
GOSPORT & DISTRICT RAOB GLE

Issue 1

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A Brief History of Buffaloism in Portsmouth

Original compiled in 1908 by Bro Edwin Rose RoH, Provincial Grand Secretary of Portsmouth.

First Recorded Local Lodge

The first record of Buffaloism was in 1861 when there were only Lodges in Portsmouth. Those were the days when we had such Brethren as Brothers H Ford, L Doyne, G Titherage, W Gunnell, Louis Nanton, Sam Knight, Harry Rutley (lessee of the Theatre Royal) and many others.

The lodge was then held at the 'White Hart' in Portsea, and the members, being mostly of the theatrical or music hall profession, met on a Sunday evening with Bro AM Judd being the genial host. It was afterwards removed to the 'Battle of the Nile', and then to the 'Tramway Tavern' and finally to the 'Prince of Wales', Hambrook Street, Southsea, where it was held until the host took the 'Railway Hotel' in Commercial Road. It was subsequently moved to the 'Norfolk Arms' but shortly afterwards the lodge collapsed.

First mention of a Lodge in Gosport

In 1881 the lodge was revived by Primo Gus Raymond host of the 'Old Roebuck', High Street Gosport, which title it bore. Brothers GL Thompson KOM, Julian Best KOM, Ernest Layzell CP, W Barfoot KOM and W Bowers ROH were amongst the first members initiated in this lodge.

In 1885 the 'Loyal Saxe Weimar' lodge was inaugurated at the 'India Arms', Great Southsea Street, later moving to the 'Star and Garter', Broad Street, Old Portsmouth. The next was the 'Jubilee Star' lodge, opened at the 'Hyde Park Tavern', in May 1887, with over one hundred members present. At the opening of the lodge [*wrote Bro Rose in 1908*] I had the honour of being initiated by Sir Charles Ransom, the then Grand Primo of all England, and from that day to this I have taken an active interest in the Order. In 1887 I gained my Primoship and assisted in the opening of the 'St. Thomas' lodge. In May 1887 I founded the 'Gus Raymond' lodge at the 'Cobden Hotel', which was one of the most successful lodges of the time.

Then followed the inauguration of the first Provincial Grand Lodge in Portsmouth in 1888: the first Provincial Grand Primo being Primo Col. Lockhart Kennedy. Primo Julian Best was the DPGP and myself [Primo Rose] as PG Chamberlain.

Within the space of two years the following lodges were opened: the 'Queen's Head', the 'Dolphin', the 'Fawcett', the 'Loyal Fareham', the 'George Peters', the 'Clarence', the 'Earnest', the 'Loyal Graham', the 'Crystal Palace', and the 'Victory'. Of these the 'Queen's Head' is now the only lodge in existence having booked to its credit an unbroken record of twenty one years.'

On the death of such illustrious members and grand workers as Sir Francis Morgan (Fawcett), A M Dixon (Cobden), George Parnell (Crystal Palace) and the retirement of Col. Kennedy there was a lull, and the next five years are blotted from the history of local Buffaloism.

In 1897 with cooperation from the 'Queen's Head', 'St George' and the 'No.1 Pioneer Temperance' Lodge (which by the way is the mother lodge of Sir William Poole - secretary of the Convention Committee and Sir Roger George Tilley – President of the Portsmouth Certifying Council) I was delegated to attend the 'Grand Lodge' in London, and there succeeded, in the face of strenuous opposition, in obtaining the return of the warrant to re-establish the Provincial Grand Lodge (of Portsmouth), to which I was unanimously elected Provincial Grand Primo, with such excellent officers as the late Staff Sergeant Roberts and Sir David Reed.

During my term of office I opened and consecrated the 'Queen's Record Reign', the 'Cosham', the 'Excelsior' and the 'Royal Navy' lodge. Of these I am pleased to say we still have the 'Royal Navy' lodge and the 'Fratton' lodge in lieu of the 'Excelsior'.

Since the re-opening of the Present Provincial Grand Lodge we have steadily but surely forging ahead. We have now the 'Alvara' lodge at the 'Black Bear' in Gosport, the home of the present Provincial Grand Primo, the 'Sir Harry Knapp' lodge at the 'Market House', Forton Road, Gosport, and the 'Royal Haslar' lodge held at the 'Hero of Waterloo', Clayhall, Alverstoke Gosport, which speaks well for Buffaloism on the Mainland'. 'In Portsmouth itself, in addition to those quoted, we have the 'Admiralty' lodge at the 'Ship & Castle', The Hard, Portsea, the 'St George' lodge at the 'Blue Anchor', Kingston Crescent and the 'Royal Victoria' lodge, at Netley Abbey.

The Governing Authority is well attended by enthusiastic officers and delegates who are ever willing to attend minor lodges in their official capacity for the good and welfare of the province.

