



In the following few pages, I have compiled a brief history of the **Earlham** Lodge this includes detailed information appertaining to the Foundation, and Consecration Fifty years ago, through to the present day.

I have only been involved with the Lodge since 1980 consequently, I have had to primarily rely on information gleaned from various publications of that time, and some of the older Brethren's memories, to which they all admit to "*slight lapses*" on specific details.

Nevertheless, I believe the contents to reflect accurately, and I hope interestingly, a true facsimile of our Beloved Lodges History.

Let us pray that in the next fifty years, the **Earlham** Lodge continues to flourish and prosper, with the same inspiration of its present members, as that of our Founder Members, and that the next five generations of members continue to uphold the Honour, Prosperity, and Reputation of our **Earlham** Lodge, and Freemasonry in General.

W. Bro Gerald Chevin, PGStB, PProvGSwdB, PPGSN (RA) LGCR

Secretary

January 2003.

**Acknowledgement:**

*I would like to thank all the members of the Lodge for all their help and various contributions. They were gratefully received, and I hope faithfully applied in compiling this booklet.*

## What's in a Name???

**E**ARLHAM takes its name from the village of that name on the banks of the River Yare near Norwich in Norfolk.

Earlham Hall, the family seat of the family of Earlham (*forebears of the Gurneys*) stands above the River Yare, flowing under an old stone bridge outside Norwich, winding under overhanging trees and round the park of the Hall. Since 1925, this has been the property of the Norwich Corporation.

The original family of Earlham were squires of the village, churchgoers and one member of the family became incumbent of the parish. A decade or so later the Gurneys became owners of the Earlham Hall, a family of Quakers, philanthropists and City bankers.

Earlham Hall was the family home of the Gurney family for some time. However, they never owned it, but only leased it. It is now used by the School of Law at The University of East Anglia.

**T**he Gurneys were unlanded gentry in Norwich who were Quakers from very early days. The family had been grain wholesalers. They began financing farmers, and by 1800 were primarily bankers. They were also active in social welfare concerns.

The family of John and Catherine Gurney stood out among the plain Friends (Quakers) of Norwich Meeting because of their bright coloured clothing, fashionable manners, visits to the theatre and to operas, and other practices frowned on by most Friends of that era. But two of their children, Elizabeth Gurney Fry and Joseph John Gurney, became among the most prominent Friends of the 19th century. Both of them became plain Friends, were recorded as ministers rather early in their lives, became evangelicals, travelled widely in the ministry, and were active in social reform causes.

**E**lizabeth Gurney married Joseph Fry of Upton House, Plashet, near Epping, and later became famous for her championship of the cause against slavery in which she allied herself with William Wilberforce. She is best remembered, perhaps for her work as a prison reformer, particularly with regard to Newgate Prison.

**S**he also became very widely known in the wider society. Her evangelical zeal and Christian compassion led her to work with prisoners, the insane, and the homeless. She was internationally renowned for her work, and even today there are Elizabeth Fry Societies devoted to prison work. She was also an eloquent evangelical preacher. An example of her sermons is "What owest thou unto thy Lord"?

**B**oth she and her brother Joseph John Gurney were born in West Ham in 1788, and Joseph Gurney died at Earlham Hall in 1847.

Joseph John Gurney is little known outside Friends, but played a key role among Quakers, with one wing of Friends becoming known as Gurneyites. He was perhaps the most prominent Friends' minister of evangelical views in the 19th century. He travelled widely in the United States, and had a tremendous (and sometimes divisive) influence among Friends there. Gurney was an early supporter of the Indiana school which eventually was named Earlham College, in honour of Earlham Hall.

**A**nother brother, Samuel Gurney, in whose memory an obelisk drinking fountain was erected in Stratford Broadway, lived at Ham House, Upton, near Plashet, upon his marriage to Elizabeth Sheppard.

**S**prowston Hall in Forest Gate became the home of Samuel Gurney's grandson, John Gurney who, it will be remembered, was instrumental in the conveyance of West Ham Park to the Corporation of the City of London for the benefit of the people of West Ham. The estimated value of this Park at the time was £25,000 of which sum John Gurney generously gave £10,000. The Park is under the control of a committee of fifteen persons, four of whom are nominated by the Gurney family. It seems in the order of things that West Ham Park, so long the residence of two such people as Samuel Gurney and Elizabeth Fry, whose names were for a long period household words for deeds of pure philanthropy, should be dedicated forever to the healthful enjoyment of all classes of people and thus be preserved as a blessing for all time.

**T**he association of Earlham with the actual Lodge is that a School of Instruction originally met in Earlham Grove, and at that time many of its members lived in the vicinity (*Earlham Grove, Norwich Road, Sprowston Road, Upton Lane, etc*) all of course associated with the Earlham and Gurney Family.

**J**ohn Gurney (1749-1809)

*(Son of John Gurney, of Keswick and Elizabeth Kett)*

Born 10 November 1749 Died 28 October 1809 Buried Gildencroft, Norwich

Married 26 May 1775 Tottenham Catherine Bell, Daughter of Daniel Bell, of Royston and Katherine Barclay Died 17 November 1792 Buried Gildencroft, Norwich As a boy he had bright red hair and it is recorded that, one day in the streets of Norwich, a number of boys followed him pointing to his red locks and saying, "Look at that boy; he's got a bonfire on top of his head", and in disgust John Gurney went to the barber's, had his head shaved, and went home in a wig. However, he grew up a remarkably attractive-looking young man.

He was tenant of Earlham Hall, near Norwich, of which he took a lease in 1786 from Bacon Frank. Subsequently he purchased an estate in the parish of Earlham. In 1803 he was admitted as a partner---together with his brothers, Richard and Joseph---in the Norwich Bank by his cousin, Bartlett Gurney.

# Earlham Hall



# River Yare

# E Elizabeth Fry, (1780-1845) Daughter of John Gurney and Catherine Bell



Born 21 May 1780 Norwich, Magdalen St. Died 12 October 1845  
Ramsgate, Kent Buried Barking, Essex.

Married 12 August 1800 Norwich, Meeting-house Joseph Fry, of Plashet  
Born 1777 Died 28 August 1861

The fourth of eleven children of the rich banker, John Gurney, she grew up as a Quaker more out of tradition than conviction. They attended regular services but also went to balls and parties and mixed with Unitarians and Catholics. In 1798 she wanted to escape the country life and was allowed to go to London. At Quaker meetings she met William Savery and was impressed by him. She asked his advice and he warned her against gay companions, as well as pointing out the ideal of religious peace and power. On her return home, they were suddenly visited by one of Betsy's new London friends, Joseph Fry. He was shy and, lacking the polished manners of the Gurneys, was regarded as uncouth and, worse, a "plain" (strict) Quaker who condemned dancing, music, cards and theatre. However, he belonged to one of the richest Quaker families and William Savery was of the opinion that riches and Quakerism didn't go together,

though most Quakers thought differently.

Like the Gurneys, the Fry's were bankers and their estate at Plashet, near Epping Forest, was described as "sumptuous" by Savery. The Fry's were involved with the importing of tea and spices with their headquarters in London at St. Mildred's Court. Having at first rejected the "plain" Quakers attitude, she adopted the Quaker dress at the turn of the century. Realising her new found religious direction, her father invited home the "plain" Quaker, Joseph Fry who had been regarded as a dull outdoor man with no great indoor ease. In July 1799 Joseph Fry formally asked for Elizabeth Gurney's hand. His own father had already approved but Elizabeth had hardly given that "young fry" a thought, at first rejected him. However, after a period of indecision, she changed her mind and in May 1800 the marriage was announced, taking place on 12 August 1800. They then became the parents of eleven children. For the first nine years they lived in St. Mildred's Court in London, then for the next twenty at Plashet near Epping Forest, and their last sixteen years together at Upton Lane. In March 1811, a month after the birth of her seventh child, Elizabeth was recorded as an approved minister among the Quakers.

However, this did not allow her to preach, though it approved of her speaking out. This practice of "recording ministers" was later dropped by the Quakers. In 1813 Stephen Grellet (Etienne de Grellet du Mabilier), a Frenchman but also an American Quaker and preacher, had been visiting London's down-and-outs when the Chief Police Magistrate kindly offered to collect all London's "scum" for him, but Stephen Grellet preferred to visit the prisons and so went to Newgate prison.

However, he was not allowed to see the section set aside for women. Profoundly shocked by what he had seen, he described his findings to Elizabeth Fry. Together with a few other Quaker women, she set to in making children's clothes from flannel and the next day went to Newgate to deliver the clothes for the naked children kept there with their mothers.

However, once having visited the Newgate women's prison, Elizabeth Fry embarked on her life's work, the improvement of the prison conditions. She started with the establishment of a school inside the women's prison. Within a short period her name became known all over the country and she was in correspondence with most of the crowned heads of Europe.

After the school was established mainly for the children, a matron was appointed and, under her supervision, the women were taught to sew. First they made clothes for themselves and their children; then they made patch-work and their quilts were much in demand, especially in the remote colony of New South Wales. Most of the money earned was saved for the women for either when they were released or transported to the penal colonies.

Elizabeth Fry was asked to give evidence before a committee of the House of Commons on the Prisons of the Metropolis. However, the Government was not keen on building reforming prisons, death and transportations being the preferred remedy. Soon she also realised that many of the women were to be prepared for transportation. The night before she stayed with them and accompanied them to the ship which remained for six weeks in the river. She kept on visiting the women, establishing a school on the ship and providing those women who arrived from other prisons with the materials for the making of patch-work during the voyage. From then onwards Elizabeth Fry visited and organised every convict-ship that carried women prisoners, a total of 106 ships and 12,000 convicts. In 1821 Elizabeth accompanied her husband on one of his business journeys and visiting prisons in Nottingham, Lincoln, Wakefield, Sheffield, Leeds, York, Durham, Newcastle, Carlisle, Lancaster and Liverpool. In 1828 financial disaster struck when, together with many others, Joseph Fry was declared bankrupt and, sadly, was disowned by the Quakers. As a result only one of their children, Richenda Reynolds, remained a Quaker. However, at the end of 1829 Elizabeth Fry was happy in the knowledge that all Joseph's private debts had been paid. Joseph and his sons continued in the tea business which was still solvent. In 1840 Elizabeth Fry was called to have an audience with Queen Victoria. Shortly afterwards she went to the continent with her brother, Samuel Gurney. All through the years she kept up her prison work until shortly before she died on 12 October 1845, while Joseph Fry survived until 28 August 1861.



