

A true Festival of Masonry



A packed Derby Masonic main Temple was the setting for Cantelupe Lodge's emergency meeting for all to enjoy the 2010 Peter Bennett Memorial Lecture Festival, held on Wednesday 30th June. The Festival was graced by the presence of Wor. Bro. Brian Evangelista **PAGDC**, Assnt Prov. Grand Master, Lecture Festival President.

The Province of Derbyshire annual Lecture Festivals, instigated by the late Wor. Bro. Peter Bennett (and now bearing his name as a tribute to his founding work) were established to give junior Brethren of the Province an opportunity to learn and deliver the ritual and lectures of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement to a high standard and to an appreciative and attentive Masonic audience.

The 2010 Festival, the first since Wor. Bro. Bennett's death in March 2009, was sponsored by Cantelupe Lodge 8247, with the proceeds going to the 2014 Derbyshire Festival.

This year's event truly matched the same high standards that had been previously enjoyed in the preceding years. This was in no small part due to the enduring skill and guidance of this year's Festival

Preceptor, Wor. Bro. Dennis Ashmore (Cantelupe Lodge 8247), the synchronised execution of the floor work by the Festival Team's Acting Officers, under the superb guidance of Acting Director of Ceremonies, Bro. Steven Fraser Burton (Rutland Lodge 1179) and last, but not least, by the Festival Lecturers themselves. Months of learning, repeated practice and rehearsals at Belper Masonic Hall and in the main Temple at Derby culminated in the Festival itself. This year the lectures comprised the first four sections of the Lodge of Emulation First Degree Lectures. As the evening's labour unfolded and even before the lectures themselves had started, stifled mutterings of approval (or was it envy?) could be heard from around the captivated audience, as the military style precision of the Team's ritual was executed. The audience knew then that they were in for a feast of Masonry..... and they were not disappointed.

All good things having come to an end, the Festival Team processed out of the Temple to a spontaneous, lengthy and well deserved ovation from the visitors.

The Festival atmosphere continued after the lectures with a packed and hearty Festive Board where Masonic banter, joy and harmony abounded from all quarters of the dining hall.

During the toast replies the Festival President, Wor. Bro. Brian Evangelista, sincerely thanked all the Festival Team for their hard work and commitment in delivering such an enjoyable and polished performance in the Temple, and commented that, from a Provincial viewpoint, he felt sure that the future of the Lecture Festivals had now been well and truly cemented in place.

The well-supported raffle swelled the Festival's charitable coffers and for the Festival Team and all the visitors, the evening proved to be not only a truly splendid and memorable occasion, but a showcase for the future of Masonry in Derbyshire and a fitting tribute to the late Wor. Bro. Peter Bennett.

The Lecture Festival Officers:

Acting Worshipful Master	Bro. B Bishton	Fairfield	#2224
Acting Senior Warden	Bro. A Hausman	Cantelupe	#8247
Acting Junior Warden	Bro. A Clare	Rutland	#1179
Treasurer	Wor. Bro. Robert Lee	Cantelupe	#8247
Acting Secretary	Bro. P. Featherby	St Werburga	#4147
Acting D of C	Bro. S Fraser Burton	Rutland	#1179
Acting Senior Deacon	Bro. J. Cooke	Cantelupe	#8247
Acting Junior Deacon	Bro. I Hodgkinson	Cantelupe	#8247
Acting Inner Guard	Bro. R Joel	Round Table Lodge of Derbyshire	#8725
Organist	Wor. Bro. J Rooks	Hartington	#1085
Tyler:	Wor. Bro. F Kirkwood	St Werburga	#4147
Preceptor & IPM:	Wor. Bro. D Ashmore	Cantelupe	#8247

The Lecture Festival Lecturers:

Bro. P Bough	Cantelupe	#8247	Bro. D Brown	Littleover	#9565
Bro. P Featherby	St Werburga	#8247	Bro. M Moore	Hartington	#5098
Bro. A Vickers	Hartington	#5098	Bro. R Joel	Round Table Lodge Of Derbyshire	#8725