotel, for some it was straight to bed.

Friday. (Tour Day). Early breakfast for everyone. We're all on the Coach by 9.15 for the ride through the Kent country side and villages to the Ancient City of Canterbury. Ascending the hill to Dover Castle where, from the summit there is a commanding view of the Port and Town of Dover. *We will return later today to the Castle.* Taking the coastal road, which lays well back from the White Cliffs, we

meandered through the countryside passing picture postcard thatched cottages, by-passing ancient farmlands and hedge rows and 'olde worlde' rustic barns. Our journey takes us through several old villages where the centre of attraction seems now to be the Olde Coaching Inns which have been given new life by the brewery's. The hop strings awaiting the growth of the hops later in the year are in abundance around these small hamlets. They are all kept neat and tidy and are most welcoming to the visitor. We arrive at the seaside resort of Deal. A small fishing town with a very Victorian Pier. Apparently it was one of Queen Victoria's favourite seaside places. The Town with all the terrace housing and tiny shops is still very much lost in a Victorian time warp. Continuing on our journey through the outskirts of Canterbury we finally arrive back in the twenty first century with ultra modern office buildings soaring skywards mingling amongst the twentieth century housing. We finally arrive on the periphery road around the city. Modern offices on one side and the



ancient, three metre thick, city wall on the other. We must enter via the Pilgrims Gate to the Cathedral within the City wall.

Canterbury Cathedral, is a place of Pilgrimage, a place of Worship, a place for the Tourist, a place for the Archaeologists and for the real Masons and is the original first Church of England. The seat of the Head of the Church in England, the Archbishop of Canterbury. The Archbishop does not live in Canterbury. He resides in his official residence at Lambeth Palace, just across the Thames from the Houses of Parliament. Right up to the Reformation Canterbury Cathedral was very much a Catholic Church under the direct influence of the Pope. Thomas Beckett was well involved in Politics and Religion a trite which cost him his life, but that's another story.

We were split into two groups for our Guided Tour of the Cathedral. I understand that one group were given far more information than the other on their tour. I personally found the tour very enjoyable and very informative, I learnt a lot, but as is the case on so many of these occasions we could have done with a little more time. I admit I was in the more informed group led by the Guide with the hair!!! On leaving the Cathedral we were set free to wander the narrow roads and alley ways of

the inner city. The city although Ancient it is a modern university City, very diverse and bubbly with a mixture of very ~~olde worlde~~ style houses and shops selling tourist tat and those up-market shops selling expensive merchandise..

To one side of the city and within the city wall there is a very modern Shopping Mall with all the leading retailers in situ. Running right through the centre of the city, every Monday, Wednesday and Saturday there is a street market. There you can buy everything from a Brussel sprout to a wardrobe. The market has a **Royal Charter** dating from ancient times. There have been many un-successful attempts to have the charter revoked by the City Council. Still the market remains and probably will do until the end of time.

Somewhere along Catherine Street in the middle of town there is a dingy looking building with a bright blue painted door adorned with a polished brass plate on which is engraved **Masonic Hall** . If you found this building and had entered, you would

have realised you are at the **Province of East Kent HQ**. Their Library and Museum are also here. It was closed on the day we visited Canterbury because it was the day of their Annual Festival in Margate.



We all boarded the Coach once again for the short drive back to Dover Castle. We were scheduled to visit the wartime caves and tunnels dug beneath the surface of the white cliffs. Some of these tunnels date from Napoleonic times. They may have been useful then and were certainly a blessing in those awful wartime years. Having trekked a route march through the Castle grounds, we finally arrived at the entrance to the Tunnels. Again we were split into two groups and advised to stick together in our groups and not to wander off. A clear indication that one could get lost in these tunnels. We were led through tunnels, caverns and caves that were fitted out as operational arenas, control rooms, telecom rooms and there were even living quarters and barrack rooms, a twelve bed hospital with an operating theatre and all the paraphernalia you associate with the same.

There were kitchens, pantries, power plants and generators, large rooms, small rooms and even little boys rooms (and little girls of course). Miles and miles of tunnels. We were shown the very Control Room, where our War time Generals directed the D- Day landings, and from where they also co-ordinated the Retreat from Dunkirk. All from beneath and within the White Cliffs. No one got lost or left in the tunnels! Once again time had beaten us, there just wasn't enough for a quick circuit of the Castle before making our weary way home. We did get a good view of the Channel and Port and we're told that on a good clear day, France can be seen. It was clearly an unclear day.



