

Old Pocklingtonian Lodge



No. 7867

As Worshipful Master, and on behalf of the Officers and Brethren, of the Old Pocklingtonian Lodge No 7867, I warmly invite you to the 70th Meeting of the Federation of School Lodges. The Lodge is both pleased and honoured to host the Federation's Annual Festival in this significant year of its history and for Freemasonry in general, being the 300th Anniversary of the founding of the United Grand Lodge of England.

"For the hands that I clasp, and the friends that I greet,

Seem a little closer every time that we meet" – Author Unknown.

We look forward to hosting you and your fellow brethren at Pocklington School, West Green, Pocklington York YO42 2NJ on 2nd September 2017 from 12:00. We trust that the proceedings will prove interesting and entertaining. Should you have any questions with regards to the arrangements please do not hesitate to contact our Festival Secretary, whose details are reproduced below.

Peter C Brown

W Bro Peter C Brown – Worshipful Master.

History of the Old Pocklingtonian Lodge – Founded 6th April 1963

Preliminary steps were made to form a lodge for the Masters and Old Boys of the School both before and immediately after World War II. It was by the concerted efforts of Bro. T Pay, an esteemed English Master who found ways to bring the lessons of Masonry into his School classes, that progress was made in the early 1960's towards this early aim. At a meeting at the Half Moon Hotel, York on 21 May 1962, with the assistance of the Social Secretaries of the Old Boys association, a decision was made to petition for a warrant.

Twenty one brethren signed the petition hailing from 18 different lodges, with seven joining members and seven candidates for initiation to join post Consecration. Given the diverse masonic origins of the Founders it was inevitable that the ritual from the earliest days of the Lodge was unique, causing headaches to Directors of Ceremonies throughout the Lodge's history. *"We didn't do that in my day..."* or *"In my Lodge..."*.

The Lodge was Consecrated on 6th April 1963 by the Most Honourable the Marquess of Zetland, the Right Worshipful Provincial Grand Master, ably assisted by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master.

Whilst membership grew rapidly in the early years, by the 1990's it was apparent that the Lodge ought to open its membership to include Friends of the Lodge. Nonetheless, the Lodge has maintained its "School Lodge" identity. It cannot be doubted that it would have given great satisfaction to the Founders that on the 50th Anniversary of Consecration (in April 2013) the Installing Master and the newly installed Master were Old Boys (2001 and 2005 respectively).

On that occasion, the remaining Founder (the oldest member of the Lodge) was awarded his 60 Years Certificate, and then acted as Inner Guard during the Inner Workings for the Installation of the Lodge's youngest member.

The Lodge is pleased to be a subscribing member of the Federation. Furthermore it supports and, on rotation, hosts "cluster meetings" of local School Lodges in order to maintain healthy rivalries developed from School days.

Stepping off with a left foot into the future it is confident that the principles and tenets of the Craft will be transmitted pure and unpolluted through this Lodge from generation to generation.

The Author is greatly indebted to W Bro Peter Craven and his history "Old Pocklingtonian Lodge: The First Fifty Years" authored to mark the Lodge's 50th Anniversary on 6th April 2013.

History of Pocklington School

2014 saw the 500th Anniversary of the School's foundation by John Dolman, under licence of Henry VIII dated 24th May 1514. The School was re-founded further to Brexit Mark 1 (King Henry's break with the Roman Church) and its subsequent impact on Institutions with Guild foundations such as Pocklington. In the period that followed the School's fortunes fluctuated along with those of a Country divided.

By the 18th century the School was on firmer foundations. It is from this period that one of the School's greatest sons, William Wilberforce, arose to leave his mark on history: the 1807 abolition of Slave Trade in the British Empire. It was whilst at the School that Wilberforce first opposed the "odious traffic in human flesh". The beacon was passed to his parliamentary followers who achieved the abolition of Slavery itself in 1833, the year of Wilberforce's death.

In addition to Dolman and Wilberforce, the houses of the School are named after Gruggen and Hutton in honour of the efforts of those noteworthy Headmasters.

The School and its Alumni paid a heavy sacrifice during both World Wars. In the Second War the School was bombed however in the words of the Headmaster at the time, the School was "Jarred but not jiggered".

The School continues to thrive in modern times offering a broad education to boys and girls. An ample measure of the School's success is the diverse areas of life enhanced by the work and efforts of Old Pocklingtonians in this country and abroad *with truth and courage* ("Virtute et Veritate").

Burnby Hall Gardens

These are home to the UK National Collection of Hardy water lilies and is the largest collection in a natural setting in Europe. Set in 8 acres, in addition to the two lakes there is a rockery, Stumpery, Victorian Garden, Secret Garden, formal beds and a natural shrubbery.

There is also the Stewart Museum dedicated to the travels of Major Percy Marlborough Stewart and the eight world tours he took between 1906 and 1926. On his death the Gardens were left in trust for the people of Pocklington.

The Gardens are situated about 500 yards from the School entrance

Web site:- www.burnbyhallgardens.com

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