We also have the 'Grand Camp of the Knights of the Golden Horn' allocated in Portsmouth until 1910 (this is a branch of the RAOB Grand Lodge of England of which most Buffs of six months standing aspire to become members). Sir Knight William of Tuck is the Grand Knight Commander for the present year, being the first member in the South of England elected to that high position and under whose command this Noble Order is flourishing. Its present headquarters is the 'Fratton Hotel', where members assemble bi-monthly. The second officer in command being Knight Dr A E Marwood: the writer holding the honoured position of Grand Scribe.

It will thus be seen that locally we have taken no mean interest in the Order and the ninth Triennial Convention being held in Portsmouth is the crowning laurel to the work of half a century.

'The heights by great men reached and kept,
were not attained by sudden flight,
But they, while their companions slept,
were toiling upwards in the night.'

Bro Edwin Rose RoH, 1908

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A Brief History of Buffaloism in Gosport & District Province

Compiled in 1975 by Bro Percival George Malone RoH, Provincial Grand Primo of Gosport 1944.

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First Local Lodges

Until 1921 the Lodges of Gosport came under the jurisdiction of the Portsmouth Province, but in that year the Provincial Grand Lodge of Gosport was inaugurated, with such Lodges as the 'Alvara', the 'Sir Harry Knapp', the 'Imperial Fareham', the 'Sir Harry Crisp', the 'Royal Engineers', the 'Victory', the 'Newtown' the 'Sir William Poole' and the 'Excelsior'.

Following the inauguration of the Gosport PGL Several more lodges were formed. These were the 'St Ann's', the 'Shakespeare', the 'Ad Astral', the 'William of Wykham', the 'Endeavour', the 'Palace', the 'Progress', the 'Newberry', the 'Green Valley', the 'D-Day', the 'Royal Sovereign' and the 'St Vincent' Lodges. Recently the 'Arnheim' Lodge has transferred from the PGL Portsmouth to the Gosport Province.

Of these the only Lodges in existence are the 'Sir Harry Knapp', the 'Victory', the 'Imperial Fareham', 'Sir Harry Crisp', 'Newtown', 'Sir William Poole', 'Shakespeare', 'Waltham' 'St Vincent', 'Arnheim', 'Green Valley', 'D-Day', 'Excelsior' and the 'Royal Sovereign'. [The latter two lodges amalgamated to form the 'Canon Morley' Lodge in 1976.]

Alvara Lodge No. 937

The 'Alvara' Lodge No 937, was held at the 'Black Bear, North Cross Street and continued there until its amalgamation with the 'Sir Harry Knapp' Lodge between 1936 and 1937.

Sir Harry Knapp Lodge No. 937

The 'Sir Harry Knapp' Lodge, No 1262, was formed at the 'Market House Tavern', Forton Road on 31st March 1908. Its founders were Bro H Knapp PGP, Bro WH Rose PPGP and Bro H Crisp.

It later moved to the 'Queen's Head' at Brockhurst then to the 'Queen Charlotte', then to the Club at Lees Lane and back to the 'Queen Charlotte' in 1937. In 1961 it moved to the 'RAOB War Memorial Club' in Forton Road and is still making good progress there. [*The author, Bro Pery Malone, was initiated in this Lodge on May 1st 1930.*]

Imperial Fareham Lodge No. 1714

The 'Imperial Fareham' Lodge No 1714 was founded on the 11th February 1913 at the 'Royal Oak' West Street, Fareham and its founder members were Bro WJ Tuck KoM, Bro William Poole KOM, Bro H Cooper and EW Blake. It later moved to the 'Golden Lion' in the High Street. After a long stay there it moved back again to the 'Royal Oak' where it is still going strong. One of its oldest members is Bro Arthur Tee ROH who has been a member for over fifty years.

Sir Harry Crisp Lodge No. 2258

The 'Sir Harry Crisp' Lodge No 2258 was opened at the 'Victory Inn', Forton Road on the 4th October 1917. Its founder members being Bro H Crisp ROH, Bro WG Hooper CP, Bro JW Perotti CP and Bro J Driscoll CP. The Lodge continues here for many years but in 1937 the meetings were held at the 'Glencoe Hotel', in Elson.

Owing to the outbreak of World War II, the Lodge had to find other temporary accommodation but eventually moved back to its place of origin, the 'Victory Inn' and continued there until 1957 when it moved once again, this time to the RAOB War Memorial Club, Forton Road and meets there every Tuesday evening.

Royal Engineers Lodge No. 2364

Of the 'Royal Engineers' Lodge No 2364 I have no knowledge of its founders but I have been told that it was opened at the 'Park Hotel,' Park Road and was formed by serving members of the Royal Engineers who came from Newcastle-on-Tyne for training at Fort Monkton. Some time later the Lodge moved to the 'Queen's Head' in North Street and continued there until 1934 when it amalgamated with the 'Sir Harry Knapp' Lodge.