THE WHITE CLIFFS OF DOVER

France is 22 miles 387 yards away from Dover at its nearest points.

*To swim the Channel it is 21 miles 660 yards from “the point” at the harbour exit outside the sea wall. Subject to wind and tides. You must **exit** the water **un-aided** for any attempt to count. The swimmer must not **touch** the accompanying boat even to drink or feed. You must have an accompanying **aid boat**, when swimming, the boat should maintain a distance of 25yds from the swimmer. A record is kept of every attempt, failure or success, to swim the Channel. The quickest crossing is 5 hours and 42mins by Simon Mayes (American). (He must have been wearing flippers). The slowest recorded is 27hrs and 19mins by an anonymous French male.*

Forty four weary souls arrived back at the Hotel. Time is on our side now, we have just an hour before we all dine together in the Restaurant. The usual facilities remained open at the hotel until we all Retired for the night.

Saturday. Breakfast as usual this morning although one or two had a lie in. After breakfast the brethren moved into the Ward Room for our

Annual General Meeting. (Full Minutes are included in this Newsletter). Most of our Ladies had a happy saunter around the Precinct and Shopping Mall before returning to join the Brethren for a Buffet Lunch in the Hotel. The whole afternoon was at leisure.

All dressed in our finest garb we assembled in the lounge at 6.15pm. We were met by some old friends, in particular Tom and Sandra Fenny and many new friends especially those from the Snar Gate Lodge with their ladies for a Champagne Reception prior to our Gala Dinner. Chef's vegetable Soup was followed by Lemon Champagne Sorbet, to clear the pallet. Just time for one small aperitif before indulging in the excellent **Carvery** with a choice of meats to choose from, or as most did a little of each. The Sweet, if you still had room, was Black Forest Gateau and Cream. Wine was served throughout Dinner. Our DJ, Clive made sure that suitable and appropriate Music was played during dinner which helped create the atmosphere for a truly great Gala Dinner. After dinner, Clive set the pace with some good dancing music and the dance floor soon overflowed with people enjoying themselves. It was very pleasing



to Joan and myself that all was going so well with everyone putting their troubles behind them, if only for one night. The dancing gave way to 'Kurly' for a short Cabaret with some of his favourite songs from the '70s and '80s. I think we were all suitably entertained. It must have been at this point that the **EMA Pearly King and Queen** closely followed by **John Bull and Winston the Bulldog** put in an appearance at our Gala. Of course, **Pearly Kings and Queens** are Charitable personages and indeed our own Masonic Or-

ganisation is based in part on Charity and giving. All the sore needle pricked fingers, sewing buttons on to make our costumes, which were really just to sell raffle tickets were well worth it as through your generosity we raised the magnificent sum of £235. That included Bob Haysom's auction money.

Together with Clive and Kurly, Joan and I have been involved in raising money to purchase an Inshore Lifeboat for the RNLi in the Thames Estuary. Part of the proceeds of the raffle will be donated to that cause.

Patriotic John Bull was there to see that all our proceedings were conducted in that truly British way of fairness and gentle persuasion and of course with cordiality. Our Deputy Speaker **David Tabner** was the perfect **John Bull**. **Winston** the British Bulldog, strong, powerful and courageous was there as the enforcer, to help you part with your pennies. Although, probably not quite so persuasive on this occasion. He's a puppet!

After all the formalities and presentations of the evening had been dealt with, Clive once again filled the dance floor by playing the music you clearly liked. We could all have danced the night away but it all came to an end at 1.00am and another **EMA Gala Night** was confined to History.



Sunday. The last Breakfast for most with several making an early start on their journeys' home. Some of you stayed on to enjoy the Kentish scene for a few days more. Joan and I just un-wound and relaxed, then took the half hour drive home. As for the Hotel, they are "**one chair light**"! Thank you to all the First Aiders for their assistance. Thank you everyone.

Footnote.

There were several noticeable absentees from our gathering in Dover, namely **Sandie and Mina Christie** and **Shirley McDonald** and her sister **Joyce**. **Mina** was admitted into hospital for urgent surgery on the first day of our gathering. Health must always take the precedent over enjoyment. Sandy stayed with her throughout. A big card and a big bouquet was sent to Mina, wishing her a speedy recovery.

