

Foreword

The first 50 years of the Petts Wood Lodge No.5435 were documented by the late. Freddie Giles and I am indebted to him and his work on which I have based the 75th Anniversary History. Little could I have realised that as a young Freemason, 25 years ago, witnessing the 50th Anniversary meeting that I would be asked to record the next chapter in our Lodge's journey.

Freemasonry has changed significantly in the past 25 years and the Petts Wood Lodge has moved with the times and continues to develop and grow into its 75th year.

In the 25 past years the Lodge has had many ups and downs which I have recorded highlighting significant dates. Numbers have decreased over that time from 54 to 39. We are fortunate to have a number of new members joining us and we hope that they will enjoy their Freemasonry enough, so that in time, they will invite their friends to be members.

Whilst our numbers have declined our work in the Temple is still of a very high standard thanks to the work of the members of the Lodge of Instruction. However, going forward, it is unclear whether that venerable institution will still be in existence as it is mainly attended by Past Masters and with falling attendance and rising costs we may be forced to amalgamate or close. That would be a shame as one of only two recognised Lodges of Instruction approved by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement in West Kent it would be a loss to the teaching of Emulation ritual in the area.

I would like to thank W. Bros. Geoff Whale, Kevin Lewis and Paul Christopher for their assistance in the production of this history.

W. Bro. David J Ferdinando PPrGSwdB



One of two remaining Founders Jewels from the Lodge Archives

History of the area

It is generally thought that the name of Petts Wood can be attributed to the Pett family who were ship builders from the fifteenth century onwards. One, William Pett claims our attention because in his Will he mentions lands in Chislehurst and the Oaks growing thereon – material for his ships. The ownership of these lands and other lands close by changed from time to time until they were eventually donated to the National Trust over a period of years from 1927. Originally just 88 acres (36 hectares) were bought by public subscription and donated to the Trust in 1927. This was expanded when the neighbouring Hawkwood Estate and Edlmann Wood, comprising a further 250 acres (100 hectares), were donated to the Trust by landowners Robert and Francesca Hall in 1957. The woodland features Oak, Birch, Rowan, Alder, Ash, Hornbeam and Sweet Chestnut.



Portrait of shipwright Peter Pett (1610-1670) with the ship Sovereign of the Seas in the background.

Painting by Sir Peter Lely (1618-1680), c. 1634.

National Maritime Museum, London.

Source=<http://www.portcities.org.uk/london/>

The residential development of Petts Wood commenced in the 1920s and was accelerated by the opening of a railway halt on the lines between London and Orpington in 1928. Later the halt was expanded into the existing four-track station. Before the 1920s there was no Petts Wood, as we know it today, only a few detached houses or farmsteads here and there. Even up to 1932 there was no large-scale development west of the railway line. The developer Basil Scruby together with master builder, Noel Rees, developed Petts Wood as a high quality estate in a rural setting only a short train journey from the City, with the east side being built first. Noel Rees's name is still used as a selling point by Estate Agents, his houses can be found in Great Thrift, The Covert,

Princes Avenue, Wood Ride, Kingsway, Chislehurst Road, The Chenies and many other roads in Petts Wood.

The area sustained heavy bombing during World War II because of its proximity to an important railway junction. Charles de Gaulle, leader of the Free French and future President of France, lived in Petts Wood, at 41 Birchwood Road, for part of the Second World War.

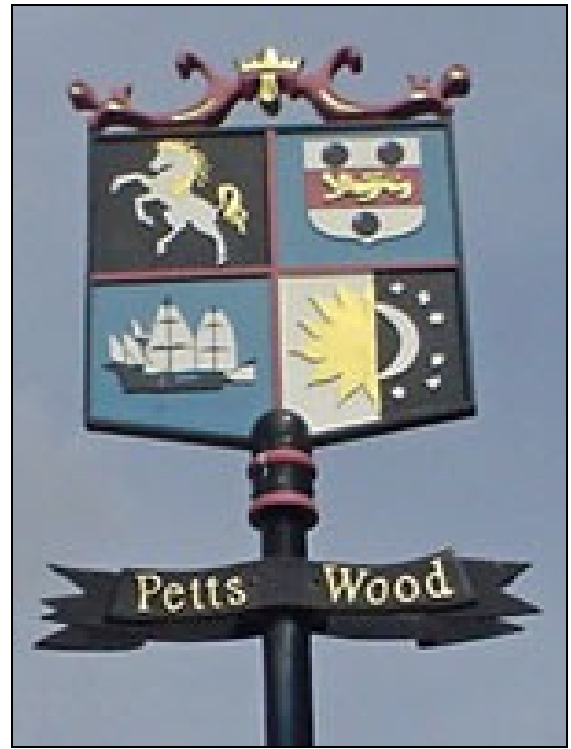
Among the new residents were a number of Masons who, as was only to be expected, gradually became acquainted with one another and it was not long before it was suggested that a Petts Wood Lodge should be formed. The sponsoring Lodge was the Catford Lodge No. 3649 to whom we are ever grateful for their interest in supporting the petition.

The Consecration meeting was held on the 10th January 1934 at the Masonic Hall, Cromwell Avenue, Mason's Hill, Bromley, Kent. The consecrating officer was the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, the Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis, C.B.E., Deputy Grand Master of the United Grand Lodge of England, assisted by twelve officers of the Province of Kent. There were 19 founders of the Lodge. The first Master of the Lodge was W. Bro. Cyril Ernest Goddard; the Senior Warden was Bro. Samuel Robert Pope and the Junior Warden Bro. Thomas George Galbraith. The first Secretary was Bro. Arthur George Smith.

The distinctive crest of the Lodge illustrates the memorial stone to William Willett, whose name will always be associated with the events leading up to the Summer Time Act of 1925. This Act, passed after his death, preserved for all of us the benefit in the summer of extra daylight hours. They were originally introduced in 1916. The memorial stone in the form of a sundial stands in the woods near the St. Pauls Cray/Orpington Road, a mile north of the railway to Swanley. The sundial bears the inscription, also seen on the Lodge Banner and Summons, "Horas non numero nisi aestas", that is, "I only count the summer hours". His name and deeds are also perpetuated in Willett Way, the Willett Recreation Ground and the Daylight Inn. A human sundial exists in the Willett Recreation Ground, set to BST (as is the memorial). By standing on the centre stone, the visitor casts their own shadow towards the hour of the day.



