

PROVINCE OF SURREY



Progress Chapter No. 1768

Consecrated May 28th 1913

A HISTORY OF THE FIRST HUNDRED YEARS

1913 TO 2013

INTRODUCTION

It was with much nervousness and unease that I embarked upon writing the History for the Centenary of the Progress Chapter. On a brief examination of the minutes it became obvious after deciphering the various handwritings that, as my predecessor had commented, they are “fairly boring and as dull as ditchwater” or perhaps one might say monotonous to the uninitiated. The minutes are in the main simply a record of Dispensations, Joining Members, Exaltations, Investing the Principals and Officers, Promotions, Deaths, Resignations, Apologies and the like.

The Minutes recorded might be compared to a regular Church service being composed of Prayers, Hymns, Psalms, Readings, Notices and Banns etc. with only seasonal variety meeting after meeting and only the possibility of a “gem” during the Vicar’s sermon to enliven the proceedings and catch the congregation’s attention.

I hope I haven’t missed any of our Chapter’s little “gems” and that I am able to catch your attention.

Unfortunately many of the printed Summonses together with lists of Members are missing and I have been unable to trace them at all during the periods 1922-1958 and 1967-1980.

Progress Chapter was not formed until the 28 May 1913 although it is thought that more than one effort was made as early as 1889. Apparently the Brethren of the London Lodge thought that a summer meeting in the country (Sutton) would be an attractive proposition. One might consider, hypothetically of course, that the possibility of a game of tennis or golf in the country prior to the meeting could also have been uppermost in their minds!

It is interesting to note that the Lodge of Progress was a non-dining Lodge but as some of the Brethren needed refreshment after the meetings a Supper Club was formed. This was not to be the case with the formation of the Chapter whose dining arrangements were well planned from the outset! The eventual venue chosen was Sutton Masonic Hall perhaps because it was a relatively new building as it was only constructed in 1897.

In conclusion since the Chapter has at least four experienced Chartered Librarians I am left wondering why I was privileged to get the job!

E Comp. James Kirkbride PPGSN

IN THE BEGINNING A LODGE CONTEMPLATES

EXTRACT FROM MINUTES OF LODGE OF PROGRESS NO. 1768

Consecrated 17 October 1878 Lodge Of Progress London

Extract from Minutes of Lodge of Progress for 22 January 1913.

Bro.Treas. brought forward a suggestion that the Lodge should sanction the formation of a R.A. Chapter to be attached to this Lodge, meeting during the summer months. He reported that it would not be consecrated in the Province of Middlesex unless a majority of members resided there, and suggested it might conveniently be held in Surrey, say at Kingston. By meeting twice in the year and borrowing the furniture the subscription might be £1.1s.0d. per annum. If the proposal was generally acceptable he proposed that the members who belonged to the R.A. might meet to discuss details. The W.M. (W.Bro.Dr. W.A.Spencer Cox) spoke in favour of the proposal, as did Bro.S.W and Froot who expressed a wish to be Founders. In answer to enquiries Bro.Treas. stated that MMs' were eligible for membership and that the initiation fee might be £2.2s.0d. The W.M. on a show of hands declared a majority in favour of the suggestion.

Bro.Treas. said the R.A. members would discuss it and a formal proposal might be brought before the Lodge at the next meeting.

Extract from Lodge Summons and Minutes for 26 February 1913.

To consider – Notice of Motion by W.Bro. F.J.Allan P.M., L.R., Treasurer

“That this Lodge do sanction the formation of a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with the Lodge”

The W.M. called upon Bro.Treas. to move in accordance with the notice appearing on the summons. Bro.Treas. submitted a Petition having the requisite number of signatures attached for the format of a Chapter to meet at Richmond in the Summer months; and he quoted letters from the surviving Founders and from P.M's of the Lodge according their support to the proposal. The motion was seconded by the W.M. and resolved upon unanimously.

Extract from Minutes for 26 March 1913.

Bro.Treas. mentioned that the place of meeting of the proposed Chapter had been under consideration of the Founders and they were of the opinion that Sutton, Surrey, would be most convenient, but before deciding they desired to have some expression of opinion of the members of the Lodge. Some discussion ensued and it was finally agreed that the Chapter should meet at Sutton.

Extract from Minutes for 22 October 1913.

Progress Chapter Nr.1768 was duly consecrated on the 28 May 1913, W Bros. Allan, Froot and Houghton being designated as the first three Principals. Meetings are to be held on third Wednesdays in April and June at Sutton Surrey.

CONSECRATION CEREMONY

Came the great day for the birth of the new Chapter and the Consecration Ceremony took place on Wednesday 28 May 1913 at the Masonic Hall Sutton Surrey. The Ceremony was conducted by the

**Most Excellent Companion The Grand Superintendent of Surrey,
The Reverend H W Turner MA, PGSN.**

He was assisted by;

E Comp. G V A Schofield Prov.GSE	Acting as H
E Comp. The Rev James Beeby MA, PPGSN	Acting as J
E Comp. George R Saunders PPGJ	Acting as N
E Comp. Walter Gripper PGSwdB, PPGPS	Acting as D of C

Janitor; E Comp. George E Walker PZ, PGADC Kent

Visitors

E Comp. J R Bosworth MD,PPGJ	E Comp. A de Chapeaurouge PPGSN
E Comp. E J Morris PZ	E Comp. H Newman Godward MEZ
E Comp. Thomas G Dee PZ	E Comp. G W Cazalet H
E Comp. James J Berry PZ	E Comp. Thomas W Ockenden PZ
E Comp. Frank Tebbull H	Comp. C M Robertson

Founders of the Chapter

E Comp. Francis John Allan	E Comp. Charles Frederick Frood
E Comp. John Pounds Houghton	E Comp. William George Lacy
E Comp. Ernest Theodore-Smith	Comp. William Alfred Spencer Cox
Comp. David MacNish	Comp. Rev. George Freeman Irwin
Comp. Norman Anderson Adams	Comp. Stanley Wallen Rodgers
Comp. Oswald William Godden	Comp. Richard Loy Wilcox

The minutes record that:

“The D of C informed the ME Principals that The Supreme Grand Chapter of England in accordance with the Laws and Constitutions of Royal Arch Freemasonry had been pleased to grant to the Petitioners a Charter or Warrant of Constitution bearing date the 7th day of May 1913 authorising them to form and open a Chapter of Royal Arch Masons at Sutton in the County of Surrey”

The Consecrating Officer installed the Three Principals:

E Comp. Francis John Allan	as Z
E Comp. Charles Frederick Frood	as H
E Comp. John Pounds Houghton	as J

The ballot for the officers was left in the hands of the MEZ who declared the Officers as follows:

IPZ	E Comp. William George Lacy PZ
Scribe E	Comp. Oswald William Godden
Scribe N	Comp. William Alfred Spencer Cox
Treasurer	Comp. David MacNish
Principal Sojourner	Comp. George Freeman Irwin
1 st Asst Soj	Comp. Richard Loy Wilcox
2 nd Asst Soj	Comp. Norman Anderson Adams
Janitor	E Comp. George E Walker

After the Principals had installed the Officers a Committee was formed to frame the Bylaws. This seems odd, since today it is unlikely that a new Chapter could be formed until the Bylaws had been written and approved by both Grand and Provincial Grand Chapters. Hence the Chapter was Consecrated in a different Province to that of our Mother Lodge and without Bylaws!!!!

The five Consecrating Officers accepted the compliment of becoming Honorary Members of the Chapter and were each presented with a replica of the Founders Jewel of the Chapter. Seventeen Silver Gilt enamelled Jewels were purchased at 17 shillings and 6 pence each from H T Lamb & Co., one for each of the twelve founding members and five for the Consecrating Officers.

The next proposition was for Candidates for Exaltation and Joining; of the former there were six:

W. Bro. Charles. W. Servante
W. Bro. Oliver Field
Bro. Percy Thompson

W. Bro. James Edward Beggs
W. Bro. William Sidney Spaul
Bro. Sidney Hartley

and of the latter, one: E Comp Thomas W Ockenden.

So ended the Consecration Meeting after which 25 Companions sat down to a Festive Board at Riddingtons Restaurant, 8 High Street Sutton, at the princely sum of 6 shillings and 6 pence each. (About £25 at today's value)

The first meeting on the 18 June 1913 was attended by 18 Companions. The summons is rather amusing as it records the times of the trains leaving from London Bridge and Victoria stations for the benefit of those Companions travelling by train to Sutton. One Joining member was admitted and six Candidates Exalted. All six Candidates were members of the Lodge of Progress No. 1768. Unfortunately there is no mention of the procedure that was adopted for carrying out the multiple Exaltation Ceremonies. The Bylaws were approved and authority given to print them. The hearty thanks of the Chapter were accorded to the MEZ and Companions of The Grove Chapter No. 410 for the free loan of the furniture and clothing in connection with the Consecration Ceremony of the Progress Chapter. In later years the Chapter was charged ten shillings and sixpence per year for the loan in the years 1913-1916.

At only the second meeting of the Chapter it was found necessary to obtain a dispensation for the Chapter to be held in London at Freemasons Hall Great Queen Street on Wednesday 22 April 1914. Two more members of the Lodge of Progress were proposed and one Exalted. The Annual Subscription was raised from £1.1s.0d. to £1.11s.6d. It was further resolved that the Chapter meetings be held on the First Wednesday in May and the Third Wednesday in June. A further dispensation was read authorising the installation as "H" of the Chapter for Companion William A Spencer Cox who had not yet served in the office of "J".

The Chapter accounts recorded expenditure for the 1913 year of £72.7s.0d. and an income of only £62.12s.6d. The Treasurer was owed £9.14s.6d! Of this sum £1.6s.0d. was collected leaving a sum of £8.8s.6d., owing to the Treasurer, Comp Dr David MacNish. He later resigned and in a letter from Rome dated about 16 June 1915 stated that owing to the uncertainty of his movements he waived his claim to repayment of the sum owing to him. This was a very generous gesture since it would equate to a sum of about £600 at today's rates.!!!

In March 1914 a case was purchased for the sum of 7s.6d. to protect our Charter and judging by the dilapidated state of the current case it would appear to be the original. On examination of the Charter it is interesting to note that it was signed by each of the chapter's First Principals from 1913 to 1933, after which date this practice was discontinued.

Further examination of the Charter reveals that the date of the First Chapter meeting has not been entered on the Charter!

No mention of the Great War breaking out on 28 July 1914 and ending on 11 November 1918 was recorded in the Minutes. Strangely only one death is recorded during this period, that of E.Comp Rev James Beeby PPGSN on 22 April 1914, one of the Consecrating Officers.

Once again in June 1916 the desirability of changing the meeting dates was referred to a Committee as the Installation date coincided with the Grand Chapter meeting and the June meeting with the Boys Festival. It was therefore resolved that the Regular Convocations be held on the First Friday in May and the Third Wednesday in June.

The MEZ referred to the honour of knighthood conferred on E Comp Sir Percy Thompson in 1920 who had been one of the first group of six to be Exalted into the Chapter and was currently our Second Principal. The Companions extended their hearty congratulations.

In June 1921, after only eight years, the meeting dates were once again changed. It was resolved that the Chapter meet three times a year: the third Friday in May, the third Wednesday in June (Installation) and the third Friday in July. The Annual Subscription was raised to £2.2s.0d.

The death on 14 June 1922 of the Provincial Grand Master and Provincial Grand Superintendent of Surrey, Rev. Canon H W Turner (Rector of Sutton since 1887 and Honorary Canon of Southwark) was announced. The Annual Provincial Grand meeting went ahead but the dinner was cancelled. We were fortunate to have had him as our Consecrating Officer in 1913. He was born in 1846 and the Minutes record the great sorrow felt by all Companions. Province announced that members of Chapters within the Province were to appear in Masonic Mourning within their Chapters until 14 September next. The mourning to be worn consisted of three rosettes of Black Crape on the Apron and one at the point of the Collar just above the Jewel when a collar is worn.

During the period 1923 to 25 various dispensations were given authorising the installation of Principals who had not progressed through the "lower chairs". It is amusing to consider the thoughts running through the mind of the DC at the meeting when he was confronted with the installation of a First Principal who had not been installed in the chair of J or H together with the further complication of a Second Principal who had not been installed in the chair of J. I feel sure the DC dazzled the Companions with his great skill and Masonic knowledge of the proper procedure in carrying out his duties in this complicated task!