Shirley and Joyce although they weren't very far from us all in Dover, were with us all in spirit but were committed to Family matters over this weekend. They did send their best wishes to everyone. Shirley sent a donation to EMA funds in Memory of "**Big**" **John McDonald**.

*Thank you **Joan** for pushing me to get things done and for all your hard work and help which made Dover such a success.*

Gordon M Reeves Secretary EMA.

Frankfurt Germany.

Friday 22nd October to Monday 25th October 2010.

Programme

Friday 22nd October.

Brethren will arrive and register at the Hotel during the day.

17.00hrs Official Welcome in the Lodge Building.

18.30hrs Evening Meal Together in Lodge Building.

Saturday 23rd October.

08.00 to 10.00hrs Buffet Breakfast in Hotel.

10.00 to 12 00hrs EMA Members meeting in the Lodge Building.

Ladies freetime or Shopping in Frankfurt.

13.00hrs Lunch together in Lodge Building.

17.00hrs Brethren meet in Lodge for meeting 2nd Degree.

18.30hrs Ladies to meet brethren in the Bowls Room

20.30hrs Dinner together in Lodge Building.

Sunday 24th October Excursion Day.

07.30 to 09.00hrs Breakfast in Hotel.

09.15. Coach to Heidelberg 1 hour 15 mins journey.

Coffee break and a visit to the Castle Lunch included.

15.30hrs Coach will return to Frankfurt

17.00hrs Arrive at Hotel.

19.00hrs Reception and Gala Dinner with Live Music In Lodge Building.

Monday 25th October.

08.00hrs onwards Buffet Breakfast will be served in the Hotel.

Brethren depart to return home throughout the day.

Brethren wishing to arrive early or wishing to extend their stay in Frankfurt please inform Wil de Clercq. If you book early a special rate will apply.

Total Cost for the Three day EMA Gathering including visits, entrance fees, Gala Dinner and dinners throughout. **Cost £260** Payable in advance.

ASAP

These Dates are Confirmed.

Future EMA Events

Frankfurt-Germany

Friday 22nd October - Monday 25th October 2010

To include a visit to Heidelberg

Cost £250

Book through the Secretary

Organiser: Wil de Clercq.

Please complete an Application Form and send to the Secretary.

All cheques and payments to David Parkhill

£100 pp Deposit

Full payment by August.

Llandudno-North Wales

Thursday 7th April - Sunday 10th April 2011

Cost £250 approx

Book through **Bob Cooper** direct.

Organiser: Bob Cooper.

Telephone 01782 395321. E.mail: bobcooper13@sky.com

All cheques and payments to David Parkhill

Breda-Holland

Thursday 22nd September - Sunday 25th September 2011

Cost £ awaits.

Book Through the **Secretary**

Organisers: Adri Goedegebuure and Ron Herbers.

All Payments and Deposits to David Parkhill

Staffordshire-UK

April 2012

(details await)

Booking Form.

Frankfurt Germany

Please Print

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

Address.....

.....

..... Post Code.....

Phone..... Mobile.....

E:mail.....

Please reserve..... Single / twin / double rooms for the period
22nd to 25th October 2010 for (Names of Guests.)

.....

.....

Total Cost per person £250.00

I enclose a Deposit of £100 per person

Balance to be paid by 20th August 2010

Please make cheques payable to The EMA.

Extra nights can be arranged at a special rate

Extra nights required from To

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

.....

Please return to Gordon Reeves.EMA Secretary

Minster on Sea Sheppey Kent ME12 3RD .

E.mail g_reeves@madasafish.com

77 Buckthorne Road

Tele: 01795 870361

Mobl: 07977 544763

Llandudno Wales

Thursday 7th April 2011 to Sunday 10th April 2011.

**Accommodation:- The Imperial Hotel he Promenade. Llandudno. North Wales
LL30 1AP**

Proposed Programme

Thursday 7th April

Meet and Greet at the Hotel throughout the day.
Brethren to visit the Vardre Lodge No 8949 followed by Festive Board.
Ladies to meet and Dine in the Hotel

Friday 8th April.

Breakfast in Hotel.
Coach Trip to North Wales Area (Yet to be finalised) Lunch Included.
Evening meal in Llandudno at your own expense.