William Willett and the Memorial Sundial in Chislehurst Woods



The Daylight Inn's sign has been re-painted and as the picture (above left) shows, the painter or whoever commissioned the sign missed the point of British Summer Time altogether as both clocks are set to 12. On the Previous sign one was set at 12 and the other at 1.

The other photo (right) is the Petts Wood Village Sign and shows the Pett connection (bottom left) and alludes to the daylight saving time (bottom right).

In the past 25 years another Public House has been established in Petts Wood namely the *Sovereign of the Sea* commemorating Phineas and Peter Pett and their *Sovereign of the Sea* Ship.

The Lodge

The first regular meeting of the Lodge took place at Bromley on the 13th January 1934 when Bro. Samuel Charles Pope, aged 21, son of the Senior Warden, was initiated.

Under a dispensation granted by W. Bro. W. F. Blay, Past Grand Deacon, Deputy Provincial Grand Master, the Lodge held a church service on Sunday 13th October 1935 at St. Francis Church, Petts Wood, the brethren wearing Masonic regalia.

The Lodge banner was dedicated on 14th March 1936 also by W. Bro. W. F. Blay. The donor was anonymous. At the same meeting the brethren approved the formation of a Lodge of Instruction which was to meet at the Daylight Inn, Petts Wood, on Thursdays twice a month, October to May. Before its inception the brethren had been kindly invited by the Orpington Lodge, No. 5136, to attend their Lodge of Instruction.

As a point of interest it is to be noted that at the meeting held on 13th January 1940 it was proposed that "in consequence of the National Emergency, banquets be suspended and the subscription for a fully subscribing member be two guineas, provided that a member who is serving His Majesty's Forces may pay one guinea for full membership".

On the 17th May 1941 the Secretary announced that the Masonic Hall at Bromley had been requisitioned for military purposes with the result that on the 14th October 1941 a dispensation was issued for future meetings to be held at the Greyhound Hotel, High Street, Bromley. The Lodge returned to Mason's Hill on 17th May 1947 after a further sojourn at the Public Library, High Street, Bromley from 14th November 1942.

During this time the Lodge was very pleased to support the petition of a proposed new Lodge, the Hayes (Kent) Lodge No. 5929, on 13th November 1943.

At another meeting held on 10th November 1951 the Lodge agreed to make approaches to the Province of Kent to form a Petts Wood Royal Arch Chapter which was duly consecrated by the Most Excellent Grand Superintendent, the Right Honourable Lord Cornwallis, K. B. E., M. C., on 29th May 1952.

The 25th Anniversary meeting of the Lodge took place at the Installation Meeting held on 10th January 1959, W. Bro. F. V. R. Giles being installed as Worshipful Master, with W. Bro. D. J. Branston, Past Grand Deacon, Assistant Provincial Grand Master in attendance. By then the lodge had grown to 59 members.

At the meeting of 8th November 1980 the Secretary referred to the capital requirements of the Bromley and West Kent Masonic Hall Co. Ltd., to finance our "new Masonic home" at Oakley House, the first meeting being held there on 19th May 1979. The members accepted the situation as no suitable alternative venue was likely to be available for a Saturday Lodge and it was agreed that the Lodge continue to meet at Oakley House. In due course by donations from members. and by a small contribution from the Lodge, the total liabilities of the Lodge to the company were discharged.

A most notable event in the history of the Lodge took place on 12th March 1983 when the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, The Reverend Canon Peter Churton Collins, B. D. presented in person to W. Bro. James Finden Brown, PPrAGDC., PPSGW (Middlesex), a joining member of this Lodge, a certificate commemorating his 50 years in Freemasonry¹.

¹ DJF - This was my very first meeting as I was the initiate and I am afraid the momentous nature of that occasion was totally lost on me. I do however remember sitting next to the Provincial Grand Master on one side and the Worshipful Master on the other and being told, many times, how special that was.

The Lodge celebrated its 50th Anniversary on the 28th January 1984 in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. The Revd. Canon Peter Churton Collins. The Lodge gave £1,000 to the Provincial Grand Master and a Worshipful Master's Collar was presented to the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Peter Hibbins, by W. Bro. James "Jimmy" Finden Brown. That Collar is still in use today.

The meeting was tinged with sadness however as W. Bro. Maurice Kemp died whilst the Lodge was celebrating its 50th Anniversary and this was followed very shortly afterwards by the death of W. Bro. Denis Goode Whisker who had been Lodge Secretary for 21 years. W. Bro. Henry George Stevenson, Denis Whisker's brother in law and Assistant Secretary for some 24 years, took over as Lodge Secretary and was succeeded by David Robins in January 1985.

By November of 1984 the Lodge lost two of the last three Founders of the Lodge, V. W. Bro. George William Livermore **PGSwdB**, PDPGM (Surrey) and W. Bro. Leonard Frederick Malbon Parker, PPrJGW, LGR, they had been respectively a Steward and Inner Guard at the Consecration in 1934.

In March 1985, W. Bro. Bob Thomas joined the Lodge and was to become a favourite amongst the younger Brethren as a mentor; he became a stalwart of the Lodge of Instruction. At the same meeting Freddie Giles addressed the Lodge and congratulated W. Bro. Henry George Stevenson on being the first member to complete 40 years regular attendance at LOI and 25 years as Assistant Secretary.

In May 1995 the Lodge celebrated the 50th Anniversary of W. Bro. James "Jimmy" Finden Brown having joined the Petts Wood Lodge, he had celebrated 50 years in Masonry in March 1983.