There was a unique experience in the Chapter at the meeting in June 1929 when a Father, E. Comp. Frank Chorlton Lingard, and his two sons Claude Frank Lingard and Aubrey Lawrence Lingard were installed in the three Principal chairs. Frank was a joining member (exalted 30 April 1897). His two sons Claude Frank and Aubrey Lawrence both aged 32 years were exalted together into the Chapter on 20 June 1923. Frank and his two sons were previously invested as the three sojourners on 17 June 1925 and each progressed through the various offices on the way to the chair.

Frank died on 17 June 1936; Claude was excluded (Rule 148) in 1951. However Aubrey was a regular attender until his death in 1963 aged 74 years.

At the meeting in July 1931 it was resolved "That the M. Ex. the Grand Superintendent for Surrey, H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, be invited to be graciously pleased to become an Hon. Member of the Chapter." This invitation was also extended to E.Comp. Charles R Verling Brown the Prov. Grand Scribe E.

Unfortunately there is no record in the minutes of any acceptance but the Summons dated 1935 clearly shows that they had both become Hon. Members.

In May 1933 the Founders Jewel of E.Comp. Richard Loy Wilcox (deceased) was presented to the Grand Lodge Library and is recorded in their website and available for inspection. It is the only Founders Jewel known to exist from the original seventeen.

The meeting place and date (on Monday 10 July 1933) was held by dispensation in London at Mark Masons Hal, Great Queen Street, because our regular meeting coincided with the opening of Freemasons Hall.

1933 proved to be an important year in the Masonic calendar, being marked by two special events. Freemasons Hall was opened with appropriate pomp and ceremony and the Masonic Hospital was opened by King George V who very graciously gave permission for it to be called the Royal Masonic Hospital.

In 1934 the date of the July meeting was changed to the third Friday in October. The reason given was that owing to the late date in July it was difficult for many members to attend.

At the meeting on 19th May 1937 a "Request from Prov.G Chapter that for this year a voluntary contribution of one shilling per member be made to Prov.G.C. Funds to enable them to complete their accounts for the year". I have asked the Supreme Grand Chapter Library and Province but have no explanation of this unusual request.

In the light of a letter in June 1937 from Provincial Grand Chapter, the question of the working of the Chapter was discussed and it was decided that the Chapter should definitely work Domestic working and arrange a rehearsal of the ceremony before each meeting when a degree or installation is being worked. It seems a bit late in the day after 24 years to confirm this!

The Founder's intentions of meeting in the country seem now to have been set aside except for the June meeting, since of the 67 odd meetings up to 15 May 1938 dispensations were applied for on no less than 43 occasions for the meetings to be held in London. Dispensations were required from Grand and Provincial Chapter at some considerable expense. (10s.6d. and 5s.0d. respectively)

The minute's record that Past Zerubbabel jewels were always presented during these early years at an original cost of three guineas rising to four guineas each in 1938. The gilt jewel today costs £45.00. How much would the original jewels have cost at today's prices bearing in mind that they are Gold?

During the first 25 years, apart from the first meeting after the Consecration at which no less than six candidates for exaltation were admitted, there were 34 exaltations, 5 joining, 13 resignations, 13 deaths and 1 exclusion. There were multiple exaltations on 9 occasions, i.e. six doubles and three trebles!

The Membership at 15 June 1938 stood at a very healthy 26 plus 2 honorary member. I suppose it was to be anticipated that there would be no exaltations during the 1914-18 war years.

No Chapter meetings were held at Sutton Masonic Hall between June 1938 and June 1949 due presumably to the Second World War and the requisition of the Masonic Hall by the Local Authority. Meetings during this period were held in London at Freemasons Hall in Great Queen Street or Frascati's Restaurant in Oxford Street.

In June 1942 Annual Subscriptions were currently £2.2s.0d.; however, it was agreed that the Subscription for the preceding year and the present year be £1.1s.0d. No reason is recorded why there was this reduction in the Subscription but it may be construed it was due to the War. Annual Subscriptions were resumed at the £2.2s.0d. level at the meeting on 21 June 1944.

At the meeting on 31st October 1945 The Prov. Grand Superintendent ME. Comp. Lt Col. Stuart Pleydell-Bouverie DSO, OBE, TD visited our Chapter and expressed his appreciation of the work of all the officers. Unfortunately he was to pass away less than 2 years later.

The meeting on Wednesday 18 June 1947 of the Chapter was held by dispensation at Frascati's Restaurant, Oxford Street, London. The MEZ E. Comp. F B Swallow presented a Bible to the Chapter. Unfortunately it is no longer in the possession of the Chapter.

In May 1950 E Comp Francis B Swallow referred to the sad loss sustained by the Chapter by the death of E Comp Reverend George Freeman Irwin PGSN who died on 19 Feb 1950. He was the last of the Founder members of the Chapter. Appointed Principal Sojourner at the first regular meeting of the Chapter, he subsequently rose to be First Principal on 21 June 1916 and served as Director of Ceremonies from 1923 to 1927. He was a regular attender of the Chapter until his death.

June 1950 saw another increase in the Annual Subscription, which was increased to two and a half guineas. The Chapter was at this time once again fortunate to receive a visit from the Provincial Grand Superintendent, Charles R Verling-Brown.

The Scribe E reported in June 1951 that this was the twenty first year that E Comp A C Chitty had acted as Janitor and it was agreed to make a presentation of 5 guineas to him. Little were the Companions to realise that E. Comp. Chitty was going to continue in his office for a further 18 years!

In June 1954 E. Comp. Colin Peter Brown was installed as First Principal. He had been exalted into the Chapter in October 1943 at the age of 44 years. E. Comp. Colin was an Air Vice Marshall and joined the Royal Naval Air Service in 1917 as a pilot in the Seaplane Defence Squadron at the age of 19 years! He was awarded the DFC (& Bar) together with the French Croix de Guerre with Palms in 1918. The London Gazette described him as "a fine fighting pilot" and his final tally at the end of World War One was 14 consisting of seven destroyed and a further two shared, four out of control and another shared. He was awarded the CBE for distinguished service between 1 October 1940 and 31 March 1941. In May 1958 he was promoted to Grand Sword Bearer & Provincial Grand Sword Bearer. E. Comp. Colin died on 19 October 1965 at the age of 66 years.

