

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Happy New Year to all.

I'm wondering though where January has gone?! I hope everyone had a great Christmas and managed to have a relaxing break.

Bev and I spent a few weeks in Marlborough and got as far as Golden Bay where we went to Cape Farewell, Farewell Spit and came across a few interesting stores. One was Langford's Store which was really a combination of a museum and a café where we were served using crockery from the 70s.

On the cape it was fascinating seeing the trees which have shaped to shelter from the weather.

Now though on to "business"

Firstly though I do want to reflect on last year and the sad loss of VWBro Merv Johnston but more importantly the great foundations that he has laid for our District. While we wait for the announcement of Merv's replacement it is back to business.

The programme for the next few months looks like this:

Our February meeting will be an open and close and then dinner which I would like us to share with our wives and partners and the wives of our passed brethren. Charlotte will be along to give us a dancing demonstration. Please extend an invite to anyone interested.

In March, our regular meeting falls on the Thursday before Easter. I would like to do Callum's second degree but need to confirm that everyone is available please.

In April, this is our ANZAC night and I will be asking other lodges to join us.

In May, second degree instruction night including the tracing board.

Master's visits:

Tuesday 13th Aquarius 1st Degree

Friday 16th Westminster 1st Degree

Monday 19th Mangaroa 2nd Degree

Friday 2nd March Lower Hutt 2nd Degree



Charlotte Kraiger who, with the support of the lodge and the Freemasons Charity, undertook a trip to Paris to compete in the International Highland dancing competitions held at Disneyland and then on to Scotland to again compete. Her results were:

Paris International Dancing Competition:

- First in the choreography musical interpretation
- First in the Sword dance
- Runner-up in the other national dances.

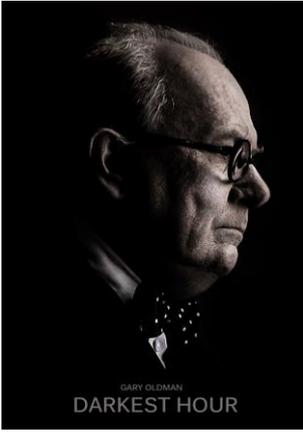
In Scotland she was placed in all dances achieving a 3rd in the Barracks Johnny Dance.

Charlotte will provide a demonstration at our refectory at this month's meeting.



Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser





Movie Review – The Darkest Hour

Starting in 1940, Winston Churchill is thrust into the position of Prime Minister in what seems to be a situation designed to cause him to fail. The knives are out and the politics rife. To quote 'something is rotten in the State of Denmark' would not be a far-off description.

This is a part of the war never really seen and gives a very interesting insight into what may have happened in the lead-up to him becoming the powerhouse that he was during the war. The film delves into the human side of Winston and not just the politician and statesman that many saw. Gary Oldman plays a role that exemplifies his outstanding abilities, although sometimes his Dracula character is definitely seen. Being nominated for six Oscars, including best picture and best actor, it is a fantastic night out and well worth seeing, I have to admit my wife and I were in the lower age demographic in the theatre, although I recommend this to most age groups to see.

I give this a 4.5 out of five

Travel Report - Malta



We were in Europe for a few weeks over the Christmas holidays and spent four days on the island of Malta, located between Italy and Tunisia/Libya.

It's hard to describe Malta as it's such an odd country. My sister who lives in London says that it's seen there as a place where retired people from Britain go to live (maybe no longer after Brexit!). As it was part of the British Empire from 1814 until independence in 1964, English is still widely spoken (although most of the locals found it difficult to



understand my Kiwi accent).

However, Malta is a great mix of cultures. The Maltese language sounds very much like Arabic, English is the second language, but many Maltese also speak Italian and drive like Italians because Italy is the dominant trading partner, there are many daily direct flights to Rome, and it appeared to me that the only thing on TV was endless Italian gameshows. Rome also has an attraction as the Maltese are very religious with hundreds of Roman Catholic churches everywhere.

The country, made up of two main islands, has a population of roughly 450,000 and is one of the most densely populated countries in the world. Certainly the capital city and its surrounds has endless high-rise apartment blocks catering to both local residents and thousands of tourists, but I was surprised to find a lot of countryside and quaint little towns and cute fishing villages. As it's a small country (316 sq km), we were able to get around to see a large part of it easily by taxi and bus.



