



*A History of  
Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge No. 8900*

**Province of South Wales**

by

**WBro Hywel Davies PPrGStwd**

The first mention of 'Stewards' appropriate to Grand Lodge was in 1721 when it was decided 'to appoint some brethren to attend tables' at Grand Lodge meetings. However, the formation of a 'Stewards Lodge' did not take place until 1751 'without warrant.' J.M. Hamil in his Prestonian lecture for 1993 entitled 'The development of Masonic Charity' states that their main purpose was to look after a central charitable fund. Brother Hamil goes on to state that 'the Lodge, like the Committee of Charity of the premier Grand Lodge, was to be comprised of the Grand Officers and Masters of Lodges in the Cities of London and Westminster. They met formally as a lodge, the senior brother present presiding as Master and a lodge being formally opened in the third degree before their deliberations began, and being formally closed when their work was finished. The Steward's Lodge was empowered to receive and discuss petitions and to grant up to five guineas to each case before the matter had to be referred to the Grand Lodge itself.' The work of the Steward's Lodge was 'very similar to that as the Report of the Board of General Purposes is today'.

The Grand Lodge Directory of Lodges and Chapters shows there are 27 Provincial Grand Stewards Lodges in England and Wales and 4 District Grand Stewards Lodges overseas. The oldest Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge is the Cheshire Grand Stewards Lodge No 3449 which was consecrated in 1910.

It was not until 1978/79 that the idea of a Grand Stewards Lodge in this Province was first mooted. The main architect of this conception was VW Bro G.M. Ashe, the Provincial Deputy Grand Master, after visiting a Provincial Stewards Lodge at London. The unique object of the Lodge is to allow Master Masons, who had given invaluable service to our Province and Masonry, to progress to the Chair of King Solomon. The formation of our Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge came to fruition on Friday, 2 November 1979 at the Masonic Temple at Cardiff.

The date of the Warrant is 13 June 1979, and it is interesting to note that the issuing of the Warrant was delayed in order for the Lodge to be given the unique number of '8900'. The petition to form the Lodge was signed by one hundred Founder Members. The main applicants being, VWBro Geoffrey Malin Ash, Bro Leonard Lawrey, Bro Douglas Edward Murdock, WBro Harold Wilson, WBro Albert Edward Lemmer, WBro David Raymond Carston and WBro George Hardy Cubitt Oughton. There were eighty five Founder Members present at the Consecration.

The Mother Lodge of the Provincial Stewards Lodge is the Lodge of Benevolence, No. 7305.

The Lodge was consecrated by the Provincial Grand Master, RW The Lord Swansea TD, assisted by:

WBro R.B. Whittingham PSGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master,

WBro C.L. Summers PSGD, Assistant Grand Master

WBro Sir Kenneth Newton Bt, OBE, TD PDepGDC, PGStwd.

**The Officers for the Consecration were:**

Senior Warden	WBro L.G.L. Hamber, PAGDC, PSGW
Junior Warden	WBro E.H. Lloyd, PJGW
Chaplain	WBro Rev Elfed Jones, PGChap
Secretary	WBro M.H. Thompson, PJGD, PGSec
Director of Ceremonies	WBro F. Newbury, PGDC
Asst Director of Ceremonies	WBro R.N. Hopkin RN, PDepGDC
Organist	WBro C. Langmaid, PPGW, PGOrg
Inner Guard	WBro A. Whitchurst, PGPurs
Tyler	WBro K. Morgan, PGTyler

**The first Officers of the Lodge were:**

Worshipful Master	VWBro G.M. Ashe TD, PGSwdB, DepPGM
Acting Past Master	WBro H. Wilson, PSGD, Asst Prov Grand Master
Senior Warden	Bro L. Lawrey, PPGStwd
Junior Warden	Bro D.E. Murdoch, PPGStwd
Chaplain	WBro A.E. Lemmer, PAGDC, PPGW
Treasurer	WBro D.R. Carston, PPGW
Secretary	WBro G.H.C. Oughton, PPGW
Director of Ceremonies	WBro W.H. Walsh, PGStdB, PPGW
Senior Deacon	Bro C.W. Bellinger, PPGStwd
Junior Deacon	Bro W.C. Brown, PPGStwd
Charity Steward	WBro L. Rees, PPGD
Almoner	Bro A. Eggaford, PPGStwd
Asst Director of Ceremonies	WBro B.B. Comley, PPAGDC
Organist	WBro M. Millar, PPGD
Asst Secretary	WBro E.W. Cule, PGStdB, PPGW
Inner Guard	WBro F. Griffiths, PPGW
Stewards	WBro F.T. Upshall, PPGStwd
	WBro P. Gough, PPGW
	WBro M. Davies, PPGSwdB
	WBro C.E. Jenkins, PPAGDC
	WBro C.C. Eley, PPAGDC
	WBro D.H.G. Davies, PPAGDC
	WBro C.V. Husband, PPGD
	WBro S.M. Mortimer, PDepGDC
Tyler	WBro K. Morgan, PGTyler

