

# Homewood Herald

## *Report from the Master*

*I hope you are all keeping well as we go into the colder months of the year. This Masonic year seems to have gone quickly and there are now only three more Lodge Homewood meetings before Installation in August.*

*It is challenging keeping meetings interesting during periods where we do not have degree workings, but it seems the recent Masonic lectures we had in March were well received. A few brethren commented that they enjoyed delving into what our charges mean as often our focus is on listening to or learning them. A 'deep dive' can help us understand what our craft is telling us about how to live masonically outside the lodge - which is where most of us are, most of the time!!*

*Over the last eight months, many brethren have been heavily involved in contributing to our meetings and I am really grateful to you. A smaller lodge means that we need everyone to be involved and this can be demanding given we all have busy jobs and family responsibilities. Thanks to everyone.*

*I would like to acknowledge the tireless work WBro Paterson does as our Secretary. John has been doing this job for years and his is a steady 'hand on the tiller'. WBro Nicholls does a fine job preparing the Summons and Herald and WBro White keeps a tight rein on our finances. As always, WBro Fraser leads us in running Lodge meetings which always seem to turn out our best work on the night! I would also like to acknowledge our Deputy Master, WBro Ryan and IPM WBro Henty, who are sources of sage advice, and VWBro Metcalfe who I think we all see as a mentor in Freemasonry.*

*Last month's ANZAC Address to the Empty Chair was well attended and very moving. This month in Lodge we will have a celebration of Masonic culture, and this will feature music, poetry, history and humour (family friendly of course!). It will be part of our emphasis this year on "Freemasonry in everyday life". This will involve a series of presentations from several brethren.*

*On Wednesday 7 June, we have a fraternal visit to Te Puni Lodge in Lower Hutt. It is our turn to return the gavel to WBro Zane Milburn. This will be an opening and closing meeting and then refectory and a quiz night. Please do come along to this as our relationship with Te Puni is longstanding and warm.*

*We will still have our usual meeting at Lodge Homewood on Thursday 29 June 2023.*

*Finally, Lodge Homewood turns 40 years old in July. Surely this demands a celebration. Watch this space!*



*Ahdut Coah Hi  
Worshipful Master  
David Barnes*

## Humanitarian Aid Trip to Ukraine

Harry Barnes, and Trevor Barrett journey to Western Ukraine to deliver much needed supplies

The mission was essentially to deliver first hand, much needed humanitarian aid to homeless migrant families stranded in the west of Ukraine (clothing, bedding, medicines, food, even two new petrol generators, one to a local hospital, the other to a local medical centre).

The plan: two teams, two large vans and a trailer, fully loaded, destination Sokal - Humanitarian Depot, a round trip of eight days.

The journey started in Portland at 2am on the Sunday morning, then across the south of England to Dover.

Alas, whilst in the queue at Dover, **Harry Barnes** and **Trevor Barrett** received a call from Maidstone to say that the other team were having to return to base due to engine failure. Strategically, this was very serious, as the other team had made 12 prior visits. They were the experts, they had all of the contacts for the other end, they knew the way well and they also had all of the customs and declaration papers with them!



Harry Barnes, and Trevor Barrett at the beginning of their journey.



After some serious consideration, they decided that if they went on regardless and failed for whatever reason, they could live with that more easily than abandoning the mission and thereafter wondering, "what if?".

So, ferry to Calais, then onwards through France, Belgium, Holland and as far into Germany as possible one day, and then an early start and continuing the journey through Germany and Poland, eventually reaching the Ukrainian border on day two.

Once across the border, and with the help of a

much-needed Ukrainian escort, the pair arrived in Sokal, the principal drop-off depot.

Whilst unloading the van, an air raid siren suddenly echoed all around, the locals just carried on. Despite their nerves, Harry and Trevor decided that they simply couldn't go for cover whilst the locals refused to be intimidated.

Unless you have recently experienced life in western Ukraine for yourself, you cannot even begin to imagine the life of fear, deprivation, hunger and sense of absolute loss, that pervades the western Ukrainian landscape. It is so easy to think that Ukraine is all about a raging battle in the east, in reality, the effects are all around, even into Poland and Germany with homeless migrant families everywhere.

Sokal, the principal depot is about 90 minutes across the border from Poland and is comparable in size and population to the village of Preston in Dorset. Despite this, Sokal has lost more lives on the front than Preston lost throughout the two great wars and the Falklands combined, in just three months.

As Harry and Trevor made their way through Sokal, they saw the true effect of the War on the eastern side of Ukraine. Cemeteries at the roadsides awash with the colours of Ukrainian flags that each marked the burial place of one of the local young men or women that had died in defence of their freedom. Well-dressed adults with children at their sides, scavenging through rubbish bins in the open streets.

Most of the humanitarian aid that they dropped off had been taken up by refugees within just a few days, queuing early morning in the cold, hand in hand with their children. With so many displaced families on the streets, 1,800 in the town of Sokal alone, there is a desperate need for this aid by people who, just a few months ago, were living out an ordinary existence and have now lost everything.