**C**onceived in the minds of a few Brethren meeting as a School of Instruction at the Synagogue in Earlham Grove, Forest Gate, around the beginning of 1936. The **Earlham** Lodge was born on the 30th April 1953 taking its name from that School of Instruction. Consecrated at Freemasons Hall by the Assistant Grand Master, R, W.Bro, Maj-Gen. Sir Allan Adair assisted by a team of Grand Officers, The **Earlham** Lodge was duly recorded as No. 7266 on the Register of the United Grand Lodge of England.

**O**ver Fifty Years, the Lodge has experienced trials and tribulations, joys and sadness: and has been moulded in the cast of Freemasonry so as to reflect the original design planned so long ago by its Founder Members.

**T**he 100<sup>th</sup> meeting was marked with the acquisition of a splendid Banner which embellishes the furnishings of the Lodge. And to mark the Silver Jubilee, the **Earlham** Lodge of Instruction presented a Silver Loving Cup to the Lodge, when Bernie Robbins was in the Chair.

**D**uring its first half century, The **Earlham** Lodge, by its charitable donations, has become a Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital, Vice-Patron of the Royal Masonic Institution for boys, and Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, and Vice. President of the Royal Masonic Institution for Girls. Regular charitable donations are also made to many non—Masonic Institutions.

**T**he Lodge Register records over 50 subscribing Members, and the waiting list of several candidates proves it's enormous popularity. The enthusiasm for the ritual work reflects itself in the Temple which, together with the congeniality of the Dinners following the Meeting's, attracts many of our Masonic Friends as our guests at each Meeting.

**T**he echoes of 50 years ago sound in the ears of the younger Members of the Lodge who eagerly press forward to make their mark on the record of progress, each adding to the Illustrious reputation already achieved by its past Members and Officers. For many years hence the torch of Freemasonry will be held high in the **Earlham** Lodge, and on the foundations so firmly laid in 1953, a superstructure is emerging as a Credit to the Craft and with honour to its builders.

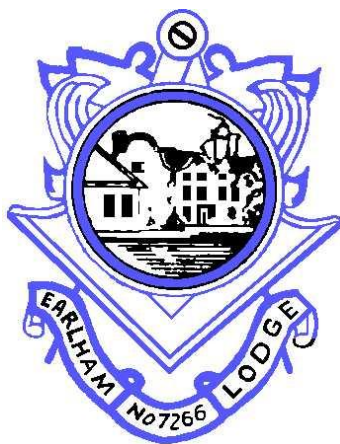
**S**o what of the future? The Founders laid A Foundation strong, broad and well compacted. Upon that Foundation we have erected a superstructure perfect in its parts and honourable to it's builders. Like the Masons of old, none of us will see the completion of that stately and superb edifice, that we, and our predecessors have designed, but with due care and judgement, by zeal, assiduity, and being conscious of the aid of T.G.A.O.U. we know that success will attend our efforts.

**A**s each year passes by, and each new Master is installed, the Lodge starts a new era with all its possibilities and pitfalls. Perhaps the greatest risk is that something may happen to break or mar the traditions of the past, but I must point out that the future of the **Earlham** Lodge rests on those that come after us, They will be people whom you the present members introduce. No man should be proposed as a member unless you have strong grounds to believe that he will be worthy.

To succeed, all institutions must live by their intake of the right men, young men who, while happy to absorb our traditions, must insist on making their own personal contribution to the fabric of our organisation

**W**e are fortunate, the last few years have been a period in which young men of ability and sincerity have been Initiated into our Lodge, and it is pleasing that several of these young Masons are related to some of our older members.

**I**t is into the hands of these young Masons that the future of the **Earlham** Lodge is firmly placed. We older members are happy to have it so, and when the history of our first **100** years comes to be written, it should make splendid reading.



## **F**irst meeting of the Founders

I have included a slightly truncated transcript of the original hand-written entries for posterity and interest.

The meeting of the founders of the proposed New Lodge was held at 57 Claremont Road Forest Gate E7 the private residence of Bro. A. Levene, on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> April 1952 at 11 am.

Present were:- W. Bro. L Freeman LGR Chairman  
W. Bro. G Beber LGR Vice Chairman  
Bro. A Levene Acting Secretary

And W. Bro's L Levene PAGDC, S. Israel, Bro's L Beber, M Austin, A Bensusan, M Collett, R Collett, Dr. L Comyns JP S Davidson, W Israel, M Levy, L Nathan, E White & A Wynne

Apologies were received from:-

W. Bro's. M Woolf, A Collett, & Bro. Rev I Waller, W. Angel, J Rees & H Tisnbaum.

The following matters were discussed:-

It was agreed that W. Bro. George Beber LGR be Master Designate. It was also agreed that W. Bro. Sydney Israel should act as Treasurer.

It was also agreed that Bro. A. Levene act for the time being as Secretary until such time as a permanent Secretary is appointed.

Suggestions for the meeting day of the proposed Lodge were called for, the majority being in favour of a TUESDAY, it was decided to seek Hotel accommodation for this day.

The Vice Chairman requested all present to donate £1 to cover immediate expenses that would be incurred.

The meeting closed at 1.pm *Signed by George Beber*

## **S**econd meeting of the Founders

The meeting of the founders of the proposed new Lodge was held at 19 Clova Road Forest Gate E7 the residence of W. Bro. G Beber on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1952 at 11 am.

Present were:- W. Bro. L Freeman LGR, W. Bro. G Beber LGR, W. Bro S Israel Bros. A Levene & E White The following matters were discussed:-

The name by which the proposed new Lodge should be known and it was generally agreed that the Lodge should be known as the EARLHAM LODGE.

The venues were discussed and it was agreed that the Mostyn Hotel Portland St London W1 was selected.

The charges were Use of Temple 5 gns  
Dinner per person 12/6<sup>d</sup>  
Calling off (tea break) per person 9<sup>d</sup>

It was also stated that the temple would hold 120 persons.

The Lodge workings was generally agreed to be Taylor's. It was agreed that the Founders fees would be 20gns each This concluded the 2<sup>nd</sup> meeting of the Founders.

*Signed by G. Beber*

## **Founders of the Earham Lodge No. 7266**

Consecrated 30<sup>th</sup> April 1953 at Freemasons Hall London



### *FRONT ROW*

W. Bro M Woolf    W. Bro S Israel    Bro L Beber    W. Bro G Beber LGR PZ    W. Bro J Davis    Bro E White    W. Bro L Levine PPAGDC  
*Chaplain*            *Treasurer*            *S.W.*            *W.M.*            *D.C.*            *Secretary*            *Almoner*

### *CENTRE ROW*

Bro A Levene    Bro S Freeman    Bro S Davidson    W. Bro A Collett    Bro A Wynne    Bro M Austin  
*Asst Sec*            *I.G.*            *S.D.*            *A.D.C.*            *J.D.*            *Steward*

### *BACK ROW*

Bro S Freedman    Bro W Angel    Bro G Martin    Bro L Nathan (*All Stewards*)

Here is a list of the Founders, and as an interesting aside I have included their stated occupations; also their Initiation Dates, and respective Mother Lodges.

## FOUNDERS and FIRST OFFICERS

W.	Bro. G. BEBER <i>LGR PZ</i>	WM	(Cigar Merchant)	10/04/19	Eastminster
	Bro. L. BEBER	SW	(Chiropodist)	27/07/42	Eastminster
	Bro. W. ROCHESTER	JW	(Clerk)	22/11/24	Semper Fidelis
W.	Bro. REV M. WOOLF	CHAPLAIN	(Beadle)	27/11/34	Lodge of Israel
W.	Bro. S. ISRAEL	TREASURER	(China & Glass Merchant)	21/09/38	Amicus
	Bro. E. WHITE	SECRETARY	(Local Govt Officer)	01/03/47	Epping
	Bro. J. DAVIS	DC	(Tobacconist)	27/01/36	Eastminster
	Bro. S. DAVIDSON	SD	(Butcher)	27/11/45	Lodge of Israel
	Bro. A. WYNNE	JD	(Insurance Superintendent)	12/12/47	New Cross
W.	Bro. A. COLLETT	ADC	(Dress Manufacturer)	10/12/43	New Cross
W.	Bro. L. LEVENE <i>PPAGDC</i>	ALMONER	(Retired)	03/07/22	Hatfield
	Bro. A. LEVENE	Asst Sec.	(Commercial Traveller)	12/06/43	Hatfield
	Bro. S. FREEMAN	IG	(Garage Proprietor)	20/12/48	Eastminster
	Bro. M AUSTIN	STEWARD	(Builder)	19/09/45	Maida Vale
	Bro. L NATHAN	STEWARD	(Overall Manufacturer)	08/03/39	Friars
	Bro. W ANGEL	STEWARD	(Glass Merchant)	05/01/49	Universal Brotherhood
	Bro. S FREEDMAN	STEWARD	(Comp. Director)	21/02/49	Eastminster
	Bro. A MARTIN	FOUNDER	(Govt Clothing Contractor)	22/05/44	Eastminster
	Bro. V. SCHAUVERIEN	FOUNDER	(Caterer)	26/06/45	Lodge of Israel
	Bro. C. VICKERS	ORGANIST			

SPONSORING LODGE

**EASTMINSTER No. 5370**



The earliest records that I have in my possession are the 100<sup>th</sup> Minutes of the Earlham School of Instruction dated Monday 14<sup>th</sup> November 1938.

The meeting was held at 95 Earlham Grove London E7 and commenced at 8.45pm  
I enclose a salient extract for posterity

Those present were:-

	Bro. Alex Goldberg	W.M
	Bro. D Israel	S.W.
	Bro. Lew Cowan	J.W. & Secretary
W.	Bro P Wise	Preceptor
W	Bro G Beber	Preceptor
	Bro. L Veronique	S.D.
Bro.	A Cohen	J.D.
W.	Bro L Freeman	I.G.

Also present were Bro's P. Wallis, M. Wineglass, S. Balcombe, & M. Bilkus

The minutes held on 7<sup>th</sup> November 1938 were read confirmed & signed.

The Ceremony of Initiation was rehearsed.