Victory Lodge No. 2593

The 'Victory' Lodge No 2593 was opened at the 'Gipsy Queen Hotel' on the 27th June 1919 and its founders were Bro WJ Lyne CP, Bro WT Bone CP, Bro S Hutchings CP and Bro HW Sheppard CP. The Lodge continued here for many years and was a very happy and successful lodge but due to a change in management of the premises it had to find other accommodation. Subsequently it moved to the 'Queen's Hotel' in Queen's Road where it meets every Friday night.

2006 update:

Victory Inn, Forton Road.

Junction Tavern, Whitworth Road.

Gipsy Queen Hotel, Whitworth Road.

Newtown Lodge No. 3003

The 'Newtown' Lodge No 3003 was opened at the 'Vine' in Stoke Road on the 17th March 1920 and its founders were Bro W Jenner CP, Bro J Long CP, Bro A Sims CP, and Bro J Oldham CP. The Lodge continued here for many years. Bro Frank Smith who has over fifty years in the Order was one of the stalwarts of the Lodge and served in the office of City Waiter until he left the district to live in Newbury. He still visits the Lodge from time to time. The Lodge is now held at the 'RAOB Memorial Club' in Forton Road and meets every Saturday evening.

Sir William Poole Lodge No. 3004

The 'Sir William Poole' Lodge No 3004 was founded on the 7th April 1920 and its founders were Bro Diffey KOM, Bro G barter CP, and Bro S Evamy CP. The Lodge was opened at the 'Isle of Wight Hoy' in the High Street and was named after Sir William Poole (PPGP of Portsmouth) who was initiated in the 'No1 Pioneer Temperance' Lodge and was for many years was Provincial Grand Secretary of the Portsmouth Province. At the 'Isle of Wight Hoy' the Lodge was very

prosperous and was well supported by brothers from the Submarine Depot at HMS Dolphin. After the outbreak of the Second World War the Lodge had to find new accommodation and this led to quite a number of moves. The first was to the 'India Arms Hotel' in the high Street. After this the Lodge had many new homes, which I shall mention but not necessarily in order. The various homes of the 'Sir William Poole' ranged from: the 'Victory Inn', the 'Seahorse', the 'Queen's Head' (North Street), the 'Star Hotel', the 'Crown Hotel' (North Street) to the 'Queen's Hotel' (Queen's Road).

Eventually, in 1957, it moved to the 'RAOB Memorial Club' in Forton Road and has regained the prosperity that it previously held. The Lodge meets every Friday evening.

Excelsior Lodge No. 3485

The 'Excelsior Lodge' No 3485 was opened at the 'Bugle Hotel', Titchfield, on the 11th February 1921 and its founders were Bro PT Kiddle CP, Bro A Newlyn CP, Bro A Churcher CP and Bro AJ Sillence CP.

Whilst at the 'Bugle Hotel' the Rev Canon SG Morley became a member of the Order. He was a very keen and interested member of the Order and in due course became PGP of the Province. He was also the instigator of the Children's Toy Service. This annual event still continues each year.

After several years at the 'Bugle Hotel' the Lodge eventually moved to the 'Coach and Horses' at Titchfield and meets there every Friday evening. Bro Phil Hayes KOM [*of this lodge*] is the Provincial Grand Primo for this year [1975].

Shakespeare Lodge No. 3004

The 'Shakespeare' Lodge No 6013 was opened on the 28th August 1926 and was held at the 'Glencoe Hotel', Elson. Its founder members were Bro AF Taverner ROH, Bro EA Baxter KOM, Bro E Mould KOM and Bro TW Percival CP.

The Lodge held its meetings here until the 30th March 1937. It carried on at the 'Junction Tavern' in Whitworth Road, the first meeting in its new home taking place on the 6th April 1937 and the last the 30th November 1937. On the 7th December 1937 the Lodge opened at the 'Gipsy Queen' and it moved to the 'Foresters Arms' on the 11th January 1938. It continued here until the 22nd November 1938 and then moved back to the 'Gipsy Queen' on the 29th November 1938. On the 7th December 1939 the Lodge moved to the 'Victory Inn', Forton Road and continued there until the 1st December 1956. Its last and final move (I hope) was to the 'RAOB Memorial Club' Forton Road, on the 2nd June 1957. The Lodge meets there every Wednesday evening.