At about this time it appears that Supreme Grand Chapter were expressing their concern at the "Anomalous" position of Progress Chapter inasmuch as, although a Surrey Chapter, it is attached to and bears the name and number of a London Lodge. It is not clear from the records by whom or exactly when this matter first arose but it is very clear from the amount of dispensations, about 70% of meetings, being requested by the Chapter of both the Supreme Grand Chapter and Provincial Grand Chapter that sooner or later questions would be asked.

The reason for the approval by the Supreme Grand Chapter of the Petition in 1913 despite this anomaly remains a mystery, and perusal of the Masonic Library records to date has shed no light on the subject. On 2 July 1954 E. Comp. Leslie R Jepson had a meeting with the Assistant Grand Scribe E about the Supreme Grand Chapter's concern at the anomalous position of the Chapter since it is an accepted principle (though not laid down in the Royal Arch regulations as such) that a Lodge and its Chapter should come under the same territorially Masonic authorities. The Grand Scribe E in his letter dated 22 October 1954 to the Chapter considered that it would be eminently desirable for the position to be regularised particularly as the Chapter is "de facto" from its meetings more London than Provincial.

A letter dated 11 December 1954 from Province (E. Comp. R A F Bellamy) stated that no objection would be made by Province to the Chapter becoming a London Chapter but added that they did not want to lose us.

Since the matter was so important a meeting of the Chapter's PZs' was called where it is recorded in a letter to the Supreme Grand Chapter that strong views were expressed on the point of being transferred at all but more particularly on the question of proceeding by Petition. No record of this situation, or the letters, or the PZs' meeting was entered in the minutes held at the convocation in October 1954. It is not until May 1955 that the minutes record anything about this major situation.

E.Comp. Leslie R Jepson wrote to Supreme Grand Chapter on the 21 December 1954 stating that the Companions were not inclined to adopt the request to become a London Chapter. Supreme Grand Chapter once again requested we consider the options:

1. Meeting solely in London or Surrey, or:
2. Attach to a Surrey Lodge.

E.Comp. R A F Bellamy, Prov.Grand Scribe E, visited the Chapter on 20 May 1955 and spoke at length about the situation facing the Chapter.

Eventually a motion was proposed: "**The Chapter meet regularly in Sutton instead of partly in Sutton & London**". This motion was proposed and carried at the Convocation dated 15 June 1955. Since this date all meetings have taken place at the Masonic Hall in Sutton.

Unfortunately only three years later in 1958 the MEZ referred to the great loss suffered by the Chapter by the death of E Comp Leslie R Jepson PGStB., PPAGS (22 August 1958.) E.Comp Leslie had been our Scribe E for the past 22 years. E.Comp. Ernest H Price PPAGDC paid a moving tribute to his memory.

The minutes in October 1960 record that the MEZ referred to the loss sustained by the Chapter by the death of E.Comp. Eric James Edward PGStB., PPGReg. the last of the Founder members of the Chapter. There appears to be some confusion since Eric was in fact a candidate in 18 May 1921! The last of the Founders was in fact E.Comp. Rev. George Freeman Irwin PGSN who died on 19 Feb 1950.

During the second 25 years of the Chapter there were; 35 exaltations, 2 joining, 7 resignations, 14 deaths and 2 exclusions. Surprisingly this included 7 exaltations during the 1939-45 war years. The Membership at 17 May 1963 stood at a very healthy 30 members.

THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY MEETING of the Chapter was held by dispensation at Masonic Hall in Sutton on Friday 28 June 1963 at 4.30pm. (Dispensation to meet on Friday 28th instead of Wednesday 19th June.) The meeting was attended by 30 Companions and the Chapter was honoured to receive E.Comp. Bernard H Davis the M E Grand Superintendent, E.Comp. The Rev. FG W W Heydon ProvGH, and E.Comp. The Rev. G Stephenson PPGJ and 9 other visitors.

Unfortunately owing to illness E.Comp. Air Vice Marshall Colin P Brown CB, CBE, DFC was unable to attend due to doctor's orders and he wrote to say it was a bitter disappointment to him to miss the Jubilee. He recovered and was installed as MEZ at the following meeting but died in October 1965 after 22 years in the Chapter.

E.Comp Aubrey L Lingard read the minutes of the Consecration meeting held on Wednesday 28 May 1913. E.Comp. William Proctor Wilson read the minutes of the first regular convocation of the Chapter held on the 18 June 1913. Scribe E then read a short history giving the origins of the Chapter and its subsequent development.

The M E Grand Superintendent then addressed the Chapter and said that recent research into the symbolism and meaning of masonry by various writers had been to encourage masonry and as a result there had been a remarkable change in the attitude of masons towards the ritual. In the past ceremonies had tended to be stiff and stilted but the officers' approach was now different; it was to understand the symbolism and meaning of the words

and to interest and convey to the candidate their understanding of what the ceremony meant. In that understanding he thought there was a general desire to practise in the outside world what was taught in masonry.

He went on to say that when the Progress Chapter was consecrated fifty years previously it became the 19th Chapter in the Province of Surrey and that at this date there were now 94 Chapters. The M E Grand Superintendent said that he was in fact consecrating a new Chapter the following day. (Currently in 2013 there are 130 Chapters)

E.Comp. Aubrey Lawrence Lingard died 13 April 1965 aged 74 years. The tribute was paid by E.Comp. William Proctor Wilson who said that with his passing ended a link with a Father and his two sons who had occupied the Principals' chairs in succession.

A donation of £3.10s.0d. made to the M E Grand Superintendent Bernard H Davis to mark his 80th birthday was later donated by him to the Royal Masonic Hospital.

In 1965 subscriptions were raised to £3.13s.6d. Exaltation Fee £5.5s.0d. (£3.3s.0d. for members of the Lodge of Progress). Joining Fee £3.3s.0d. Over the previous 50 years subscriptions had only increased from one guinea to three and a half guineas. The next 50 years were to show a much more extreme increase.

