

BELMONT ALBION



November 2015

<http://thebelmontalbionlodge.co.nz>

FROM THE WORSHIPFUL MASTER

Greetings Brethren

One of the immediate benefits of our fraternity is the trust that goes with being a mason. We speak about it, but this is most obviously experienced when visiting other Lodges and meeting brethren from those Lodges for the first time.

We often hear at refectory that visitors add colour and vibrancy to our regular proceedings, and this is very true. But there are reciprocated benefits to the visitor that I am appreciating more and more. As a visitor to Singapore, any visit I make to any of the Lodges based here is as a visitor, plain and simple.

One of the obvious aspects we all would come across in visiting different lodges from differing sister constitutions, is witnessing new approaches in ritual. Granted common themes run through everything, but subtle changes and nuances are always prevalent, and give pause for thought on what caused the difference. This is a great starting point for learning.

More obvious to me being overseas are the new people I have met and the new ideas we have shared. For our newer brethren, the benefits of these friendships when travelling is immense. Friendships are immediate, supportive and genuine, and this only really hit home to me when I was away from my regular support structures that my day to day activities revolved around. To know that when someone offers you their hand in Masonic friendship is to know a solid individual, one to whom your personal circumstances are of genuine interest and concern to them.

To our newer brethren, please visit when you can. It is a great time to reflect on what you know and what you can learn. And for those fortunate enough to travel, please find an excuse to visit. You will never regret the experience, or the immediacy of the support and friendship you will find waiting for you. As this will be my last newsletter message this side of the new year, I thought I would start early in wishing each of you, and your families, a very happy and relaxing holiday season. May it be filled with the joys you hope for, and the people you love most.

Yours Fraternally,
Sean Neely



Vision Statement: To prosper into the future

Mission Statement: The Belmont Albion Lodge No 45 shall practice the principles of freemasonry in all ways, to enhance education, knowledge and care for its members, attracting men of high quality, personal development and participation in our community

FROM THE EDITOR

In this edition there is the seventh and last chapter of the book by the late and much missed Frank Ansell, 'Short History of Belmont Lodge No. 335 (1948 – 1993). The individual chapters recorded in the Newsletter will be available as a single document in the BA 45 website archive early in the New Year.

Articles on the history of the other half of Belmont Albion, Lodge Albion No. 45 are planned for the New Year.

As the Lodge will be in recess following the regular meeting in December, the Christmas party, this will be the last edition of the Newsletter for 2015. So as December the 25 approaches the staff at the BA Newsletter Office wish you all a peaceful and joyous Christmas. The next edition, in early February, will contain reports and pictures from the various social functions that are currently being driven by Wayne Jones.

At a time when the world seems in such disarray I make no apologies for repeating this quotation from the New Zealand Craftsman.

“The Future of Masonry lies not simply in the increase of numbers, but in the dissemination of Masonic principles throughout the world.

Editor: ba45.editor@gmail.com

SHORT HISTORY OF BELMONT LODGE NO. 335 1948 – 1993 RESEARCHED BY WORSHIPFUL BROTHER FRANK ANSELL (1930-2015) PAST MASTER

Part 7 - 1987 - 2005

By himself and W.Bro Mill. It was noted at a meeting in 2001 that the Building Committee was at a standstill at the moment, proving what a long difficult task it was proving to be to those hardworking dedicated Committee members.

At a meeting in July 2003 this Committee were delighted to advise that they were considering a possible building site at the Albany Town Centre. This was the beginning of the present new Masonic Centre.

Subsequently the Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45 had the honour of holding the first Installation Meeting in the new North Shore Masonic Centre in At the Committee meeting held 18 October 1987 it was decided to present W.Bro Terry Riddle with a Preceptors Jewel for his long years of service as a Director of Ceremonies.

Also recorded was the very good service W.Bro. Bob Haxell had given to the Lodge with sixteen years attendance on the Enquiry Committee. In 2006 W.Bro. Haxell was awarded Roll of Honour for his long service and also enjoys having his son W.Bro. Graham Haxell with him as a member of the Lodge.



It was decided to use surplus raffle money of \$1,000 as a donation to the Masonic Village New Wing Appeal.

Late in 1987 the Lodge was advised that W.Bro. Doug Foote had been appointed to Grand Lodge with the rank of Grand Bible Bearer. It is pleasing to record that W.Bro. Doug Foote's son W.Bro. Geoffrey Foote also became a Grand Lodge Officer of the Belmont Albion Lodge.