William of Wykham Lodge No. 6139

The 'William of Wykham' Lodge No 6139 was opened at the 'Kings Head' in Wickham. It was in this Lodge that the late Bro B Hibbard was raised to the second degree. After leaving Wickham he affiliated to the 'Sir Harry Knapp' and in due time was raised to the third and fourth degrees. He was elected PGP for 1955. The Lodge, after a long stay at the 'King's Head' moved to the 'White Lion' in Wickham but the outbreak of World War II brought about the closing of this Lodge.

Ad Astral Lodge No. 6538

The 'Ad Astral' Lodge No 6538 was opened at the 'Victoria Hotel' in Lee-on-Solent by members of the RAF as the title indicates. It was a well attended Lodge and continued there until 1938 when the RAF Station was taken over by the Fleet Air Arm. The Lodge then moved to the 'Inn by the Sea' but on the outbreak of World War II the membership started to drop and eventually the Lodge amalgamated with the 'Shakespeare' Lodge.

Progress Lodge No. 6897

The 'Progress' Lodge No 6897 opened at the 'White Lion' in Soberton. Many happy meetings were held there with such members as Bro The Rev D Holland PPGP, Bro Jack Adams PPGP, Bro Bill Sharp, Bro Dick Childs, Bro F Mathews and many other stalwarts of the Lodge. I regret to say that several of these Brothers have now passed to the Grand Lodge Above. Once again, World War II affected the membership of this Lodge, resulting in its closure about 1940.

Arnheim Lodge No. 7719

The 'Arnheim' Lodge No 7719 was opened at the 'Wicor Mill', Porchester on the 25th July 1945 and its founders were Bro EG McCarthy CP, Bro WH Barron CP and Bro RW Plumb CP. After many years at the 'Wicor Mill' the Lodge moved to the 'Grove Club' at Paulsgrove. Eventually, after about twenty five years in the Province of Portsmouth the Lodge transferred to the Gosport and District Province and now meets at the 'New Inn', Old Turnpike, Fareham every Thursday evening.

Green Valley Lodge No. 7947

The 'Green Valley' Lodge No7947 was opened at the 'New Inn', Hambledon on the 2nd March 1948 and its founders were Bro W Lucas ROH, and Bro H Pyle CP.

It is a very happy Lodge and any visiting Brothers can be assured of an enjoyable evening there.

I have had the privilege of raising several brothers to the Third and Fourth Degrees in this Lodge. The Provincial Grand Secretary Bro Bob Morrison KOM and his son Bro Ian Morrison CP are both members of this Lodge which meets every Friday evening.

D-Day Lodge No. 8138

The 'D-Day' Lodge No 8138 was opened on the 8th October 1949 at the 'Red Lion Tap', West Street, Fareham and its founder members were Bro FL Searle ROH, Bro W Johnson ROH, Bro WG Carpenter CP and Bro AW Sawyer CP.

After several years here the Lodge moved to the 'White Horse', West Street. Later the Lodge moved to the 'Royal Oak'. The Lodge continued here for quite a while but finally moved to the 'New Inn', Old Turnpike, Fareham and meets there every Friday evening. Amongst its members are a father and two sons, namely Bro F Searle ROH, Bro L Searle ROH and Bro E Searle KOM.

2006 update:

Subsequent moves have been:

1977 Moved to The Dustbin Club, Fareham.

1999 Moved to Searle's Club.

Newberry Lodge No. 8193

The 'Newberry' Lodge No 8193 was opened at the 'Victory Inn', Forton Road on the 8th April 1950 and its founders were Bro HF Taylor ROH, and Bro A Cluett CP. The Lodge continued well for a time but attendance started to fall off. In spite of this the Lodge strived to carry on but eventually on the 20th April 1955, just five years after its opening, the Lodge amalgamated with the 'Shakespeare' Lodge.

Royal Sovereign Lodge No. 9556

The 'Royal Sovereign' Lodge No 9556 was opened at the 'Great Harry' at Warsash on the 7th February 1967 and its founders were Bro JW Fox KOM, Bro W Johnson KOM Bro L Shaw CP and Bro A Burrige KOM. After some time here the Lodge moved to Sarisbury Green but apparently the move was not a success so the Lodge moved back again to the 'Great Harry'. It used to meet here on a Tuesday evening. Although the attendance was not large what it lacked in numbers was made up for in keenness and it was due to the members of this Lodge that a record sum of money was raised for the 1974 Toy Service.

This Lodge amalgamated with the 'Excelsior' in 1976.

Waltham Lodge No. 9747

The 'Waltham' Lodge No 9747 was opened at the 'Mafeking Heroes' at Bishops Waltham on the 3rd September 1970 and its founders were Bro JA Beckinsale and Bro DA Beckinsale. The Lodge continued here for some time but afterwards moved to the 'White Swan' in Bank Street where it met every Thursday evening, but as attendance started to fall it was decided to change the day and the time of the meeting. It now meets every Sunday at noon and visiting brothers are very welcome.

