

Cornhill Chapter

No. 1803



Ancient Fraternity of Free and Accepted Masons
(Consecrated 19th May, 1930)

A brief 75 year history

1930 - 2005



Introduction

Although the first seventy five years of the existence of Lodges or Chapters does not attract official recognition, many of them do mark these occasions by special meetings or festivals of varying magnificence, according to their general and financial status.

We of the Cornhill Chapter thought that we might celebrate our seventy fifth year of existence, to this end, this brief history of the Chapter has been compiled.

The minute books of the period, together with a membership register and a small amount of correspondence are still in existence.

In this small, informally produced, booklet we start on a note of authenticity with a reproduction of the menu of the Consecrating Meeting.

A comparison with present day costs is more than interesting when we reflect that this menu cost £1.6s.0d per head for the seven course meal, with cigars, cigarettes, port and wines included! The accounts show the sum of £33.0s 6d as being paid to the Hotel Metropole in full settlement of the bill for this gigantic repast.

Consecration meeting menu

19th May 1930

Hors d'Oeuvre Parisienne
Saumon Fume

Consomme Mireille
Crème Waldeze

Filet de Sole Ambassadeurs

Cote d'Agneau Marechale
Pommes Fondantes
Haricots Verts au Beurre

Sorbet au Champagne

Pintade Poêlée aux Raisins
Salade Aïda

Biscuit Glace Alhambra
Corbeille de Friandises

Café

The First Seventy Five Years of the Cornhill Chapter No. 1803

At the beginning of the First Minute Book of the Cornhill Chapter No.1803, we find the following 'notes' in the handwriting of W.Bro. Marmaduke Kittoe.

'At a Regular Meeting of the Cornhill Lodge No.1803 held at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue, WC2. on February 4th 1929, the desirability of forming a Royal Arch Chapter in connection with the Lodge was discussed, a Committee, as under, was formed to report to the Lodge at its next Regular Meeting'.

Committee:	W.Bro. Alfred Instone	W.M.
	W.Bro. M.C.S.H. Kittoe	Secretary
	W.Bro. G.R.Vick	D of C
	Bro. R.W.Bruce	Asst. Secretary

At that next Meeting held on 1 April 1929 the above Committee reported favourably and W.Bro. Kittoe gave a written Notice of Motion to that effect.

In accordance with the Book of Constitutions, at a special meeting of the Lodge on 10 August 1929, the following resolution by Bro. R.W. Bruce, seconded by W.Bro. Godfrey R. Vick, PM., was passed:—

'That a Royal Arch Chapter be formed in connection with the Cornhill Lodge No.1803'.

The Founders met on 12th December 1929, the necessary petition was prepared and the fees as under were fixed:—

Founders Fee	£5 5s 0p
Subscription	£3.3s.0p
Joining or Exaltation Fee for members of Cornhill Lodge	£4.4s.0p
Non-Members	£5.5s.0p

The Lodge Tyler, Ex.Comp. S.C. Kesby, was to be the Janitor.

The Consecration

The Consecration took place at the Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Avenue, WC2. on Monday 19 May 1930, at 5.30pm.

The Consecrating Officer was Ex.Comp. Sir Phillip Colville Smith, Grand Scribe 'E'.

He was assisted by:—

<i>Ex.Comp. Harry J. Dunaway, PGStB</i>	<i>as H</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. Rev. G. F. Cartwright, MA., PGStB</i>	<i>as J</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. R.W. Anderson, PGStB</i>	<i>as Scribe N</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. S. Coutts Deacon, Dep.GDC</i>	<i>as DC</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. Major Boyd</i>	<i>Grand Janitor</i>

The Founders (who were also the First Officers) were:—

<i>Ex.Comp. Stanley Fox Fitch, PAGDC (Retired)</i>	<i>Z</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. Marmaduke Claude Sutton Hamilton Kittoe, PPGReg(Bucks)</i>	<i>H</i>
<i>(Member of the Stock Exchange)</i>	
<i>Ex.Comp. Gus Skelton Cummings, PPGDC(Bucks)</i>	<i>J</i>
<i>(Member of the Stock Exchange)</i>	
<i>Comp. Reginald Wyndham Bruce, (Major. Retired)</i>	<i>Scribe E</i>
<i>Comp. Godfrey Russell Vick, MA, LLB., (Barrister at Law)</i>	<i>Scribe N</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. Richard Henry Francis Hitchens, (Accountant)</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Comp. John Ewart Walker, (Barrister at Law)</i>	<i>P.Soj.</i>
<i>Comp. William Edward Maddock, (Company Secretary)</i>	<i>1st Asst.Soj.</i>
<i>Comp. Wilfred Leovold Hutchinson, (Jeweller)</i>	<i>2nd Asst.Soj.</i>
<i>Comp. Alfred Instone, (Coal Importer)</i>	<i>Steward</i>
<i>Ex.Comp. S.C.Kesby</i>	<i>Janitor</i>

There were nine visitors recorded in the minutes (three of whom held knighthoods).

