

Homewood Herald

Report from the Master

Greetings Brethren



March is a busy month for our district with the installation of WBro Russell Pratt as District Grand Master, District Conference, and of course our own second degree ceremony.

Bro Callum and I visited Empire Ferguson last week where they initiated Bro Moray Bevan, seated to Bro Callum's left below, and on the night had two additional visiting EAs and a FC.

The programme for the year is looking as follows:

April, ANZAC Empty Chair

May, 2nd degree instruction

June, Fraternal visit to Te Puni with their FC candidate

July, Eketahuna for Bro Callum's 3rd Degree.



*Ahdut Coah Hi
Worshipful Master
Craig Fraser*



Travel Report – Leaning Tower of Pisa

We visited Italy in January and spent a night in Pisa, about three hours by train north of Rome. It's a medium-sized town which, besides the tower, has a few good museums and galleries and promotes itself as a weekend destination for people from Rome and other cities.

I considered carefully whether it was worth spending money on the train fare to Pisa just to see the tower, as we were not there long enough to do anything else, apart from eating pizza and pasta of course. However, I am so pleased that we went as the tower is definitely worth seeing.

We booked in advance and queued up one morning to enter the tower. It is very obvious from the outside that the tower is on a lean, but what surprised me most was immediately when we went through the entrance and found the floor on a lean. I felt as if I was on a ship. We then spent about ten minutes walking up the tower (there is no lift). Even walking up the stairs was odd as they are on a slant and you can see from the impression left by the feet of millions of visitors where they lean. From the top there's a good view of Pisa.

I've seen the tower now, so I can tick that off my list. It's worth doing once in your lifetime. If you're planning a trip to Italy, Pisa is not far from Florence, so it might be easier to base yourself in Florence and make a day trip to Pisa.



By WBro David Ryan

Masonic Lodge of the Andaz Hotel



Built adjacent to London's Liverpool Street train station in 1884, the Great Eastern Hotel was one of the city's original railway hotels. Usually impressive in size, these buildings were designed as a symbolic demonstration of rail transport's wealth. The luxurious hotel enjoyed the swanky privilege of owning its own track inside the train station for daily provisions delivery, including sea water for the hotel's salt water baths.

However, when the tourism industry boomed, hotels of all sizes sprang up across the city and cars gradually replaced trains as the primary mode of transport. Sadly, the Great Eastern soon fell behind the times and languished as a dusty old mansion.

However, almost a century after its opening, the Great Eastern Hotel found a new destiny through designer Terence Conrad who decided to polish the landmark by getting rid of the outdated interiors and giving the building an ambitiously chic makeover. However, during the restoration, engineers are said to have noticed a few discrepancies in the blueprints. Then, like something out of an adventure movie, they removed one of the walls to find a wood-paneled antechamber and, on the other side of a studded double door, a vast and incredibly refined masonic temple.

Built in 1912, this forgotten chamber is a pure jewel of luxury, and probably one of the most grandiose Masonic temples in London. Neoclassic in style, the windowless room is known as the "Grecian Temple." The opulent room includes an organ, hand-carved mahogany chairs, bronze candelabras on claw feet, and no fewer than 12 different types of marble used in the floor, columns, and walls. The ceiling, a blue and gold dome, bears a five-pointed "blazed star" and zodiac signs. The room conforms to the classic Masonic temple setting with a checkerboard floor and discreet esoteric insignias.

A Masonic lodge in a hotel sounds a bit inappropriate nowadays, but in the 19th century Great Britain it was unusual but not unheard of. At the time, being part of a fraternal organisation was very popular among gentlemen, and railway hotels developed a large variety of facilities to become more competitive. Having a Masonic lodge was a plus if you wanted to attract a certain class of patronage. In the case of the Great Eastern Hotel, Freemasons helped to construct the hotel, and they were secretly given a room that enabled them to gather for rites.

Today the hotel is part of the Hyatt Hotel Group, and the Great Eastern Hotel is known as the Andaz. The Grecian Masonic Temple is still there and open upon reservation.

Recipe –Rumbledethumps



Ingredients

- ½ head green cabbage, thinly sliced - about 8 cups
- 2 ½ lbs russet potatoes, peeled, coarsely chopped
- ½ cup unsalted butter
- ¼ cup chopped chives
- 1 cup grated extra-sharp cheddar cheese (4 oz.)
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Method

1. Butter an 8-cup baking dish.
2. Preheat oven to 350°F.
3. Cook cabbage in a large pot of boiling salted water until tender, about 2 minutes.
4. Using a slotted spoon, transfer cabbage to a bowl.
5. Return water to a boil and add potatoes.
6. Cook until tender.
7. Drain and return potatoes to the pot.
8. Add butter and mash potatoes.
9. Mix in chives and then cabbage.
10. Season to taste with salt and pepper.
11. Spoon mixture into prepared dish.
12. Sprinkle with cheese.
13. Bake about 35 minutes until cheese bubbles.

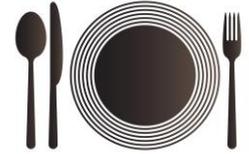
Meetings

March 22nd

2nd Degree Callum Fraser

FEDS Dinners

Junior Warden's Lunch



Two Grey

March 9th 12:00pm

What Makes A Mason?

By George H. Free

What makes you a Mason, O brother of mine?
It isn't the dueguard, nor is it the sign,
It isn't the jewel which hangs on your breast,
It isn't the apron in which you are dressed,
It isn't the step, nor the token, nor grip,
Nor lectures that fluently flow from the lip,
Nor yet the possession of that mystic word,
On five points of fellowship duly conferred.
Though these are essential, desirable, fine,
They don't make a Mason, O brother of mine.

That you to your sworn obligation are true-
Tis, that, brother mine, makes a Mason of you.
Secure in your heart you must safeguard your trust,
With lodge and with brother be honest and just,
Assist the deserving who cry in their need,
Be chaste in thought, in your word and deed,
Support him who falters, with hope banish fear,
And whisper advice in an erring one's ear.
Then will the Great Lights on your path brightly shine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.

Your use of life's hours by the gauge you must try,
The gavel to vices with courage apply
Your walk must be upright, as shown by the plumb,

On the level, to bourn whence no travellers come
The book of your faith be the rule and the guide,
The compass your passions shut safely inside
The stone which the Architect placed in your care
Must pass the strict test of His unerring square,
And then you will meet with approval divine,
And you'll be a Mason, O brother of mine.



Don't forget to visit the Masonic Exchange, the preferred supplier of Masonic goods to Lodge Homewood.

They have everything you want for Lodge, including accessories such as tie clips, cuff links, and anything you can find on the site

www.masonicexchange.co.nz