St Vincent Lodge No. 6696

The 'St Vincent' Lodge No 6696 was formed at the RAOB Memorial Club, Forton Road, on the 15th September 1974. Its founders were Bro R Morrison KOM, Bro F Lynch ROH, Bro AT Bailey ROH and Bro LR Allen ROH.

There was a very large gathering of brothers at the ceremony, which was performed by Bro M Boynton ROH Provincial Grand Primo and his officers. This is another Lodge that meets every Sunday at Noon. As this was the last Lodge to be formed in Gosport and District I wish it every success.

Other Lodges

The other Lodges not previously mentioned were the 'Minstrel' Lodge and the 'Unity' Lodge. They were in existence when we came under the Province of Portsmouth and the only record I have of these is that one met at the 'Delme Arms' and the other at the 'Red Lion' in Fareham. Both Lodges were closed before the Provincial Grand Lodge of Gosport was inaugurated.

In concluding I wish to thank those Brothers who supplied information, which greatly assisted me in compiling this brief history of the Province.

PG Malone ROH 1975.

In the Light of the Royal Flame

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or why we should have candles and not electric Royal Lights.

When I'm dead and gone, from a greater link
I'll look down on earth and happily think
Down there (or up) depends where I be
Tonight there is peace and harmony.
So! Down a rainbow I'll happily dodge
To join in the link of my 'Mother Lodge'
And so in our Lodge tonight
Are those who live in the Royal Light.

"An alarm at the Tyle" but we heard nought
Only a ghostly Tyler saw who sought
Unheard they rapped on our Lodge door
Unseen they crossed our Lodge Room floor
In a ghostly register, in spectral ink
They sign to join our Earthly link.
They've returned again this night
And they live in the flame of the Royal Light.

They are Brothers, on Earth no more
Spirits of Buffaloes gone before;
Some of them Died, that we'd be free
To hold this Lodge in Liberty
Some – but what matter the 'how or whys'
It's the spirit that lives; only body dies.
They guard the Buffaloes honoured name
And they live in the light of the Royal Flame.

When my time comes, as come it must
In you my Brother, I'll put my trust
For I know that you'll be there to be
My Sponsors for that last Degree
Down a rainbow, I'll happily dodge
To join in the link of my Mother Lodge
I'll ask no reward and I'll claim no fame
Only to live in the light of the Royal Flame.

Bro W A C Hartman ROH



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A Brief History of Buffaloism in Portsmouth

Compiled by Bro RA Wilkinson RoH, Provincial Grand Primo of Portsmouth 1988.

Acknowledgement

As Chief Officer of our Province, in this the Centenary year, it is with grateful thanks to Bro P Duncan KOM, for his research which enables us to get a glimpse into the History of the Order in the Portsmouth area. I feel sure that this will prompt further research and will result in a second edition in the future.

Bro RA Wilkinson ROH, Provincial Grand Primo of Portsmouth 1988

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For the student of our Buffalo History, there is very little that is written of those early days, especially of our own local area. With no controlling body, few if any records were kept.

What is known though is that in 1861 a lodge did meet here in Portsmouth, at the 'White Hart', Portsea. The name of the Lodge is not given and later it moved to the 'Prince of Wales', Hambrook Street and from there it moved to the 'Norfolk Arms' and shortly after this move it closed. Why again is not so certain, but bearing in mind that at this period in our evolution, the bulk of our members were from the acting profession, which in itself was an iterate way of life, it is no wonder that the Lodges found numerous abodes, but opened and closed without prior warning.

The big breakthrough in any information can be said to commence from 1866 when, for the first time, all the existing Lodges met and agreed to one Governing Body (now the Grand Lodge Of England). With the formation of this Body a constitution was drawn up, with the resulting uniformity in all procedures and ceremonies. One person to whom we are a great deal indebted is a Bro Harry Pearce, who for fourteen years, was the Grand Secretary and in the course wrote many articles and accounts of those early days.

A list of Lodges which was published in 1874 as part of a Bye-law of the 'Truth and Sincerity' Lodge near Dewsbury, shows that at that time there were two Lodges in our area, and to add to the confusion, they are shown as under the 'Grand Lodge of Lancashire'. The names of these are given as the 'Peasbody' Lodge who met at the 'Sultan Tavern' in Southsea, and a 'Prince of Wales' Lodge. No Abode is given for this Lodge but could it be the unnamed Lodge 1861 with yet one more home? A directory published in 1882 lists the strength of the GLE as 60 Lodges.

In 1881 we find the ex members of the collapsed Lodge from the 'Norfolk Arms' took steps to re-open with a change of name and location, the venue being the 'Old Roebuck' High Street, Gosport, under that name.