*Editors note that all of the original handwritten records are available for viewing. They will be passed to my successor, pure and unsullied, as I have received them.*



**EARLHAM LODGE** No. 7266  
LODGE OF INSTRUCTION  
**BY-LAWS 22<sup>nd</sup> April 1958**

*Reprinted from the original booklet*

1. That this L.O.I. be called the Earlham Lodge of Instruction held under the sanction of the Earlham Lodge No. 7266.
2. That this L.O.I. shall meet every Tuesday evening from the third Tuesday in August until the last Tuesday in April. Business to commence normally at 8 p.m.
3. The Tuesday prior to Lodge meetings be reserved as Officers' night for the Officers of the Earlham Lodge.
4. The subscription shall be ten shillings per annum (with an entrance fee of two shillings and sixpence) and members introducing a visitor shall be responsible for him.
5. That any Brother who may have rendered any special service to this L.O.I. may (after seven days notice has been given thereof) be elected an honorary member with all the privileges of subscribing members.
6. Any Brother whose subscription is unpaid for over one year shall be required to pay a re-joining fee of two shillings and sixpence, plus the annual subscription of ten shillings, and entitle him to receive all communications from the Secretary and have full voting powers.
7. Brethren desirous of becoming members must be proposed and seconded by a member of the L.O.I and he subscribing members of a regular Lodge.
8. The Treasurer shall receive all monies and paid into a Bank agreed by the Committee and shall pay all accounts after they have been sanctioned by L.O.I. and signed by the Secretary and himself, keep a correct record of same, and produce them at the Annual Audit Meeting.
9. That the following Officers be elected annually on the second Tuesday in January : —The Preceptors, Treasurer, Secretary, three members as Auditors who shall also serve on the Committee. The L.O.I. shall be managed by a Committee consisting of the following Officers: - Preceptor, Deputy Preceptor, Treasurer, and Secretary, who must be members of the Earlham Lodge. Any casual vacancy shall be filled by the members at any time.
10. The working shall be in accordance with the working practised by the Earlham Lodge (Taylor's). The office of any appointed Officer not present by the conclusion of the reading of the minutes, shall be filled by the next senior appointed Officer, or at the discretion of the Preceptor.
11. The Secretary shall keep minutes of the proceedings an account of all monies received and disbursed, and a list of names and addresses of members with the names and numbers of their respective Lodges. The Secretary shall be entitled to occupy any office once in eight weeks.
12. The Treasurer shall receive all monies collected by the Secretary, pay all accounts, and enter all financial transactions in a book kept for that purpose.
13. That the furniture, jewels etc., belonging to the L.O.I. be held in trust by the Secretary, and that the same be insured against loss for the sum of £150

14. Should any occasion arise not covered by these By-Laws the Committee have the full power to act in the name of the L.O.I.
15. These By-Laws shall be printed and a copy presented to each member, they shall be read in open L.O.I. at least once during the year, and no alteration shall be made therein until same has been agreed to by a majority of the Brethren at the A.G.M. And only after 28 days notice in writing has been given prior to this meeting.

L. FREEMAN	PRECEPTOR
G. BEBER	DEPUTY PRECEPTOR
A. WYNNE	TREASURER
A. LEVENE	SECRETARY



# CONSECRATION OF THE EARLHAM LODGE No. 7266



**W. Bro. George Beber LGR PZ**  
First Master of the Lodge

*(Reprinted from the Masonic Record June 1953)*

**T**he first consecration by the new Assistant Grand Master, R.W. Bro. Maj. Gen. Sir Allan Adair, Bt., CB., DSO., M.C., was that of Earlham Lodge, No. 7266 at Freemasons' Hall, London, on April 30, 1953, when he was assisted by W. Bro. Brig. Duncan A. Learmont, C.B.E., PGSwB; as SW., W. Bro. Walter S. Wigglesworth, PAGReg. as JW  
Bro. Rev. Chas. E Mosse, M.A., PGChap. as Chaplain, W. Bro. Commander Richard H. Barrett, P.D.G.D.C. as D.C. and W. Bro. Joseph E. Smith, PAGPurs. as IG.  
The Sponsoring Lodge, Eastminster Lodge, No. 5370, was represented at the ceremony by the IPM., W. Bro. Les Ward, and the Treasurer, W. Bro. Harold Hurlin, LGR., and many other members were among the hundred visiting brethren Music for the ceremony was under the direction of W. Bro. Philip Henry, LRAM., PAGDC., PDGOrg.

**T**he Lodge being opened in the three degrees, the Assistant Grand Master addressed the brethren on the motive of the meeting and told them that he was well acquainted with Earlham Grove, whence the Lodge had derived its name, and with Forest Gate where most of the petitioners lived, since he had commanded troops stationed in that area during the war. He said Grand Lodge felt that, where brethren had a long period to wait before taking office in a large Lodge, it was desirable that new Lodges should be formed and, having satisfied himself that such was the ease in respect of the petitioners for this Lodge, the Grand Master had been pleased to grant them a Warrant of Constitution.

**T**he ceremony of consecration which followed was carried out in a most exemplary manner, with dignity and decorum, and will live long in the memories of all those fortunate brethren who were present.

**F**ollowing the installation of the first Master of the Lodge. W. Bro. George Beber, LGR., P.Z., he appointed and invested the following officers :

Bro. Laurence Beber as SW., Bro. Walter Cecil Rochester as JW., W. Bro. Rev. Myer Woolf as Chaplain, W. Bro. Sidney Israel as Treasurer, Bro. Edwin George Gregory White as Secretary, W. Bro. Joseph Davis as DC., Bro. Isaac Davidson as SD., Bro. Alfred Wynne as JD., W. Bro. Alfred George Collett as ADC., W. Bro. Louis Levene, PPAGDC. (Herts.) as Almoner, Bro. Charles Edgar Vickers as Organist, Bro. Alfred Levene as Asst. Sec., Bro. Samuel Freeman as IG. Bros. Lewis Nathan, Mark Austin, William Angel and Solomon Freedman as Stewards, and W. Bro. Frederick Tanter, LGR. as Tyler.

Additional founders were Bros. Gus Martin and' Victor Schaverien.

**T**he traditional address to the Master was delivered by the R.W. the Assistant Grand Master, and those to the Wardens and the Brethren by W. Bro. Walter S. Wigglesworth, and W. Bro. Brig. Duncan A. Learmont, respectively.

**A**t the subsequent banquet, W. Bro. Brig. Duncan A. Learmont, replied to the toast of Grand Lodge and said that the work of Grand Lodge was carried out by a small permanent staff under the direction of The Grand Secretary, and how well it was done is evidenced by the smooth working of the Order within the English Constitution.

**P**roposing the toast of the Consecrating Officers, the W.M., W. Bro. George Beber, LGR., P.Z., said the new Lodge was now fully constituted and the hopes of the Founders had been amply realised. Upon the Founders lay the duty of fulfilling the destiny of the Craft, of bearing a share in its burdens, but sharing also in its glories. The ceremony of consecration, rendered with such graceful charm and dignity by the Assistant Grand Master, filled them all with gratitude to the Consecrating Officers for their care in fitting them to begin and consummate the work for which the Lodge had been designed.

**A**tremendous ovation greeted the Assistant Grand Master, .R W. Bro. Maj. Gen. Sir Allan Adair, when he rose to reply. He said this had been a red-letter day for him, too, since it was his first consecration. The Founders had been pleased to elect the Consecrating Officers as Honorary Members of the Lodge and he felt sure he spoke for all of them when he said that he hoped to have the opportunity of visiting the Lodge again in the future.

He trusted the Lodge would prove a power for good in Freemasonry, he knew Earham Lodge would be a great and successful Lodge, and he wished the members long life and happiness.

**R**eplying to the toast of the Worshipful Master, most ably proposed by W. Bro. Rev. Myer Woolf (Chaplain), W. Bro. George Beber said he felt great pride in being the first Master of this Lodge and assured the brethren that it would be in constant endeavour to set a high standard within the Lodge. It was his intention to give the past Masters in the Lodge every opportunity to share in the work, and he hoped they would all take pride in this new Lodge.

**P**roposing the toast of the Visitors, Bro. Edwin G. G. White (Secretary), recalled the quotation “I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year ‘Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown,’ and he replied ‘Put thine hand into the Hand of God. This shall be to thee better than light and safer than a known way’.” The founders had put their hand into the Hand of God and they looked forward to a safe journey into the unknown future. He referred to men not bound by the chains of edict and dogmas, but believing in a universal religion, men who take the same obligation on the same altar, who share alike the gifts of the teachings of Masonry, men who know their threefold duty to God, to neighbour and to self, men who do not practice deception such men are heirs to rich and enduring friendships, and such are the brethren of Earlham Lodge and such are the brethren who had honoured them at the consecration of their Lodge and had accepted their hospitality at the festive board. He bade them welcome and hoped the Lodge would have the opportunity of greeting them in the future at the regular Lodge meetings.

W. Bro. Harold Hurlin, L.G.R., Treasurer of the Eastminster Lodge, replied to the toast and said how impressed he had been with the beauty of the ceremony of consecration and, on behalf of all the visitors, paid tribute to the Consecrating Officers.



## INSTALLATION OF 8th MASTER

### W Bro. Sam Freeman

*Reprinted from the Masonic Record November 1960*

Assisting the Installing Master, W. Bro. Alfred Levene, in the installation of his successor, Bro. Samuel Freeman, as Eighth Master of the Lodge, were W. Bro. George Beber, PGStB. as S.W., J. E. Smith, P.G.SLB. as J.W., and L. Beber, P.M. as I.G., whilst W. Bro. J. Davis acted as D.C. in a beautifully rendered ceremony at Oxford Corner House, London on September 6 1960.

Representing Grand Lodge were W. Bros. Geoffrey C Haines, EC.A., F.S.A., P.A.G.D.C., Deputy Chairman of the R.M.B.I. and W. H. Gofton, PGStB., while also present were a large number of Brethren of London Grand Rank and Officers of Provincial Grand Lodges.

Grand Lodge Certificates were presented by W. Bro. E G G White; P.M., Secretary of the Lodge, to Bros. C. Selwyn, P. H. Newman, M. Isaaman, A. Levene and D. I. Sherman.

Following his Installation, W. Bro. Freeman invested the Officers of his year :—

*S.W., W. Angel; J.W., S. Nathan; Chap., W. Bro. Rev. M. Woolf; Treas., S. Israel, P.Z.;*

*Sec., E.G.G. White, P.M.; D.C., J. Davis, P.Z.; S.D., E. Conway; J.D., M. A Vickers;*

*A.D.C., L. Beber, P.M.; Almoner L. Levene, P.P.A.G.D.C (Herts.); Asst Sec., W. Rochester, P.M.; I. Smith; Stewards, W.*

*Bros. L. Nathan and M. Austin, Bros. L. Freedman, J. Rosenberg, R. Burns, H. West, A. Goodman, C. J. Barnett, D. Phillips, M. Agrest; Tyler, F. Tanter, L.G.R.*

After the Festive Board, it having been announced that the new Master would act as a Representing Steward for the R.M.B.I. W. Bro. Geoffrey Haines, PAGDC. Spoke of the work of that Institution and commended it to the Brethren for their full charitable support.