In January 1986 the Lodge welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. C. Maddison Roberts together with his Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. John Blew (now a Past APGM himself). W. Bro. Geoff Whale, our Worshipful Master in our 75th year, was installed as Worshipful Master and some 55 guests ensured that the Temple was packed.

In March 1986 we were saddened at the passing of W. Bro. Bert Rumble PPrSGD, who had been our Worshipful Master in 1963 and had been such a committed member of the Lodge of Instruction having been Secretary from 1968. At this meeting we welcomed into the Lodge Bros. Horace "Bert" Hoskins and Kevin Lewis. Affectionately known as Kevin "Mugger" Lewis, Kevin was the Lodge Charity Steward who masterminded the Petts Wood Lodge's support of the 2003 Festival Appeal in favour of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution.

Around this time we start to see Bros. Brian Burbidge and Bernard Sarson appearing on the Lodge Register as guests. Our current Secretary and Preceptor of the LOI, Brian has been associated for a long time with the Petts Wood Lodge and Bro. Bernard has been a regular contributor to our LOI and one of the best candidates available as he gives the Deacons a run for their money throwing in the odd Taylors work when we are an Emulation Lodge.

In November 1986 we elected a Tyler. Nothing unusual here you may think, but until this time, the outgoing Immediate Past Master took a turn being outside of the door for one year as Tyler. W. Bro. Alf Ninhan was elected as our Tyler and he was to become a firm favourite with the Brethren. During November 1986 we held our first Ladies' Festival outside of the local area. W. Bro. Geoff Whale and his lady Joy had their evening in the Bedford Hotel, Brighton and 106 Ladies, visitors and Brethren were in attendance.

In January 1987, W. Bro. Roger Chapman, later to become an Assistant Provincial Grand Master attended as representative of the Provincial Grand Master for the Installation of W. Bro. Denis Calrow, another strong supporter of the Lodge and the Lodge of Instruction as well as DC of the Petts Wood Chapter.

In March 1987 our hard working Assistant Secretary, Bro. Philip Hirsch was initiated into the Lodge. And in May we were saddened by the Loss of Percy Vince who had only joined us in March 1985.

In January 1988, the Lodge was pleased to welcome V. W. Bro. Leslie Leonard Allen, OBE, **PGSwdB**, PDPGM and his Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Bob Bennie. W. Bro. John Adrian Hart was installed as Worshipful Master and after 27 years as Assistant Secretary, W. Bro. Henry George Stevenson, or George as he was commonly known, retired.

In March 1988 the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Simon Norman Francis Waley and the Provincial Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. Derek Leslie Bearman, now V. W. Bro. Bearman Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The Provincial Grand Master was offered the Gavel and took the Chair for the reading of the Lodge Minutes which he then put to the Brethren and signed, he then vacated the Chair and the Lodge continued with the business of the day which was to Initiate Bro. Brian Victor Baldwin.

In May 1988 the Lodge was saddened to hear of the death of W. Bro. Robert Duce, PPrGChap who had been initiated in 1963. At this meeting our current Treasurer, Bro. Paul Rogers and Bro. Vic Parker were balloted for and Bro. Parker was initiated, Bro. Paul was initiated at the November meeting.

In November 1988, we said goodbye to two very special members of the Lodge. W. Bro. C. E. Goddard, **PGStdB**, PPrDGReg, PPrDGReg (Surrey), a Founder and first Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1934 died in July. With Bro. Goddard's death, the Lodge now had no Founders remaining. W. Bro. Henry George Stevenson PPrGSWdB who had been initiated in 1939 died in September. Bro. George had only recently stepped down as Assistant Secretary of the Lodge after some 27 years service.

The Secretary had received a note from the Provincial Office outlining changes to be made to meetings, speeches, toasts etc as it had been noted how many members had been lost in the past 5 years. Being a Saturday Lodge we didn't have the same type of problems as Lodges who met during the week but we did tow the line. Meetings moved to a 5 pm start and due to our workload we were hard pressed to adhere to the recommendation of one ceremony per meeting

In January 1989, Peter Howard Lewis was installed as Master and W. Bro. John Blew represented the R.W. Provincial Grand Master.

In March 1989, we hadn't quite broken old habits and started at 3:30 and Raised Bro. Brian Baldwin and Passed Brother Vic Parker and Paul Rogers.

In January 1990 Bryan Sweetland was installed as Worshipful Master. One of the largest reshuffles of Lodge Officers occurred at this meeting. W. Bro. John Barker, after 11 years as Treasurer stood down and W. Bro. David Robins moved from Secretary to Treasurer. In W. Bro. David's place, W. Bro. Paul Newman moved from Director of Ceremonies to Secretary. W. Bro. Tony Barker became Director of Ceremonies and W. Bro. Geoff Whale became Assistant Director of Ceremonies. W. Bro. Ken Shaw reported that the Lodge was close to meeting its target for the 1990 Festival Appeal for the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys.

In May 1990 the minutes started to be typed intermittently, much to the delight of the author. Bro. Geoff Whale became a Provincial Grand Steward - only two other members associated with the Lodge had been so honoured, W. Bro. A. G. Smith a Founder and first Secretary of the Lodge and W. Bro. Ray Imrie.

In November 1990 the Lodge welcomed the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Roland John Wade who attended with his Director of Ceremonies W. Bro. John Blew. The APGM presented a Grand Lodge Certificate to Bro. Vic Parker. Bert Bishop took the Chair to initiate his son, Steven Henry Bishop. The Lodge elected Reginald William Orsman as Tyler to take over from Alf Ninhan who had to resign through ill health.

In January 1991 the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Simon Norman Francis Waley, with W. Bro.. Alfred James Taylor as his Director of Ceremonies and an escort of Provincial Stewards. The PGM took the Chair for the reading, confirming and signing of the minutes and then vacated. W. Bro. David Ferdinando was installed. It was noted that numbers at Lodge of Instruction were falling and the Brethren were asked to increase attendance.

In November 1991 Zachary Bishop, Bro. Steve Bishop's Son and Bert Bishop's Grandson was balloted for whilst Steve Bishop was passed.