Malta is an interesting place for tourists. The place soaks in history and there are many beautiful old buildings, walled mediaeval towns, fortresses, archaeological sites etc. However, there are also plenty of beaches and the harbour was full of superyachts. In terms of costs, it is fairly similar to New Zealand.

I recommend Malta as a destination for a few days, and even in winter it's pleasant with temperatures during the first week of January of up to 17 degrees.

By WBro David Ryan

UGLE Freemasons issue a notice

The United Grand Lodge of England Issued a notice after speculation about MPs, journalists and others being involved in a Lodge and the influence of policing in Britain. In a standard conspiracy behaviour of being bored, the papers have to come up with titillating stories they think will sell papers. It's mostly what we have already heard about what we do according to others. I think I have heard it all, but maybe not... belly dancers, virgin sacrifices, riding goats and all manner of daftness. Below is the notice from the UGLE.

ENOUGH IS ENOUGH

At the United Grand Lodge of England, we value honesty, integrity and service to the community above all else. Last year we raised over £33 million for good causes.

As an organisation we welcome individuals from all walks of life, of any faith, age, class or political persuasion. Throughout our 300 year history, when people have suffered discrimination Freemasonry has embraced them into our lodges as equals.

The United Grand Lodge of England believes that the ongoing gross misrepresentation of its 200,000 plus members is discrimination. Pure and simple.

We owe it to our membership to take this stance. They shouldn't have to feel undeservedly stigmatised. No other organisation would stand for this and nor shall we.

I have written to the Equality and Human Rights Commission to make this case.

I appreciate that you may have questions about who we are and what we do, so over the next six months our members will be running a series of open evenings and Q&A events up and down the country. These will be promoted in the local media and on our website.

I am also happy to answer any queries directly. Please feel free to write to me here at Freemasons' Hall, 60 Great Queen Street, London WC2B 5AZ and I will come back to you.

We're open.

*Dr David Staples
Chief Executive
United Grand Lodge of England*

Reference: <http://freemasonrytoday.com/ugle-sgc/ugle/enough-is-enough>

Recipe – Lemonade Scones



Ingredients

3 large capsicums
400 ml jar tomato pasta sauce (I don't use it all)
3 tblsp olive oil
1 onion, finely chopped
2 cloves garlic, crushed
2 tblsp tomato paste
1 tsp cumin
1 tsp allspice
2 tsp oregano
Couple of handfuls of spinach/silver beet, thinly sliced.
400g lamb mince (sometimes I have more but I just use it all anyway)
½ cup fresh breadcrumbs
100 grams feta, crumbled
Salt and pepper

Method

Preheat oven to 180 degrees C.
Halve the capsicums through the stem and remove the core and seeds.
Heat the olive oil in frying pan and cook onion until soft. Add garlic and cook for another minute.
Add mince and cook over higher heat until mince is no longer pink and lumps are broken up.
Lower heat and add tomato paste, spices and oregano and cook for a few minutes. Add spinach and cook until wilted and tender.
Remove from heat and stir in breadcrumbs and salt and pepper to taste. Mix well.
Spoon filling into the capsicum halves and sprinkle with feta.
Put the tomato pasta sauce into a baking dish (probably don't need it all) and place stuffed capsicums in. They should fit snugly.
Sprinkle capsicums with feta.
Cover dish with foil and cook 25 minutes. Remove foil and then return to oven for 5 minutes.

Note:

This is a really flexible recipe and, as long as the mince tastes yummy, you can put in/leave out whatever you like.
You can skip the spinach if you like and add other cooked veg you might have. Corn kernels are really nice. Fresh herbs are always good.

Meetings

February 22nd

Family Dinner and Presentation

March 29th

2nd Degree

FEDS Dinners



BBQ



Miles Crawford's place
February 17th

TECH TIPS

Cyber attacks–Meltdown & Spectre



You will have read in the papers or online about the recent problems with computer chips (CPUs) and the virus problems worldwide.

This is probably the world's greatest threat to systems that we have experienced. What I can tell you is: keep your virus definitions up to date and your Windows updates as well. Most machines should never have a problem but, as usual, it is better to be safe than sorry and keep everything up to date.

If you have problems, call your local tech boffin to help you out.