Replying to the toast in his honour, the Worshipful Master expressed his sincere thanks and gratitude for the high honour which had been bestowed upon him. In acknowledging the colourful description of his hidden virtues by the Proposer of the toast, W. Bro. Alfred Levene, I.P.M., he said "Picasso himself could not have painted a more vivid picture." He pledged himself to live as far as possible "by what we learn and believe in." He continued: "As education is but a key that opens. The door to knowledge, so do the tenets of Freemasonry afford us the opportunity to open the door that enables us to extend our researches to the world in general. That should be the aspiration of every Freemason."

He referred to his Charity List and mentioned that the highest amount contributed in one year was to the R.M.B.I. four years previously; he was confident the brethren would help him to! repeat and, even, exceed that amount. He concluded by wishing all the brethren of his faith all happiness, prosperity, and good health in the New Year of 5721.

# Family Tree

The Relative Lodges of  
Lodge of Sincerity No. 174

<u>No.</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Consecrated</u>	<u>Erased</u>
754	High Cross Lodge	1858	
905	De Grey and Rippon Lodge	1862	2000
1133	British Oak Lodge	1860	1874
1228	Beacontree Lodge	1868	
1598	Ley Spring Lodge	1876	
1607	Lodge of Loyalty	1876	
1662	Beaconsfield Lodge	1876	
1685	Guelph Lodge	1877	
2242	Tyssen-Amherst Lodge	1888	
2291	West Ham Abbey Lodge	1888	
2411	Clarence and Avondale Lodge	1891	1994
2472	Walthamstow Lodge	1893	
2549	Benevolentia Lodge	1895	
2615	Zodiac Lodge	1896	
2626	Leyton Lodge	1896	
2632	Byfield Lodge	1896	
2911	Citizen Lodge	1902	
3050	Bishop of Barking Lodge	1904	
3071	Deanery Lodge	1904	
3794	Aldwych Club Lodge	1917	
4036	Leyton St. Mary's Lodge	1919	
4091	Venerable Bede Lodge	1920	
4153	Forest Gate Lodge	1920	
4195	Rotarian Lodge	1920	
4695	West Green Lodge	1924	
4720	CubicStone Lodge	1925	
4789	Heronry Lodge	1925	
4860	Leyton St. John's Lodge	1926	
4922	Lumen Lodge	1927	
4944	Cloisters Lodge	1927	
5009	Isma Lodge	1928	
5096	Sincerity and Service Lodge	1929	
5112	Tottenham Lodge	1929	1997
5143	Wallwood Lodge	1929	
5269	St. Bartholomew Lodge	1931	
5319	Saltley College Lodge	1931	
5364	Bond Stone Lodge	1932	
5370	Eastminster Lodge	1932	1996
5385	Ruckholt Lodge	1932	
5406	Plashettin Hame Lodge	1933	
5473	Leyton Grange Park Lodge	1934	
5539	Annuntio Lodge	1935	

5593	Johann Gutenberg Lodge	1935	
5617	Clare Avon Lodge	1936	
5675	Holborn Bars Lodge	1937	
5803	Phille-Brook Lodge	1939	
5984	Maryland Lodge	1944	
6090	Wilcumbestou Lodge	1945	
6148	Lodge of Service	1945	1997
6192	Lodge of Promise	1945	
6253	Deo Confidimus	1946	
6254	Cranbrook Lodge	1946	
6370	Lodge of New Hope	1946	
6396	Mithraic Lodge	1946	
6399	Beacon Light Lodge	1946	
6424	Leyton Jubilee Lodge	1947	1999
6481	Quion Stone Lodge	1947	
6496	Star of Friendship Lodge	1947	
6556	Leyton Manor Lodge	1947	
6662	Abbey Mills Lodge	1948	
6766	Shoreditch College Lodge	1948	
6790	Clarondale Lodge	1948	
6996	Tottenham Secundus Lodge	1950	
7038	Leyton-Lea Lodge	1950	
7266	Earlham Lodge	1953	
7336	Deo Juvante Floremus Lodge	1954	
7607	Lodge of St. Bartholomew the Less	1958	
7619	Round Table Lodge	7619	
7877	Path to Progress Lodge	1962	
7926	Shield of David Lodge	1963	
8306	Forest Ridge Lodge	1969	
8438	Eton Manor Lodge	1972	
9160	Hope and Opportunity Lodge	1985	
9729	Essex Millennium	2001	

**F**rom The Lodge of Sincerity No. 174 Consecrated 1768, The **Earlham** Lodge can trace it's creation, and indeed it to has spawned two Lodges the Forest Ridge Lodge No 8306 Consecrated 1969 and the Essex Millennium Lodge No 9729 Consecrated November 2000 So an impressive and interesting 235 years have passed since the original Lodge of Sincerity was Consecrated. I would like to thank W.Bro **G Chipps** the current Secretary of The Lodge of Sincerity, for his help in contributing information of the Lodge of Sincerity. Also to Bro **Laurence Lewis** for his help in re-creating the tree.

# Family Values

The family tradition of the **Earlham** was immediately apparent from the very beginning of the Lodge as the 1<sup>st</sup> Master of the Lodge George Beber had the privilege and pleasure of Initiating his Son Emmanuel "Manny". The 1<sup>st</sup> Senior Warden of the Lodge was also his Son Laurence.

The Late David Phillips conducted a "Double Initiation" of his two Sons Lawrence & Raymond and in later years Lawrence Phillips Initiated his own Son Neill.

Sydney Israel (a major cog in the Earlham Lodge's History), was Cecil Wershof's Father-in-Law (Founding Father of our Daughter Lodge FOREST RIDGE No 8306).

Louise Levene was Alfred "ABE" Levene's father and was Andrew Levene's Grand Father.

The Late Sam Zilesnick Initiated his Three Sons Harold, Raleigh & Jeffrey (Ziles)

The Late Joe Conrad Initiated his Son Michael. His Nephew Barry Shamplin is a valued Member of the Lodge.

Manny Valens Initiated his Son Roy

The Late Cyril Barnett's Blood Brother is of course Bert, and David Fletcher is Cyril's Son-in-Law. David Fletcher is also related to our one time member Henry Davis

Other Family Connections The Late Bernie Robbins (W.M. 1976) Son Howard was Master in 1997

Martin Grahame and his Blood Brother Phillip are other examples of the "family ties"

Sydney Nathan proposed his Son Alex

Alex Sherman and his Blood Brother, Hyman "HAROLD" Sherman and Donald Sherman was his Son.

Stanley Raven and his Son-in-Law Stephen Forman, were consecutive Masters 1980/1981  
Stanley Initiated Gerald Chevin his Nephew (*by Marriage*).

Gerald Chevin Proposed his Cousin Michael Alter, and his Brother-in-Law Paul Sheffrin. And in 1999 his Son Elliott

Gerald Chevin Passed his Cousins, by Marriage Russell Schacter & David Hahn, and of Course in 1999 Gerald Chevin in turn had the pleasure of Initiating, Passing & Raising his Son Elliott.

Gerald Chevin Proposed Laurence Gold as a Joining Member, who has in turn Proposed his Blood Brother Russell & his Cousin Stephen Lewis, and then his Brother-in-Law Ronnie Hirschhorn .

The Starr Brothers Stanton & Elias "LEN" were joined by their relatives Clifford & Michael Starr.

Joe Fash brought in his Son-in-Law Harvey Liff.

Stephen Ashby Proposed his Son-in-Law Michael Wise

Laurence Lewis and his Cousin Michael Moss, Initiated in January 2000, continues this traditional family link in the Earlham Lodge and long may it continue to flourish.

*I think that with the help of some of the "older" Members, I have covered all the links, but will apologise in advance if I have inadvertently "missed out" some family ties.*

# Memories are made of this 1999

The Late Willie Angel PAGDC Founder (9<sup>th</sup> Master)

The Lodge summons informs us that it was consecrated on the 30<sup>th</sup>. April 1953. However that was not the beginning of the Lodge. A germ of an idea was initiated many months before. To explain how the idea started please allow me to tell how I got involved in the formation of the Lodge.

I had been Initiated Passed and Raised in Scotland and lived for five days a week in Stoke on Trent. Being at that time in the pottery manufacturing business, and pottery being in short supply the only people who showed out to me that they were Masons seemed to want something in return. This was not the reason I joined Masonry. I therefore became very disenchanted with what I thought Masonry represented. I now realise that in every barrel of good apples can be one or two bad ones.

However in London I was very friendly with a Ronnie Collett whose father Alfred Collett was very interested in Masonry. A more pleasant man you could not meet. He invited me to come along to a School of instruction, which was held every week on the first floor of Earlham Grove Synagogue.

This had originally started about 1936.

There I met Masons who typified what masonry was supposed to be about. They mostly came from different Lodges but found it difficult to attend their own L.O.I.

I sometimes think that what helped to make the school so successful was due to the friendship we built up at the school of instruction. Also when the session ended we spent an hour or two playing cards in one of the members house where we were always royally entertained.

About six months later it was suggested that maybe we were ready to try to form our own Lodge. The main reasons being that in our own Lodges it would take even some of the senior member's six to eight years to reach the masters chair and the junior members even longer.

However to form a new Lodge you have to find a sponsoring Lodge.

The Lodge that eventually sponsored us was the Eastminster Lodge 5370

This Lodge I am sorry to say gave up its warrant on 11/12/96

This is when I first meet E.G.G. White who spent many hours at home and at Grand Lodge putting our prayer for a new Lodge to the Grand Secretary. It is surprising the visits you have to make to Grand Lodge submitting the proposed founders and the positions they would hold in the new Lodge their individual records etc. Last but not least choosing and having approved the name of the Lodge. We had many meetings before finalising the name Earlham Lodge. I am pleased to say he became our First Secretary and the 3<sup>rd</sup> Master of the Lodge. His day (and night) job was looking after a large cemetery in West Ham. Many a night when I used to go and see him at his home it was quite scary walking through the cemetery until reaching his front door but even more so walking back to my car later in the night. In Later years Egg produced the Masonic Record and often wrote about our Lodge. He was of the Christian faith a thorough gentleman.

It was decided that if we wished to form a Lodge we would have to upgrade the School of instruction to a Lodge of Instruction. At that time you had to have the permission of The Grand Tyler for this to take place.

The consecration of the Lodge was well attended and if my memory serves me right it was held in Temple One.

If I can also recall our first regular meetings were held at the Mostyn Hotel in Portman Street. It was not unusual to work two degrees with two candidates for each degree. The Lodge grew very quickly we were never short of work in the Lodge. It was an extremely happy Lodge on our Ladies nights we had to restrict our numbers to 420 does it seem possible today.

The Late Brother Cyril Barnett who is sadly missed has given a summary of some of the Founders (*detailed below ED*) so I will not go over them except to emphasise some of their traits.

