

The Travelling Gavel

The Travelling Gavel was presented to Loyal Lodge by Worshipful Brother Robert Proctor and St Martin's Lodge Chatham Massachusetts in 1996, the year after Loyal Lodge 251 twinned with St Martin's. WBro Bob Proctor and WBro Roger Chapple were the respective Masters the year before. The twinning ceremony went well, after a Third Degree on the same night (someone thought it would be a good idea for St Martin's to see 'how we did it!') and in the presence of the entire executive of the Province (save one Assistant Provincial Grand Master), and WBro Roger's first ceremony after his installation! Also in keeping with St Martin's tradition WBro Bob wore a top hat throughout the Ceremony!

When presented the Gavel, (which is some three feet long) had a note of the Travelling Gavel Rules displayed on a small engraved rigid plastic notice hung around the shaft by a small chain. It was suggested the Gavel should stay within the Province of Devonshire but it soon travelled far and wide and very quickly we had no idea where it was.

WBro Bob Proctor's eyesight is now failing but he still attends St Martins Lodge meetings as often as he can and he remains an Honorary Member of Loyal Lodge 251. Once again the Secretaries of both Lodges are exchanging information and Summonses.

Although the History of the Gavels Travels has not been continuously recorded we know that it has been claimed and held by the following Lodges:

- Duncombe Lodge No 1486
- Benevolent Lodge No 303 Devon
- 11 January 2002 to: Leyton Grange Park Lodge No 5473 Essex
- 3 October 2002 to: Daws Heath Lodge No 7446 Essex
- Loyalty & Friendship Lodge No 7466 London
- Harmony Lodge No 156 Devon
- June 2005 to: Loyal Lodge No 251 Devon
- Crescent Lodge No 5054 Surbiton, Surrey
- 21 January 2008 to: Tamesa Lodge No 6806 Surrey
- 5 February 2009 to: Friends Lodge No 9789 Surbiton, Surrey
- Tessera Lodge No 7131 Surrey
- June 2010 to: Hospitality & Concord Lodge No 8645 Dorset
- Horsa Lodge No 2208 Bournemouth
- 21 February 2011 to: The Fitzwilliam Lodge No 2533
Peterborough

Where it resides at present although we are hopeful it will be on the move again soon!

WBro Jonathon Hibbins PPGStwd
PM of Fitzwilliam Lodge No 2533
October 2014