Saturday 9th April

Breakfast.
Brethren EMA AGM in the Hotel
Ladies Free Time to shop or explore the Local Area.
Buffet Lunch in Hotel. For all.
Afternoon Free Time
Gala Dinner in Hotel.

Sunday 7th April

Breakfast follow by our fond farewells.

ESTIMATED COSTS £260. per person.

For further information and Booking

Contact: Bob Cooper 13 Blacklake Drive Meir Heath Stoke on Trent Staffs ST3 7JL

Tele : 01782 395321. **E>mail :** bobcooper13@sky.com

All Bookings are strictly through BOB COOPER.

THESE DATES ARE CONFIRMED The Programme may be changed or refined.

Important Notices

Investiture

Bro Alexander Smith-Christie (Sandie)
Will be installed as The Provincial Grand Master
of
Forfarshire
On Saturday 25th of September 2010
The ceremony will take place at
The West Park Conference Centre
Perth Road
Dundee

If anyone would like to attend this very special event and would like to arrange Hotel Accommodation **Please contact Alex Marr** who has an arrangement at the Queens Hotel Dundee. £35 per person per night. If you wish to make you own Arrangements and see "Sandy" Installed and Invested Please let Alex MARR Know you will be attending **As Soon As Possible**. It would be nice to have a good representation from The EMA.

ALEX MARR. Tele 01382 631229 E.mail macmarr@live.co.uk

AN INSTALLATION INVITATION

Bro Ken Hestletine will be Installed in the Chair of his Lodge
on Saturday 16th September 2010
in Redcar Yorkshire

Ken has indicated he would like to see members of the EMA present at his Installation
If anyone would like to attend please let me know. I will be happy to collate the names
of any members who wish to attend and support Ken. Contact Ken or myself.
Ken Hestletine..... Tele 01642 491190 E. mail hesel.1@ntlworld.com
OR Myself on the usual Numbers.

Don't forget to return your Photograph Membership Forms I am still Ninety Short. Signed: Gordon Reeves Secretary.

Minutes of the Forty Second Meeting of the EMA held at The County Hotel Dover UK.

AGM Agenda.

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

The Quaich was circulated and the Brethren partook of the Golden nectar sharing True Brotherly Love.

Item 1) Opening

The Meeting was opened at 10.40am by Bro Ian Benton our Speaker. He welcomed all the Brethren to Dover adding he hoped our gathering will be a memorable visit.

Item 2) The Minutes of the Forty First Meeting

The Minutes of the European Masonic Association Meeting held on Saturday 17th October last at The Tamisa Golf Hotel Malaga Spain having been circulated vide **The Newsletter** were accepted as a true record and confirmed by the Brethren that were present. Proposed by W.Bro Suresh Gupta and seconded by W. Bro Brian Lowings, that the Minutes as recorded be accepted. They were signed by the Speaker **Ian Benton**.

Item 3) Matters Arising.

a) The Changes to the 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 of the new Photograph Forms back. **Please let me have your completed forms back.**

Item 4) Treasurers Report.

W.Bro David Parkhill, our Treasurer, gave a Report on our Financial Affairs. He presented the Audited Balance Sheets for the EMA bank Accounts. David said we are in a healthy state as our Accounts show. He said that the Current Account shows some income for the Dover meeting. This of course will be cancelled out in next years balance when Gordon has cleared his arrangements with the Hotel. This will be under next years accounts.

Item 5 The Auditors Report.

The Auditors were not present therefore no Report was forthcoming. W.Bro Bob Cooper proposed and W.Bro Bob Haysom seconded, that in the absence of the Auditors Reports the Accounts should be accepted and passed. This was carried unanimously. Vote of thanks to David.

Item 6) Creditors Report.

Bro Gordon Reeves, the Secretary gave a brief report on the Churchill Hotel that was originally booked for this weekend. A £500 Deposit was paid before the Hotel went into administration. He said that the chances look a bit grim for us to get all our money back but we have Registered with the Administrators as a Creditor. We have been accepted as true Creditors and may get something back in due course. The financial position of the Hotel Owners was not good. The Company have very little left to pay off Creditors after all the Administrators Fees and the like are taken off. Probably 10p in the pound, if we're lucky.

Item 7) To Ratify New Members.

There was only one, **W.Bro Alexander Josef Gillespie** who prefers to be known as Joe. Proposed by The Secretary. The Secretary said Joe is present with us this weekend and is attending his first EMA AGM today. Joe was accepted as a Member by the Brethren present.