Before doing so I feel I should mention Two Brethren who signed the original petition to Grand Lodge but did not become founders. Grand Lodge had a rule that if you signed to form a New Lodge and took a progressive office you could not take progressive office in any other Lodge. They were Bro. J. Rees, the other was Bro. Victor Schaverien (the caterer) who gave the Lodge though he did not become a member great help with our Ladies nights.

There was W. Bro. Rochester a very upright church going man who became our Third Master. I point these details out to show that although the Lodge was formed on Synagogue Premises and that the Lodge had predominate Jewish Brethren two of our first Four Masters were not of the Jewish faith.

W. Bro. Sydney Davidson our Fifth Master whom unfortunately we have not seen for many years. W. Bro. Sam Freeman our Eighth Master who we do not see anymore. It would be wonderful if Sam Freeman and Sydney Davidson would visit us once again as I feel certain they would have some interesting stories regarding the Lodge. Then there was Sydney Nathan (10<sup>th</sup> Master) a wonderful ritualist who I installed as Master. I am afraid time blunts ones memory and I seem to find it hard to distinguish

the time of certain events. More so as many of our members helped to found the Shield of David Lodge.

W. Bro. Sydney Israel used to drill us not only in our degrees but spent many an evening just doing floor work which was scrutinised very closely to W. Bro. Joe Davis who was our first D.C. and Assistant Preceptor who insisted that the work be carried out in an exemplary manner. We affectionately called him a Sergeant Major. It was great loss to the Lodge when he resigned.

I can not forget our Tyler W. Bro. Tanter who served the Lodge for many years and helped to put the candidates at ease and looked after the members with a gentle smile.

Nothing is formed without troubles and the Lodge had plenty. Like having to ask a founder to resign. Having to exclude a member's son. Having one of our founders losing a leg which at the time we were told was the only way to save his life unfortunately it was not so he passed away shortly afterwards.

Another incident occurred in Lodge, which affected my thinking on Masonry very much. A small clique got together and without informing the master or G.P.C. (although they were on it) blackballed a son of a Founder who had passed away and who at the time wished to become a member. He was of good standing and S.D. in his own Lodge. I learnt afterwards it was because they had fallen out over a business deal.

Since then I have tried to stop cliques and taken the part of any Brother who may seem to be unfairly treated. As a Mason you must remember your promise when you were raised to support your brother at all time.

Many times you may go against the flow but if you believe you are correct try to get your view carried but do not forget you should agree with the majority, and without animosity.

*Editors Note: -*

*Willie Angel only finished the above months prior to his sad demise He was a Grand Officer and will be sadly missed by all who knew him.*

## My recollections of the Lodge 2000 Ralph Rabin LGR 25th Master

*(As transcribed by Gerald Chevin from a tape supplied by Ralph)*

Ralph recalls his initial contact with Masonry, many years ago was through Sydney Israel, when Sydney was in the China Business, and used to call upon Ralph in a professional capacity fairly regularly. Ralph picked up that on certain occasions Sydney would be dressed very differently, and carried a briefcase. When questioned Sydney declined to clarify his unusual attire, or the contents of his case. After some time however, he divulged that it was to do with a Masonic Lodge. Ralph was intrigued by this, and asked many questions until Sydney finally explained some of the principles of Freemasonry. Ralph then asked to become a Member of the Lodge and it was agreed that an interview would be arranged in due course.

Finally the day came and Ralph along with other prospective Candidates were interviewed also a small deputation went to his home to ask his Wife if she was happy with him joining a Lodge and one or two friends were asked if he was of the right calibre to become a member.

Eventually the Ceremony of Initiation, which was Conducted by W. Bro Willie Angel, who appeared to Ralph when the blindfold was removed, as a very big man controlling the whole Lodge.

As we can all remember our Initiation vividly, it has lost none of it's lustre for Ralph who has very fond memories of his.

He was not sure about L.O.I. however as he felt that the integration of the "old" school and the newer Brethren was far from harmonious in those days (how it has changed) for weeks the newer members were virtually ignored much to their chagrin and it took some considerable time before they were accepted.

After some considerable time Ralph was eventually the Senior Warden of the Lodge and his friend and colleague Sydney Israel was too unwell to continue his Preceptorship and quite "out of the blue" Ralph was elected. He strived for some considerable time to make the integration of the "old school" and the newer members become less traumatic than it was for him. He succeeded in this objective and then set about the task of helping the Brethren who found the ritual quite a task to learn and deliver. Ralph was responsible for getting a large number of members who felt that the Mastership was beyond their capabilities through the chair and they in turn became respected Past Masters of the Lodge.

Ralph was Preceptor for nineteen years and during that time it became evident that the atmosphere at LOI and the standards of the Lodge were improving year after year.

Ralph has fond memories of his many years at the help and looks forward to the Lodge going from "strength to strength"

He resigned after 19 years and left his legacy to Simon Driver PPGSwdB LGR LGCR who built on this platform, and brought the Lodge to ever higher standards in the wake of his predecessors. Simon held this position for six years until his resignation.

Currently the Lodge is very lucky to now have Ronnie Marks, LGR LGCR as it's Preceptor.

Ronnie's association with the Lodge goes back to the Earham Grove days and he is well respected and well liked by all the members of the Lodge of which in 2000 he was made an honorary member.

*Editors Note:-*

*Ralph unfortunately has also passed to the Grand Lodge Above.*

# MY MEMORIES OF THE EARLHAM LODGE DEC 1997

The Late Bro. Cyril Barnett PPGP

The Earlham Lodge was formed at West Ham District Synagogue, Earlham Grove, Forest Gate, London E7.

I was a member of that Synagogue and noticed on many Shabbat mornings a small group of men would leave their seats and go and talk together either in the entrance foyer or in the courtyard. On the "grapevine", I learned that they were all friends and Masonic Brethren who were anxious to form a Lodge of their own. I approached a cousin of mine, George Beber, to see if I could join but he would not say "Yes" or "No" but what he did say was "are you interested in joining a Masonic Lodge when we are ready to have you?" That must have been in, I think, 1952. I never heard anymore for ages.

The system then was the same as today. I was then asked if I had a Proposer and Secunder. The names I gave were George Beber and Rev. Myer Woolf. They came to my home at 34 Godwin Road, Forest Gate to talk with me and my Wife. Once again I never heard anymore for quite a while.

From out of the blue, I received a telephone call from Edwin George Gregory White (affectionately known as "Egg White") (4<sup>th</sup> Master) who became the Founding Secretary of the Newly Formed Lodge. He told me that the Lodge would be officially consecrated on 30 April 1953 and also said "don't worry dear boy, we have not forgotten you. Once we get this done you will be called to a meeting for questions and answers."

Much water passed under London Bridge, where the tide regularly ebbs and flows twice in every twenty-four hours, since I had first spoken to George Beber but at last, I was told to report to the Synagogue Board Room at 8.00 pm on a particular Tuesday evening. All you Brethren will remember how you felt on such an occasion – I felt no different. I came out smiling. At last in March 1955 I was Initiated at Coventry Street Corner House.

Of course, going back nearly forty-five years is not easy and it is difficult to be exact so please forgive me if I miss something. Two things I well remember.

After my Initiation by W. Bro. George Beber, while I was still in The Temple, he asked me "why were you smiling all the time?" My answer was "I am a happy person and I like spreading happiness. Also I am very pleased to be a Mason of this Lodge". I have never heard such a loud cheer and clap of hands in a Temple since that day.

The second occasion I recall was at my interview. Just before I was asked to retire while the Brethren discussed my application, a voice said "this has nothing to do with your entry into a Masonic Lodge but all of us here are what we are and because we meet on Synagogue premises we have decided we will be a fish eating Lodge with no meat or shellfish served at our meetings. Please give this some thought while you are outside." I answered "I have already asked that question and that is why I am here this evening". I hope the Earlham Lodge will continue to go from strength to strength and always honour the wisdom and wishes of our founders.

The Lodge meetings were always well attending, with smiling faces wherever you looked. The Festive Board got louder and louder when we got new members. The Earlham was a happy Lodge then and it still is today.

Before I try to write of some of the Founders I must tell you what I recall of "Egg White". He worked very hard to get our Lodge on its feet, being our first Secretary. He was very learned and knew everybody at Great Queen Street. Being a Founder of a new Lodge must have helped considerably. He was Master of Earlham Lodge in 1956.

My first meeting at the Lodge was in April 1955. I knew quite a lot of the members. I was asked if I would like to assist the Stewards. I answered "it would be a pleasure". That being my field. "Egg White" always sat on the centre sprig, end seat facing the top. It did not take me long before I noticed he was one of the very few who drank red wine. I did something the n that I had never done before or since. I left the bottle of wine on the table next to him and I always smiled when I saw it was empty. He was a man of The Church. He read the Minutes like he was delivering a sermon. He had an Oxbridge accent. Nevertheless you could hear him, he was very good.

**George Beber** – Founder and Master 1953. He was a very civil and most pleasant person. At the L.O.I. he was very exact. You came for a purpose and he helped to see that you did it. He was a cigar importer and, therefore, at Lodge Dinners, cigars were handed round, after the Loyal Toast, etc. etc. until Havana prices went up too high! They burnt a grey ash and kept alight. He then tried a cheaper cigar, Jamaicans, they burnt black and kept going out. So rather than supplying inferior cigars it marked the end of cigars at Earlham Lodge.

**Alfred Wynne** – Founder and (6<sup>th</sup> Master) 1958. Very cheerful, always ready to laugh and help.

**Alfred Levene** (Abe) – Founder and 7<sup>th</sup> Master 1959. A good friend and very helpful at all times.

**Mark Austin** – Founder and Master, W.M. Lodge No. 2743, 1957.

**William Angel** – Founder and Master 1963. He, thank G-d is still active. One of the only Founders left. He too is a good man, always ready to advise and keep the peace.

**Sydney Israel** – Founder and Past Master. Always smiling. Only small in size but what a Preceptor. He had the patience of a saint. Never raised his voice, calmed you down and you got it right.

There were more Founders. All were very good Masons. To see them all together at your Interview, oh dear, it frightened you. When you got to know them they were a grand group of men.

The Rev. **Myer Woolf** – Founder and Chaplain 1953. He was the Shammash, Minister and Welfare Officer of West Ham Shul. A gentleman, Mason, at all times. Always ready to listen to you and give you advice. He proposed the toast to me at my initiation. I will never forget the things he said.

**Gussie Martin** – Founder. Always in good humour.

**Alfred George Collett**. W. Bro. Founder and first A.D.C. in Earlham Lodge. PM no. 1559.  
A Warden of West Ham Shul. Very nice man.