The ceremonial music was under the direction of Ex. Comp. William Barrand, PPGOrg. and was rendered by the four 'Eton Singers'.

Four members of the Lodge were nominated for Exaltation at a subsequent meeting and the Consecrating Officers all accepted Honorary Membership.

Unfortunately Ex.Comp. S. F. Fitch the MEZ, was to become ill and eventually die in December 1930. Ex.Comp. Harry Dunaway was elected to take his place.

Progression

The Chapter rapidly grew to about twenty members, but then appeared to settle down to sixteen or so, around which figure it remained until the advent of the Second World War in 1939. The leakage of members through death or resignation appearing to be offset by new members, on fairly equal terms.

With the onset of war in 1939, emergency measures were introduced, for instance, subscriptions were reduced to one guinea (£1.1s.0p) per year and the Chapter was permitted to hold its meetings *after the Lodge* (at the Criterion Restaurant) on the second Mondays in February, April and December, as a temporary measure of course!

On these occasions the Brethren and Companions met for lunch at 1.30pm., 'if they so desired'. As with the Lodge, some seven or eight Companions bravely battled to keep the continuity going. Dates of meetings were changed and subsequently 'Under Emergency War Regulations', the Chapter moved to Freemason's Hall (for the second time) in June 1943, when the Companions were 'invited to remain for the Cornhill Lodge Meeting and for the Lodge dinner at the Connaught Rooms at 6pm'.

Fifteen members paid dues that year. It must have been particularly difficult to comply with all these changes in days of both meeting and Installation dates, etc., but the membership remained steady at about sixteen, even if the attendances were small on occasion. These various moves of venue in the war years can be seen in the appropriate Appendix.

In about 1946, with a move to the Talbot Restaurant, the subscription was increased to the original £3.3s.0p per annum and the meetings resumed more normal features, starting for instance at 5.30pm. The summons began to be printed again instead of being produced on office duplicators.

After 1969, however, the Chapter began to decline. The numerical membership kept up reasonably well but the active side suffered, due to Companions moving to other parts of the British Isles and overseas. Illness and the loss of older members by death and retirement eventually brought the active force to a very low ebb indeed. It must be remarked that other London Chapters were also experiencing this unfortunate trend. It was resolved by a determined few, that the Charter must not be relinquished. Past Principals rallied around, going through the Chairs again and again. Sinecures were listed as Officers and jobs were doubled up and subsequent 'recruiting' produced some valuable stalwarts from Cornhill Lodge and the Province of Essex.

In recent years our membership has been maintained at approximately 26 to 28 Companions of which number approximately 50% are regular and active companions of the Chapter. We now draw our main membership from Cornhill Lodge and Bouverie Lodge, both Lodges have been instrumental in providing Companions of very high quality and the Chapter looks forward to a long and enjoyable future.

A little may be said about the professional flavour of the members over the years.

Of the Founders, two were members of the stock exchange, two were barristers and a sprinkling of company secretaries and retired businessmen. Today, though the lawyers have gone, the companions have remained mainly in executive positions but spread over a much wider and more diverse range of professions and trades, which makes for a varied and interesting membership.

Our charity record has been consistent, although reflecting the fact that the number of Companions have been relatively smaller than the Lodge. Records show that the Chapter has, each year, contributed sums to the Masters List of Cornhill Lodge and within limited means, a benevolent fund has been maintained and dispensed.

In conclusion we call your attention to the appendices, which show lists of First Principals, Scribes E, Treasurers and Janitors, together with the various venues over the years.

Leading lights

Several names must be mentioned here, as companions of particular note, those of :—

Ex. Comp. A. S. Roberts, SLGCR, (who occupied the First Principals Office five times, by Dispensation etc., from 1969 to 1975 as well as twice in 1957 and 1959).

His dependability in ritual and attendance, his wise counsel in committee, were indispensable. His record can only be equalled by:—

Ex. Comp. H. T. Addiscott, who occupied the First Principals Office for five years in succession during the war and twice in 1953 and 1954. Then also, that ubiquitous and remarkable man, who was our Janitor for many years :—

Ex. Comp. Eric Richardson, PPGReg. (Kent) who could occupy any office at the drop of a hat (whilst another Compion guarded the outer door, of course). One other Companion must be mentioned, the Companion who with several other stalwarts resolved to keep the Chapter going when the attendance dropped as low as seven or eight Companions, the Companion who held the Chapter together at that time was:—

Ex. Comp. Ernie Lockett, SLGCR, our Scribe E for many years.

