

Ferraria Lodge No 8489

400th meeting

19th March 2019

Corby Masonic Complex



A History

1972 to 2019

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Milestones to the 400th meeting

Records show that meetings concerning forming a new lodge to be representative of masonry in Corby go back to Friday 7th April 1972, no doubt many informal discussions preceded the first exploratory meeting held at the Masonic Hall, York Rd in Kettering, there were many well known masons involved in that initial meeting

It should be noted that Provincial Grand Lodge had long suggested the formation of a further Lodge in the area, as there was an ever-growing interest in Freemasonry Corby.

Further meetings ensued and it was agreed that the additional Lodge was indeed to be representative of Masonry in Corby and formed from the existing Willowbrook and Thistle & Rose Lodges. In balanced proportions, so as not to unduly deplete or cause hardship to either lodge and furthermore it would not operate any form of selection or exclusion by reason of profession

Possible names for a new lodge were considered these included Corby St John, Corbie, Ferraria, Rockingham, Hazelwood and Industry, this list was reduced to just two being Corby St John and Ferraria with Lodge Ferraria coming out on top by a single vote.

Ferraria an old name, associated with the ancient practice of iron forging

The list of founding members and a list of officers for the first year was agreed, the remaining founders are WBro GBD Cole and the first Treasurer and WBro J Hallum the first Junior Deacon.

On the 18th October 1972 Bro John Hallum formally submitted a petition to WBro N Rolfe (the Provincial Grand Secretary) for the formation of a new Lodge at Corby to be known as Lodge Ferraria. After due consideration from all parties the name was agreed as Ferraria Lodge, it was subsequently recorded in the register of Grand Lodge as number 8489, there was also an issue as regards the Lodge Banner, as the first design Grand Lodge considered to be an heraldic shield shape and not appropriate.

Eventually agreement was reached on all points and the Consecration of Ferraria Lodge took place on the afternoon of the 19th May 1973

The consecration took place at the Masonic Hall in York Road Kettering, by the PGM at the time RW Bro RA Palmer who was assisted by his Deputy WBro DR Baker, the 1st WM was W Bro WG Roe in total 106 brethren attended the ceremony, many of them members of Willowbrook and T&R. The festive board including wine was priced at £2.50, which incidentally was the same price as the Founders Jewel.

Before the first regular meeting of the Lodge which was held on Tuesday 18th September 1973 the following issues were decided

- Each officer would buy his own collar £5 in those days
- Cuffs would only be worn by the WM (clearly that has been dropped)
- The dress would be Dinner Jacket
- The first three candidates were Ronald Pace, Lyndon Price and Thomas Lang

In the early years Installation meetings and ladies festivals, were held in Kettering whilst regular meetings were held at the Luthren Hall here in Corby and also in Kettering until the first phase of this centre had been completed. Ferraria Lodge moved permanently to these premises at the start of the 1984/85 season just in time to celebrate our 100th meeting on the 15th October 1985

So to a first/second and third

The 100th meeting was a 1st Degree ceremony, the WM was Bro Barrie Ball, officers included Bro David Jackson, Bro Ken Marris, and the NE corner was delivered by Ronnie Stone. Grand Lodge Certificates were presented by the WM to amongst others Bro John Lyman and Ronnie Stone.

The 200th meeting took place on 21st January 1997, Ronnie Stone pops up again this time as the SW, with his long-time partner in crime Sam Hagen as the JW, and to complete the gang Sam Duffy is being passed to the 2nd degree, oh what a night as the song goes, the minutes don't inform as to whether Bro Duffy's hearing aid was working or not.

The 300th meeting was held 19th February 2008, by now NYM's were leading Ferraria in the persons of WM Steve Seward, SW Martin Branston and as JW, a future secretary Steve Burton. Fortunately, for us and the candidate for raising it was a past masters night, which surprisingly did not include W Bro Stone, however he did make an appearance as the lodge Almoner giving advice on how to put out wheelie bins, as recorded in the minutes.

Brethren so many have given of their time and effort to build and maintain our Lodge, many of you are here tonight, at this our 400th meeting.

So to the future of our Lodge, we will be celebrating 50 years in 2023, ours has always been a strong lodge with a committed membership, we are proud of Ferraria Lodge and the part its members have played in establishing our fraternity in our relatively young town.

Our task is to continue to look after the Lodge and to grow freemasonry, both in Corby and across the Province of Northamptonshire and Hunts.

Key Milestones Years

1972

When we started investigating the history of what happened in the world and in this country in particular, it was in order to provide a few fun facts for each of the years that have been major events in the history of Ferraria.

Our first year is 1972, unfortunately, fun was not really on the agenda for this year. In the UK we had the Miners' strike, a Cod war with Iceland, we even had a State of Emergency announced. This was the year that Ceylon became Sri Lanka and Ford gave us the Ford Granada which replaced the Zephyr as their large car. We also saw the school leaving age raised to 16.

The Godfather and the Poseidon adventure were the major cinema hits of that year. On TV, the very first episodes of Mastermind and Emmerdale Farm were being shown.