Lodge of Instruction was held on Tuesday evenings at about 8.00 pm through to approximately 9.30 pm in the Synagogue Board Room. The average number that attended was about 20-25. If you wanted to occupy the Chair you had to volunteer for I.G. Officers in rotation. If you missed two weeks running you lost your turn unless suitable apologies were received. We paid nine pence or a shilling when we went and this included the Charity Box and tea and biscuits which was made by the caretaker of the Shul and brought to the door of the Lodge. The Lodge gave a donation to the Synagogue every year for the use of the accommodation. Everybody was happy.

*Editors Note: -*

*As I understand it Cyril completed this concise history just day prior to his passing to the Grand Lodge Above.*

It should be noted that Cyril was the 1<sup>st</sup> Member of the Earlham Lodge to have been awarded a "Dark Blue" without passing through the Chair

# MY MEMORIES OF THE EARLHAM LODGE

W. Bro. Cyril Purkis PPAGDC (31<sup>st</sup> Master)

I was Initiated along with Ronnie Warren (*21st Master*) in November 1957 at the Lyons Corner House in Tottenham Court Road. It was in the 1950's that I became aware of Freemasonry through a dear friend Sam Freeman. He invited my Wife and I to a Ladies Night at the Grosvenor Rooms Willesden. We both enjoyed this evening and I in particular found myself enjoying the company of Masons, hence Sam was delighted when I asked him if I could become one. He of course Proposed me and another friend Harry West Seconded me. Here I am some 46 years later regaling you all with my memories. Many years have passed and many members have changed due to natural circumstances, but the spirit of the Lodge and the atmosphere has pervaded and remained unique this sets it apart from other Lodges.

**Sam Freeman** At this time really enjoyed his Masonry. We used to meet each week at L.O.I. He was a good ritualist, and soon he would be in the Chair. He and his Brother ran a Garage in Earlham Grove. He is a qualified Motor Engine er.

**Harry West** (*15<sup>th</sup> Master*) was a true Mason, and those of you that knew him, I am sure will agree. He and his Brother ran a Ladies and Children's Wear Business based in Poplar, apart from running a successful operation he spent some of his spare time with St. John's Ambulance Brigade, he was a skilled dispenser of First Aid.

In the Earlham he was a great Almoner and was always ready to help people less fortunate, and often applied relief and consolation in the hour of their need.

I certainly miss him for his wise counsel.

**Ronnie Warren** (*my co-Initiate*) was a tall man and when we stood together at our Initiation it was like the long and short of it. He was a lovely chap with a fine sense of humour that on some occasions could be very dry indeed. Being a Taxi Driver he loved to recall some of his experiences with his passengers he related these sometimes bawdy tales with a deadpan face and voice to match and had the assembled Brethren in fits of laughter.

Apart from Masonry his other passion was running he ran many miles every day he tried to keep himself very fit.

**(Isaac) Jack Smith** (*12<sup>th</sup> Master*) was a character indeed a portly man about 5'7" always with a twinkle in his eye. Another keen ritualist. Each Tuesday he would be the first at L.O.I. helping to "set-out" the Lodge. He had an uncanny memory learning for him was very easy, and it was a pleasure to listen to him. He ran a Menswear Shop in Tottenham, but he did not really enjoy this. His main love was to visit his club CROCKFORDS, a private members gambling club. He would sit for hours playing cards; win or lose he always had a smile. I know this because sometimes he invited me as his guest. I enjoyed these visits because I was treated like Royalty all refreshments supplied free of charge, and served by flunkies dressed in their brightly coloured 17th Century Garb.

Yes we have had many characters, and still have in the Earlham Lodge. I am looking forward to the 50th Anniversary and to welcoming many more new members and Initiates

## My own recollections of the Earlham

**W Bro. Gerald Chevin** PGStB, PProvGSwdB, PPGSN (RA) LGCR  
(38<sup>th</sup> Master)

It has been suggested that even though my time served is not really comparable to some of the more distinguished Brethren; I have had the opportunity through many Side Degrees and numerous visits to other Lodges that my contribution may be of some value and interest to the readers of this booklet.

I was Initiated by **Stanley Raven** (28<sup>th</sup> Master) who was in fact, my Proposer and Uncle (*by marriage*) my first thoughts were that he was just making up the words as opposed to reciting a rigid ritualistic rubric (*some of the Brethren still think that Stanley made most of it up as he went along*)!!

Only when I heard a chorus of sharp intakes of breath, and words flying from all directions, did I suddenly see the light, (*both literally & metaphorically*) and the word Preceptor became known to me (in fact I am still not sure what the combined name for Preceptors is .. Gaggle perhaps)

As a very nervous Mason I was taken by my then Father-in-Law, who was D.C. & Preceptor in the (**REMUS Lodge**) on the following Sunday to a renown Masonic learning Arena

**The John Anley Class of Instruction** in Downs Road, Hackney. Where I was told in no uncertain terms that in six weeks from then, I was expected to progress through the various Offices and occupy the Chair to perform the Degree which I had just literally heard for the very first time that previous Tuesday Evening. Well I looked at this very senior and apparently serious Mason as though he was from the Moon, and stated there and then that there was absolutely no way I could understand or even pronounce the words, let alone memorise them, and then recite them.....

Six weeks later I occupied the chair, and with a little help from the assembled Brethren I just about managed 65% of the Degree, much to my surprise, and their apparent delight!!!!

How I ever managed it I'm not sure, but I always felt that my fellow tube passengers during that six weeks always thought that I was that "crazy guy" always mumbling to himself, and tried to avoid being any where near me in case I was a dangerous nutcase.

Suffice it to say that when I started attending the Earlham L.O.I. our then Preceptor Ralph Rabin asked one week if anybody would like to rehearse the 1<sup>st</sup> Degree, and I volunteered my services, only two months after my Initiation and Bro **Barry Shampin** my Seconder was asked "if he knew anymore candidates like me".

So there I was, I had been Raised (and performed this Degree 3 weeks afterwards)!! and totally hooked into Masonry but with nowhere to go, as the likelihood of my taking any active office at that time looked like a million years away.

I then started to visit other Lodges in earnest (*as I had a lot more time on my hands due to Illness & Divorce*).

It was suggested by **Ivan Kovler**, that as it was nearly four weeks after my Raising, that I might like to join The Holy Royal Arch, or Chapter as it more commonly known.

Not really understanding what I was doing I allowed my name to go forward and was duly Exalted into the Forest Ridge Chapter, many of the Companions were familiar to me through the Jewish Community and my frequent visits to the Forest Ridge Lodge.

I regarded it as a very interesting and worthwhile progression to my Masonic career.

I attended the Chapter of Improvement, and was absolutely amazed at the grasp of the Ritual that was displayed, and felt that I could never ever reach such exalted heights of ritualistic excellence!!!

At the next Chapter meeting (*Installation*) I was asked by the 1<sup>st</sup> Principle Elect (*The Late Mickey Mann*), if I would like to occupy the office of P.S. Not even knowing what the Initials stood for, I rather too readily agreed, with the proviso however that "I would not have to do anything at this meeting would I"?.....

The silence was shattering, and with only five minutes to learn what I considered at that time a massive amount of ritual I somehow pulled it off

I kept this office for six years, until I went into the Chair in the Earlham Lodge.  
Once again I then progressed in the Chapter.

I must say that my main reason for becoming so involved in the Royal Arch and its beautiful ceremonies is due to one man, the then Preceptor of the Forest Ridge Chapter of Improvement.

**Ronnie Marks** who is an inspiration to all young Masons and has my highest respect for his vast knowledge and his motivational skills. I know that my feelings are not in isolation as virtually all of the Principles of both the Earlham & Forest Ridge Chapters owe their Exalted Ranks to his dedication and devotion..... just ask any of them. We have now persuaded him to become an Honorary Member of the Earlham Lodge and he is our Preceptor.

At subsequent Chapter meetings it was suggested by **Joe Cohen** (*Martin Hunters Brother-in-Law*). That I should join Mark Masonry (here we go again...)

I did, I went through the Chair, prior to being the Master in the Craft and also joined Royal Ark Mariners (RAM) which I again enjoyed so much that I became Worshipful Commander. I am now please to say a Holder of Grand Rank in both Mark Masonry and Royal Ark Mariners.

I suggested to my Brother-in-Law **Paul Sheffrin** (*43rd Master*) that he might like to join Craft, Chapter, Mark and RAM. I must be good salesmen as he joined all four, and I had the pleasure of conducting him around the Lodge Room in all of the Degrees he has so far taken.

You would think that this was enough Masonry for any sane person to content himself with wouldn't you???  
Oh no! Not me (*remember I'm the nutcase on the Tube*)

Having discussed the advantages of Chapter with some of my Earlham Lodge Brethren I tried in vain to get them to join the Forest Ridge Chapter, but due to very long waiting lists and a preference for their own Lodge Members (which is quite reasonable). It was very difficult to get more than 1 candidate from the Earlham Lodge every 2 years or so.

I then decided that it would be a great idea to "*Found*" our own Chapter (to be called somewhat unsurprisingly the Earlham Chapter), so I teamed up with one of the most knowledgeable Masons I have ever had the pleasure of knowing **Neville Joseph** and (*he did most of the spadework*) I arranged whatever I could.

Suffice it to say the Chapter was founded in 1987, and I am delighted to report as it's Scribe E. that it is going from "strength to strength".

Once again still looking for other Masonic challenges I joined a number of various "Side Degrees" including Royal and Select Masters, OSM, and a few others. I was at one time going to four meetings in one week!!!

At our **1000<sup>th</sup> LOI** meeting which was held on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1987 at the Loughton Masonic Centre. We decided to organise a 1<sup>st</sup> Degree Dress Rehearsal, with the then Master Jeffrey Ziles, to act as the Candidate, and myself as Master, supported by Lay Brethren. It proved to be a tremendous success, We then had a "White Table" when we invited the ladies to join us for the meal afterwards, and we have continued the "White Table" tradition each year, with a very occasional Dress Rehearsal every few years. Below is a copy of the "SUMMONS" we circulated along with a list of Brethren participated:-

## EARLHAM Lodge of INSTRUCTION.

### 1000<sup>th</sup> CELEBRATION MEETING

Bro. G. Chevin	:	Worshipful Master
Bro. M. Alter	:	Senior Warden
Bro. H. Robbins	:	Junior Warden
Bro. R. Solomons	:	Chaplain
Bro. B. Lyons	:	Treasurer
Bro. B. Silver	:	Secretary
W/B. R. Rabin	:	Director of Ceremonies
Bro D. Fletcher	:	Senior Deacon
Bro. P. Sheffrin	:	Junior Deacon
W/B. S. Forman	:	Assistant Director of Ceremonies
Bro. J. Bernard	:	Inner Guard
W/B. B. Stephens LGR	:	Organist
W/B. A. Henderson LGR	:	Tyler

Dear Sir and Brother,

You are invited to attend the **One Thousandth** Regular Meeting of this Lodge of Instruction.