Four years later, in 1885 at the 'India Arms' Great Southsea Street, the 'Loyal Saxe Weimar' Lodge was opened, and shortly after the Lodge moved to the 'Star & Garter' Broad Street, Old Portsmouth.

The year of 1887 would appear to have been a good year for Buffaloism in Portsmouth for in that year Lodges opened with frequency and in May alone two Lodges were inaugurated within a few days of each other. The first to open was the 'Jubilee Star' that opened its doors at the 'Hyde Park Tavern' and at that first meeting it is recorded that over a hundred members were present. Within days the 'Gus Raymond' Lodge was opened at the 'Cobden Hotel'. It is a point of interest that Gus Raymond was the name of the Brother who was mainly responsible for the re-opening of the collapsed Lodge from the 'Norfolk Arms'.

Portsmouth it would appear was now strong enough to form a Provincial Grand Lodge in its own right and in April 1888 their application received approval, from that date. The inaugural meeting was held and the first Provincial Grand Primo of Portsmouth elected was a Colonel Lockhart-Kennedy.

In passing, it is worth remembering that 1888 was also the year of the Great Split, (happily this was not due to our becoming a Province) the result of the split as we all know was the formation of such bodies as the 'Grand Surry Banner, Grand Lodge Executive Banner, Grand Council and others. In spite of this setback to the Order the Province prospered under the wise guidance of the Provincial Grand Primo and other dedicated brethren such as Bro Sir Francis Morgan, Bro A M Dixon and Bro George Pennel. It should prove an interesting study for someone to discover if any descendants of these brethren are still in our Province. We have been informed by Bro George Baker ROH, PPGP, that in fact in 1948 a Bro Pennel was an active though elderly member of the 'St George' Lodge, could this have been the son of the former? Under the guidance of these then, many Lodges were formed.

The 'Queen's Head', the 'Dolphin', the 'Fawcett', the 'Tevert', the 'Richmond', the 'Clarence' the 'Earnest', the 'Loyal Fareham' the 'Victors', the 'George Peters', the 'Loyal Graham' and also the 'Crystal Palace' Lodges which are now sadly lost to history.

There is happily one exception to this, the 'Queen's Head' is still functioning though sadly now much depleted and only meeting once each month with the addition of the word 'Loyal' maybe through amalgamation, who knows?

Regretfully, in time and because of the demise and retirement of those early, dedicated brethren, our new Province fell into decline, almost it could be said into obscurity. Lodges opened quickly, and with little thought or support, closed, until eventually our Governing Authority as a Provincial Grand Lodge became forfeit. There is no record of who was then governing authority; however, doggedness and determination to survive did pay off, for in 1897 our fortunes had changed so that the brethren were again in a position to apply to reconstitute the Provincial Grand Lodge, which was approved.

Since that happy day, we, as a Province have persevered with both good and bad times, and in this initial period we find our second surviving Lodge being inaugurated 'St Georges' and not only does this Lodge survive, but its original home still stands in spite of the bombing during World War II, the 'Blue Anchor', Kingston Crescent.

Shortly after saw the opening of the 'Fratton' Lodge whose home for a number of years was in a hostelry that did not survive the bombs, the 'Fratton Hotel', Fratton Bridge. Soon after losing its home the Lodge closed its own doors forever.

1909 Convention

The next milestone in our history has to be 1909. This is the year, which saw us capable of hosting the Ninth Triennial Convention, which was held in the Town Hall. At this convention the Grand Primo, Bro R J Hickling, in his address to the members stated “Much of the success of this Convention is due to the hard and dedicated work and industry of Bros Edwin Rose and William Poole.” Again it would be interesting to know of the whereabouts of any descendents.

A number of good resolutions still in force today came from this Convention. The much-discussed ‘Convalescence Scheme’ was finally put forward as a motion by a Bro A Hewitt ROH, and supported by Bro Tuck KOM, both of Portsmouth, how many Brethren, through the years have had cause to give thanks for this scheme. Yet one more important move was made at the Portsmouth Convention, but alas it came to no fruition. Grand Lodge put forward a plan for the reunification of the whole Buffalo Order. It was, as all present commented, “a sound and reasonable idea;” sadly the other bodies ignored it. After this snub the GLE resolved that in future no action would be taken on this, unless it was first mooted by the other sources.

Here at Portsmouth the wise decision was made to change Grand Lodge from a monthly meeting to each quarter, also, here was seen the last of the innocuous resident Delegate System. Yet another change was to adopt officially the term Worthy Primo in place of the previous Sitting Primo.

One step was made in a reunification when Convention agreed to allow all members of the Limited Section access to minor Lodges of the Grand Order of England.

On the whole our history tells us the 1908 Convention was one of the most pleasant and harmonious meetings. One complaint only is on record. There were some difficulties found, owing to the acoustic properties of the Town Hall!