It is recorded that the Scribe E had received a letter from the ProvGSE inviting donations towards the Grand Superintendent to mark the occasion of his 50th wedding anniversary in May 1968 and it was agreed that the recommended donation of one guinea should be made.

Our Janitor E Comp A C Chitty, originally appointed back in June 1930, who had served the Chapter for the past 39 years sent his apologies as he was now in hospital and tendered his resignation which was accepted with regret by the Companions who sent their best wishes for his recovery.

At the meeting in October 1970, arising out of the increase in membership subscriptions from £3.13s.6d. to £6.00, it was generally felt that in order to maintain membership levels a Non-Dining membership would be appropriate at an annual subscription of £3.00. This was proposed by the Scribe E, seconded and carried unanimously.

In October 1971 E.Comp. Damer Dawson PGStB, PPDepGReg was made an Honorary Member. He was exalted on 15 July 1921, installed into the First Principal's chair in 1925 and was the Treasurer from 1929 to 1961 - a period of 32 years! Is this a Surrey record? Tragically he died before the next May meeting at the age of 92 years.

IN OCTOBER 1974 THE CHAPTER HAD ITS FIRST EXALTEE FOR 5 YEARS!

It is understood that at this time that out of every five members in the Craft only one was a member of a Royal Arch Chapter.

In June 1976 subscriptions were raised once again to £14.00 - double what it was 5 years previously in 1971! Subscriptions had almost quadrupled in the last 10 years from £3.13s.6d. in 1965.

At the meeting in June 1979 a bar was presented for E.Comp. Gerald Lancelot Banks jewel to mark his fourth year in office. Without wishing to pick out any particular Companion for praise I feel that a special mention should be made of E Comp Gerald. He was exalted into the Chapter in May 1958 at the age of 46 years, was a regular attender and rose from Steward in June 1960 through all of the offices to First Principal in 1971, 1972, 1973 and again in 1977 (when he was appointed Provincial Grand Standard Bearer). He was PS in 1978, 79, H in 80 and J in 81 then he was appointed to DC from 1982-1992. He was made an Honorary Member in 1998. He was a stalwart of the Chapter and later settled down to a

well earned rest until his death in May 2004 at the age of 91 years. His daughter wrote to inform the Chapter that he died of a heart attack three weeks before his 92 birthday and related that his last visitor was the local vicar and in a touching comment added "possibly to show him the way". He was also a Brother of Croydon Airport Lodge No. 5047 and he generously bequeathed £100 to each Lodge and Chapter in his will.

ONLY ONE EXALTEE PER YEAR FOR THE PAST 5 YEARS!

In June 1980 the Chapter was at a very low ebb, membership was deteriorating and attendances were poor and it was obvious that something had to be done. The membership at this time was only 18 with sometimes less than 10 regular attenders. Fortunately our knight in shining armour was at hand in the person of E.Comp. Don Boydell who was a guest of the Chapter at this meeting.. He became a joining member at the following meeting and later introduced no less than 11 members over the next two years. (5 Exaltees and 6 Joining) In addition he became MEZ on 17 June 1981 and Treasurer in June 1982 until February 1992.

We are also indebted to E.Comp. Don Boydell for proposing E.Comp. Ted Smith, Bryan Page and Terry Cooke in June and October 1981 who are to be the Principals for our Centenary meeting.

On May 1980 E.Comp. William Proctor Wilson died. He was a Group Captain in the RAF and was awarded the CBE. He was exalted into the Chapter in May 1930 at the age of 28 years and appointed Organist in May 1931, a position he held for no less than 50 years!

In October 1982 during the Exaltation Ceremony of W Bro Roy McLellan Archibald, E Comp John Russell Howard, the Scribe E, records that the Exaltation was not without "fire" as (during the ceremony of unveiling) the Scribe E's surplice was ignited from the rear by one of the lesser lights unbeknown to the wearer! However by the prompt action of Comp. Frank Hirst and encouraged by the cries of the other Companions he succeeded in extinguishing the flames with his bare hands!

Until May 1983 a Past Zerubbabel jewel had always been awarded to the outgoing Principal. However this year E.Comp. Don Boydell proposed that in view of his promotion to Prov. Grand Rank the PZ Jewel he received from Chapter be handed back and worn by the IPZ during his year of office and thereafter be passed to his successor. It was hoped that as this jewel was one of the few original solid gold jewels still in circulation it would ensure its continuity in the Chapter. There is no mention of the presentation of any other new jewel to a Past Zerubbabel after this date.

Unfortunately E.Comp. Boydell's jewel is missing and of the 60 odd jewels presented only seven are in the Chapter's possession at this time:

E.Comp Damer Dawson 1926-27 E.Comp George M Parsons 1938-39, 1965-1966
E.Comp Francis B Swallow 1932-33 E.Comp Edwin C Emerson 1955-56, 1964-1965
E.Comp Wilfred D Wickson 1969-70 E.Comp L D Adams 1970-71
E.Comp Gordon L Banks 1971-2-3-7.

Nowadays one of the above Jewels is presented on loan to the IPZ to wear until such time as he receives promotion.

In June 1983 it was agreed to alter the meeting days of the Chapter from the Third Friday in May and October and the third Wednesday in June to the third Friday in February, May, and October with the installation to be in May. This represented a very major decision, as the June "summer meeting in the country" had been sacrosanct for 70 years!

However Supreme Grand Chapter were initially unable to approve this apparently simple revision since the present Principals and the next J elect would not have served the necessary 12 months term of election required by Royal Arch Regulations!

The solution was for the Principals to remain in office until May 1985. Supreme Grand Chapter approval was subsequently received. The MEZ read a dispensation permitting E. Comp. Bryan Page to be MEZ in two Chapters concurrently.

E.Comp. Leslie E Riches died February 1984. He was Secretary of the Progress Lodge for 25 years and Scribe E of our Chapter for 20 years. He was also Recorder of his Rose Croix Chapter.

E.Comp. John Russell-Howard, our Scribe E, gave a brief history of Chapter including its uniqueness. Unfortunately there are no notes attached in the minutes.

On 16 October 1987 the worst night of storms in living memory hit the south of England. The storm and subsequent destruction reduced the meeting attendance to fourteen companions. The hurricane winds that swept across southern Britain left the worst hit areas totally devastated. The storm uprooted millions of trees, ripped roofs off buildings, destroyed cars and even reduced the Isle of Wight Shanklin pier, nearly 100 years old, to a pile of driftwood. Many parts of the country were cut off from power and 18 people lost their lives in winds that reached 100 mph (161 km/h) in parts of the UK.