A singularly outstanding feature of the Chapter has always been the wonderful atmosphere and friendliness, particularly at our Festive Boards and what is very important, the quality of the ritual has never suffered.

Ode to Cornhill Chapter

The Companions of Cornhill Chapter continue to shine,
and have plenty of fun when they sit down to dine.

This Chapter has a fine reputation,
And thank all it's Founders for it's Consecration.

We have Stock Brokers and Directors and Old Soldiers Galore,
And do it yourself Craftsmen I know by the score.
But as they grow older and live in the past,
Their actions were too vigorous for it to last.

When their teeth drop out and they gain a chin,
And their shape comes out where it should go in.
They sit around and feel awfully sad,
That they have missed the fun that they could have had.

So be sure to have some fun each day,
You'll remember it when you are old and grey.
As years come and go and time passes by,
It's no good for us to sit down and cry.

Let us enjoy all our meetings with a joke and a smile,
And be kind to the less fortunate once in a while.
For this is the way to enjoy life to the full,
If you do as I tell you it will never be dull.

*Written by Ex. Comp. Eric Richardson and first recited by him on
26th January 1976 to the Companions of Cornhill Chapter.*

Cornhill Chapter First Past Principal jewel



List of meeting places of the Cornhill Chapter

Venue	Date	Duration
Hotel Metropole, Northumberland Ave.	May 1930	7 years
Piccadilly Hotel, Piccadilly.	8 March 1937	2 years 4 months
Freemasons' Hall, Gt. Queen Street.	14 November 1939	1 year
Criterion Restaurant, Piccadilly.	9 December 1940	3 years
Freemasons' Hall, Gt. Queen Street.	8 June 1943	3 years
Talbot Restaurant, London Wall.	25 th November 1946	24 years
Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street.	28 April 1970	9 years
London Masonic Centre, Clerkenwell Green.	5 November 1979 . (2 meetings only)	
Shaftesbury Hotel, Monmouth Street.	1980	4 years
Freemasons' Hall, Gt. Queen Street.	November 1985	to date.

Roll of the First Principals of the Chapter

1930 S.F. Finch	1961 R.J. Osborne
1931 M.C.S.H. Kittoe	1962 R.J. Osborne
1932 G.S. Cummings	1963 E.C. Wyatt
1933 G.R. Vick	1964 G. Lamacraft
1934 J.E. Walker	1965 G.E. Lockett
1935 C.H. Vick	1966 E.P. Collins
1936 G.R. Vick	1967 R.J. Osborne
1937 F.A. Fox	1968 R.J. Osborne
1938 J.E. Walker	1969 R.E.T. Osborne
1939 H.F. Wookey	1970 A.S. Roberts
1940 H.F. Wookey	1971 G.L.T. Edwards
1941 J.E. Walker	1972 R. Toft
1942 H.T. Addiscott	1973 A.S. Roberts
1943 H.T. Addiscott	1974 A.S. Roberts
1944 H.T. Addiscott	1975 A.S. Roberts
1945 H.T. Addiscott	1976 E.H. Evans
1946 H.T. Addiscott	1977 E.C. Wyatt
1947 H.C.V. Hitchens	1978 E.C. Wyatt
1948 B. Bell	1979 J. Hunter
1949 F. Ralph	1980 D.P. Padfield
1950 F. Ralph	1981 B.H. Simpson
1951 M.C.S.H. Kittoe	1982 B.H. Simpson
1952 M.C.S.H. Kittoe	1983 R. Heer
1953 H.T. Addiscott	1984 R. Heer
1954 H.T. Addiscott	1985 C. Cox
1955 C.E.H. Ashby	1986 R.G. Russell
1956 A.L. Gosling	1987 R.G. Russell
1957 A.L. Gosling	1988 J.M. Cumner
1958 A.S. Roberts	1989 J.M. Cumner
1959 C.A. Robus	1990 W.K. Dawson
1960 A.S. Roberts	1991 W.K. Dawson

1992 M.J. Biesty	1999 A.S. Smith
1993 A.E. Spokes	2000 M.J. Biesty
1994 R.E. Pearce	2001 M.A.K. Habershon
1995 P.R. Brimley	2002 T.A. Johnson
1996 M.W.G. Mercer	2003 R.J. Mitchell
1997 A.J. Coxon	2004 P.B. Foote
1998 G. Beasley	

