

Bridge Trust Lodge Report 2012-2013



It is a great pleasure for me to be invited to submit a report on Bridge Trust Lodge.

Bridge Trust Lodge currently has 17 members ranging in age from 93 to 44 years and has enjoyed a successful year, culminating in our February Meeting when we hosted 10 Masonic Old Boys who are members of other masonic Lodges, and who accepted our invitation to visit us, their Old School Lodge. As their start dates at HGS ranged from 1942 to 1992 they had many varied experiences to exchange, and greatly enjoyed each other's and our company. Our current Worshipful Master is Peter Jones, Head of Science at HGS, who was pleased to bring the assembled company up-to-date with the initiatives being implemented by Simon Bird, the recently appointed Head Teacher. Peter generously offered to arrange tours of the School, an offer which has been readily taken up by several of the visiting Old Boys.

In the past three years, we have been pleased to have welcomed two new members, both of whom are Old Boys of the School, and we are more than willing to talk to anyone about membership of the Lodge in respect of which let me give you a little bit of background information.

The Preamble to our Lodge By-Laws states that the Lodge was originally established primarily for the association and convenience of Old Boys of Bridge Trust School (now Handsworth Grammar School), that is to say, boys who were educated at the School and also men who are, or were, Masters, Trustees or Members of the Governing Body of the School, or of the members of the family of an old boy, or member of the School.

So what is Freemasonry?

Freemasonry is one of the world's oldest and largest non-religious, non-political, fraternal and charitable organisations. Its values are based on integrity, kindness, honesty and fairness. Members come from all walks of life and meet as equals, whatever their religion, race or position in society. Members learn moral lessons and self-knowledge through participation in a progression of ceremonies, which are learnt by heart and performed within each Lodge. These follow ancient forms, and use stonemasons' customs and tools as allegorical guides.

Charity: From its earliest day Freemasonry has been concerned with caring for those disadvantaged by circumstances beyond their control, and this work continues today through members playing an active role in their own communities. Since 1980 over one hundred million pounds has been granted to national and local charities through The Freemasons' Grand Charity, which also responds to natural disasters that occur anywhere in the world. We do not undertake any external fund-raising; all money donated comes from our own efforts.

Please feel free to contact me should you wish to chat about Freemasonry,

Brian Tuckwell,

Past Lodge Master and Past Society President