After 24 years as Preceptor of the Petts Wood Lodge of Instruction, W. Bro. Freddie Giles stepped down and W. Bro. Tony Barker took up the challenge of keeping the ritual to the highest of standards.

In January 1992 Ken Shaw became Worshipful Master for the second time having previously been Master in 1971.

In March 1992 Zach Bishop was initiated by his Grandfather, Bert Bishop. Bert Bishop had the privilege of initiating both his son and grandson into Freemasonry.

In May 1992, Bro. Reg Orsman, our Tyler, had been Appointed **PGStB** and was invited into the Lodge to receive the congratulations of the brethren.

Just before Christmas 1992, the Lodge of Instruction was disrupted by a fire which had been deliberately started at the GEA Hall in Petts Wood. For the first time in its history, the Lodge of Instruction Committee was called into action to decide what to do. We were able to use the upstairs room at the Change of Horses Public House in Farnborough until we were able to return in January 1993. The equipment that had been damaged was replaced and we have continued to meet at the GEA Hall to this day.

In January 1992, Bro. Brian Burbidge, our current Secretary, joined the Lodge – at last some may say. W. Bro. Kevin “Mugger” Lewis was installed as Worshipful Master.

1993 saw the first year in which we had no candidates or work to perform. Looking at the register, Bro. Mason Minns name starts to appear regularly. Mason never became a member of the Lodge but did join Petts Wood Chapter and before his untimely death became Third Principal of the Chapter. We fondly remember Mason for his many witty remarks and “shaggy dog story” responses to the visitor's toasts and as a raconteur at our Lodge of Instruction suppers.

Without a candidate for the first time in living memory the Lodge was treated to a talk by W. Bro. Freddie Giles on aspects of Freemasonry in the March meeting and at the May meeting we had a very special meeting. The Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. Roland John Wade PSGD, accompanied by W. Bro. Ken Beckett as Director of Ceremonies were welcomed to the Lodge. The meeting was special as W. Bro. James “Jimmy” Finden Brown received a certificate celebrating his 60 years in Freemasonry. There followed a short talk on Social History by Bro. Malcolm Greenaway who was then Senior Warden of Enoch Lodge No. IX.

In November 1993, the Lodge had a talk entitled “Random Thoughts on Music in Freemasonry” by W. Bro. Ronnie Bridges **PAGDC** (Grand Organist 1989 – 1991) with W. Bro. Ken Marks (Tenor).

In January 1994, our 60th Anniversary meeting, W. Bro. Kevin Lewis continued as our Worshipful Master. It was noted that our membership was down from 72 in 1973 to 45 in 1994.

In March 1994 the Lodge welcomed the Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. Simon Norman Francis Waley and his Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. Alf Taylor. The PGM took the Chair for the minutes and then vacated the Chair. The Lodge had an initiate, Bro. Mike McLean.

In April 1994 W. Bro. John Edward Bangerter was promoted to **PJGD**. In May, W. Bro. Geoff Whale became ProvAGDC.

Kevin Lewis had a second Ladies night. The previous one had been held at the Little Ship Hotel in Brighton and this year the Royal Oak Hotel in Sevenoaks played host. Kevin invited Jane Reynolds, Chief Executive of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and the Lodge was able to present £500 towards the 2003 Festival.

In January 1995, Philip Hirsch was installed as Worshipful Master and one of Phil's appointments was Kevin Lewis as Charity Steward.

In March 1995 the Lodge Benevolent Fund was closed and the monies transferred to the West Kent Masonic Charities Association. Freddie Giles gave a further talk on aspects of Freemasonry.

In May 1995, for the first time, the Lodge was unable to attend the Prince George Duke of Kent Court Spring Fair as the date clashed with our meeting. At the meeting we welcomed W. Bro. Roger Chapman, APGM who presented a 60 year certificate to James "Jimmy" Finden Brown. This certificate was for 60 years service to Kent/West Kent Masonry. Additionally, the Lodge made a small presentation to W. Bro. George Wale our honorary organist who had played for us for 50 years. He was made an honorary member in 1960. Additionally a country member, Bro. Tom Madison also completed 50 years in Freemasonry and a belated 50 year certificate was obtained from the Province and presented to Bro. Tom.



W. Bro. George Wale – Honorary Organist of the Lodge for over 50 years.

In November 1995 we welcomed Bro. Roger William Brockman into the Lodge and W. Bro. Phil Hirsch held his Ladies' Festival at Leeds Castle in Kent. Kevin Lewis organised an assault course sponsored challenge for the 2003 RMBI Festival appeal. On a sad note we lost a long standing friend and member of the Lodge of Instruction. John Hamblin died in June. He presented the LOI with the Deacon's Wands we still use to this day as a "thank you" for the help he received on his way to becoming Master of his London Lodge.

In January 1996 Kevin Lewis installed Paul Rogers as Master of the Lodge. Kevin Lewis and David Ferdinando put forward and presented to the Friends of the Prince George Duke of Kent Court the idea of holding an annual Easter Egg Hunt at the home. The friends were very supportive of the idea and the Egg Hunt has been run by the Lodge ever since. Now in its 13th year, it has become a firm favourite in the Home's calendar as it brings children, grandchildren and great grandchildren into the home over the Easter period.

In 1996 Geoff Whale became Deputy Preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction. In November 1996 the Lodge was saddened to learn of the death of W. Bro. Robert "Bob" Hart Thomas. Bob had been a tower of strength to the LOI and would provide invaluable help and guidance to the younger members especially in ways to help remember ritual. If you were having a difficult time over a piece of ritual, Bob would often write it down for you in his wonderful copper plate style and hand you a little card at the next meeting to help you as an aide memoir.

In January 1997, Len Perry was installed as Worshipful Master and in March 1997 we initiated Rodger Stockford.