### **Honorary Members:**

RWBro The RT Hon Lord Swansea DL, Provincial Grand Master  
 WBro R.B. Whittingham PSGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master  
 WBro C.L. Summers PSGD, Assistant Provincial Grand Master  
 WBro Sir Kenneth Newton Bt, OBE, TD, PDepGDC  
 WBro L.G.J. Hamber, PSGW  
 WBro E.H. Lloyd, PJGW  
 WBro Rev Elfed Jones, PGChap  
 WBro M.H. Thompson. PJGD, PGSec  
 WBro F. Newbury, PAGDC, PGDC  
 WBro R.K. Hopkin RN, PDepGDC  
 WBro C. Langmaid, PPGW, PGOrg  
 WBro A. Whitehurst, PGPurs  
 WBro K.Morgan PGTyler

The presence of the Guildford Singers, under the direction of WBro E.J. Smith PGStdB, PPrGW enhanced the solemnity of the occasion.

The first Master Mason of the Lodge to be Installed as Master of the Lodge was Brother L. Lawrey in October 1980.

The Lodge meets twice a year; in October for the purpose of Installing a new Master and in May when a paper is given. Meetings were held at the Pontyclun Temple from May 1980 until May 1991. The reason for the change of venue was to meet at a more central point within the Province and since October 1991, the Lodge has met at Bridgend Masonic Temple.

### **Installations of the new Masters have been performed by:**

1980	RWBro The Lord Swansea
1981	WBro G.M. Ashe and RWBro The Lord Swansea*
1982	WBro W.T. Roper
1983-1995 (inclusive)	RWBro The Lord Swansea
1996	WBro K. Adams Morgan
1997	RWBro The Lord Swansea
1998-2000 (inclusive)	WBro S. Northway
2001	WBro P. Hooper
2002	WBro S. Northway
2003	VWBro P. Frost
2004	VWBro P. Frost
2005	WBro B. Eveleigh
2006	VWBro P. Frost
2007	WBro R. Nettleship
2008	WBro B. Eveleigh
2009	WBro B. Eveleigh

\*The reason for this duality was due to unavoidable lateness of RWBro The Lord Swansea.

It is worthy of note that during the twenty eight years since the Lodge was consecrated, there has been only two occasions when the Chair of King Solomon has not been occupied by an Installed Master of the Lodge. In April 2005, WBro Douglas Morgan occupied the Chair and in October 2005, this was repeated by WBro Denzil Powell.

### Past Masters of the Lodge:

1979	G.M. Ashe	1986	C.L. Thick
1980	L. Lawrey	1987	G. Rowland
1981	D.E. Murdock	1988	W.A. Davies
1982	C.W. Bellinger	1989	R. Podd
1983	W.C. Brown	1990	P. Payne
1984	S.P. Webster	1991	E. Evans
1985	T.I. Rees	1992	R. Probert
1994	E.C. Smith	2002	L.M. Smith
1995	D.O. Rees	2003	D.J. Budden
1996	D. Rushworth	2004	J. Roper
1997	L. Williams	2005	W.R. Williams
1998	D.H. Harding	2006	R.J. Crockett
1999	D.C. Dean	2007	H. Davies
2000	T.A. Richards	2008	P.G. Gwilliam
1993	G. P. Davies	2009	Lloyd Griffiths
2001	N.H. Collins		

The papers given at each May meeting have been an important feature of the Lodge.