To be held at the LOUGHTON MASONIC CENTRE  
16 High Beech Road Loughton Essex IG10 4BL  
on MONDAY JUNE 8th 1987 at 6.00pm **SHARP**

There is a charge of £12.50p per person which includes the Festive Board.

To ensure your place in the Lodge please complete and return together with full payment the enclosed reply card, by MAY 15th 1987 Latest.

I have had the honour during my career to have Proposed or Seconded no less than 18 New Members, either as Initiates or Joining Members. But as will become obvious from the names detailed below they did not all stay!!

MICHAEL ALTER PAUL SHEFFRIN JEFFREY BERNARD ALEX SHOFFREN DEREK ZEALANDER DAVID HAHN  
RUSSELL SCHACTER JOHN MACKSWITH MARK ABRAHAMS MARTIN LEVIN DON POSTON ELLIOTT CHEVIN  
SONNY COHEN GARRY GORE LAURENCE GOLD IAN CHARLES MARTIN HUNTER STEPHEN PINNER BARRY  
McINERNEY. ELLIOTT CHEVIN STEPHEN LEWIS RUSSELL GOLD

I then subsequently arranged the 1,500<sup>th</sup> LOI Sunday Lunch at the Casa Verde Restaurant on Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> July 2000 once again with an attendance of over 50 including partners it was agreed that again this should become a regular event in the Earlham Lodge Calendar.

**Chris Selby** 40<sup>th</sup> Master made the very bold but tremendously popular decision to change from an annual "Ladies Night" to a delightful "Ladies Weekend" which has now become yet another **Earlham** tradition, successfully copied by both our Daughter Lodges. Trips to Grand Lodge and Synagogue Services have also now been added to our growing repertoire of Masonic openness.

My most emotional and fulfilling experience in Freemasonry, must be without doubt, the Ceremony of Initiation I had the pleasure of conducting with my own Son Elliott; It was very moving, and involved a number of family members, and close friends, I am certain this must be the peak in any Masonic Career (*but I have been told by many other Masons that Installing your Son into the Chair takes some beating*) Well that remains to be seen (I hope)!! I can Testify that Raising my Son also created a tremendous feeling of emotion and pride. P.S 2009 I can concur that it was!!!!

The Current Offices I now hold (Secretary of the Earlham Lodge, and Scribe E of the Earlham Chapter) allows me to "network" with all the Members of the Earlham Lodge and Earlham Chapter, and try to serve both to the best of my abilities and I hope to the satisfaction of both sets of members. I am also D.C. in the Forest Ridge Chapter. I also hold the Rank of ADC in both Boleyn Castle Lodge of Mark Master Masons & Royal Ark Mariners

I am also involved as Founding Secretary of our "Daughter" Lodge the **Essex Millennium 9729** which I trust will reflect the Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth so well recognised in the "Mother".

I hope the above may serve as a warning, that too much masonry might damage your health/wealth/sanity/marriage  
PLEASE DELETE AS NECESSARY.

## **Facts & Figures**

### **CONSECRATION MEETING**

30<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1953 FREEMASONS HALL

6 CONSECRATING OFFICERS 21 Founders 103 VISITORS

### **2<sup>ND</sup> MEETING**

HELD AT THE MOSTYN HOTEL PORTMAN STREET LONDON W1

TUESDAY 5<sup>TH</sup> MAY 1953 15 OFFICERS 5 MEMBERS 15 VISITORS

### **3<sup>RD</sup> MEETING**

HELD AT THE MOSTYN HOTEL PORTMAN STREET LONDON W1

TUESDAY 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 1953 15 OFFICERS 9 MEMBERS 18 VISITORS

### **4<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

HELD AT THE MOSTYN HOTEL PORTMAN STREET LONDON W1

3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 1953 18 OFFICERS 10 MEMBERS 28 VISITORS

## **Earlham Lodge** 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 1978 W. Bro Ralph Rabin Master



### **Back Row**

S Forman – M Grahame – R Warren – C Purkis – M Conrad – R Valens – W Green

### **Middle Row**

H Sherman – S Zilesnick – M Kenner – R Burns – B Robbins – L Phillips – H West – A Wynne -M Gould – A Wynne - S Raven

### **Front Row**

S Israel – E Valens – R Rabin W.M. – J Fleisher – M Austin

**SILVER JUBILEE 2<sup>nd</sup> MAY 1978 (127<sup>TH</sup> MEETING) 24 OFFICERS 22 MEMBERS 37 VISITORS**

Since the inception up to Mid 2002 a total of **166** Candidates have been Initiated their names are recorded below:-

**THE 1<sup>ST</sup> INITIATE**

MR EMANUEL DONALD BEBER AGE 39, LOCAL GOVERNMENT OFFICER  
RESIDING AT 50 CLOVA ROAD FOREST GATE E7 PROPOSED BY WBRO GEORGE BEBER LGR  
PZ SECONDED BY BRO L BEBER

To the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Officers, and Members

OF

..... *Earlham* ..... Lodge,  
*No. 7266* .....

*I, Emanuel Donald Beber* .....

being a Free Man and of the full age of Twenty-one years, do declare that, unbiassed by the improper solicitation of friends and uninfluenced by mercenary or other unworthy motive, I freely and voluntarily offer myself a Candidate for the Mysteries of **MASONRY**; that I am prompted by a favourable opinion conceived of the Institution, and a desire of knowledge, and that I will cheerfully conform to all the ancient Usages and established Customs of the Order.

Witness my hand this *five* day of *May* 19*53*

Signature *E. D. Beber* Age *39*

Profession *Local Govt. Officer*

Address *50, Clova Road, Forest Gate, E.7.*

Witness *Alfred Lewis* .....

Proposed by Bro *George Beber* .....

Seconded by Bro *Lawrence Beber* .....

Initiated *5th May, 1953* .....

Passed *1st September, 1953* .....

Raised *3rd November, 1953* .....

Recorded in Grand Lodge *C/17727 18/8/54*

**ALL OTHER INITIATES FROM 25<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1953**

ARTHUR SALTER - EDWARD CONWAY - LEONARD MARTIN - ANTHONY VICKERS - NORMAN FREEDMAN - MICHAEL KERSHAW - LEONARD FREEDMAN - ISSAC SMITH  
ALEC BRAHAM - ISIDOR EKER - BERNARD MORRIS - RONALD BURNS - HARRY WEST  
ABRAHAM GOODMAN - DAVID LINCH

**FROM 15<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1955**

CYRIL BARNETT - DENNIS STUART - JOSEPH WOOLFSON - JOSEPH SIMONS  
SAMUEL ZILES NICK - DAVID PHILLIPS - CHARLES BROWN - BARNET ROSE  
HYMAN LABOVITCH - MORRIS AGREST - ALEC POTTER - ALEC SHERMAN  
HYMAN SHERMAN - LEONARD GOLDFARB - JOHN SIMON - NAT REGAN  
MARTIN GOLDBERG - ALEXANDER NATHAN - CYRIL PURKIS - RONALD WARREN  
LESLIE BARRETT - HERBERT BERMAN - LOUIS STOLTZMAN - BERTRAM BARNETT  
CECIL SELWYN - HYMAN GROSS

**FROM 20<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 1958**

PETER NEWMAN - MARK ISAAMAN - ANDREW LEVENE - DONALD SHERMAN  
ABRAHAM MILLER - MARTIN MARGOLIS - RAYMOND FREEMAN - JOSEPH CONRAD CYRIL  
RAINE - BERNARD ROBBINS - ERNEST LEACH - SIDNEY STERN  
HAROLD MATZ - BENN MATTHEWS - SAMUEL LEWIS

**FROM 16<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 1962**

HESSEL ROBINS - RALPH RABIN - EMANUEL VALENS - PHILIP GRAHAME  
LEONARD MARSHALL - JACOB FLEISHER - PIZER SUNDERLAND - ERIC RENDELL  
CLIVE GOLDWATER - LEONARD LINCH - STANLEY BLOOM - HARRY FREEMAN  
HAROLD BLOM

**FROM 26<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1965**

HAROLD ZILES NICK - RALIEGH ZILES NICK - ISRAEL EIDELBERG PETER TRAVIS  
LESLIE LINCH - STANLEY RAVEN - CYRIL SEARLE - EDWARD LEVY - STANTON STARR  
STANLEY (STEPHEN) FORMAN - LAWRENCE PHILLIPS - RAYMOND PHILLIPS  
CLIVE JOSEPH - PHILIP KOSKY - JEFFREY ZILES - JOSEPH FASH - MAURICE GOULD  
ELIAS STARR

## **FROM 18<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1970**

MICHAEL CONRAD - ROY VALENS - PAUL SMITH - ANTHONY HAMILTON  
DAVID ROSENBERG - ARNOLD DAVIS - WALLY GREEN - HARRY MARKS  
MICHAEL KENNER - OSCAR STRUMINGER - LEN SLOAN - HARVEY LIFF  
CLIFFORD STARR - JEFFREY SANDGROUND - MARCUS LEGON - HARRY STERN  
BARRY SHAMPLIN - NORMAN LEWIS - STANLEY MASON - MICHAEL STARR

## **FROM 17<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 1977**

MONTY MORGAN - ALAN SPIVACK - GRAHAME BENJAMIN - STANLEY EINHORN  
ALAN LINDER - FRED GATLAND - ALLAN NEWMAN - CONRAD YUCHETEL  
CHRIS SELBY - GUSSIE DENTON - ALAN COHEN - GARY GREEN - RICHARD STONE  
CHRISTAKIS MATHEOU

## **FROM 2<sup>ND</sup> SEPTEMBER 1980**

GERALD CHEVIN - RONALD BLASKETT - BRIAN REED – LIONEL FLATER  
LAURENCE PRICE - RAYMOND SOLOMONS - IVAN GILBERT - HOWARD ROBBINS  
DAVID FLETCHER - NAT LEVENE - NEILL PHILLIPS - MICHAEL ALTER  
HARVEY GOLDING - BASIL SILVER - JOSS SHIRRA - STANLEY POSNER  
PAUL SHEFFRIN - JEFFREY BERNARD - BARRY LYONS - HENRY DAVIS  
RONALD HARRIS - NORMAN PERSELL – LAURENCE HOLMAN

## **FROM 3<sup>RD</sup> NOVEMBER 1988**

ALEX SHOFFREN - STEPHEN WOOLF - FRED ISAAC - DEREK ZEALANDER  
DAVID HAHN - RUSSELL SCHACTER - JOHN MACKSWITH - JACK PIKUS  
DEREK JACOBS – MARK ABRAHAMS - HENRY GODFREY - LAURENCE LEWIS  
PAUL ROSEN - STEPHEN ASHBY - DONALD MAX - MARTIN LEVIN