***Bold** signifies a current member*

Roll of members (1930 to present day)

Stanley Fox Finch	Retired	1930
Marmaduke Claude Sutton		
Hamilton Kittoe	Stock Exchange	1930
Gus Skelton Cummings	Stock Exchange	1930
Reginald Wyndham Bruce	Major (retired)	1930
Godfrey Russell Vick	Barrister	1930
Richard Henry Francis Hitchens	Accountant	1930
John Ewart Walker	Barrister	1930
William Edward Maddock	Company Secretary	1930
Wilfred Leovold Hutchinson	Jeweller	1930
Alfred Instone	Coal Exporter	1930
Gerald Charles Jervis		
Brady D.S.O.	Insurance Broker	1930
Charles Cousins McCoy	Commander (RNR)	1930
Cyril Hampton Vick	Solicitor	1930
Frederick Meredith Ash	Bank Manager	1930
Archibald Mitchell Kirkwood	Banker	1931
Harold Victor Thomas	Foreign Exchange Broker	1931
Conrad Samuel	Director	1931
Frank Allen Fox	Stockbroker	1931
Alfred Thomas Routleff	Master Printer	1931
Albert Flavell	Manufacturer	1933
Harry Frederick Wookey	Printer and Stationer	1935
Henry Toope Addiscott	Leather Merchant Manager	1936
Henry Charles Vyvian Hitchens	Accountant	1938
Douglas James Thomas	Insurance Broker	1938

Bertram Bell	Stockbrokers Manager	1938
Frederick Ralph	Railway Official	1941
Harry Atkin Hodgson	Hotel Proprietor	1941
Aubrey E. Bursnall	Stores Manager	1946
Arthur S. Garner	Cashier	1947
C. P. Holgate		1948
Phillip Cohen	Minister of Religion	1948
Cecil Edwin Hoodless Ashby		1949
R. T. Mortimer		1949
Cecil Alfred Robus	Consulting Engineer	1949
Julius Neville Davis	Stockbroker	1950
Cecil Reeves	Master Printer	1950
William Albert Edgar Hill		1951
Herbert John Gyford	Licensee	1951
Ronald George Russell	Store Manager	1951
Edward Perrin Collins	Advertising Manager	1952
Gerald Lamacraft	Salesman	1952
Norman John Gyford	Teacher	1952
Lawrence Ronald White	Representative	1953
Reginald Leonard Addiscott	Architect	1953
George Ernest Lockett	Musician	1953
Albert Leyon Gosling	Manufacturer	1953
Maurice James Francis Hanham		
Boundford	Representative	1953
Joseph Grice Marland	Writer (Navy)	1953
Harold Leslie Turner		1954

***Bold** signifies a current member*

Roll of members – continued

Norman John Harewood	Railway Official	1955
Alfred Samuel Roberts	Office Manager	1955
George Leslie Thomas Edwards ...	Stockbroker	1955
Eustace Charles Wyatt	Electricity Board Adviser	1957
Edward William Fuller	Travelling Salesman	1957
Eric Heaton Evans	Sanitary Inspector	1957
Ronald James Osborne	Managing Director	1958
Arthur John Kirtland	Company Director	1958
Leslie Sherlock	Sales Engineer	1958
Reginald Henry Parker	Minister (Salvation Army)	1959
Albert Henry William Horwood	Master Printer	1960
Ronald Edward Thomas Osborne .	Company Secretary	1961
Alexander Gerald Greenburgh	Solicitor	1961
Ronald Boardman	Loss Adjuster	1962
Reginald Frank Osborne	Property Agent	1962
Bramwell John Pridmore-Smith	Company Director	1963
Anthony Peter Clark	Area Representative	1963
Robert Leonard Greenburgh	Dental Surgeon	1964
Roy Norman Sonnex	Electronic Engineer	1966
Robert Toft	Retired	1966
Bernard Hugh Simpson	Television Engineer	1967
Michael John Harewood	Transport Manager	1969
Sidney Alexander Goss	Transport Manager	1969
Charles Henry Thomas Cox	Print Sales Manager	1970
Peter Cansfield	Print Production Manager ...	1970
Donald Ernest Reed	Printer	1971

