

HONOURS, PROMOTIONS – DO THEY MATTER?

There has been much debate both in private and by letters to the editor in the Essex Mason et al regarding the unfairness of the Mason promotion system. The mystery seems to be centred around "how are honours allocated", by whom and what one has to do to get honours, if anything? A mystery indeed. It is not my intention to delve into how, by whom or for what, but to try to focus on "do they matter". Well the short answer is "yes" otherwise the subject would not court so much attention. As with every organisation which wishes to sustain the continuation of that organisation, there is a need for an ordered hierarchy to ensure that an organisation is well run and in an orderly fashion.

Try to put yourself in the position of the Brother who has to sift through many hundreds of applications requesting promotions from the lodge secretaries, all I am sure, presenting worthy cases on behalf of those being put up for promotion. When you consider that there are a limited number of ranks available the task is difficult in the extreme. I for one would not like this onerous task. It is little wonder that some worthy brethren are overlooked or undervalued.

Does it matter? Well I have been reliably informed that the pay is no different whatever the rank. On a more serious note, yes it does matter to some, particularly to those who have spent many tireless years putting their principles to the test both in their own lodges, into masonry in general and also to the outside world. Can the system be changed to be fair so as to put a genuine value on a brother's worth? Again the short answer is - "doubtful". A good mason should consider that rank is the cherry on the cake rather than the fulfilling cake itself. To inwardly know that you have done more in the call of duty for the cause of masonry should be sufficiently rewarding. If you are convinced in your own heart that you have done everything within your capability to put into practice those principles you have sworn to observe, then you should accept with humility whatever promotion you are offered and wear your badge with pride, knowing full well that you have given all you are able in time and effort. Your fellow brethren will be conscious of your worth. Try not to look down with disdain upon a brother, who has been awarded a higher rank than you, your reward should come from within. Observe the words in the "address to the brethren" which is also very applicable in the wider sense " we shall have but one aim in view, to please each other and unite in the grand design of being happy and communicating happiness ".

ANON

NOTICE BOARD

The first of the Parish Notices is; the date of the Celebratory Meal is now fixed as 22nd April 2007, to be held at Saxon Hall. It will be a Sunday Roast Lunch at £15.00 per person and House wine at £8.00 per bottle, if you so desire.

This date has been changed so as to avoid clashing with the Easter period, and as Easter is a moveable Feast...I moved the date!

I will be sending out Invitations in the New Year, and although it is still some way off, please do make a note in diaries.

The next item is that I shall be having a Masonic Book Sale, to one, clear out surplus items from my library and secondly so that I can raise money from the proceeds for the, Festival 2011.

There will be; new, second hand, rare, antiquarian, out of print, books of research, Lodge histories, signed Prestonian lectures, dictionaries, encyclopaedias, AQC volumes, The Square, The Masonic Record, coffee table books, paper ephemera, etc, etc.

There is, I believe, something for all tastes.

The provincial Library will not miss out, as they can have first refusal.

Please watch this space and the poster at Saxon Hall for the impending date.

A note from your Treasurer, would all of you who are in arrears with your subs',

Please forward those to Tony Lister, ASAP, please!

This will ensure that you are able to maintain your membership status and enjoy all the benefits of the Study Circle.

oOo

Light and lustre within our Circle.

Is there a Masonic topic that holds a particular fascination for you?

Have you a point of view about a Masonic subject that you would like to share with the other members of the Circle?

Craft, Royal Arch and what about the Mark!

Would you consider putting together a Talk to share that interest and viewpoint with others?

It may seem a little daunting at first but, you will be among friends and you will be helping to; 'diffuse light and lustre to all within our Circle.'

Pierre

Southchurch Masonic Study Circle



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You are cordially invited to the **CHEESE and WINE** meeting of the Southchurch Masonic Study Circle to be held at the:-

**Saxon Hall, Aviation Way, Southend on Sea,
Essex, on Thursday 14th December 2006 at 8pm.**

We look forward to seeing you and don't forget, guests are welcome.

Secretary : **W.Bro. Pierre Waddoups**

AGENDA

- 1 To welcome visitors and prospective new members.
- 2 To receive apologies for absence
- 3 To read and if approved, confirm the minutes of the last meeting held on the 21st September 2006
- 4 Matters arising from the minutes
- 5 Treasurer's Report
- 6 Objects of Masonic interest.
- 7 Speaker. Bro. Norman Lawrence will present a paper entitled:-
The Tyler or Outer Guard.
- 8 Questions and answers.

Any other Business

YOUR WEB SITE.

It would be great to get some feedback on your web site which I have lovingly constructed. The address is:-

<http://www.southchurch-masonic.org.uk>

Feedback and your constructive criticism are essential if I am to make improvements to your site.

You can contact me either through the site 'contact' page or directly by e-mail. My address is:-

alec@tisl.demon.co.uk

Encourage me please and visit your site!

A SECRETARIES PLEA

As yet I have only received 6 replies confirming attendance at the December Cheese and Wine; I trust there will be more than 7 of us at the Meeting!

I really would appreciate it, to let me have the slips back, that were included with the last Summons, indicating your acceptance or not of attendance or; phone' me, land line or mobile 'phone, email me, write to me, stop me in the street, scrawl a note on my garden wall, slip a note through my letter box, do all those things, but please let me know!!

I have to order the Cheese and the Wine...

Pierre.

THE AUTHOR OF THE PAPER.

Norman Lawrence is well known to many of us because his involvement in Freemasonry within Southend.

He is a Grand Officer in Craft as well as in the Royal Arch.

I am sure that Norman will not mind it being said that his Masonic CV reads like a passage from a Masonic 'Who's Who', such is his dedication, support and membership allegiance and the Offices that he holds and indeed has held.

Norman's Talk, 'The Tyler or Outer Guard' whether it is an expose of William Hogarth's famous painting the, 'Night watch' of 1738, or if it deals with the first official use of the Tyler as a specific title, as it appears in the Minutes of Grand Lodge in 1732, remains to be heard.

Norman was a long time member of the Study Circle, and yielding to my supplications, he has generously agreed to make our December Meeting the richer with his Paper.

Whatever the approach, the Talk by Norman will be enlightening as it will be entertaining.

From your Secretary

You can always tell when it's getting near Christmas, because Woolworth's have got the Easter Eggs in!

Such is the pace of life. Or my cynicism.

But retail is the new faith especially at times such as Christmas.

It's October and I am putting together the December Summons, so maybe I am falling foul of my own cynicism!

But, all that aside, whatever our outlook, cynical or not, whatever our Creed or the Religious Faith we profess, none of us could help but be moved by the message of Christmas.

It's a season that expresses humanity's wish for Peace on earth.

As Brothers of 'the Mystic Tie', we must know that wherever the hope of love and compassion is raised in the hearts of men, then the spirit of Freemasonry is there to strengthen and sustain us.

The spirit of Christmas and the spirit of Masonry have gone hand in hand through and down the ages, and as long as our Fraternity continues to inculcate Charity to all men, we can continue to 'meet on the square', shake hands, and spread not just the spirit of Christmas, but the message of our Fraternity as well.

Brethren, thank you for your support during the year, and let's spread the message of the SMSC as well.

Pierre.

P.S. And don't eat too many eggs!

**Meetings of the Study Circle will be held on:-
14th December 2006**

**For your Diary.
Celebrating the 30th Anniversary
Of our Study Circle
22nd April 2007**