Inauguration of Gosport & District Province

Portsmouth continued its progress with yet more Lodges being added to its roll. This resulted in the next milestone in our brief history. The number of Lodges, and the area covered had now extended so much that, in 1921, our Brethren in the Gosport district felt the need to control their own destiny, and in that year the Gosport and District Provincial Grand Lodge came into being.

At one swoop such well known Lodges as: ‘Sir Harry Knapp’, the ‘Imperial’ and ‘Sir Harry Crisp’ were removed from our roll of Lodges, yet in spite of the break, both Provinces since that time have trodden the Buffalo path side by side and with a degree of amicability.

The loss of those Gosport Lodges, whilst being a regrettable thing, meant no lasting decline in our own Province because we can record the opening of such new Lodges as:

‘Duke of York’, ‘Silver Badge’, ‘Earl Beatty’ and the ‘King George V’.

By their very names we can practically date these Lodges, as in the post WWI patriotic era of the early twenties, a phenomenon repeated in the mid forties, sadly the four named are now only history like so many of the Lodges opened in the forties.

Much (but not all) of the success of our order in the city of Portsmouth in the past can be attributed to the close ties with the armed forces. Many of our past and present Brethren formed their initial contacts through their time in the services, and what better place to renew old contacts and meet new ones, than in the harmonious atmosphere of a Minor Lodge: more so if one oneself

ins a strange town or city. The end result, no matter the reason, was progress and progress Portsmouth did, a fact that no critic of our Province can deny. Not so long ago Portsmouth Province was in the happy state of being the Governing Authority for around thirty Minor Lodges, covering almost the whole of Hampshire and West Sussex.

During the mid Sixties, we again suffered the pangs and trauma of separation when the Brethren of the Lodges in the Havant area made the decision to go their separate way. Eventually they received the permission of Grand Lodge to form their own Province and again some very fine Lodges were lost to Portsmouth:

‘St Faiths’: ‘Pride of Westbourne’: ‘Emsworth’: ‘Pride of Hayling’ and the ‘Island’.

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‘Earl Beatty’ Lodge No. 2676

This Lodge originally met in the ‘Sir Robert Peel’ and from the start was a popular Lodge. It moved to the ‘Pelham’ then later the ‘Ashburton’ and lastly to the ‘Shearer’ where, eventually, lack of numbers forced amalgamation with the ‘Tamar’ Lodge.

‘King George V’ Lodge No. 2832

The Lodge opened during one of the periods in the Province when our fortunes were on the upsurge. For many Years it held it’s meetings at the ‘Mile End Cellars’ but a change of host meant a change of venue, and towards the end of a memorable life it resided in the ‘Lord Clive’.

‘Duke of York’ Lodge No. 3852

Like so many of our Lodges this one had several homes, until it found itself at the ‘New Roebuck’ but again demise and other matters saw a decline in numbers until another fine Lodge was lost to history’.

‘Pride of Liphook’ Lodge No. 3507

This Lodge is unique in the Province in that it has not only had a change of home, but has had three Governing Authorities. It was opened in 1821 under the old ‘South West Surry’ Authority. When that body closed it was absorbed into the nearby ‘Aldershot’ Province. However, because of travel problems during WWII, it was transferred to the authority of Portsmouth PGL.

Since 1921 it has had homes at the ‘Railway Hotel’, Green Dragon’, ‘Bramshot Parish Club’ and the ‘Royal Anchor’. The Lodge is one of the very few Lodges to have been visited by a Grand Primo.

1971 – Bro Dick Beasley ROH, and in 1981 – Bro N Crump ROH.

It has also had its share of Provincial Grand Primos throughout the years. They hold meetings each Monday at the ‘Royal Anchor’.

‘Castle’ Lodge No. 4275

One of the very few Lodges lost to us through a closure. Whilst in being this was a most lively part of the Province and held their meetings for a time at the ‘Men’s Club’, South Harting, and later at the ‘Swan Inn’ Midhurst.

The Lodge itself may be gone but if one is to look very carefully around the Province the much evidence of them can be found in Regalia items.

'Enterprise' Lodge No. 3992

One of the many Sussex Lodges; home for this Lodge was the 'Red Lion' at Petworth.

'Royal Sussex' Lodge No. 6458

Happily still with us, and going very strong, they meet every Tuesday. Homes they have known have been at the 'Spitfire Club', Tangmere, but now they can be found at the 'New Inn' Chichester.

'Pride of Waterloo' Lodge No. 7367

This Lodge met for many years at the 'Leopard', Purbrook, until sadly they had a bad spell which resulted in them closing their doors for a few months, but perseverance won through and it re-opened once more at the 'Social Club', Queen Alexandria Hospital on a Thursday.

