

# Education and Training Group Minutes 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2011

Present:- V. Thomas, D. Young, J. Boughton, J. Benson, M. Gorrod, O. Davison, A. Kersley, G. Crawford

Apologies:- R. Hirst, D Jackson

Minutes 17<sup>th</sup> September 2010 accepted

Matters arising; none not covered in agenda

Reports;

**Libraries and Museums** – JBo. reported that work was continuing but that R and M McCarthy had not been well with B McCarthy going into hospital today. Consequently the rate of progress had slowed but he still hoped to have the Library up and running for the next season. He has been given the name of someone who might be willing to oversee the running of the Northampton Library. AK reported that the situation with regard to access at Peterborough was much the same.

Following a comment from GC with regard to storage much discussion ensued with regard to Lodge artefacts and records. The general opinion was that Lodges should catalogue their records and decide how best to store valuable items (valuable not only in the monetary sense but also historical).

Should each Lodge have a record of all members from consecration? **VT to discuss with PGM**

Should each Lodge have an inventory which is passed to Masters at installation?

JBe commented that Huntingdon has many books but that there does not appear to be any system for cataloguing. There is a need for a volunteer to undertake this task. Is this true of other centres?

**Lol:-** JBe has come to the conclusion that little can be done to change the mind set of existing groups or in deed should be done as in their own way they are doing a good job in keeping up standards.

A way forward might be to encourage the formation of centre discussion groups along the lines of the Brixworth group. AK reported that a MM's forum has been set up at Peterborough which has gone down well. DY is producing a document for the guidance of discussion groups, whereby ritual is not discussed but the mechanics of masonry are.

**Mentoring:-** RH absent; written report submitted.

**Orations:-** MG welcomed by VT who also thanked DY for all his work.

MG still feels that Lodges should be encouraged to have one meeting a year that is not a ceremony but that explores aspects of the Craft. He would also like Lol's to make use of the team to receive short talks for discussion. It would appear that we can now presents Orations in our own words providing that the general sense and meaning is retained. This may well help in making Orations more acceptable to the members. It was also agreed that the way in which a talk/discussion/oration is published (the advert) on a summons can affect its' attraction to the members.

MG and J Harvey having taken on the group are doing a good job and will continue to develop same.

**VT will ask PGM and Executive to continue to encourage use of the group throughout the Province.**

**Demonstrations:-** OD reported that the group continues perform in and out of the Province and are at present developing a play concerning the Antients and Moderns and another, the formation of the RMBI,

which is to be premiered at Kettering in December. They also have scripts for Antients 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> degree ceremonies.

**Officer Training:-** JBo reported that DC training events had taken place at N'pton and Peterborough, reports already posted on the web site, with one Wardens evening already held at Peterborough and another yet to be held at N'pton. Feedback thus far has been good with much discussion taking place at all meetings. The Provincial Almoner and Charity Steward have held meetings with Lodge officers.

JBo is encouraging Lodges not only to purchase a copy of Graham Redmans book, Emulation Working Today, but also to make use of it. We are an Emulation Province, with one or two exceptions, and although individual Lodge procedures might vary we should not stray from that which is acceptable. Where a Lodge does decide to 'embellish' Emulation it should commit to paper its version and the reasons for adopting it (given that its version is indeed acceptable, if in doubt check with Province).

**I.T. database:-** AK feels that the title of this sub-group needs to change to cover the Daily Advancement site and Richard Sandbach Lodge of Research (RSLoR).

The Daily Advancement site should be developed as a "learning resource centre" with official orations/lectures being moved to a secure area of the main Provincial site. The site will be brought under the auspices of the RSLoR.

AK feels that more contributions and members could be made and he has approval to open it out to other Research Lodges as an initial step, followed by the UK Masons list if all goes well. The site should be seen as a resource/focal point for all the activity, materials, discussion, questions and support being carried out by this group. VT asked if this would make it too large for AK to administer. AK replied that he had already enlisted the help of K Corcoran and would get others to help if this became a problem.

AK then gave a report on the changes happening within RSLoR, with moves to carry out more research and to open communications up with the Demo and Orations groups. He suggested that the Lodge should act as a 'testing ground' for any new material/plays, to get constructive input/contribution from the Lodge prior to going 'live' with the material. There are many ideas being discussed by the Lodge to see how it might feed into the Education programme within the Province, but it will take time to consider, formulate and plan any new ideas.

**I.T. web site:-** GC reported that there is a password protected area for Secretaries, DC's and Almoners containing orations, lectures etc. Password magazine is now online.

In 2010 the website 19,982 unique visitors(55 a day) who visited the site 27,522 times

Visits for Jan & Feb 2011 are 18% up on the same period last year.

In Feb 2011 the online winter edition of Password was visited 857 times

Meeting closed at 12-05pm

Next meeting : September