The Installation meeting on 20 May 1988 celebrated the 75th Anniversary of the Chapter and was attended by no less than 35 Companions including 14 visitors plus two official visitors, namely the M.E Grand Superintendent E.Comp. Rev. Graham I Williams and his escort E.Comp. Terry Doyle PDepGDC. The Grand Superintendent said that he was very impressed by the exceptionally high standard of the work and requested this be recorded in the minutes.

During the third 25 years of the Chapter there were; 21 exaltations, 15 joining, 15 resignations, 16 deaths and 2 exclusions. The Membership at 20 May 1988 stood at a very healthy 29 members.

At the meeting in February 1989 Comp. James Kirkbride in his role as Principal Sojourner carried out another Exaltation and E.Comp. James Sacré resigned. E.Comp. James Kirkbride was comforted to ultimately learn that the two events were not related, as E.Comp. James Sacré later became a rejoining member!

Commencing with the Convocation of 18th February 1994 the Minutes now began to be produced by a computer. The present author was relieved not to continue with the task of deciphering atrocious handwriting.

In May 1994 as a matter of historical accuracy it is recorded that the Chapter Locker key was missing "and therefore the ceremonies delineated in these minutes were carried out symbolically". The urgent need for candidates was also recorded.

At the meeting in October 1995 E.Comp. Don Boydell gave a talk on "Some Reflections on the History of Progress Chapter". Scribe E.Comp. Roy Archibald recorded that the past Minutes were "as dull as ditchwater"! and congratulated E.Comp. Don on "constructing fascinating bricks with very little straw". The talk was received with acclamation. Unfortunately the full text for this talk was not included in the minutes. However some brief handwritten notes upon which E Comp Don based his talk are still available.

In May 1997 E.Comp. William J C Scott was appointed Organist having become a joining member in 18 October 1996. The Chapter had been without an organist for 16 years since the death of E Comp William Proctor Walker in 1981. E.Comp. William J C Scott brought about the regular singing of the Opening and Closing Odes to our Ceremony and it was agreed to try out "O Worship the King" and "The God of Abraham praise". The first verse of the National Anthem was also to be sung. Both Odes were first sung on May 1998 and this has been our policy at our Convocations since this date. Sadly E.Comp. William died in 2002 at the age of 77 years.

At our meeting in October 2000 The M.E Grand Superintendent E.Comp. James N Edgerley with his escort E.Comp. Richard Knox visited the Chapter. In an amusing aside to his narrative he commented that when admitted into the Chapter he always instructed his DC to advise the Companions that he preferred to be applauded into the Chapter rather than be clapped out!

Our Honorary member E.Comp. Ted Conolly had related in a letter as to how deeply impressed he was at the courteous and considerate manner of the Grand Superintendent who had personally visited his home to present him with his Provincial Honour.

In May 2001 the death was announced of M.E.Comp The Right Honourable Lord Farnham and also, unfortunately, one of the Chapter's most liked and amusing recent members, Comp. Douglas Colpus. Comp. Douglas had been in hospital receiving chemotherapy treatment but was always in great spirits, which could be readily construed since his only complaint about the hospital was the quality of the food, as he said, "If Oliver Twist was here he wouldn't ask for more". E.Comp. Eric Trodd gave a moving tribute.

Grand Scribe E reported the resignation of Provincial Grand Master R.W.Bro T Doyle and the Grand Superintendent E.Comp. James N Edgerley and also W Bro M M Danciger. E.Comp. Lt Col D A M Phipps MBE PAGSoj was appointed Grand Superintendent of Surrey and also Provincial Grand Master of Surrey.

At our meeting in May 2002 our honorary member E.Comp. John Russell- Howard (who resides on the Isle of Wight) attended the meeting and took the position of Third Principal for the installation. E.Comp. John was also an Honorary Member of the Lodge of Progress.

The Lodge of Progress No.1768 celebrated its 125th Anniversary and cordially invited E.Comp's Terry Barwell and James Kirkbride our MEZ and Scribe E respectively to attend their celebration at Mark Mason's Hall, London on Thursday 25th September 2003. The meeting was a great success and each of them was presented with an inscribed "firing glass" to mark the occasion.

The Chapter accounts were delayed due to the ill health of the Treasurer.

Following a protracted and blunt discussion at the May 2005 meeting regarding the Chapter's financial health and members concerns an Audit Committee was later charged to conduct an Audit of the Accounts covering the three years 2002/03, 2003/04 and 2004/05.

The Audit was completed and alterations made and the members of the Chapter were reassured that all errors had been corrected and their concerns addressed. The accounts for the three years were accepted and entered in the minutes together with the "Report on Special Audit" carried out by E.Comp Eric Trodd. The MEZ congratulated E Comp Eric on the enormous amount of work he and the committee had put into producing such a clear report.

In February 2006 E.Comp Don Boydell proposed that the wearing of gloves should be discontinued. A lively discussion ensued and comments of "Grand Chapter doesn't wear them", "been the custom for a long time", "quite like the Principals not wearing them", "don't like giving up our traditions", "only time gloves not worn was in 1941 and 1952 during rationing" were put to discussion. The proposal was defeated. However E.Comp. Don, undaunted, said he would not be wearing gloves in future! No comments were made about this highly respected Companion's reluctance.

On the 16 February 2007 meeting an Exaltation was carried out for Bro. Richard Terence Barwell by the Principals and Officers using the new ritual (Permitted Alternative Ritual) at which Richard's father, E.Comp. Terry Barwell, rendered the three parts of the Mystical Lecture.

In February 2008 the MEZ referred to the death of E.Comp. Don W Boydell PAGDC,PPAGSoj,LGCR. E.Comp. Don joined the Chapter in 1980 and was instrumental in turning the Chapter around in 1981/83 when membership was very low. A moving tribute handwritten by E.Comp. Ted Smith was read by E.Comp. Jim Sacré and is attached to the Minutes. Among his many attributes it is recorded that he was the author of at least six histories of various Masonic units. It is a pity he was not able to be around to write this History.