Belmont's only third Grand Lodge appointment in 40 years existence. W.Bro Doug followed V.W.Bro. Frank Bostock into Grand Lodge.

We must state that from then on Belmont Albion have been fairly treated in this manner.

By October 1988 a decision was made for members to bring a plate when attending regular meetings, brought about by a continual problem of supplying satisfactory suppers.

This custom continued very successfully for many years. Also at this meeting Bro. Jack Curry's name as Almoner was recorded.

At the Committee Meeting on 6 August 1989 the Masonic Centre, North Shore was again discussed under the guidance and promotion of the then W.Bro. Noel Whiley who advised

“That the interest from interested parties was to say at the least sparse”. So it proves what a difficult project it was proving to be.

This was the first time it was agreed that ritual work should be spread among more Brethren instead of Past Masters. How correct this decision had proved to be with so many members now participating in Lodge workings.

In May 1992 it was resolved to nominate Bro. Jack Curry for the Grand Master's Order of Service to Masonry. Bro. Jack is the only member to have received this honour and this year 2006 he is to receive his 50 year badge. Apart from the above Bro. Jack also is distinguished by having been awarded Roll of Honour. It was also resolved to nominate W.Bro. Noel Whiley P.G.S. For Grand Lodge promotion.

It was noted that after four years of members bringing a supper plate how it had greatly assisted Lodge finances and vastly improved the quality of Lodge Suppers.

For the first time since it commenced publication in 1986 the Belmont News, written by the ABC reporting team, was mentioned at a Standing Committee meeting after becoming involved in a difference of opinion with the then Provincial Grand Master which was ultimately suitably resolved. W.Bro. Doug Foote complimented the ABC Team on the high standard of the publication.

Also in 1992 it was decided to request the Provincial Grand Master to award a Certificate of Appreciation to Mesdames Curry and Robinson for the years of providing service assistance to their respective husbands, on behalf of the Auckland Almoners Association, in particular the annual luncheons for the elderly brethren.

In December 1992 the amalgamation of the Belmont and Albion Lodges was discussed with the Belmont Master to verbally contact the Albion Master and inform him the Belmont Lodge would assist in any way possible to bring the matter forward.

The Standing Committee meeting of the combined Belmont Albion Lodge No. 45 was held on 1 August 1993 with W.Bro. Murray Morrissey in the Chair and 19 members present.

In 1996 V.W.Bro. Noel Whiley reported on developments with regard to the North Shore Masonic Centre and that a property 'Company' had been established April 2005.

So it had been a long and difficult journey vacating the Devonport building in 1994, becoming a tenant in Lodge Takapuna's building for 11 years to finally achieve the new Masonic Building in 2005, dedicated on 16 April 2005 by the Grand Master M.W. Bro. David Mace.

Writer's Note:-

This abbreviated Lodge History was taken from the minutes of the Standing Committee meetings held on average three times a year.

As many dozens of members have passed through the Lodge over many years it is not possible to mention so many by name, except those few who were mentioned in the minutes of the Standing Committee for some reason to do with the events of the time.

Worshipful Brother Frank Ansell P.M.

I would wish to thank Geoff Foote for making his CD of the transcript of Frank's book available to me and to Libby Eaglesome who typed the original book for Frank. Ed.

Lest We Forget

If one mentions 9/11 or 25/04, Anzac Day, images immediately form in our minds but I fear that 11/11/11 is starting to have less of an impact. Yet this is the time and date that the 'war to end war', (how wrong Woodrow Wilson was), ended. At the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month, hostilities that had seen 38 million casualties, during the period July 28 1914 – November 11 1918, ended.

By the kind permission of Richard Lumsden an essay, written by his father Byron, which appeared in the RSA Review of 1938, with comments made by Tere Putland 55 years later, is reproduced in memory of that war and in sadness that its lessons were not learned.



The essay.

The hour – eight ack emma (before noon. ed), the day – the eleventh of November nineteen hundred and eighteen; the scene – the telegraph pole at the Headquarters of the Fourth Army. An orderly enters and hands a message to the operator, who taps out the momentous words; “Hostilities will cease at 11:00 hours today, November 11th. Troops will stand fast on the line at that hour...”

Thus on the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month the shrieking hell of steel and cordite, which had blasted Europe for fifty two months, was at last quenched. As the clarion notes of the bugle sounded the Armistice a strange ethereal silence came of the Western Front, a silence foreign to the Flanders Fields for so long, a silence filled with the thoughts of those who would at last be returning home to loved ones.

