

WARRINGTON MUSEUM OF FREEMASONRY



Welcome to our 2nd newsletter

I must apologise for the lateness of this Newsletter, it has been a busy summer and we have been working hard to get the museum ready for the 250th celebration for Lodge of Lights No 148. Vic has been beavering away in his “shed” removing errant screws, replacing worn dowels and re-assembling chairs. We have also had a number of wonderful items loaned and donated to us, we have also made a couple of purchases read on for more details.

UPCOMING EVENTS

FRIENDS DINNER 2016

Wed 31st March 7pm for 7.30pm

Hot Pot Supper

Warrington Masonic Hall

Museum Open

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

Wednesday - 9.30—12

Lodge meeting evenings – unmanned,

Office hours by appointment,

please contact Vic or Caroline

17th Century Chair update

The chair is a typical provincial chair of its time, probably made locally by a “joiner” (traditionally a joiner made joints for furniture etc.; as distinct from a carpenter who did heavier construction work).



It would have almost certainly been made for someone such as a small landowner or businessman; for the peasantry would have been using stools or benches, while the lord of the manor would have had much more elegant upholstered seating.

The first step in the restoration process was to dismantle the chair, the upholstered seat and back splat, which were an obvious later addition to the chair, believed

to be Victorian, were discarded, leaving the rest of the chair completely original. The chair had possibly been made in the green (that is using unseasoned oak which is easier to work) but unfortunately the timber had dried out over the years particularly in a centrally- heated building hence there were loose joints.

The dismantling process was fairly straightforward as no glue had been used, the chair was held together by initially tight joints and tree-nails (oak dowels) which could be knocked out fairly easily and the chair ended up as in photo above.



I then reassembled the chair using traditional hide glue and the replaced tree nails, and I made a new seat in the

Contact Us

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original style from an old oak panel given to me by Ian Boswell, which came originally from his grandmother's dining table. See photo on the right.

The completed chair is currently with Bramhall Interior Design for finishing.

Vic Charlesworth



Lodge of Lights No 148 250th Anniversary

As many of you will know the Lodge of Lights is celebrating their 250th anniversary this year, the celebration evening will be held on the 23rd November and it is expected to be a wonderful evening, with a number of Grand Lodge Officers in attendance.

The museum has put together a special exhibition displaying some of the Lodge of Lights treasures, many of which have not been on display previously, we have the Minute Book from 1850 when Sir Gilbert Greenall was made a mason, and photographs of the Lodge members in 1960 and 1990 to name but a few. Please come along and have a look! Don't forget to sign the visitor book whilst you are there!

Warrington's Sporting Masons



We will be having an exhibition celebrating our sporting Masons early in the New Year.

Names such as Joe Manley, Charlie Appleton, Harry Bath to name but a few are well known to Warrington inhabitants, but few people will know that they were masons. Come along and see if there are any surprises amongst our worthy figures.

If anyone has any stories or memorabilia that they can share with us, or loan to us please contact either Vic Charlesworth or Caroline Crook.

New Acquisitions

We have had a number of items loaned to us over the summer which are now on display within the museum. These include a beautiful silver rose bowl which was presented to Mrs. E.J. Forster the wife of Worshipful Master R.E. Forster Lodge of Rectitude in 1937. Loaned by Mr. and Mrs. G Disley



1796 plate jewel

We have purchased two jewels from auction, they belonged to Lodge of Commerce No. 215, which was warranted in 1796. The first is a Masters Collar Jewel, which we believe dates from the time the lodge was warranted and a plate jewel (see photo) which, its likely ,was used as an aide-memoir prior to the common use of Ritual books.

Donations to the museum include Knights Templar Regalia, donated by Ken Smith and KT Sword donated by John Weir, which is currently on display in the large ante-room, a Mother Kilwinning Lodge No 0 Scottish Constitution Apron and a 9 foot long lance once used by the Lancer regiment, further research is ongoing into its date and its provenance.

Solomon's Temple

An impressive model of the first temple of Solomon has been made for the Museum by WBro Ken Garner, it is approximately 80cm long and 40 cm wide. It has taken Ken many hours of research and painstaking work to produce the striking model which can be seen from the door of the Museum. The chambers can be carefully opened to display the detail inside, including a model of the Ark of the Covenant.

Vic visits across the Pond

On his recent visit to America, Ohio to be precise, Vic visited a Lodge there, he was invited back a second time to give a talk about the museum and at the meeting he was made an honorary member of Ashland Lodge No. 151 Grand Lodge of Ohio.

Whilst he was there he found a 1907 Commemorative Masonic Plate, attributed to Wooster Commandery No 48 Knights Templar which was chartered on August 14, 1889 and still meets every second Tuesday of the month in Wooster. In the centre of this beautiful 8 5/8" plate is a colourful picture of a Milkmaid, around the border are different symbols representing Masonic Bodies, including the Royal Arch. The Maltese cross also says "Wooster Commandery No. 48 K.T. Wooster, O". It was made by Bennett Pottery. Vic managed to bring it home carefully wrapped in his hand luggage. This is one of a set of commemorative plates and Vic is on the lookout for the others.



The Milkmaid



Friends Dinner 31st March 2016

The Museum's Friends Dinner will be held on the 31st March 2016, further details on times and menu will be given nearer to the time.

We are excited to announce that the speaker for the evening will be Susan Snell, Archivist at the Museum and Library of Freemasonry in Great Queen Street. Susan has a wealth of knowledge regarding the preservation and storage of documents, textiles and photographs useful not only for museums and lodges but also for those of us who have family photographs and other treasures that we wish to preserve.

Museum Gears up for 2017

The Museum will be helping to celebrate the 300year Anniversary of the formation of Grand Lodge, in 2017 with special exhibitions and events. Watch this space for details

U3A Family History Group Talk

Vic and Caroline have once more attended the U3A Family History group meeting to give a talk entitled "Freemasonry for family historians" followed by a guided tour of the building.

Probus Group Talk

Vic has been invited to give a talk to the members of the Probus group in the New Year.

Probus Clubs work to provide regular gatherings to those retired or semi-retired business or professional people who, in retirement, appreciate and value opportunities to meet others in similar circumstances and with similar interests

Talks and Tours

Do you know of any groups that would be interested in the history of Freemasonry and its place in Society? If so please contact Vic by email. curator@themasonicmuseum.co.uk

Articles Required

If you would like a relevant article included in the newsletter, please contact Vic or Caroline (vic@themasonicmuseum.co.uk, caroline@themasonicmuseum.co.uk)

Masonic Library

The Masonic library has a wide range of books not only for Masonic research but also general Masonic interest, this books may be borrowed by arrangement or used for study within the museum.

It is your library please make use of it.