E.Comp. R Alan Bayliss attended the February 2009 meeting for the first of his duties in his role as official visitor that he was to repeat by attendances in 2010 and 2011. The Chapter's Companions have been very well acquainted with E.Comp. Alan over the past four years since he had attended the Chapter in his official role as Second Provincial Grand Principal together with his escort E.Comp. John Woodville at our meeting in February 2008. The members are very delighted to note that he will be attending our Centenary meeting in his role as Deputy Grand Superintendent of Surrey.

In February 2011 E.Comp. Guan Hwang, our MEZ, decided to give the Chapter charity donation to the British Heart Foundation in view of the Scribe E's recent heart operation that had precluded him from attending the previous meeting at which E.Comp Ted Smith had undertaken the role of Scribe E.

Annual Subscriptions for full Members were increased to £105.00; Country Members £60.00 and the Visitors Dining Fee £25.00. This represented an increase in full subscriptions of 100% over the past 15 years. The accounts had shown a deficit for the previous four years and it was hoped this increase would put the accounts into surplus.

In May 2011 we welcomed the Deputy Grand Superintendent E Comp Dr Roger J Howland who presented a Certificate to E Comp Eric Trodd to commemorate his 50 years in Royal Arch Masonry.

A meeting was held prior to the Convocation to discuss the Centenary Celebrations and it was decided to hold the meeting at Sutton Masonic Hall on 18 October 2013. It was also agreed that the cost of a Centenary Warrant was considered too expensive for the Chapter's limited finances. Unfortunately as we are now in a global period of austerity it is obvious we should have considered setting funds apart for our Centenary much sooner. Nevertheless raffles are to be introduced at future dining meetings, a possible voluntary Levy per member applied and even the possibility of selling off some gold past principals jewels to raise funds. It was noted that we couldn't wear a Centenary Jewel if we had no Centenary Warrant.

In February 2012 Scribe E reported the death of E.Comp. Roy Archibald (age 92 years) He was exalted into the Chapter in May 1982, MEZ in 1985 and was our Scribe E for 5 years between 1992-1997. Roy had left England to take up residency in New Zealand where his daughter and family lived. In reply to a summons sent to him by the Scribe E in February 2006, Roy sent his apologies adding " the sun is shining, it's 22C, would you come back to cold Britain? I'm off now for an afternoon of playing bowls".

At the meeting in October 2012 the death in July was announced of E.Comp. William Barclay PPGSN, PPGJanitor who had been our Janitor since 1996. Scribe E paid a moving tribute. Scribe E also reported that the situation with Grande Loge National Francaise had deteriorated and that Brethren who are members of that organisation will be forced to choose whether to resign from the United Grand Lodge of England.

We were fortunate to have one Joining member, Comp. Melvyn Andrews, who very kindly offered himself as candidate for a rehearsal of the Exaltation ceremony since he felt it would help to refresh his memory!

At the meeting of the Chapter on Friday 15 February 2013 Comp. Albert McDonald was exalted.

In keeping with the spirit of the previous MEZ last year's charitable donation in respect of the Scribe E's heart operation E.Comp. Guan Hwang stated that in the light of the hospitalisation

of E.Comp. Neil Novis's newborn son it was his intention to donate a sum of £100 to the Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital.

The Treasurer gave notice of an increase in subscriptions by £5 to £110 for full members and £65 for Country members

Scribe E advised the Companions that the History was 90% complete and the Treasurer stated that the £800 target for the Centenary expenses was likely to be met.

Our Centenary celebrations coincide with the Bi-Centenary year celebration of the Holy Royal Arch to be held on Wednesday 16 October 2013.

Since we are only a few days from our official Centenary and to avoid applying for a dispensation it had been previously agreed that our Celebration should take place at our regular meeting on Friday 18th October 2013.

At the 100th Installation Convocation of the Chapter on Friday 17 May 2013 it was previously decided and approved by the Companions that on this auspicious occasion our most senior Companions should be installed into the Principal chairs.

E.Comp. Ted Smith was a joining member in June 1981 and Bryan Page and Terry Cooke joining members in the October of the same year. E.Comp. Eric Trodd was also to become a joining member in October 1984. Ted occupied the First Principal's chair in 1982, Bryan twice in 1983 and 1984, Terry in three times in 1985, 2001 and 2002 and Eric on no less than four occasions in 1991, 1992, 2007 and 2008.

The Treasurer presented Accounts for 2012/2013 and advised of the increase in subscriptions by £5 to £110 for full members and £65 for Country members that were both approved by the Companions.

In conclusion to this History I think it is worthy of note that our First Principal is due to celebrate his 88th birthday the day before our Centenary meeting in October.

During the fourth 25 years of the Chapter, there were 22 exaltations, 8 joining, 20 resignations, 15 deaths and 2 exclusions. The Membership at 17 May 2013 stood at 20 members.