In May 1997 we held our first Open Meeting. W. Bros. Geoff Whale, John Bangerter, Paul Newman and David Ferdinando were involved in the planning of the meeting and in liaising with the Provincial Office to ensure plans were acceptable. Full Dress Regalia was worn and after the Lodge was closed the guests were invited into the Lodge. W. Bro. Roger Chapman APGM, accompanied by W. Bro. Ken Beckett, attended. John Bangerter addressed the ladies and guests explaining facts about the Lodge, Masonic Charities, the Open Meeting, Lodge Officers and went on to dispel some of common misconceptions about the Fraternity. The APGM then presented a 50 year citation for long service to W. Bro. Freddie Giles after which the Lodge listened to a talk by the Rev. Alan Morris about his experiences as a Parish Priest. The Lodge then held a White Table Festive Board and 74 sat down to dine.

In November 1997 the Lodge voted Bro. Steven Bishop to be the Worshipful Master in 1998. Shortly afterwards Steve's Wife Ann became severely ill and Steve stated that he was unable to take on the Mastership. An Emergency meeting was called in December and the members met for the purpose of electing a New Master. John Hart was elected, the meeting was closed, and the brethren then drove in convoy to the GEA Hall for our Lodge of Instruction meeting no doubt to practice the Installation meeting itself.

In January 1998 John Hart was installed as Worshipful Master. The Lodge was awarded an RMBI Patronage Certificate. David Ferdinando became the Lodge Secretary.

In March 1998 Kevin Lewis and David Ferdinando undertook a sponsored walk on behalf of Demelza House. At our March meeting V. W. Bro. Michael James Chapman DPGM attended. As we had no work for the meeting, he gave a talk about the Grand Stewards and Red Apron Lodges and brought along the Hogarth Jewel worn by the Masters of that Lodge to show the Brethren.

In May 1998 the Province of West Kent celebrated its 25th Anniversary at Hever Castle.

At our November 1998 meeting, W. Bro. George Wale, **PAGDC**, who had been our Honorary Organist for 53 years explained that he had injured his wrist due to a fall and he was also finding it difficult to attend, and as a result he would reluctantly need to step down. At the same meeting

the Lodge listened to a talk given by W. Bro. Geoff Whale on the development of the Lodge from the earliest periods.

In January 1999 the Lodge was delighted that W. Bro. Tony Barker was installed as Master for the second time. He had previously been Master in 1970. The Lodge presented W. Bro. George Wale a token of appreciation on his retirement. W. Bro. Paul Rogers became our Treasurer.

In November 1999 it was reported the James "Jimmy" Finden Brown and Bro. Commander Buddy Barker had died. Both Brethren were fondly remembered by the Brethren. Jimmy Finden Brown had been a member for over 60 years and Bro. Buddy Barker, the blood brother of the WM, Bro. Tony Barker and W. Bro. John Barker had been a long standing member serving as a "permanent Steward" of the Lodge.

In January 2000 Bro. Brian Burbidge, our current Secretary became Master and W. Bro. Bernard Sarson joined the Lodge.

In March 2000 Bro. Roger Brockman presented the Lodge with new Collars and Gauntlets for the Principal Officers. It is interesting to note that Brothers Paul Christopher and Paul Goff's names start to appear as visitors on the Lodge register.

In May 2000 the meeting was attended by W. Bro. John Blew the Assistant Provincial Grand Master and the Brethren were wearing Dark Rosettes as a token of respect for R. W. Bro. Rev. Canon Peter Churton-Collins who had recently died.

In November 2000 W. Bro. Malcolm Greenaway joined the Lodge and we learnt that Freddie and Marian Giles, Tony Barker and George Wale were all suffering ill health.

In January 2001 Finn Arnesen was Installed as Master. Brian Burbidge was presented with a Hallmarked Silver Past Master's Collar. It had originally been presented to Brian's grandfather in 1937, Brian's father in 1949 and his Uncle in 1957 and 1989 and it was presented to Brian to carry on the tradition.

In May 2001 the Lodge Summons included a black border in memory of the Late M. W. Grand Master, Lord Farnham but perhaps it was also an appropriate tribute to two much loved members of the Lodge as Bro. George Wale who had been our Honorary Organist for some 53 years and W. Bro. Tony Barker, our LOI preceptor, DC and key member of the Lodge.



A picture of W. Bro. Tony Barker as we all remember him, here at the Prince George Duke of Kent Court Spring Fair running his "Gentlemen's Clothing Stall"

On a much happier note at that May meeting, the Lodge was delighted to see W. Bro. Geoff Whale promoted to the active rank of ProvGSwdB.

In November 2001, Paul Christopher joined our ranks and a Notice of Motion was included to make W. Bro. Freddie Giles an Honorary member of the Petts Wood Lodge. Freddie and Marian were, by this time, residents at the RMBI's Prince George Duke of Kent Court at Chislehurst. We were also delighted to receive a surprise gift in the form of a Founders Jewel which brought the Lodge's collection to 2 of these rare items. This had been found in the back of a vintage car by the garage who were renovating it and returned by the widow of Bro. H. G. Clarke.

In January 2002 we welcomed Roger Brockman as our Worshipful Master and Freddie Giles became the Lodge's Honorary Member. It was also at this meeting that W. Bro. Reg Orsman stepped down as our Tyler and W. Bro. Sid Eastoe took over. For his services to the Lodge, Notice of Motion was given at this meeting that W. Bro. Reg become an Honorary member of the Lodge.

In March 2002 Reg Orsman became an Honorary Member and Bro. Lloyd Hobbard-Mitchell, our current Senior Warden was initiated.



Bro. Lloyd Hobbard-Mitchell and W. Bro. Reg Orsman

In May 2002, the Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master, Mickey Cash attended the meeting. W. Bro. John Barker had achieved 50 years in Freemasonry and his certificate was presented together with a memento from the Lodge. W. Bro. John Barker, had been a young boy of around 9 years old when the Lodge had been consecrated and he carried the Volume of the Sacred Law on a cushion made by Gwen Barker, his mother. The cushion is still in use today. John's father Harry or "Skip" was one of the original founders of the Lodge. Horace "Bert" Hoskins died.