Walter Henry George Targett	Grocery Buyer (Director)	1973
Robert Heer	Company Director	1973
John Hunter	Sales Manager	1973
Douglas Padfield	Print Manager	1973
Henry William Oakley	Club Manager	1976
John Michael Cumner	Electrical Project Engineer ..	1977
Raoul Frederyck John deVaux O.B.E., J.P.	Licensee	1978
Peter McAra Hawley	Sales Director (Print)	1978
William Nicholas Oakley	Club Manager	1979
Alan Ernest Spokes	Print Salesman	1979
John David Tidey	Licensee	1980
Peter John Harrison	Club Manager	1980
Michael John Biesty	Construction Manager	1981
Thomas James Musgrove	Catering Executive	1981
Phillip Malcolm Atwell	General Manager	1983
Peter Boulton	Marketing Manager	1983
William Kenneth Dawson	Retired	1984
Philip R. Brimley	Civil Servant	1985
Ronald John Piper	Gov. Technical Officer	1986
Trevor Frederick Bond	Electronic Engineer	1988
Arthur Ernest Lewis	Police Officer	1988
Michael William Mercer	Police Officer	1989
Christopher Buck	Aerial Rigger	1989
Robert Edward Pearce	Police Officer	1990
Anthony Richard Lomer-Cross	Police Officer	1990

***Bold** signifies a current member*

Roll of members – continued

Alan Stephen Smith	Contracts Manager	1991
Peter George Mills	Managing Director	1991
Alan John Coxon, M.B.E.	Police Officer	1991
Brian Roger Beecroft	Police Officer	1992
Mark Awbrey Kenneth Habershon	Premises Officer	1992
Gordon Victor Beasley	Police Officer	1993
William Maitland Bonds	Security Consultant	1993
Terence Anton Johnson	Electrician	1994
Philip Leonard deVaux	Telecomms Officer	1995
Malcolm Leslie Patrick	Accountant	1995
John Edward Bergstrom-Potter	Heating Engineer	1995
Robert John Mitchell	Plastering Contractor	1996
Patrick Brian Foote	Warehouse Manager	1996
Clifford John Keen	General Manager	1996
Barry Michael Waterfield	Locksmith	1996
Paul Desmond	Public Relations Consultant	1997
Philip Alfred Yeaman	Civilian Explosives Officer	1998
Anthony Edwin Mountain	Paramedic	1998
Jeffrey Michael Bryant	Police Officer	1999
Peter Dawson	Firefighter	2001
Gary Bowyer	Paramedic	2001
Gary Michael Evans	Licensee	2002
Stephen Andrew Walter Day		2002
Barry Clive Digby		2003
Anthony Thomas Connor	Management Consultant	2003

Barry Stuart Lawton	Soldier (WO 2)	2004
David Ian Wilson		2004
Michael John Cook		2005
Stephen Paul Bray ¹	Commercial Director	2005

¹Exalte at the 75th Anniversary meeting.

Bold signifies a current member

Treasurers, Scribes E. & Janitors

Scribes E.

1930 – R.W. Bruce	1972 – G.E. Lockett
1936 – M.C.S.H. Kittoe	1989 – J. Hunter
1947 – H.F. Wookey	1999 – J.M. Cumner

Treasurers

1930 – R.H.J. Hitchens	1968 – G. Lamacraft
1935 – M.C.S.H. Kittoe	1972 – P. Cansfield
1936 – G.S. Cummings	1974 – W.H.G. Targett
1937 – C.H. Vick	1990 – S.A. Goss
1941 – H.C.V. Hitchens	1993 – A.R. Lomer-Cross
1951 – B. Bell	1997 – M. Patrick
1952 – F. Ralph	2001 – J. Hunter
1953 – A.S. Garner	

Janitors

1930 – S.C. Kesby	1967 – E. Richardson
1936 – S. Plaisted	1989 – J.G. Ledson, BEM
1964 – L.S. Cape	1993 – J. Alba

Officers of the Chapter in Seventy Fifth Year (2005)

MEZ	Pat Foote
H	Alan Smith, PZ
J	Mick Mercer, PZ
IPZ	Bob Mitchell, PZ
Scribe E	John Cumner, SLGCR
Scribe N	Terry Johnson, PZ
Treasurer	John Hunter, SLGCR, PPrGSN (Surrey)
D of C	Gordon Beasley, PZ
Almoner	Mick Mercer, LGCR
Charity Steward	Terry Johnson, PZ
Principal Sojourner	Stephen Day
1 st Assistant Sojourner	Barry Digby
2 nd Assistant Sojourner	Barry Lawton
A.D.C.	Michael Biesty, LGCR
Organist	Philip Brimley, LGCR
Steward	Tony Mountain
Steward	Peter Dawson
Steward	David Wilson
Janitor	John Alba, LGCR

Acknowledgements

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PRB
April 2005

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