Item 8)

Election of Officers

The Speaker. The Secretary reported that there were no other nominations for Speaker. **W Bro Ian Benton** is our Current Speaker and is willing to continue. **Elected** as Speaker. *W.Bro Ian thanked the brethren for their continued support.* **The Treasurer, W. Bro David Parkhill** being the only nomination was re-elected Treasurer. *David thanked the brethren for their confidence in him.* **Secretary.** There were no other nominations. **W Bro Gordon Reeves** is willing to continue and was elected. *Gordon thanked the brethren and stated that his health wasn't so good these days. Diabetic Neuropathy was beginning to take over his daily routines. Never the less he was pleased to continue as Secretary. The Speaker suggested that perhaps an Assistant Secretary be found to assist Gordon in his duties. Someone who lives close by. He asked Gordon to look into this. At the same time he asked him to record a vote of thanks to himself for all he has done for the EMA.* This was noted. **Auditors** There were two nominations, **W.Bro Sam Olphert and W.Bro John Burnside.** Both were Elected to serve as Auditors, in their absence. Proposed by John and seconded by Albert Pascall. **Deputy Speaker. W.Bro David Tabner** was appointed Deputy to Ian. **Assistant Speakers:** After a short discussion it was agreed that the existing Assistant Speakers continue in Office.

W.Bro Wil de Clercq (Holland), **W.Bro Erich Voight** (Germany) and from France **W.Bro Thierry Quiffin**. Just three were appointed. It was also agreed not to re-appoint W.Bro Dr Leon Singh (Germany) as due to ill health he will probably not be joining with us again. We continue to monitor the situation. We are in regular contact with his wife and daughter. Leon is presently in a Nursing Home just outside Frankfurt.

Item 9) Future Events / Gatherings

Wil de Clercq gave a Report on **Frankfurt Germany** visit from **Friday 22nd October to Monday 25th October 2010**. He gave all present a copy of the proposed programme, together with a Booking Form Please return your Forms to Wil or through the Secretary. (Since Wil made his report the Programme has changed. We will now spend the outing day mostly in Heidelberg.

The Programme and Booking Form form part of this Newsletter.

Bob Cooper reported on **Llandudno**

Thursday 7th April to Sunday 10th April 2011.

Bob circulated a booking form and the Proposed Programme.

The proposed programme is also included in this Newsletter.

Booking through Bob Cooper direct

E.mail bobcooper13@sky.com or Telephone: 01782395321

These dates are confirmed.

Breda in Holland 22nd September to 25th September 2011.

Arrangements are in hand with Andri Goedebuure. Full report at the Frankfurt Gathering. **These dates are confirmed.**

Staffordshire April 2012

Arrangements in hand with Bob Haysom. Provisional Report at the Frankfurt Gathering. **As yet no dates**

W.Bro Suresh Gupta was invited to give a brief report on his arranged trip to India on which many of our members are travelling (November 2010.) Suresh gave an interesting Report and said he would Guarantee a good time will be had by all. The Secretary pointed out that this is not an EMA tour, it has been arranged entirely by Suresh. Members of the EMA were invited to support Suresh.

Item 10) Any Questions

There were none.

Item 11. Any other Business.

W.Bro Ian Benton, our Speaker, said he had a little matter he wished to raise. Ian said he wasn't happy with several little things. He said we should maintain our decorum and dignity at all times especially when we visit other Lodges. After all we are representative of our own Association, the Craft in general and of course our own respective Provinces.

He indicated he wasn't happy with the after proceedings at the Festive Board at the Lodge meeting on Thursday. He said he wasn't happy with the response to the visitors toast, we should have been very respectful to the members of the Lodge that entertained us, and even more so, as the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and several Members of the East Kent Executive were present. We should not resort to fairy stories and smutty jokes. Continuing, he said In Staffordshire we certainly wouldn't permit it. If we are to continue in this way he would prefer not to be part of it.