In Trafalgar Square, in London, as historic Big Ben boomed the first stroke of eleven a vast crowd cheered and cheered and cheered again, with the joy of living, now that the thundercloud had been

removed from the European Horizon. Forgotten were the days of anxious waiting, the tearful scanning of casualty lists and the empty hearts..... The war was over.

Today we do not acknowledge the Armistice with cheering but in silence, with bowed and reverent heads as did the men in Flanders Fields nineteen years ago.

In Whitehall there stands a tall marble column, the Cenotaph, before which a great service is held on November 11th. All over the world Armistice Day is revered, quite apart from local services, such as Anzac Day. In most places no service is held – it would be too matter of fact – the solemn silence for the duration of two minutes suffices.

Just two minutes – one hundred and twenty seconds – but those two minutes give rise to the oldest universal feelings – sorrow, remembrance and thanksgiving for continued though faltering peace.

The ex-soldier thinks of comrades who have passed on, others of dear ones who have left this earth because they gave all for King and Country, in a war to end war.

The first Armistice was held in 1919. For the nations it was a new and fitting way of remembering those who had fallen before the ever ready sickle of the grim reaper. The more optimistic politicians could not see how even so noble a custom could be maintained for more than say ten years.

Nevertheless today we still participate in that wonderful sacrament – the two minutes silence. 'Lord God of Hosts be with us yet. Lest we forget. Lest we forget'.

Byron Lumsden 15 yrs.

Tere Putland RSA Advisory Officer wrote in 1993,

A Special Time on a Special Day.

When the young Byron Lumsden wrote this essay world peace was again in a state of unrest and within two years Europe was at war again.

Who could have imagined the continuing conflict and suffering mankind has continued to inflict upon himself. WW2 – Korea – Malaya – Indonesia – Vietnam – the Gulf.

When will it all end?

The first Armistice Day was held to remember those who had given their all in a war to end all wars, now in the seventy-fifth anniversary of the cessation of the hostilities let us all, on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month remember those who have served throughout the ages.

From a Past Masters Ditty Box – Past Master returns from Crusade.

One last Hoorah. Greetings, Christmas wishes, good tidings for 2016. I deferred this letter until after today's appointment. As expected there will be some major plumbing repairs to keep me well out of mischief. This year has had many wonderful happenings and sadly a few losses. Our travels down memory lane this year have enabled us to retrace and recall past times, meet surviving friends and relations, compare old times with the contemporary world, visit the former homeland and rejoice in our good luck in returning to a much nicer place. I grew up in Montacute, a Somerset village listed in the Doomsday Book (compiled 1086-ed.), where a Norman watch tower still overlooks the famous Montacute House of an early Elizabethan era. These on the slopes of Ham Hill where Ham stone was

quarried by masons from the earliest of times. Our 400 year old house was built of Ham stone. I attended school in the nearby town of Yeovil where Royal Navy Lodge No. 2761 transferred from Malta to the Province of Somerset in 1987 and to which I had previously visited.

Every year about this time we tend to wind down and concentrate on the festive season. It is also an opportunity for those of us conscious of future challenges to prepare our ritual to ensure continuing excellence which has become the hallmark of Belmont Albion Lodge No.45.

My recent journey to England, in order to attend the 70th re-union with fellow 1945 era Artificers brought to mind our founder Tubal Cain. As far back as Genesis Ch. 6 we find reference to skill and ability, arts and crafts, weights and measures, mathematical calculations in use in Mesopotamia not to mention Noah and his Ark. Then of course more recently City and Guilds, technical college curriculum, general trade training and all our teachings within the Masonic way of life combine to affirm our direction, our course, our dedication and our humanity.



Montacute House

'Out Pipes' Humphrey

The Morning Prayer

Dear God, So far today I've done all right,
I haven't gossiped, lost my temper,
been greedy or grumpy, been nasty,
selfish or overindulgent.
I'm very thankful for that.

But, in a few minutes, God,
I'm going to get out of bed,
and from then on, I'm probably
going to need a lot more help.
So mote it be.
anon

Other Fraternal Orders - The Independent order of Odd Fellows

Historians have been unable to ascertain the exact origin of Oddfellowship with one theory being that in the 18th century the major trades, in the United Kingdom, were largely organised into guilds or societies which gave them skill base and financial security. Smaller trades did not have this security and it is believed they joined together as groups of odd trades or odd fellows. In an August 1880 edition of 'The Sydney Mail' the basis for the difficulty in confirming the origins of Oddfellowship was suggested as being 'the secrecy observed by the members'.