## **FROM 11<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1997**

RAYMOND BENN - MICHAEL CARTZ - MICHAEL WISE - DON POSTON ELLIOTT CHEVIN -  
MICHAEL MOSS – SANT SARKER - RONNIE HIRSCHKORN GRAHAME BAKER

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## **JOINING MEMBERS**

Since the inception up to Mid 2002 a total of **27** Members have joined our ranks their names are recorded below:-

### **1<sup>ST</sup> JOINING MEMBER**

BRO LOUIS COMYNS MEDICAL PRACTITIONER MASTER MASON OF THE LODGE ANIMA  
GLASGOW 1223 (S.C.) RESIDING AT 74 WOODFORD AVENUE ILFORD ESSEX  
*PROPOSED BY BRO E. G. G. WHITE SECONDED BY BRO A LEVINE*

Followed by:-

HARRY BROWN - SIDNEY NATHAN - SOLOMON SAMUELS – SAUL COHEN  
JOSEPH ROSENBERG - JOSEPH NERDEN - CECIL WERSHOF - DAVIS STEELE  
ISSAC POLUCK - HARRY NESS - LOUIS MISELL - GOODMAN MANN - HENRY RABIN MICHAEL  
DAVIS - GERALD ROSE - STEPHEN KORN - CHARLES RAEBURN STANLEY LEWIS SONNY  
COHEN – GARRY GORE - SIMON DRIVER - LAURENCE GOLD IAN CHARLES - MARTIN HUNTER  
- STEPHEN PINNER - BARRY McINERNEY  
RON CREMIN - DAVID VAN LOEN - STEPHEN LEWIS - RUSSELL GOLD

# VENUES OF MEETINGS

FREEMASONS HALL GREAT QUEEN STREET (CONSECRATION AND SOME SUBSEQUENT INSTALLATIONS)

THE MOSTYN HOTEL PORTMAN STREET LONDON W1

THE OXFORD CORNER HOUSE 14 OXFORD ST LONDON W1 (9<sup>TH</sup> MEETING)

THE CLARENDON RESTAURANT HAMMERSMITH LONDON W6 (71<sup>ST</sup> MEETING)\*\*

THE ANGUS STEAKHOUSE 1 ALDWYCH LONDON WC2 (74<sup>TH</sup> MEETING)

THE GROSVENOR ROOMS WALM LANE WILLESDEN LONDON NW2 (110<sup>TH</sup> MEETING)

IL CORVINO BEUFORT HOUSE GRAVEL LANE LONDON EC3 (184<sup>TH</sup> MEETING)

CHINGFORD MASONIC CENTRE STATION ROAD CHINGFORD E4 (190<sup>TH</sup> MEETING)

*\*\*Martin Grahame relates an amusing anecdote that this venue which the Lodge only met on THREE occasions, was appalling, in the sense that the appalling smell of fish from the kitchen coupled with the fact that the Men's Lavatories were directly opposite the Temple, was more than enough to offend the sensibilities of the Brethren if a move had not been in the pipeline a mass walkout might have ensued.*

## L.O.I. Venues

These have been fairly limited in terms of sites. The 1<sup>st</sup> venue of course was the Shul Board Room at Earlham Grove Synagogue, when the available space became too cramped for the increasing number of members, and consequently facilitated a move to Wanstead House in St. Mary's Avenue. When the rent there became too expensive, it was followed by a brief sojourn to The Ilford Liberal Club in Balfour Road Ilford; But the stairs, smoky atmosphere and cramped conditions, stimulated us to our present meeting place at Chingford Masonic Centre where we sometimes get to rehearse in the Main Temple.

# FOUNDERS and FIRST OFFICERS

W. Bro. G. BEBER <i>LGR PZ</i>	WM
Bro. L. BEBER	SW
Bro. W. ROCHESTER	JW
W. Bro. REV M. WOOLF	CHAPLAIN
W. Bro. S. ISRAEL	TREASURER
Bro. E. WHITE	SECRETARY
Bro. J. DAVIS	DC
Bro. I. DAVIDSON	SD
Bro. A. WYNNE	JD
W. Bro. A. COLLETT	ADC
W. Bro. L. LEVENE PPAGDC	ALMONER
Bro. C. VICKERS	ORGANIST
Bro. A. LEVENE	ASST SEC.
Bro. S. FREEMAN	IG
Bro. M AUSTIN	STEWARD
Bro. L NATHAN	STEWARD
Bro. W ANGEL	STEWARD
Bro. S FREEDMAN	STEWARD
Bro. A MARTIN	FOUNDER
Bro. V. SCHAUVERIEN	FOUNDER

## **1<sup>ST</sup> Secretary**

**E.G.G. WHITE (16 Years)**

**DAVID PHILLIPS (5 Years)**

FROM 4<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1969 (84<sup>th</sup> MEETING) UNTIL 5<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1974  
(109<sup>th</sup> MEETING)

**RONALD BURNS (4 Years)**

FROM 7<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 1975 (110<sup>th</sup> MEETING) UNTIL 4<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 1979  
(133<sup>rd</sup> MEETING)

**MARTIN GRAHAME (18 Years)**

FROM 6<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 1979 (134<sup>TH</sup> MEETING) UNTIL 1<sup>ST</sup> SEPTEMBER 1997  
(215<sup>th</sup> MEETING)

**GERALD CHEVIN**

FROM 1<sup>st</sup> SEPTEMBER 1997 .....

# Past Masters of the Earlham Lodge

\*=Deceased

*W. Bro. GEORGE BEBER, PGStB. 5370 {1933} 2763 {1936}.....	1953
*W. Bro. LAURENCE BEBER,.....	1954
*W. Bro. WALTER ROCHESTER.....	1955
*W. Bro. EDWIN GREGORY WHITE....	1956
PAGDC, SLGR, LGCR.	
W. Bro. SIDNEY I DAVIDSON, LGR.....	1957
*W. Bro. ALFRED WYNNE, LGR.....	1958
*W. Bro. ALFRED LEVENE, LGR.....	1959
W. Bro. SAMUEL FREEMAN.....	1960
*W. Bro. WILLIAM ANGEL, PAGDC.....	1961
*W. Bro. SIDNEY NATHAN.....	1962
W. Bro. EDWARD CONWAY.....	1963
*W. Bro. ISAAC SMITH.....	1964
W. Bro. LEONARD FREEDMAN.....	1965
W. Bro. RONALD BURNS.....	1966
*W. Bro. HARRY WEST, LGR.....	1967
*W. Bro. DAVID PHILLIPS.....	1968
*W. Bro. SAMUEL ZILES NICK, LGR.....	1969
*W. Bro. NAT REGAN.....	1970
W. Bro. ALEX NATHAN LGR.....	1971
W. Bro. MARTIN GRAHAME, PPGSwdB SLGR.....	1972/1999
*W. Bro. RONALD WARREN.....	1973
W. Bro. DONALD SHERMAN.....	1974
*W. Bro. JOSEPH CONRAD, LGR.....	1975
*W. Bro. BERNARD ROBBINS.....	1976
*W. Bro. RALPH RABIN LGR.....	1977
*W. Bro. EMANUAL VALENS.....	1978
*W. Bro. JACOB FLE ISHER, LGR LGCR.....	1979
*W. Bro. STANLEY RAVEN, LGR.....	1980
W. Bro. STEVEN FORMAN PPAGC LGR PZ..	1981
W. Bro. LAWRENCE PHILLIPS.....	1982
W. Bro. CYRIL PURKIS, PPAGDC.....	1983
W. Bro. ROY VALENS, PPGSD PZ.....	1984
*W. Bro. WALLY GREEN.....	1985
W. Bro. JEFFREY ZILES, PProvGTreas PZ....	1986
W. Bro. MICHAEL KENNER PPAGDC.....	1987
*W. Bro. MONTY MORGAN.....	1988
W. Bro. ALAN COHEN PPAGDC.....	1989
W. Bro. GERALD CHEVIN, PGStB, PProvGSw dB, PPGSN (RA) LGCR	1990
W. Bro. CHRIS SELBY PPAGDC.....	1991
W. Bro. RONALD BLASKETT PPGDC PZ.....	1992
W. Bro. DAVID FLETCHER PPAGDC.....	1993
W. Bro. RAYMOND SOLOMONS.....	1994
W. Bro. PAUL SHEFFRIN PProvGStB PZ.....	1995
W. Bro. JEFFREY BERNARD PZ.....	1996
W. Bro. HOWARD ROBBINS.....	1997
W. Bro. LAURENCE GOLD.....	1998
W. Bro. ALEX SHOFFREN .....	2000
W. Bro. MARK ABRAHAMS .....	2002
W. Bro. JACK PIKUS.....	2003

## NOTABLE DATES

### 16th February 1953

The Eastminster Lodge No. 5370, recommended the application for a warrant to be granted to the EARLHAM LODGE and the petition therefore to be signed in Open Lodge by the Master W. Bro. Joseph Davis and the Wardens Bro. C Douglas SW & Bro. H Ferguson JW.

### 16<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 1968

PETITION SIGNED FOR THE FORMATION OF THE FOREST RIDGE LODGE

### 2<sup>ND</sup> MAY 1978

SILVER JUBILEE MEETING

### 1<sup>ST</sup> MARCH 1988

PETITION SIGNED FOR THE FORMATION OF THE EARLHAM CHAPTER

### 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 1992

AUTHORISATION TO MOVE TO THE PROVINCE OF ESSEX

### 6<sup>th</sup> June 2000

PETITION SIGNED FOR THE FORMATION OF THE ESSEX MILLENNIUM LODGE  
by the Master W. Bro. Martin Grahame PPGSwdB SLGR  
Bro. A Shoffren SW & Bro. M Abrahams JW.

### APRIL 2003

GOLDEN JUBILEE MEETING

Convocation of the 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the **Earlham Chapter**



Left to Right

*Jeffrey Posener Founder (Treasurer)  
Roy Valens Founder Eric Riegler  
Founder (Scribe E)  
Ray Solomons Founder (1st Principle)  
Ronnie Marks Founder (Preceptor)  
Martin Grahame Founder (Asst Scribe  
E) Ivan Kovler Founder (Almoner.)  
Gerald Chevin Founder (ADC) Martin  
Hunter Founder (DC) The Rev  
Leighton Thomas (Hon Member)*

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all the Past Masters, Officers and Brethren of the Earlham Lodge a happy and memorable 50th Anniversary Meeting, and thank you for taking the time to read these few pages, I hope you found them of some interest.

Hopefully they, and us, maybe seen at the Centenary Anniversary Meeting in 2053.

Gerald Chevin.  
January 2003.