Past First Principals of the Chapter

1913	Francis J Allan	1963	Colin P Brown
1914	Charles F Frood	1964	Edward C Emerson
1915	W A Spencer Cox	1965	Hereward G Dilley
1916	Rev George Freeman Irwin	1966	Alfred Major
1917	Richard Loy Wilcox	1967	Gordon B Ringham
1918	Stanley W Rodgers	1968	Theodore W Lewis
1919	William Sidney Spaul	1969	Wilfred D Wickson
1920	Oliver Field	1970	Leslie D Adams
1921	Sir Percy Thompson	1971	Gerald L Banks
1922	William A Spencer Cox	1972	Gerald L Banks
1923	George C Parkhurst-Baxter	1973	Gerald L Banks
1924	E J Edward	1974	John Russell-Howard
1925	Arthur S Brows	1975	John Russell-Howard
1926	Damer Dawson	1976	John Russell-Howard
1927	H Arthur Weeks	1977	Gerald L Banks
1928	F Wallace Wilson	1978	Wilfred D Wickson
1929	Frank C Lingard	1979	Wilfred D Wickson
1930	Claude F Lingard	1980	Wilfred D Wickson
1931	Aubrey L Lingard	1981	Donald W Boydell
1932	Francis B Swallow	1982	Edward L J Smith
1933	Leslie R Jepson	1983	Bryan F Page
1934	Sherard J H Prynne	1984	Bryan F Page
1935	Rev F L W Sealy	1985	Terence J Cooke
1936	E Austin Farliegh	1986	Jonathan W L Croft
1937	Leslie G Brows	1987	Roy M Archibald
1938	George M Parsons	1988	Edward F P Conolly
1939	James W Mayhew	1989	Allan Delaney
1940	James W Mayhew	1990	Gordon F Wildey
1941	C W Sayers	1991	Eric Trodd
1942	C W Sayers	1992	Eric Trodd
1943	William B Lock	1993	David G Baker
1944	William B Lock	1994	John P Mahony
1945	Sherard J H Prynne	1995	John P Mahony
1946	Clement D Baxter	1996	James Kirkbride
1947	Francis B Swallow	1997	John A Brunson
1948	Francis B Swallow	1998	Michael R Bradley
1949	Aubrey L Lingard	1999	Malcolm J Greenaway
1950	Thomas L Moodie	2000	Malcolm J Greenaway
1951	Ernest H Price	2001	Terence J Cooke
1952	William P Wilson	2002	Terence J Cooke
1953	Leslie G Brows	2003	Terence T Barwell
1954	Colin P Brown	2004	Terence T Barwell
1955	Edwin C Emerson	2005	James F Sacré
1956	George W Edward	2006	James F Sacré
1957	Leslie E Riches	2007	Eric Trodd
1958	Donald A Hitch	2008	Eric Trodd
1959	Milton R Pyke	2009	Terence T Barwell
1960	Hereward G Dilley	2010	Steven Pepper
1961	Julian Holt	2011	Guan Hwang
1962	Theodore W Lewis	2012	Guan Hwang

Treasurers of the Chapter

1913	David Macnish	1982 - 1991	Donald W Boydell
1914 – 1928	Francis J Allan	1992 - 2001	Gordon F Wildey
1929 - 1960	Damer Dawson	2002 - 2004	Malcolm J Greenaway
1961 - 1965	Milton R Pyke	2005 - 2007	Terence T Barwell
1966 - 1969	Ernest H Price	2008 -	James F Sacré
1970 - 1981	Gordon B Ringham		

Scribe E of the Chapter

1913 - 1915	Oswald W Gooden	1936 - 1958	Leslie R Jepson
1916	William Sidney Spaul	1959 - 1979	Leslie E Riches
1917 - 1919	W A Spencer Cox	1980 - 1991	John Russell-Howard
1920 - 1922	William Sidney Spaul	1992 - 1997	Roy M Archibald
1923 - 1924	Stanley W Rodgers	1998 -	James Kirkbride
1925 - 1935	George C Parkhurst-Baxter		

Director of Ceremonies of the Chapter

1913 - 1915	Thomas W Ockenden	1967 - 1979	Hereward G Dilley
1916 - 1920	John P Houghton	1980	Vacant
1921 - 1922	Stanley W Rodgers	1981	Edward L J Smith
1923 - 1926	Rev George Freeman Irwin	1982 - 1991	Gordon L Banks
1927 - 1932	William A Spencer Cox	1992 - 1993	Donald W Boydell
1933 - 1936	Oliver Field	1994 - 1997	Jonathan W L Croft
1937 - 1944	Sherard J H Prynne	1998 - 2006	Eric Trodd
1945 - 1946	Francis B Swallow	2007 - 2008	Terence T Barwell
1947 - 1950	Sherard J H Prynne	2009	Eric Trodd
1951 - 1966	Leslie G Brows	2010 - 2012	Terence T Barwell

This booklet containing the History of the Chapter from 1913 to 2013 was compiled from the following documents of the Chapter

Signature Book (Red Bound Titled Foolscap)	28 May 1913 to 15 February 2013
A file of Summonses (A4 Ring binder)	16 May 1958 to 20 May 1966
A file of Summonses (A4 Ring binder)	17 October 1980 to 16 February 2007
Treasurers Book (Red Bound Titled size 10" x 8")	28 May 1913 to 27 May 1937
Minute Book 1 (Red Bound Titled size 10" x 8")	28 May 1913 to 19 May 1939
Minute Book 2 (Red Bound Titled size 10" x 8")	21 June 1939 to 17 May 1963 (incorrectly titled as No.1796!)
Minute Book 3 (Red Bound Foolscap)	28 June 1963 to 16 May 1980
Minute Book 4 (Red "Collins" A4)	18 June 1980 to 16 February 2007
Minute Book 5 (Red Bound Foolscap)	18 May 2007 to
Supreme Grand Chapter Returns (A4 Ring binder)	July 1980 to 30 April 2012
Provincial Grand Chapter Returns (A4 Ring binder)	18 June 1980 to 31 December 2011
Sundry Correspondence	1958 to 1965 and 1992 to 2013
E Comp Don Boydell's hand written history notes	

The Compiler would like to take this opportunity of thanking the staff of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry at Freemasons' Hall for their assistance.

**OFFICERS OF THE CHAPTER FOR THE CENTENARY
CONVOCAION 18 OCTOBER 2013 HELD AT SUTTON
MASONIC HALL**

The Principals

E.Comp. Edward L J Smith, PGStB , LGCR	M. E .Z.
E.Comp. Bryan F Page, PAGSoj , PPGSN, LGCR	H.
E.Comp. Terence J Cooke, PAGDC , PPGSN, SLGCR	J.

Officers

E.Comp. James Kirkbride, PPGSN	Scribe E
E.Comp. Neil Novis	Scribe N
E.Comp. James Sacré, PPGStB	Treasurer
E.Comp. Eric Trodd, PAGDC , PPDepGReg, LGCR	D. C.
E.Comp. Maurice Bone LGCR	Almoner
E.Comp. Steven Pepper	Charity Steward
E.Comp. Nicholas Tyrrell	Principal Soj.
Comp. Ernest Penuela	1st Asst. Soj.
Comp. Melvyn Andrews	2nd Asst. Soj.
E.Comp. Terence Barwell, PPGReg	A.D.C.
Comp. Richard Barwell	Organist
Comp. Michael Selby	Steward
Comp. Albert McDonald	Steward
E.Comp. C Guan Hwang, ProvGStwd	I.P.Z.
E. Comp. Anthony Laird, PPGReg	Janitor