'Pride of Bognor Regis' Lodge No. 8476

Yet again, one of our defunct Lodges. When it was open and thriving it met regularly at the 'Bedford Hotel', Bognor.

'Pyramids' Lodge No. 8673

This, of all of our Lodges, is the only Lodge to meet on a Sunday. It holds meetings at the 'Shearer Arms', but before this has known homes at the 'Race Club' and the 'Ashburton'. Only a small Lodge but a real Buffalo atmosphere prevails.

Note: Now meets at the RAOB Club.

'Tamar' Lodge No. 9146

The Tamar was opened in the Sixties by several Brethren of the 'King George V' Lodge. It first held its meetings at the 'Mile End Cellars' but soon after moved to the 'Park Tavern'. Upon the opening of the RAOB Club it moved there. It also, for a time, met at the 'Charles Dickens' however due to demolition, and at the request of the Brethren of the 'Earl Beatty' for support: amalgamation followed and the 'Tamar Lodge No2676, as it was now titled, moved to the 'Shearer' but now meets on Monday at the 'Electric Arms'.

Note: Now meets at the RAOB Club.

'Railway' Lodge No. 559

An early Lodge that is no longer around, it met at the 'Clacton Arms'. Regrettably none of its story can be recalled.

'Railway' Lodge No. 9535

This Lodge is reputed to have been opened by Railway Workers, reports also show it to have met at the 'Railway Club', Museum Gardens' and the RAOB Club.

'Revival' Lodge No. 9283

First opened its doors in 1962 and since its opening has proved to be one of our more successful country Lodges. It now meets at the 'Petersfield Social Club' every Friday. Prior to its present home the Lodge met at the YMCA Gardens.

'Pride of Liss' Lodge [No. Not known]

The Lodge was based at the 'Spread Eagle', Liss, and when eventually numbers became so small the remaining Brethren joined forces with the 'Pride of Liphook' Lodge.

'Bren Besti Five Manors' Lodge No. 10163

This Lodge new a short but prosperous life. It was opened in Liphook in 1978, they found however, a struggle to keep going and finally folded in 1984.

'Regis' Lodge No. 10379

The 'Regis' is one of our younger Lodges but I can assure you, what it lacks in years, it makes up for in enthusiasm. It originally opened as a monthly Lodge, but has made such progress in its life that it now meets fortnightly. Meetings are held at the 'Victoria Hotel', Bognor.

Note: Now transferred to the Brighton Province.

'Earl Haig' Lodge No. 3189

One of those Lodges opened in the exuberant era of post WWI. They met regularly at the 'Newcome Arms' but alas, as are so many others, no longer in existence. A record is known of an unveiling ceremony to the late Bro W G Woodland ROH PPGP, which was carried out by the Rev E O Lloyd of Midhurst on Tuesdays July 19th 1949 an invitation card having survived the years.

'Tony Mearns' Lodge No. 10407

The 'Baby' Lodge of the Province, which happily replaces the lost Lodge of Liss, where it meets at the 'Tamale Inn' every Tuesday.

Note: Now transferred to the Aldershot Province.

'Barham' Lodge [No. Not known]

A Lodge which very little is known; it was operating until the mid Twenties and then for a reason unknown, it amalgamated with the 'St Georges' Lodge. Could it perhaps have been associated with the Battleship of that name, remember at one time Lodges were permitted aboard Naval Vessels, until after the Invergordon Mutiny that is.

Note: In fact RN Ships Lodges did continue after the Invergordon Mutiny. The aircraft carrier HMS Centaur held a Grand Council Lodge aboard in the 1960's, which 'came ashore' when the ship decommissioned, as the 'Amalgamated Centaur' Lodge, meeting at the 'Queen's Head' and then the 'Wiltshire Lamb' in Gosport before eventually closing in the 1970's.

'Sir Arthur Redding' Lodge No. 3550

This Lodge was opened and named after a living person, which was permissible in those days. Who was this person to have a Lodge named after him? They met at first in the 'Alma Tavern', moving to the 'Eastfield Hotel', later to a final home in the 'Bridge Tavern'.

'Mercury' Lodge [No. Not known]

Originally they met at the 'Bird in Hand', Lovedean, from there to the 'Good Intent', Horndean, where they built their own Lodgeroom in the grounds from an old Army hut which they obtained.

'Pride of Petersfield' Lodge [No. Not known]

Once again a Lodge of which very little is known or can be found. It is known, as its name implies, that the Lodge met in Petersfield.

'Absit Invidia' Lodge No. 9835

This is another of our monthly Lodges meeting on the second Tuesday each month. The Lodge did originally meet in the 'Pompey' but have now moved to the 'Engineers Club', Southsea.

Note: Now meets at the RAOB Club.

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