In Sport, Derby County, under old big head himself, Brian Clough, won the English Title. With Celtic winning the Scottish league title by one point from Rangers. Wales with JPR Williams won the Grand Slam. 1972 was also the year of the Munich Olympics, where the big sporting story was American swimmer Mark Spitz winning a remarkable 7 Gold medals.

1973 - Consecration

In the UK Ted Heath was the Prime Minister and Richard Nixon was still US President. On the 1st April VAT was introduced into the UK at the rate of 10%. The major overseas news was the Watergate scandal involving President Nixon.

It was a great year for music. Pink Floyd's Dark Side of the Moon was released, along with David Bowie's Aladdin Sane, Elton John, Goodbye Yellow Brick Road. The charts were full of songs by the likes of Slade, Wizard, Donny Osmond, David Cassidy and T.Rex.

Dawn were at number 1 in the charts with Tie a Yellow Ribbon. This was their second Number 1, the first had a Masonic connection, that's right it was knock three times

Moving on to Sports, In the Five Nations, this was quite a historic year as all five nations shared the championship having all won 2 and lost 2 games each. England were still top though as points difference wasn't counted and so, alphabetically we come first.

Sunderland had just beaten Leeds in the FA Cup final. Liverpool and Celtic had been crowned League champions, and Jackie Stewart went on to win the Formula 1 Drivers Championship.

TV produced quite a few notable debuts that year, Some Mothers do have em, That's Life, Porridge, Open all Hours and Last of The Summer Wine to name just a few.

For all you soap watchers, the big news is that Elsie Tanner has left Coronation Street!

1985 -- 100th Meeting

Maggie Thatcher is the P.M. and this was the year the very first Mobile phone call was made.

Live Aid pop concerts were held at Wembley and in Philadelphia and were televised around the world. With an estimated worldwide audience of 1.5 billion people. Over £150 million was raised for famine relief in Ethiopia in the UK. Dire Straits released Brothers in Arms that year

and at the time of our 100th meeting another masonic themed song was at number one , it was The Power of Love by Jennifer Rush.

Sadly this was also the year of the Bradford City stadium fire. and the Heysel Stadium disaster which as a result of the latter all English clubs were banned from the European competitions. On a happier note, Europe won the Ryder Cup with Tony Jacklin as captain and Sam Torrance in the team and in Rugby Ireland were crowned as the 5 nations champions.

Boris Becker won Wimbledon at the tender age of 17 in July, and 18.4 million TV viewers saw Dennis Taylor beat Steve Davis at the Crucible in Sheffield at the Snooker World Championship.

This was the year we saw for the first time Eastenders, Miami Vice, Blind Date, In Sickness and in Health. This was also the first year for Comic Relief where £15m pounds was raised

1997 -- 200th Meeting

In February, Dolly the Sheep was cloned. Toshiba released the very first DVD player.

In May Tony Blair was elected as Prime Minister. Bill Clinton had already started his second term as the US President and the UK handed Hong Kong back to China in July.

JKRowling released her first Harry Potter Book. The Philosophers Stone and in music the Spice Girls were the biggest Pop group in the UK and the Manchester music scene was still live and kicking with Oasis selling the most albums that year. Paul McCartney and Elton John both got knighthoods this year.

In light entertainment Channel 5 began broadcasting in March and we first saw Alan Partridge, Cold Feet and this year was when we first heard the names , Tinky-Winky, Dipsy, Laa Laa and Po.

In Sport Tiger Woods won the US Masters at just 21 years old. Mike Tyson was disqualified from his heavyweight title fight against Evander Holyfield - apparently Tyson became very hungry during the fight, and so naturally, he bit a couple of chunks out of Holyfields ear.

In Rugby it was France won the Five nations,

The biggest but saddest news story though came in August when Princess Diana was killed in a Car crash. Her funeral taking place on the 6th September .

2008 -- 300th Meeting

Just before the start of the year The Channel tunnel passenger terminal running Eurostar services had moved from Waterloo to St Pancras International railway station, which meant it was just a single escalator ride between Kettering and Paris. 2008 will generally be remembered as the year of the Financial crisis with Banks around the world going bust, causing untold damage to industry.

In December 2008 Woolworths closed its doors and MFI also went into administration.

Barack Obama was voted in as US President, Gordon Brown was the P.M. and Boris Johnson became the Mayor of London.

It was a big year for sports, the Summer Olympics that year were held in Beijing , China. Cycling suddenly became our new National Sport with Sir Chris Hoy winning 3 gold medals and Sir Bradley Wiggins winning 2 golds. In the Swimming Pool , Rebecca Adlington won 2 golds. In the Paralympics that followed we all cheered on Ellie Symonds in the pool.

Portsmouth beat Cardiff City in the FA Cup final, whilst Man Utd beat Chelsea on penalties in the All English European Champions League Final. Wales won the Grand Slam led by their Coach Warren Gatland.

In that year Lewis Hamilton became the youngest ever Formula 1 champion at 23 years old, he won his first title in dramatic fashion; on the last corner of the last lap in the last race of the season. On TV Freesat was officially launched in May of this year. and Grange Hill had its final last episode.

However, the biggest and most devastating news was for hundreds of men above a certain age, they had to deal with the fact that Carol Vorderman had left Countdown...