

The DGM/s Corner

DEPUTY DISTRICT GRAND MASTERS WORDS

The Importance of Help and being Helpful.

Brethren, like me, you've probably noticed, particularly over the cooler months of the year, that some of our Lodges sometimes need assistance; not just in numbers via visiting, but often with filling the Working Officer positions on the night.

There are as many reasons for this as there are occasions that present themselves.

Sickness, work commitments, lambing, haymaking, bad weather, good weather, long weekends, distance of travel... these all come into play, and many are unavoidable.

There are however many avoidable reasons that people don't show up; apathy, unpreparedness, loss of enthusiasm, lack of fulfilment, monotony etc.

We, as individual masons, as Lodges, and as a District, can address these issues by making our work of the evening engaging and worthy of our Craft and our Talents:

- If it's a lecture, make sure its informative, relevant and well publicised.
- If it's ritual work, you owe it to the candidate, visitors, and your Lodge members to ensure it goes smoothly, with the decorum it deserves, as per the Constitutions and Ritual; even if it's an emulation.
- If your Installation date is looming you ought to be planning the work of the evening well in advance: assign addresses, presentations, charges etc in plenty of time. Get your invites out, print the programme and tick all the boxes; you owe it to the Master elect, even if he's been there and done it before. More importantly you owe it to your Lodge.

Now, I need to digress for a moment due to a tune I just can't get out of my head whilst writing this; it's a John Lennon classic **"HELP!"**.

In this song he recognises that he's in a pickle and needs some assistance,

acknowledging he can't do it all alone he reaches out by honestly admitting things are a bit much for him and he'd appreciate someone, anyone, leading a helping hand!

(For those playing along at home; that was 1965!)

Now, we're all English Freemasons and we should all try to help each other out – that's kind of what we're all about.

That's where we as Masons and as a District can assist:

Unlike some Constitutions around the World and in New Zealand, our District doesn't interfere in the day-to-day running or autonomy of our Lodges, that's over to the Committee and Executive of each Lodge.

But what our District does have is a clearly defined supportive (but not controlling) role which is to:

- Ensure Lodges follow the Book of Constitutions and our English Ritual to help make sure ceremonies meet UGLE expectations (mindful of individual Lodge landmarks)
- Provide governance if a Lodge struggles with procedures.
- Offer advice—not control—over lodge finances if requested.

In short: Our District Grand Lodge works best when it acts like a mentor, a connector, and safety net, by responding to requests for help— not by dictating it's views outside of the Constitutions or forcing itself into Lodge Day-to-Day workings.

So, to enable all our Lodges to run Constitutionally well, benefit each member, and make them an attractive place to spend and invest our time and effort lets ensure that we're always prepared to ask each other, and the District, for:

- **Help** to put on the very best ceremony, activity, lecture, or meeting we possibly can.
- **Help** to make sure we've 'got it right' and we're not just "winging it" or blending in ritual that's not our own.
- **Help** in keeping our members attending because it's enjoyable, friendly, engaging and informative.
- **Help** in showing our newer Brethren how special our work is when we do it right.
- **Help** to encourage our Visitors to return for more of the same.
- **Help** to promote happiness and the art of being happy.

For me, I'm hoping to see more of the Beatles' "Help!" and much less of the old Sinatra's "My Way" (that old ditty Frank released three years after the Beatles Help!)

Keep warm and safe,

Frans (Zoggie) van Zoggel

Lodge Roundup

Southern Star 735

Southern Star Lodge held its April meeting on the 28th, where we had the pleasure of initiating Mr. Arron Redmore into the Craft.

It was a particularly memorable evening, as following the ceremony there were six Entered Apprentices present in the Lodge Room — five from Southern Star and one visiting EA from Forest Lodge. This was a wonderful sight, not seen in a long time, and a clear reflection of the growth and vitality within our Lodge and the wider District.

The evening was well attended, with strong support from our Brethren and visiting Brethren, creating a warm and meaningful occasion for our newest member.

We look forward to supporting our Entered Apprentices as they begin their Masonic journey.

See photo next page.



Canterbury 1048 RAC

The Canterbury Chapter had a great evening at its April meeting, with a pleasing turnout of Companions. The focus for the night was a full walk-through of the Exaltation ceremony, giving our relatively new team of Principals a valuable opportunity to build confidence in their roles ahead of the Exaltation of Bro Gringo Carizon of Conyers Lodge to the Sublime Degree of the Holy Royal Arch, scheduled for June.

It was also particularly pleasing to see Companion Mark Pitogo step up to share the Principal Sojourner's role, a welcome sign of a newer Companion making a daily advancement in his Masonic knowledge.

At Refectory, the Companions were treated to what Excellent Companion Phil Jackson confidently described as a joke. As ever, Phil delivered it with great enthusiasm; whether the assembled Companions shared his assessment of its quality is perhaps best left unrecorded. The meal was enjoyed regardless.



Greymouth

An emulation of the First Degree was undertaken.

Phoenix 1690

No information provided

Winchester 1737

Emulated a First Degree.

Ashburton 1811

No details provided.

Conyers 1916

Conyers held a Domestic evening.

Amberley 2007

Ben Smith was installed back into the Chair of King Solomon followed by a great meal at the Railway Hotel.

**St Albans 2597**

St Albans regular meeting was dedicated to go through our byelaws as they have not been updated in a long time. There were some meaningful discussions on the floor. Most of the brethren, especially myself, gave us an opportunity to understand it. Also, we spent time to discuss our upcoming website via the district and how we can use this tool efficiently to market ourselves so we can attract new members.

Lastly, for any brother who wants to come to support us, we regularly meet every third Thursday at Ferrymead Masonic Lodge room.

No meeting

Dunedin Lodge 931

Canterbury 1048

St John 1137

Lazar 1689

District Charity (Nigel Paterson – nigpat@extra.co.nz)

District Charity Update will be given at the Communication meeting.

District Mentor (Nigel Howard – nigelflyer@extra.co.nz)

Greetings everyone,

Just a reminder that a meeting will be held for all Lodge Mentor's at Communication on Saturday 16th May in the second Lodge room at the Canterbury Freemasons Centre.

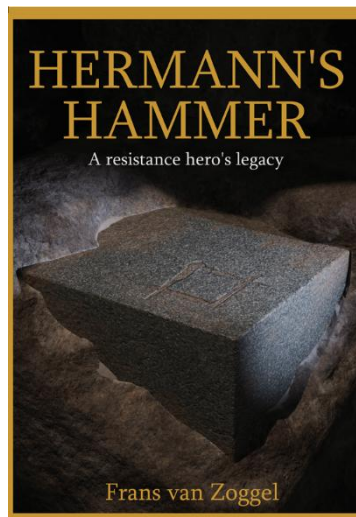
All Lodge Mentors are expected to attend but if unable to do so, the Senior Warden from their Lodge must attend.

I have guidance notes to hand out to assist in your important office, and a chance to discuss in detail the role of Lodge Mentor. Your input and feedback will be welcome and in particular how I, and District can support you.

Please advise who will be attending from each Lodge.

I look forward to meeting you all.

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Editor - Murray Tasker

57 Quinns Rd, Shirley, Christchurch, 8013

Mob: 027 257 6339

E-mail: degreessouthnz@gmail.com

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