### Papers delivered at Lodge:

1980	The origins of the Grand Stewards Lodge	C.M. James
1981	The significance of the symbols of the Second Degree	O.H. Lucas
1982	The relationship between Masonry and Religion	G.M. Ashe
1983	Differences between Operative Freemasonry and the Craft	D.W. Ridgeway
1984	A demonstration of a Russian Initiation Ceremony	Swansea Lodge No 8364
1985	Second thoughts	J.K. Smith
1986	Various aspects of Freemasonry	W.A. Kneel
1987	The relationship between the Military and Freemasonry	J.B. Davies
1988	Working etc of the Royal Masonic Hospital	J. Horden
1989	A review of the Evolution & Development of English Free Masonry	D.C. Hobson
1990	Masonic Stewardship	A.R. Ough
1991	Development of cricket in Barbados	N.A.C. Alleyne
1992	The quest for antiquity	A.R. Ough
1993	A blind person and a Mason	N.E. Follis
1994	Masonic knowledge	T.A. Kavanagh
1995	Mason mark	J.K. Smith
1996	Masonic music	G.W. Fox
1997	The Entered Apprentice Freemason	J.P.B. Fisher
1998	Masonic verse and song	G.W. Fox

1999	International cycling	B. Smith
2000	The Antient landmarks of the Order	C. Howell
2001	Charitable experiences	DW. Damond-John
2002	Masonic music	D.C. Dean
2003	First Degree Tracing Board	M.N. James
2004	Masonic Stewardship	A.R. Ough
2005	Grand Stewards and Red Apron Masonry	D.C. Dean
2006	The symbolism in Freemasonry	R. Mapstone
2007	From Labour to Refreshment	D. Rees
2008	Banner Ceremony was carried out	Prov Grand Master
2009		R. Mapstone

On Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> April 2008, the new Lodge Banner was Dedicated by the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro Hywel Davies who was assisted by WBro Reverend A.E. Swinford, Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain. The Provincial Grand Master was accompanied by Provincial Assistant Grand Masters, Officers of Grand Lodge and Officers of Provincial Grand Lodge. Also present were VW Bro Peter Frost, Past Deputy Provincial Grand Master and WBro Robert Nettleship, Past Assistant Grand Master. The event was attended by a number in excess of one hundred Brethren.

Before the Dedication Ceremony, the Provincial Grand Master gave an address concerning Banners in general and the new Lodge Banner in particular.

The Dedication was carried out by the Provincial Grand Master and the Provincial Assistant Grand Chaplain in an efficient and moving ceremony that was acclaimed by the Brethren present.

The Banner was designed by WBro Hugh Davies, Assistant Director of Ceremonies of the Lodge and created by Mrs Carol Abraham, daughter of WBro Fred Fox, the Lodge Catering Officer. The design of the Banner includes a Cornucopia embodied within a set of compasses surrounded by the name and number of the Lodge, on a red background. WBro Hugh Davies also designed and printed the Order of Service.

Sadly, WBro Hugh Davies passed to the Grand Lodge Above on Sunday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2008 after a very short illness. The Banner, which he designed, will be lasting tribute to Hugh as a mark of his dedication the Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge and to Freemasonry in general.

#### References:

- Provincial Grand Stewards Lodge *Minutes*.  
 J. Hamil, *The Development of Masonic Charity*, Prestonian lecture 1993.  
 D.C. Dean, *Grand Stewards and Red Apron Masonry*, paper to Prov Grand Stewards Lodge 2005.

### A NOTE OF INTEREST

The 'heart' of our Banner (*see title page*) is the cornucopia.

The following definition of the origin of a cornucopia appeared in the May 2007 Summons of the Quatuor Lodge No. 2076.

“According to *The New Larouse Encyclopaedia of Mythology* (Hamlyn p. 91)

...the young Zeus, who became the supreme ruler of the gods and mortals, and the chief of the twelve Olympians, grew up in the forests of Ida. For a wet nurse he was given the goat Amaltheia. She was a wondrous animal whose aspect terrified even the immortals. In gratitude Zeus placed her among the constellations and from her hide, which no arrow could pierce, he made the redoubtable aegis. To the nymphs she gave one of her horns, conferring upon it the marvellous property of refilling itself inexhaustibly with whatever food and drink was wished for. This was the horn of plenty, the cornucopia.”

Also

“According to *Hall's Dictionary of Subjects in Art* (Murray p. 75);

The cornucopia's origin is probably to be found in the ancient belief that power and fertility resided in the goat's or bull's horn.”