Odd Fellowship began in England prior to 1745 with the 'Loyal Aristarcus Lodge No. 9', who met at Oakley Arms, Borough of Southwark, London, being one of the earliest documented meeting places. Following the Jacobite uprisings (1688-1750's) the fraternity split into two factions, the 'Order of Patriotic Oddfellows', favouring the House of Orange-Nassau, in Southern England and in Northern England and Scotland the 'Ancient Order of Oddfellows' with members supporting the House of Stuart. Members of the fraternity of that period included John Wilkes the journalist and radical politician and Sir George Savile the politician and member of the Royal Society. Late in the 18th century Odd Fellowship had spread to North America with several unofficial lodges established in New York, although it is generally accepted that American Odd Fellowship was founded by Thomas Wildey in Baltimore in 1819. The American fraternity was to affiliate with the Independent Order of Oddfellows Manchester Unity Friendly Society Limited.

In 1834 the 'Tolpuddle Martyrs' were convicted and transported for 'membership of an illegal friendly society and swearing a secret oath'. The directors of Manchester Unity quickly amended their constitution to avoid a similar fate, this without reference to their American affiliate. This amendment, to satisfy a British Government against whom the Americans had fought a war of independence, caused the Oddfellows of America to split from Manchester Unity and form a self governing "Independent Order Of Oddfellows' This Independent Order went on to establish lodges across the globe.

When, in 1911, the British Government was setting up the 'National Insurance Act' they used the Oddfellows actuarial tables to establish the level of contribution and payment for at the time the Oddfellows was the largest friendly society in the world.

The fraternity is also known as the 'Three Link Fraternity' due to the 'Three Link Emblem' representing Friendship, Love and Truth. The structure is based on 3 levels, the Lodge, the Encampment and the Patriarchs Militant with lady members known as Rebekahs, the Rebekah Degree being adopted in 1851. At the Lodge level the initiate passes through 3 degrees, Friendship, Love and Truth. Unfortunately it would appear that currently there are no Independent Order of Oddfellowship Lodges active in New Zealand. The first New Zealand Lodge was formed in 1842 and was known as the 'Lord Nelson Lodge'. Twenty years later there were 22 lodges active with 500 members.

Source: Encyclopaedia Britannica/ioof.org/wikipedia/et al

I would also wish to thank Susan Ellen who has made her father's Past Grand's Certificate available to me. Brother Hedley Budd PG held the office of Noble Grand of the Aroatea Lodge No. 69 under the jurisdiction of the Grand Lodge of New Zealand in 1962/3.

A newspaper report in the 'North Shore Times Advertiser' 23 May 1985 identifies that the Aroatea Lodge met in the Methodist Hall, 17 Mariposa Crescent, Birkenhead and articles appeared in the July 3, 1907 edition of the Auckland Star reporting on the public installation of officers, at the Methodist Hall, stating 'there was a good attendance of members and friends and 28 district officers from Auckland'. This meeting was also reported in the 4 July 1907 edition of the New Zealand Herald which also commented on the large attendance.

Further details of this fellowship can be found on facebook.com/notableoddfellows

PC

100 Years Ago

From the minute book of Albion Lodge No. 45, 11 November 1915.

Belgian Masonic Relief Fund: -

From the Belgian Masonic Relief Fund London asking for contributions to this fund for the relief of distressed Belgian Brothers in England. The sum of £2/2/- was voted for this object.

M.W. Bro. Nicholson :-

The W.M. proposed & W.Bro. W.R. Coltman seconded, 'That this Lodge respectfully requests M.W. Bro. O. Nicholson Prov. G.M. to accept nomination as Grand Master 1916-17. Carried.

Notice of Motion: -

The W.M. gave the following Notice of Motion 'That this Lodge register under the Grand Lodge of New Zealand 1903'.

Calling Off: -

A Notice of Motion by the W.Bro. Secretary 'That this Lodge be called off for January 1916'.

The Lodge was closed in Peace Love and Harmony with solemn prayer at 9.15 pm

Freemasons at War



During the Napoleonic Wars, 1799 – 1815, between 150,000 and 200,000 members of the French Military were recorded as being held captive in prison camps located in England. Many of these prisoners would not have been French as men from eleven other European Nations were conscripted into what was to become known as Napoleons 'Grande Armée'.