W. Bro David Tabner responded by saying he was asked to Reply for the Visitors several days before the meeting. He said he was asked in effect to tell a few stories, which is what he did. He said he didn't think he was vulgar and certainly didn't think he had offended anyone. If he had he was sorry and would apologise to all who felt offended. The Secretary said, He was sorry this matter had been raised but he had asked David to respond for the Visitors and had asked him to tell a few stories which was the request from the Lodge Secretary. A member of the Lodge was to propose the visitors toast. This all changed on the day when the Provincial Secretary asked to propose the Toast himself which of course he did. The Secretary said he was made aware of Ian's sentiments shortly after the event and in consequence had made enquiries of the Province and the Lodge as to if anyone was offended or upset. The clear response was no one had taken any offence, to the contrary the members thought David's stories were quite funny. The Secretary said he had attended this Lodge on other occasions and story telling was the norm.

**Brethren,
this matter having been raised has had a good airing, the brethren concerned are not at variance with each other but are in harmony and as far as the EMA is concerned the matter is closed.**

Bob Cooper said he had a little irritation he would like to raise, He said earlier in the year the Secretary sent a notice out about Wil's Frankfurt Trip. Bob said on that notice the dates given were earlier than they are now. In consequence of that notice He booked his flights. The earlier you book the cheaper it is. The change has cost him almost £100 to change his flights. He said it would be better if the Secretary only served notice of the dates when they are confirmed.

The Secretary said the original dates sent out were correct as far as Wil was concerned and were as published by me. It was the German Brethren that changed the dates and later consulted Wil. The dates you have now are correct. It was agreed that no dates will be considered as correct until confirmed at the EMA meeting prior to the meeting in question. This was agreed. Bob said he was in no way blaming Gordon (the secretary) for what had happened. Quiet the opposite Gordon doe a grand job. It was agreed to refund Bobs losses from EMA funds. Ian Benton said he and Barbara had also been affected by the date change and due to other commitments would not now be able to come to Frankfurt.

The Secretary reported he had received numerous apologies, too many to mention at this time but they will all be recorded in the **Attendance Book**.

The Meeting closed at **11.40.am**.

These are the Minutes as recorded by me on Saturday 17th April 2010.

Signed: Gordon Reeves Secretary EMA.

After a short Coffee and Comfort Break Gordon Reeves the Secretary introduced **W.Bro Raymond Hudson** our Guest Speaker. Bro Ray is a Masonic Lecturer and Researcher recognised by Grand Lodge and whom I have known for many years, asked the Brethren to Form themselves into a half circle rather than being seated in a more formal fashion. He said he hadn't prepared a Talk for this occasion. The Secretary was aghast as he had approached Ray several weeks earlier to give a Masonic Talk today. Ray said he would like to take another approach to talking to groups such as this. He said what he was about to do is not meant to embarrass anyone but rather to demonstrate how much we don't know. With our co-operation he would try to show us just how much or how little we know about our masonry. Ray surprised us all by asking individuals questions about various aspects of Masonry. No one was really embarrassed by the questions and none of the question he posed were trick questions. What surprised us all was our **lack** of knowledge of our Masonry. We learn our Rituals and become very proficient, today I believe we learnt a lot more of what we should know. Ray's questions posed many questions from the brethren in return. Ray's answers were interesting and very informative. A forty five minute talk became an hour and quarter, an inquisition enjoyed by everyone.

W.Bro Ian Benton, our Speaker, said he had learnt something today and that he had made a daily advancement in his Masonic knowledge. He said that clearly the brethren had enjoyed your demonstration Bro. Ray

and we are grateful for your time and sharing with us all some of your extensive knowledge. You have made us all more aware of ourselves and of our understanding of our Masonic duties. Thank you Bro. Ray, I am sure our Secretary will offer you an EMA Joining Form and we will be pleased to welcome you should you decide to join us. Thank you once again, we wish you a safe journey back from whence you came. You will be most welcome to join us for our Buffet Lunch.

Ian Benton Speaker.

Note

I know from the enquiries that I have had for Rays' details, that he made a good impression on you all. If anyone would like to Book Ray for a similar Talk/Demonstration in their own Lodges, Ray is available, all he asks is either his travel expenses **OR** a reasonable donation to charity.

His details are: **R.W.Hudson 46 Holmsdale Grove Erith Kent DA7 6NK.** Tele: **01322 551969** **(or through me)**
E.mail : rwhudson@ntlworld.com

Gordon Reeves Secretary EMA

Secretary / Editor

Gordon Reeves

***77 Buckthorne Road
Minster on Sea
Sheppey
KENT
ME12 3RD***

***Tel: 01795 870361
E.mail: g_reeves@madasafish.com***