

# Homewood Herald

*Greetings Brethren*

*Well another year builds to a close. Christmas time approaches which has different meaning for different people but at its simplest it is a time for family.*



***From the Fraser family, Merry Christmas, and have a fun, safe and relaxing break.***



*Special thanks to WBro Ron Adams for taking the chair during my absence and also to VWBro Murray Alford for what was from feedback an excellent presentation of the first degree tracing board and its meaning.*

*This month is turning out to be quite an interesting one with various activities.*

*November is the 175<sup>th</sup> anniversary of NZ Pacific No2.*

*Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> which is our normal Standing Committee, NZ Pacific have a first degree for which the Grand Master will be attending. I have been asked to give the reply to the visitors toast. It would also be great to show our support if you can put this into your dairies as a visit.*

*As a result though I would like to move Standing Committee to Monday 27<sup>th</sup> 6pm at the Wellesley.*

*Our Regular Meeting Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> 6pm*

*For our regular meeting we will combine with St Andrews for their installation at Brooklyn as I have been again asked to pipe. It is of course St Andrews Day, 30<sup>th</sup> Nov.*

*We will though open and close at 6pm at Brooklyn and then attend St Andrews Installation.*

## **Visiting,**

*This month I have attended:*

*Research Lodge Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>, Installation and presented 1<sup>st</sup> degree working tools*

*Lodge Aorangi EC Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>, to Pipe in the Scottish Constitution*

## **Also planned;**

*Westminster Friday 17<sup>th</sup>, First Degree, Bro Callum is piping*

*NZ Pacific Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup>, First Degree*

*If you could fit these into your schedules please let me know*

*Ahdut Coah Hi  
Worshipful Master  
Craig Fraser*



## Formation of the Grand Lodge in England

The formation of the Grand Lodge of England on St. John's Day (June 24) in 1717 is essentially the beginning of what is known as the "historical period of Freemasonry." However we do know that the term "Freemason" and "Freemason's Lodges" was in use during the mid 1600s. The formation of Grand Lodge itself established rules for running Lodges the same way, so as to make them "Regular." Before the formation of the Grand Lodge of England, there were no standard rules for recording membership, or meeting proceedings. Thus, the events leading up to the formation of Grand Lodge are difficult to verify.

While the word "Free Mason" appears in the Halliwell poem, one of the earliest references to being a "Freemason" prior to the formation of Grand Lodge in 1717, appears a generation before during the height of the English Civil War. Elias Ashmole wrote in his diary entry for 16 October, 1646; it reads in part: "I was made a Free Mason at Warrington in Lancashire, with Coll: Henry Mainwaring of Karincham [Kermincham] in Cheshire."

Many scholars believe that Freemasonry was one of many social clubs that arose during the English Civil War.

Elias was a English polymath, part of a circle known at that time as the Invisible College, which was a network of intellectuals who maintained correspondence with each other on natural philosophy (i.e., what we now call "science").

Another notable member of the Invisible College, believed to be a Freemason, was Christopher Wren, who built St. Paul's Cathedral and many other buildings after the Great Fire of London in 1666. Scholars disagree as to the level of Wren's involvement in the Fraternity. Some say that he was even the Grand Master of Freemasons, a title that is disputed because it is difficult to have a Grand Master, without a Grand Lodge, unless the title is entirely ceremonial.

From the evidence we do have, we know that Lodges existed before 1646 and operated with some regularity between themselves, before a governing body was formed to govern over them all. The exact members of each Lodge, where they met, what rituals they practiced, and the methods of recognition allowing members to visit or join other Lodges was never written down, and thus impossible to document with certainty.

What we do know is that the Grand Lodge of England was formed when four Lodges gathered together on June 24th, 1717 at the Goose and Gridiron Ale House out side of St. Paul's Church yard in London. However, it is evident that they had been discussing forming a governing body for several years before this time. The Grand Lodge was used primarily to provide legitimacy to Freemasonry in general, as well as a public awareness campaign to promote the growth of the Fraternity. Shortly after the formation of Grand Lodge, Lodges were chartered in dozens of cities across England. It should be noted that many of those Lodges "formed" after the formation of Grand Lodge, may have already been operating as Freemasons long before Grand Lodge, and their "chartering" would have been an annexation of the Lodges under the Grand Lodge of England as part of consolidation. There is considerable controversy about what motivated the formation of the Grand Lodge of England. It seems possible that the Hanoverians wanted to know who the Masons were — because they tended to favor the House of Stuart — and thus wanted Freemasonry more "out in the open." Many Lodges beyond London are said to have destroyed their records in response to the formation of the Grand Lodge — a fact that adds some credence to the Hanoverian theory.

With the influx of so many Lodges under Grand Lodge, Dr. James Anderson, a Scottish Presbyterian minister, was commissioned to record the history of Freemasonry up to that point. The Book of Constitutions includes many of myths, rumors and legends already mentioned here on our site, along with others. Unfortunately this being a consolidation after the fact, we cite everything written in it as fact, as he cannot reference any primary sources. As a result it cannot be considered as fact without supporting sources.

After the publication of Anderson's Book of Constitutions, the minutes of every meeting of every Lodge were recorded. It is for this reason that after this point, Freemasonry entered its historical period.

## Movie Review – Dark Shadows



I did a road trip to obtain a new car and in the process ended up in Culverden overnight. As often happens one ends up watching a movie. One I had not seen before but with Johnny Depp who I always find entertaining. This is a Tim Burton film and has a cross section of dark humour and a healthy dose of creepiness. The basic story is around Johnny Depp's character Barnabas Collins who returns to his family home two centuries after being buried. It does not have the gore of usual vampire films but takes you on a comical journey through his life and the family he becomes part of, his descendants, who are dysfunctional to say the least. Although a little dark, it is well worth the watch, if you are worried about it being scary, it really isn't and has more humour throughout than anything else. It makes for a good Saturday night watch and I have to give this one 3.5 out of five.

## Recipe – Scottish Shortbread



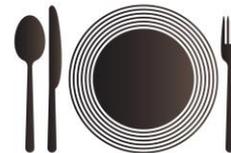
### Ingredients

500g butter  
250g (1½ cups) brown sugar  
685g (5½ cups) plain flour, or as needed

### Method

1. Preheat oven to 160 C.
2. Cream butter and brown sugar together in a bowl. Add 375g (3 cups) to 470g (3¾ cups) flour. Mix well.
3. Sprinkle board with the remaining flour. Knead mixture for 5 minutes, adding enough flour to make a soft dough. Roll to 1cm thickness. Cut into 8cm x 2.5 cm strips. Prick with a fork and place on ungreased baking trays.
4. Bake in preheated oven for 20 to 25 minutes.

## Junior Warden's Lunch



December 1<sup>st</sup> - Avida



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](http://www.masonicexchange.co.nz)

### Good Fellowship

By Wilbur D. Nesbit

Ho, Brother, it's the handclasp and the good word and the smile

That does the most and helps the most to make the world worthwhile!

It's all of us together, or it's only you and I  
A ringing song of friendship, and the heart beats high  
A ringing song of friendship, and a word or two of cheer!  
Then all the world is gladder and the bending shy is clear!

It's you and I together – and we're brothers one and all  
When even thorough good fellowship we hear the subtle call,

Whenever in the ruck of things we feel the helping hand  
or see the deeper glow that none but we may understand  
Then all the world is good to us and all is worth the while  
Ho, brother, it's the handclasp and the good word and the smile!