These prison camps fell into 3 types. Wealthy officers were held within 50 Parole Towns, ranging from Kelso, in the Scottish Borders to Wincanton in Somerset. Lower ranks were held amongst 8 land prisons including the notorious Dartmoor Prison with the more unfortunate in prison hulks of which there were 44 located around the Naval Towns of England and bore the nickname 'floating coffins'.

Providing they gave their word of honour, in writing, not to escape the officers lived relatively normal lives in comfortable lodgings, although they could not leave the boundaries of their parole town. Napoleons brother Lucien was held captive in this manner, he was even permitted to purchase a large country house at Thorngrove in Worcestershire. This was a reciprocal agreement with the French who held British Officers in the town of Verdun in Eastern France.

Each officer was required to carry an identity card and report to a Transport Board Agent twice weekly, which was when they received an allowance of half a guinea (10/6p).

Other ranks held in land prisons and prison hulks did not fare so well with no allowance, bad food, rags for clothing and often held in chains. A prison hulk was an unseaworthy naval vessel salvaged as a prison for holding civilian internees awaiting transportation to a penal colony. Captive French soldiers were held in hulks at Chatham, Portsmouth and Plymouth.

There are no records to show how many French Freemasons were held prisoner during the Napoleonic Wars but in the parole towns 32 Lodges were established, 5 within the land prisons and amazingly 6 in the prison hulks. These lodges were generally without warrants but they conducted regular stated meetings with full lists of officers and kept minutes of their meetings many of which can be read to this day.

Lodges in Ashby, Chesterfield, Leek and Northampton applied for and were granted permits from the Acting Grand Master of the Grand Lodge of England, although they did their work in association with the Grand Orient of France.

In his book 'Histoire des pontons et prisons d'Angleterre pendant la guerre du Consulat et de l'Empire' Brother Alexandre Lardier describes a visit to a Lodge held in a prison hulk moored in Portsmouth harbour. (in this book Lardier names the hulk as the Guilford. Over the years 10 hulks were moored in Portsmouth but I could not find this name in the Navy lists for this port, although Navy records do shown HMS Fame, renamed HMS Guilford, being used a prison ship from 1799)

He visited this meeting under the sponsorship of two other brothers, whom he refers to as 'Children of the True Light.' He records that they traversed the whole length of a lower deck without illumination. Then reaching a trapdoor which was raised by another brother so they might descend a short, rotten ladder to a still lower, still darker deck. In this situation he was led through complete

darkness by sure hands until they were confronted by a man who demanded the password, signs, and grips. Having satisfactorily met this challenge, they crawled through a small door into a cramped room, where the ceiling was so low that they could not stand erect. Illumination of the 'lodge' was by means of a candle mounted in an old bottle. Only the Master was provided with a seat, and this was a dilapidated bench from which one leg was broken. The rest of the brethren sat on the floor. Here the visitor saw a candidate put through one of the degrees.

Brother Lardier commented that "Physical examination and much of the ritual were impossible because of the cramped quarters but the candidate was rigorously tested from the moral viewpoint, especially in matter of patriotism." The meeting closed with a prayer and a collection for others more distressed than themselves

In his 1964 paper titled 'Masons as Prisoners of War' Robert Walker, 32 degree, wrote "What can men give who have nothing for themselves? No one knows, but give they did and records amply show the generosity of these half-starved half-clothed shadows of what were once men".

Footnote:-

In the early 19th Century the English authorities objected the manner in which French historians were describing conditions in the prison hulks but the description below can be found on the 'findmypast' Prison Ship (Hulk) Register web site.

'With conditions on board the hulks often dangerous, cramped and awash with diseases like typhus and cholera, the Prison Hulk Registers and their records of misdemeanour's being punished with potential death sentences can make for some uncomfortable reading'

Source: Walker/Gamery/Rose/Campbell/Lardier/Shaghnessy

This item was originally presented as a 'Short Eductaion' in open lodge. At that time the identity of Alexandre Lardier was unknown to me. I have now been able to identify him as the author of the book highlighted in the text.

In the 167 Heritage Society Museum, at 181 Khyber Pass, examples of jewels manufactured by Brothers whilst held in the prison hulks can be seen. Some examples are shown with this article. Should you wish a closer look at these amazing pieces of history please contact the ed.

PC



With glasses filled, yet nary a smile amongst them. The brethren of B.A 45 performed culinary duties at Lodge Takapuna's instillation.