Whilst there, Harry and Trevor were able to make contact with the Freemasons in Lviv, Ukraine's second largest city. The Grand Secretary of Ukraine was quick to respond and provided details such that they were able to arrange a meeting. To commemorate the occasion, Alan Wolsey cut and engrave a perfect ashlar from Portland Stone as a gift to the Ukrainian Freemasons.

An image of the ashlar that was gifted to the Ukrainian Lodge, the gift was received with great delight. With a few words of explanation duly translated into Ukrainian by the Worship Master, the ashlar was presented to their great

delight. Trevor Barrett presented a traditional 'Cable Tow' as made by Brian Barton, again with a suitable explanation.

The lodge meeting and ceremony was held in a basement under a church, hence the low level of lighting, and one of the Brethren was attired in combat clothing, as he was on call - welcome to the real world of Ukrainian Freemasonry!

'I have nothing but admiration and respect for those like Trevor Barrett who has now completed three of these gruelling trips, and the other team who have now completed thirteen trips in as many months! I also now know what motivates them, and what images they now carry around with them in their minds, as they go about their everyday lives at home, and why they feel drawn back to affect a difference. All in all, a highly successful mission, but also an unanticipated personal opportunity to pause, freeze frame the world around me, take stock, get to know myself, and fully appreciate the blessings of normality, the ordinary, and the freedom to choose!' - Source: UGLE.ORG.UK



### Freemasons Hall - Sovereign Hill Masonic Lodge No. 228

Sovereign Hill is an outdoor 'living' museum whose focus is on the impact of the 19th century gold discoveries on the growth of Ballarat, which was a small pastoral settlement when gold was discovered in 1851. Sovereign Hill attracts some 450,000 visitors each year and is world renown worldwide from its emphasis on historical period accuracy, working machinery and exhibits, costumed interpreters (both volunteer and paid), costumed schools program and visitor interaction. In keeping with this, Sovereign Hill also has recreated a Masonic Lodge of the mid-1850s complete with original furniture and fittings donated by the Talbot Masonic

Lodge No. 42. It is located upstairs in the 'Charlie Napier Hotel' in Main Street, Sovereign Hill. The original 'Charlie Napier' was in Main Road, Ballarat at the time of the gold rush and the licensee of the time, John Gibbs, first made the room available for Masonic meetings in the mid-1850s.

Although it is not a functioning Masonic Lodge as such, many visiting Lodges have held meetings there since its opening. The room only seats 30 people, and in keeping with Sovereign Hill's emphasis on historical accuracy, the Secretary must still write in the Minutes in ink!

Completed in 1992, it is open to public viewing through out the daily opening hours of Sovereign Hill.



## Recipe - Quick chicken and cashew curry



### Ingredients

60g Pams butter  
1 onion, finely chopped  
2 cloves garlic, minced  
2cm fresh ginger, peeled and grated  
1 tsp ground cumin  
2 Tbsp curry powder  
700g skinless boneless chicken thighs, diced  
1 can (400g) Pams diced tomatoes  
½ cup cashew nuts, roasted and finely ground  
½ cup natural unsweetened yoghurt  
Large handful coriander leaves

### Method

1. In a large casserole dish, melt the butter over medium-high heat. Sauté the onion, garlic and ginger for 3-4 minutes or until softened.
2. Add cumin, curry powder and season with salt and pepper. Stir to combine, then add chicken and stir-fry for 5 minutes.
3. Stir in the diced tomatoes and half a cup of water. Bring to a simmer and cook for 15 minutes. Stir in the ground cashew nuts and yoghurt. Bring to the boil, then remove from the heat.
4. Garnish with coriander to serve.

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“There is no greater agony than bearing an untold story inside you”

*Maya Angelou*

## TECH TIPS

### Internet Safety

This is a major issue in this day and age, the reality is, the internet is a zoo. It is full of people none of us want to acknowledge or even realise could or should exist.

It has opened up a whole new reality and has become something that the younger generation are going to have to deal with in a way we can't grasp.

A recent article on Television about cyber bullying and dubious characters meeting young girls has highlighted reasons for safety barriers.

I have been in the IT industry for some years and have seen things no one wants to see. A lot of the problems we have here are related to parents and supervision. Why parents allow their teenagers to sit in their room on a laptop is beyond comprehension, excuses about homework being done is naive to say the least. Those who are tech savvy can install applications and hardware to protect their children. However the majority really don't have the first clue on how to do this. When we geek types start talking firewalls and internet filters, most people's eyes starting glazing over.

One of the best resources you can look at is [www.netsafe.org.nz](http://www.netsafe.org.nz) – they have a huge amount of information to make it easy for parents to help make the internet safe for their children. It is essential people look at the options for protecting their families; this is also relevant to when you register on different sites, registering on some can mean you end up being spammed with emails.