

Penybont Lodge No. 6743



On 24th March, 1948, W. Bro. R. G. Kyte, a Past Master of Ogmores Lodge No. 1752 in 1928 and 1929, convened a meeting at The Masonic Hall, Adare Street, Bridgend (now redeveloped as a shopping area) for Brethren interested in forming a new Lodge. The last Craft Lodge formed in Bridgend being the Morganwg Lodge No. 5084 some 20 years before. Twelve Brethren together with W. Bro. R. G. Kyte attended the meeting and decided to form a new Lodge to be called Penybont Lodge

At this time there were three Craft Lodges in Bridgend namely: - Ogmores Lodge No. 1752 formed in April, 1878; Llangeinor Lodge No. 4194 formed in November, 1920 and Morganwg Lodge No. 5084 formed in November, 1928.

At the initial meeting it was agreed that six meetings a year would be held, one of which would be a Lecture on Masonic Research. The meetings were to be held in the months of September, October, November, March, April and May with the Installation Meeting being in March. In 1953 a seventh meeting was added and at the same time it was agreed that the Annual Festival would be held in February. This latter change had been agreed at a previous committee meeting even though the first Worshipful Master, W. Bro. R. G. Kyte, who was not present at the meeting, wrote a letter to the committee against the change, giving seven valid reasons to leave things as they were as agreed by the founders. However the committee voted in favour of the change.

It was decided that the annual subscription should be £3.3.0d and the Initiation fee £20.0.0d

At the Founders meeting held on Friday, 11th June, 1948, W. Bro. Harry Stockwell, Provincial Grand Secretary presided and stated the Grand Lodge conditions for the forming of a New Lodge. At this time the request was sixth in line for a new warrant.

A petition was presented to Ogmores Lodge (the Mother Lodge of Penybont Lodge) on the 28th June, 1948, by the new founders, W. Bro. R. G. Kyte, Worshipful Master designate, Bro. T. H. Benson Evans, Senior Warden designate and Bro. F. J. Little, Junior Warden designate, presenting the petition.

The Ogmores Lodge agreed to accept the petition for a new Lodge to be held at The Masonic Hall, Adare Street, Bridgend, they being the owners of the premises, and stated that the annual rent to be charged would be £45.0.0d for six meetings, Lodge of Instruction meetings and Committee meetings. The rental fee to include heating, lighting and cleaning. The rent was increased to £52.0.0d in 1952.

At a Founders meeting held on 13th August, 1948, W. Bro. R. G. Kyte informed the Founders that No. 6743 had been allocated as the Lodge number and that Friday, 22nd October, 1948, had been designated as the date for the Consecration of the Lodge. Prior to the Consecration Ceremony the Consecrating Officers were entertained to lunch at the Blue Bird Café, Bridgend, the cost of the lunch being paid for by the Worshipful Master Designate.

The Consecrating Officers were:

The Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, R. W. Bro. St. John Charles, J.P. V. W. Bro. Edgar J. Rutter, Deputy Provincial Grand Master.

W. Bro. Charles P. Palmer, A. P. G. M.; W. Bro. A. C. Johnson, Pr. S. G. W.; W. Bro. J. M Davies, Pr. J. G. W.; W. Bro. Rev. J. A. Roberts, Pr. G. Chaplain; W. Bro. Harry F. Stockwell, Pr. Grand Secretary; W. Bro. Bernard F. Matley, Pr. G. D. C.; W. Bro. H. F. Strawford, Pr. D. G. D. C.; W. Bro. L. D. Bailey, Pr. Grand Organist; W. Bro. D. G. Noor, Pr. G. Purs., and Bro. S. G. Simmons, Pr. Grand Tyler.

The Founders of the Lodge were:

W. Bro. R. G. Kyte, P. Pr. G. D., Worshipful Master; W. Bro. Tudor Davies, P. Pr. G. D, acting IPM; Bro. T. H. Benson Evans, Senior Warden; Bro. F. J. Little, Junior Warden; W. Bro. Dapho Powell, Chaplain, Bro. J. W. Cross, Treasurer; Bro. G. E. Childs, Secretary; W. Bro. H. H. Phillips, Director of

Ceremonies, Bro. R. B. Whittingham, Senior Deacon; Bro. A. Mitchell, Junior Deacon; Bro. E. J. Walker, Asst. Secretary; Bro.'s D. J. Amos, H. D. Weaver, A. J. Brown, Stewards; Bro. W. S. Howell, Tyler. (Paid an honorarium of £3.3.0d per annum) There were seventy six Visiting Brethren.