Modern Communication / Social Networks

Having recently spend a day at a Masonic Education Workshop, were we reviewed the use of social media in relationship to Freemasonry and its potential to cause a break down in face to face relationships. I decided to review how I kept in contact with family, friends and Brethren.



I resolved to try making new acquaintances outside of facebook, twitter, faceparty, flicker, habbo, instagram plus a few more. My plan works like this.

Every day I as I walk around Torbay Bay I tell passers-by what I had for breakfast or lunch, how I feel, what I have done, where and what I had for dinner last night and what I will be doing today, just anything I can think of.

I give them pictures of my breakfast, my family, my dog, me reading a book, visiting the library, sitting on my bike and drinking a cup of coffee. I listen to their conversations and tell them I love them.

You would be amazed how well this works, I have only been doing this for a few days and already I have people following me, a Police Officer, a psychiatrist and two Social Workers plus a rather strange fellow who keeps telling me he loves me too.

PC

Living the Dream

It may seem strange to publish a review of a book containing profiles of 50 motorcyclists in the BA 45 Newsletter but amongst the musicians and politicians and even a candidate for Auckland's Mayoral office in 2016 is a Freemason, Brother Jacky Adams. You may not be a member of the North Shore Motorcycle Group but George Lockyer's book 'Living the Dream' is still an enjoyable read.

This book is a celebration and a tribute to all those people who choose to express their individuality on two wheels, and who know only too well why a dog sticks its head out of

a car window. In this book you become aware of the abiding passion for motorcycling and the camaraderie between motorcyclists which is akin to Freemasonry.

'Living the Dream' contains many pages of coloured photographs of the bikers on their treasured bikes and Lockyer comments anyone can ride a bike and join the fraternity. And the older you get, the more appealing it seems to become - just like Freemasonry.



Living the Dream is available from bikerider magazine or fishpond.co.nz

PC

North Shore Royal Arch Chapter No. 52



In the September issue of the Newsletter a short historical perspective of Zerubbabel, Haggai and Joshua, the three Principals of a Royal Arch Chapter, was given. We now look at the history of two other officers of the Chapter, Scribe Ezra and Scribe Nehemiah.

Scribe Ezra was born in Babylon, like many of the other great leaders, patriots and sages which the Jewish community in exile had produced. By profession he was a scribe, he used to write scrolls of the Torah, which he knew well. Ezra was also a priest, a member of the priestly family of Aaron. He was a great scholar and teacher and all his qualities combined to make him an outstanding figure among his brethren.

Ezra left Babylon in the spring in the month of Nissan 458 BCE. He took with him a great deal of gold and silver for the Beth Hamikdosh, the Holy Temple. The journey lasted almost six months for Ezra did not arrive in Jerusalem during the month of Ab at summer's end. Ezra was accompanied by thousands of enthusiastic patriots who gave up the comforts of their life in exile to begin life anew in their own homeland, ready to face whatever uncertainties awaited them there.

Ezra's name means help and he was described as an 'expounder of the Sacred Law'. His skills as a teacher were need for the returned exiles had become used to speaking and writing in Chaldee and they had to relearn Hebrew the original text of the Scriptures. Because Ezra instructed the people in Holy Scriptures in the Chapter the Scribe Ezra wears a white surplice the dress of a teacher in the church.

Scribe Nehemiah, the name means 'Gods consolation', was a son of Hachaliah of the Tribe Judah. Nehemiah was a cupbearer at the royal palace to the Persian King, Artaxerxes. Arriving in Jerusalem some thirteen years after Ezra he rested for three days, whilst by night he surveyed the ruined walls of the city. He then announced his plans for rebuilding the walls arousing the depressed spirits of his countrymen who, despite the completion of the Temple had been unable to reconstruct the walls of Jerusalem due to the attacks of the Samaritans. The walls were rebuilt with trowel in hand and sword by their side.

Nehemiah is described as a renowned patriot, a wise and judicious statesman, brave and truehearted, but above all 'as perfectly religious a man, as ever did honour to human nature'. In the Royal Arch Chapter he is dressed in a similar manner to Ezra in a white surplice.

Ezra the skilled scribe and priest rebuilt the people and Nehemiah the patriot and leader of men rebuilt Jerusalem's walls.

source: Hughes/Cryer/Wright/et.al.

PC

“A poor life this if, full of care, We have no time to stand and stare.”

W.H. Davies



Next Issue

Deadline: 15 January 2016 **Email:** ba45.editor@gmail.com