It was the year of Freemasonry in the Community and an article was inserted in the Petts Wood Gazette regarding the History of Petts Wood Lodge and its connection with the Town. We had the article approved through the Provincial Office and published during the summer.

In November 2002 our Worshipful Master was unable at short notice to attend the meeting as his daughter was taken ill but the brethren rallied around and Bro. Lloyd Hobbard-Mitchell was passed. W. Bro. Reg Orsman, who had been made an honorary member in March and our Tyler for 10 years died.

In January 2003 just before the Installation meeting of W. Bro. Malcolm Greenaway, the Lodge learnt of the death of W. Bro. Freddie Giles. Freddie was Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge from 1964 to 1983 a total of 19 years and Preceptor for 23 years from 1967 to 1990. Freddie was initiated on the 17th May 1947 and became Worshipful Master in 1959, the same year he was exalted into Royal Arch Masonry. He was appointed to the Active Rank of Provincial Junior Grand Warden in 1969 and achieved Grand Rank as Past Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies in 1982 – the first Initiate of the Lodge to have been so honoured. Whilst it is not on record in the Lodge archives, we know that Freddie was approached to be an Assistant Provincial Grand Master but declined the appointment. W. Bro. Bangerter perhaps summed up what everyone felt

that day when he suggested that Freddie Giles could have been considered the "Father of the Lodge". At the same meeting it is noted that the Banner was in need of restoration and the process of getting this achieved for the January 2009 meeting was commenced.

In March 2003 a eulogy to the life and work of W. Bro. Freddie was delivered and at the same time the Lodge was awarded a Platinum Badge which adorns the Charity Steward's Collar. This was in recognition of our support of the 2003 Festival in favour of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution. It was a poignant moment as Freddie Giles and his wife Marian had been residents of the Prince George Duke of Kent Court for a number of years and had benefited from the wonderful care and attention that the RMBI are renowned for. The Lodge has always had a close relationship with the home and seeing the benefits at first hand made achieving the target emotionally important. The Petts Wood Lodge invites two brethren from the Prince George Duke of Kent Court to every meeting as honoured guests of the Lodge.

At the November 2003 meeting, W. Bro. Kevin Lewis announces his intention to step down from the Charity Stewards' role after guiding the Lodge to a successful 2003 appeal total and W. Bro. David Robins also announces his intention to step down as Almoner. David has been continuously in office as Secretary, Treasurer and Almoner and felt that he needed a rest and a younger mason could take on his duties.

In January 2004 John Bangerter became our Worshipful Master. He had previously been in the Chair in 1980. Bro. Paul Goff joined the Lodge.

In March the Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W. Bro. John Blew attended the Lodge. Bro. Fry, our Junior Warden was initiated. The APGM presented a 50 year certificate to W. Bro. Paul Newman and the WM presented W. Bro. Newman with a newspaper printed on the day of his Initiation.

In November it was announced that our guest Organist, W. Bro. Derek Bance had died and a number of members of the Lodge had attended his funeral.

In January 2005, Bro. Paul Christopher was installed as our Worshipful Master and our outgoing Master, W. Bro. Mike Baker joined the Lodge. The victims of the Boxing Day Tsunami were receiving grants from the Grand Charity. The Secretary presented the Lodge with W. Bro. Tony Barker's Provincial Sword Bearer Gauntlets refashioned into Alms Collection boxes.

In November 2005 the candidate for passing did not turn up and a hastily rearranged practice of the 2nd Degree was organised. Bro. Kandy Reddiar, a regular at our Lodge of Instruction acted as the candidate. Kandy was soon to be the proud owner of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement Matchbox for a perfect ceremony in all three Degrees and the Installation Ceremony.

In January 2006 Bro. Paul Goff was installed as Master and the Lodge learnt that W. Bro. Len Perry had died suddenly in December. Bro. Brain Burbidge was appointed as Secretary.

In March 2006 the Lodge approved a bridging loan so that Lyn Perry, W. Bro. Len Perry's daughter, could make arrangements for Len's widow, and her mother, Betty, to be placed in a home as she was suffering from Alzheimer's and without Len there to care for her needed regular attention.

In May 2006 we had an Open Meeting with Ladies and Guests treated to a talk entitled "The wanderings of a Prestonian Lecturer" by W. Bro. Gordon Davie, the Prestonian Lecturer for 2005 where he related his many and varied experiences which occurred as he travelled around the world delivering his Lecture. A White Table Festive Board followed. Also in May, W. Bro. David Ferdinando received promotion to ProvGSwdB.

In January 2007 Bro. John Dale was installed as Worshipful Master. W. Bro. John had recently moved to Durham where he now worked and made long round trips to attend our meetings. W. Bro. Geoff Whale retired from the Office of Director of Ceremonies. The Provincial Representative made note of the fact that Geoff had been Master in 1986, ADC since 1990 and Director of Ceremonies for 11 years and that this was an enviable record and that "Geoff probably deserved a rest by now".

In March 2007, the Worshipful Master used his Durham connections to get a guest speaker; W. Bro. John Davison PPrJGW (Durham) gave a talk on the Rise and Fall of Solomon which the brethren greeted with acclaim.

In May at the Provincial Meeting W. Bro. Paul Christopher was invested as Provincial Grand Steward and W. Bro. Kevin Lewis was promoted to Past Provincial Grand Charity Steward.

In November 2007 we initiated Bro. Chris Luck and were delighted to learn that W. Bro. Mike Baker had been appointed as Metropolitan Grand Standard Bearer. At the meeting the Lodge was saddened to learn that Mason Minns the Third Principal of Petts Wood Chapter and a regular visitor to the Lodge had lost his battle against Cancer.

In January 2008 we installed W. Bro. Mike Baker into the Lodge. Dispensation was sought as W. Bro. Mike was also the Master of Kynaston Studd Lodge No. 5416.

In March 2008 we were able to Pass Bro. Chris Luck and Initiate Bro. Brad Jeffery.

In April 2008 we received confirmation regarding the restoration of our Banner ready for today's meeting and work commenced on undertaking the work and organising today's meeting.