The Consecration Festival Dinner was held at the Bridgend Town Hall, now demolished and the present site of the Post Office, at a cost of 15s.0d per head, which included all drinks and gratuities.

On the 22nd April, 1949, the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, V. W. Bro. Edgar J. Rutter, presented to the Lodge a Bible as a personal gift; at the same Lodge Meeting he gave a lecture on Masonic Aprons.

The Lodge Crest was designed by Bro. R. B. Hardcastle, a Joining Member of the Lodge and dates from November, 1950. The Crest depicts the Mediaeval Town Bridge, the Shield being coloured azure, the Water royal blue and the Bridge pale grey. The suggested motto was "Deus Satis Est" a close Latin for the Welsh "Duw yw Digon". The Crest was first used on the Lodge Notice for the 1951 Annual Festival held on 16th March. By this time the motto "Deus Sufficient Omnibus" had been decided on.

The Lodge Ceremonial Cushion was presented by W. Bro. R. B. Whittingham in February, 1953.

At a Lodge Committee Meeting of the 7th May, 1954, it was announced that W. Bro. Aneurin Mitchell would present a Banner to the Lodge at the next meeting to be held on Friday, 28th May, 1954. The Banner would be in memory of his son Gerwyn who had died suddenly in August, 1952. The Banner was originally to be dedicated by the Lodge Chaplain, W. Bro. Rev. Vodden. The R. W. Bro. St. John Charles, Provincial Grand Master unfurled the Banner at the Ceremony but it was dedicated by Bro. Rev. Munro Cape in the absence of W. Bro. Rev. Vodden.

In 1980 a presentation set of Working Tools were purchased by a sum of money left to the Lodge by the Widow of W. Bro. Aneurin Mitchell and used for the first time at the Installation Meeting of February, 1981.

On Friday, 16th March, 1951, Bro. Ronald Bowen Whittingham was installed as Worshipful Master of Penybont Lodge. He was later to become an Assistant Provincial Grand Master of the Province.

In 1982 the Founders of a proposed new Lodge formally asked the Master and Brethren of Penybont Lodge to support their application for a new Lodge to be formed. The support was unanimously given by Penybont Brethren and thus the "Dewi Sant Lodge No. 9067" came into being. A translation of the three degree ceremonies, into Welsh, had been carried out by a Past Master of Penybont Lodge, namely W. Bro. David R. Walters.

In May, 1986, the new Masonic Temple at Bridgend was opened and the old Temple in Adare Street was demolished to accommodate an area of shops. Penybont Lodge held the first Craft Meeting in the new Temple, W. Bro. W. D. Jones being the Worshipful Master at the time; he later donated the Lodge Honours Board in memory of his late wife

It is worth noting that the Penybont Lodge is unique in the annals of Crime Detection in South Wales with three of its Past Masters being Fingerprint Experts. The Fingerprint Bureau of the former Glamorgan Constabulary, later to become the South Wales Police, was established by the late W. Bro. Frederick Thomas Knipe, P. Pr. S. G. W., Tom as he was affectionately known was also the first Fingerprint Expert in South Wales. The other two Members who served with Tom and also became Fingerprint Experts were Bro. Glyn Rogers and W. Bro. David Moelwyn Llewellyn. All three became senior police officers and served with distinction. During their service, and being Fingerprint Experts, they would have appeared and given evidence in many of the criminal trials held in South Wales.

On the 16th October, 1998, the 346th Regular Meeting of the Lodge was held it being the 50th Anniversary of the Lodge, when W. Bro. J. Stuart Peters, Deputy Provincial Grand Master entered the Lodge in procession accompanied by W. Bro. Norman Lea, Assistant Provincial Grand Master, together with Grand Officers and Provincial Grand Officers of the Province. W. Bro. Glyn G. H. Miller gave a resume of the formation and history of the Lodge. W. Bro. E. E. Jones was the Worshipful Master during this important episode in the Lodge history.

The Lodge has continued in good health to this year of 2007 with a steady number of new initiated. Bro. Doctor Donald John Thomas, M. B. E., being the longest serving Member of the Lodge.

Authorship-Bro. Colin Evans, P. Pr. G. S.