In May 2008 we mourned the passing of W. Bro. Bert Bishop. Bert had suffered a stroke some weeks previously and he had been a member of the Lodge for over 45 years. He had been a regular attendee of the Lodge of Instruction and held posts as Deputy Preceptor and Lodge Chaplain. There was a large attendance at his funeral from the members of the Lodge and the Chapter.

In November of 2008, Bro. Steve Bishop asked not to be considered for Worshipful Master this year following the death of his father and other family health problems. After discussions W. Bro. Geoff Whale's name was put forward as Worshipful Master for the Lodge's 75th Anniversary Year. As past Preceptor, Director of Ceremonies and being such an active member of the Lodge and Lodge of Instruction the Lodge can look forward with confidence to a superb year with Geoff at the helm.

The membership of the Lodge reached its peak in 1970 at 77 but declined by deaths and resignations to 52 in 1984 (our 50th Anniversary) and presently 39 as at January 2009 (our 75th Anniversary) with two members in the pipeline for 2009.

Brethren of the Lodge

In 1983 W. Bro. J. E. Bangerter L. G. R., was invested as Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He joined the Lodge in 1969. He was promoted to Past Junior Grand Deacon in 1994.

At the moment of writing the total subscribing membership of the Lodge is 39. Of these 24 hold Provincial Grand Rank in West Kent, 1 Provincial Grand Rank of Sussex, 1 of Surrey and 3 hold London Grand Rank.

In the last 25 years the Lodge has produced a number of Brethren who have held active Provincial Grand Rank including:

W. Bro. Geoff Whale, ProvGStwd, ProvAGDC and ProvGSwdB
W. Bro. David Ferdinando, ProvGStwd, ProvGSwdB
W. Bro. Paul Christopher, ProvGStwd
W. Bro. Mike Baker, MetGStdB
W. Bro. Paul Goff, ProvGStwd, ProvGStwd (Surrey)

The Lodge votes annually for Honoured Guests of the lodge and these include:

The Worshipful Masters of Catford Lodge No 3649, Orpington Lodge No 5136, Park Langley Lodge No 5512 and Hayes (Kent) Lodge no 5929. We also vote annually for our honoured guests from the Prince George Duke of Kent Court.

Secretaries		Treasurers	
W. Bro. A. G. Smith	1934/48	W. Bro. W. H. Hawley	1934/38
W. Bro. J. Finden Brown	1948/51	W. Bro. S. R. Pope	1939/44
W. Bro. E. T. Hemsley	1951/63	V. W. Bro. G. W. Livermore	1945/60
W. Bro. D. G. Whisker	1963/84	W. Bro. S. C. Pope	1960/67
W. Bro. H. G. Stevenson	1984	W. Bro. E. J. Edwards	1968/79
W. Bro. D. J. C. Robins	1985/89	W. Bro. J. D. Barker	1979/90
W. Bro. P. Newman	1990/97	W. Bro. D. J. C. Robins	1990/98
W. Bro. D. J. Ferdinando	1998/05	W. Bro. P. A. Rogers	1999
W. Bro. B. P. J. Burbidge	2006		

Subscriptions

In the past 25 years subscriptions have steadily increased but the late 80s and early 90s appeared to have seen sharp rises. Noted below are the increases.

Year	Subs	Non Dining	Dining Fee
1988	£60	£25	£8
1989	£65	£27.5	£9
1990	£70	£30	£10
1991	£80	£36	£11
1992	£85	£37	£12
1993	Additional Voluntary Contribution £5	Additional Voluntary Contribution £5	£12
1993	£95	£47	£12
1994	£100	£50	£12.5
1996	£105	£53	£13
1997	£110	£58	£13.5
1998	£115	£57	£14.5
2001	£125	£63	
2008	£125	£63	£18

In the past 25 years the subscriptions have doubled in the case of the full subscription (which includes dining); non dining has increased from £25 to £63. Dining costs have again gone up almost double in the same period and now stand at between £16.50 and £18 dependant on menu.

Charities

During the past 75 years Petts Wood Lodge has become a Patron of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, a Patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for Boys, a Vice Patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls as well as a Patron for the Masonic Trust for Girls and Boys, a Grand Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital, and a Patron of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund.

Bro. Kevin Lewis, changed the way we raise funds at the Lodge and during his time as Charity Steward we arranged a Coast to Coast cycle ride from Morecambe to Scarborough run over two days and a sponsored walk (Pub crawl) around the 13 Arkells Public Houses on the Donnington Way in Gloucestershire. This was a 5 day walk covering some 63 miles. Together with assault courses, cycle rides to Brighton, various entertainments at the Festive Board and other fund-raising activities we were able to meet the many demands on our charitable giving.

The Lodge continues to support its widows by providing a yearly gift at Christmas. In the past 25 years this has increased from £5 to £25 per widow.

In 2009 the Province of West Kent will enter a Festival Appeal for the Masonic Samaritan Fund which the Petts Wood Lodge will support.

Lodge of Instruction

Preceptors		Deputy Preceptors	
W. Bro R. H. Smith	1935/37	W. Bro J. H. Brown	1935/45
W. Bro. C. J. Hemming	1937/45	W. Bro. L. F. M. Parker	1945/54
W. Bro. C. R. Price	1945/63	W. Bro. G. Doran	1954/58
W. Bro. F. W. Povey	1963/67	W. Bro. D. G. Whisker	1958/84
W. Bro. F. V. R. Giles	1967/91	W. Bro. D. J. C. Robins	1984/93
W. Bro. A. M. Barker	1991/2001	W. Bro. R. H. Thomas	1993/94
W. Bro. G. E. Whale	2001/2008	W. Bro. H. V. Bishop	1994/96
W. Bro. B. P. J. Burbidge	2008	W. Bro. G. E. Whale	1996/2001
		W. Bro. B. P. J. Burbidge	2001/08
		W. Bro. P. S. Christopher	2008

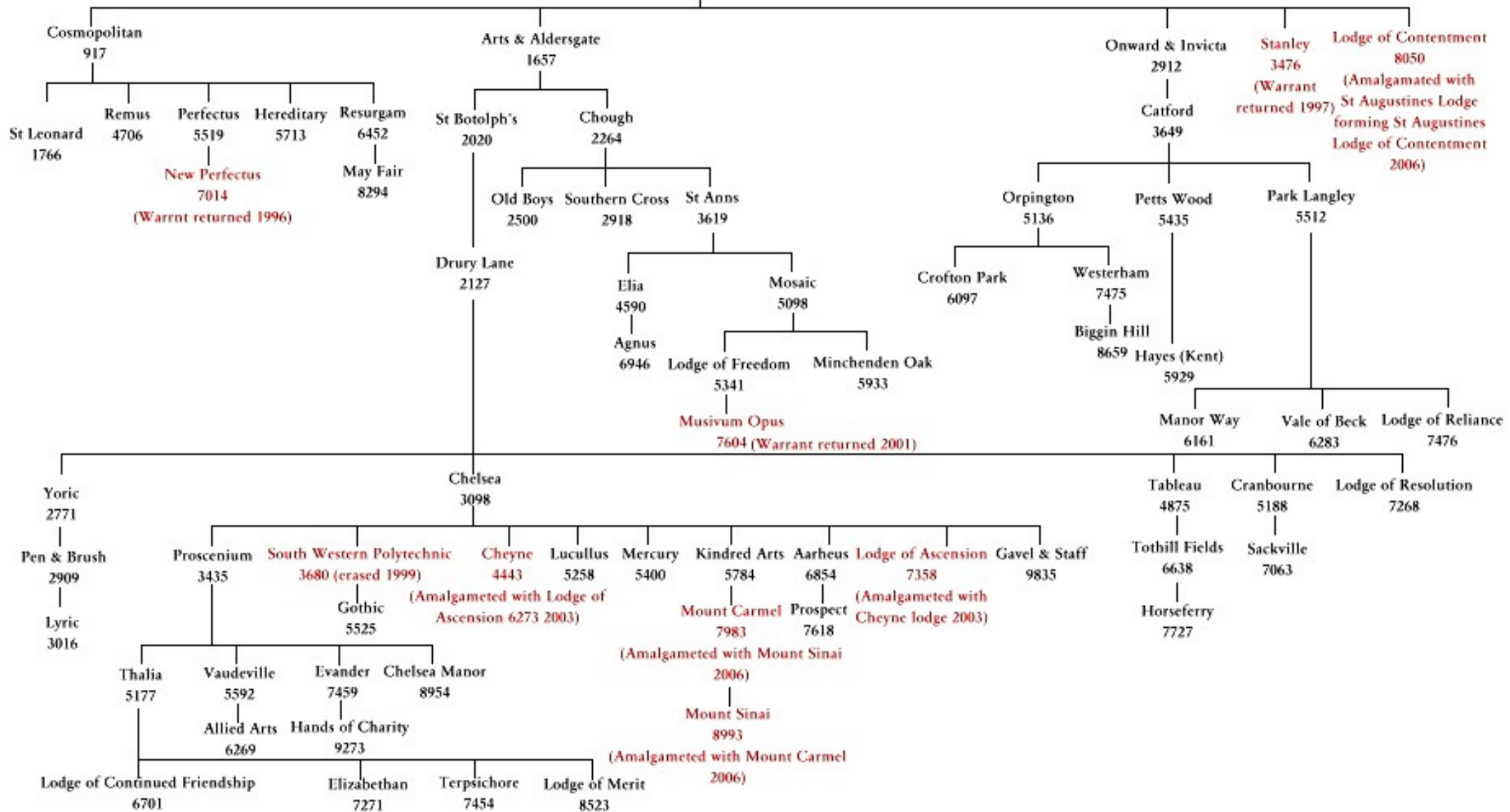
Secretaries		Treasurers	
V. W. Bro. G. W. Livermore	1935/45	W. Bro. S. R. Pope	1935/39
W. Bro. E. T. Hemsley	1945/57	W. Bro. J. W. Meade	1945/57
W. Bro. F. Bettany	1957/62	W. Bro. S. C. Pope	1957/67
W. Bro. F. W. Povey	1962/63	W. Bro. H. E. Rumble	1967/68
W. Bro. L. R. Imrie	1963/66	W. Bro. P. Newman	1968/2004
W. Bro. N. L. Collins	1966/68	W. Bro. R. W. Brockman	2004/05
W. Bro. H. E. Rumble	1968/86	W. Bro. D. J. Ferdinando	2005
W. Bro. D. Calrow	1986/93		
W. Bro. D. Robins	1993/94		
W. Bro. D. Calrow	1994/97		
W. Bro. K. Lewis	1997		

The first meeting was held at 2, Station Square, Petts Wood, informally on the 21st February 1935. Subsequent meetings were held at the Daylight Inn from 1936 to 1939. During the war years no formal meetings took place but were resumed in 1945. The place of meeting was changed to St. Dunstan's School, St. John's Road, Petts Wood in 1948, only to return to the Daylight Inn in 1954. The last move took place in September 1979 to the G. E. A. Hall, Woodhurst Avenue, Petts Wood where it still meets. The Lodge of Instruction is one of two operating in West Kent, approved by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement the other being the Vale of Beck Lodge of Instruction which meets at Oakley House.

F. V. R. Giles / K. Lewis / D. J. Ferdinando



Lion & Lamb
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Family Tree of Lodges showing Petts Wood Lodge and its Ancestors Descendants and Sibling Lodges.

Founders of the Lodge in 1934

C. H. Harris R. A. Jones S. R. Doye J. G. Galbraith C. H. Barker L. T. Parker



M. G. Clarke O. A. J. Goddard L. C. Culver C. E. Goddard I. Billington W. H. Hawley R. H. Smith
A. Rand G. W. Livermore J. H. Brown A. G. Smith E. H. Smith W. G. Hawley

Autographs