

The History of Seven Kings Lodge No. 2749
1899 – 1999
(Text Only)

By
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THE SEVEN KINGS LODGE No. 2749

FOREWORD

The contents of this booklet have been compiled mainly from the minute books of the regular meetings of the Seven Kings Lodge.

It is not intended to be a concise history of the Seven Kings Lodge but more as a journey through some of the events that have taken place and which are worthy of note. The author begs the indulgence of the Brethren, particularly the older Brethren, if they feel that some event of interest occurred which has not been recorded herein. No doubt the full history of this Lodge is chequered with many more notable happenings but unfortunately many of these are lost in the mists of time and those Brethren that would have any recollection are regrettably deceased.

Many of the older Brethren have been able to relate some of the past events which are quite vivid in their memories and have been a great source of information, none more so than W. Bro. Leslie Tutt P.P.J.G.W., W. Bro. Reg Thompson P.P.J.G.W. and Bro. Bill Bloys. Thank you to those and all the others that have helped to put this book together.

The writing of this Lodge history is now an ongoing project for the author W. Bro. Tim Bone P. Prov. A. G. Reg. and will be updated regularly. If after reading this any Brother remembers any incidents worthy of note or has any information of our past, contributions will be gratefully received and included for the future generations of members of Seven Kings Lodge.

A GLIMPSE AT THE BEGINNING

THE SEVEN KINGS LODGE No. 2749

The Seven Kings Lodge No. 2749 was sponsored by Liberty of Havering Lodge No. 1437, it was consecrated on 22nd June 1899 at the White Hart Hotel, Romford and ranks No. 42 in the order of precedence for the Province of Essex. On the petition there is no reason given for requesting the name 'Seven Kings' other than a reference to the new Lodge being more convenient to their (*the petitioners*) dwellings. Looking at the list of addresses for the petitioners it seems that most of them lived in and around Seven Kings, this would therefore seem to be the most likely reason for the name.

The Petitioners and Founders were:-

W. Bro. Frank Evans	Bro. J. J. Linton
W. Bro. Charles R. Allen	Bro. J. W. Stewart
W. Bro. H. L. Pridmore	Bro. C. W. Batt
W. Bro. A. Taylor	Bro. C. Evans
Bro. R. J. Hatfield	Bro. W. Batt
Bro. H. J. Chatterton	Bro. H. Gilbey
Bro. W. J. Duff	Bro. C. N. Creech
Bro. J. G. Whitehead	Bro. W. F. King
Bro. H. Smith	Bro. G. F. Ashdown
Bro. E. F. Gillard	Bro. H. W. King
Bro. G. M. Verlyck	Bro. Louis Sinclair

15 of the petitioners were subscribing members of 'Langthorne Lodge' No. 1421 and strangely not one of them was a subscribing member of our sponsoring Lodge 'Liberty of Havering' No. 1437. Langthorne Lodge met at the Angel Hotel, Ilford and many of its members lived in and around the Seven Kings area.

The consecrating officers were:-

R.W. Bro. Earl of Warwick, *R.W. Prov. Grand Master*

W. Bro. Robert Woodhouse, <i>Prov. S.G.W.</i>	<i>as Senior Warden</i>
W. Bro. Col. Landon, <i>Prov. J.G.W.</i>	<i>as Junior Warden</i>
W. Bro. Ven. Archdeacon Stevens, <i>Prov. G. Chaplin</i>	<i>as Chaplain</i>
W. Bro. Thos. J. Ralling, <i>Prov. G. Sec.</i>	<i>as Secretary</i>
W. Bro. Albert Lucking, <i>Prov. G.D.C.</i>	<i>as Director of Ceremonies</i>
W. Bro. Richard Clowes, <i>Prov. G Std. B</i>	<i>as Inner Guard</i>

Below are the minutes of the consecration meeting as duplicated from the minute book.
22nd June 1899

~ **Minutes of meeting held at the White Hart Hotel Romford**

The Brethren (whose names appear in attendance book) having assembled in the Lodge rooms W. Bro. T.J. Ralling P.A.G.D.C. & Prov. G. Sec. Occupied the chair and opened the Lodge in the 3 degrees ass^{td} by Bro. Chas R Allen as I.P.M. Bro. A Taylor P.M. as S.W. Bro. H.L. Pridmore P.M. as J.W. Bro. R.J. Hatfield as I.G. & the remainder of the Brethren.

The Prov. Grand Master and his officers then entered the Lodge in procession. The Rt. Hon the Earl of Warwick occupied the chair and appointed his officers as follows:-

W. Bro. Robert Woodhouse, <i>Prov. S.G.W.</i>	<i>as Senior Warden</i>
W. Bro. Col. Landon, <i>Prov. J.G.W.</i>	<i>as Junior Warden</i>
W. Bro. Ven. Archdeacon Stevens, <i>Prov. G. Chaplin</i>	<i>as Chaplain</i>
W. Bro. Thos. J. Ralling, <i>Prov. G. Sec.</i>	<i>as Secretary</i>
W. Bro. Albert Lucking, <i>Prov. G.D.C.</i>	<i>as Director of Ceremonies</i>
W. Bro. Richard Clowes, <i>Prov. G Std. B</i>	<i>as Inner Guard</i>

The opening hymn having been sung the Prov. G. Master addressed the Brethren on the motive of the meeting, the proceedings were opened with solemn prayer. The Chaplain then delivered an interesting and instructive oration upon the principles of Freemasonry in general & the hopes & attainments of the Seven Kings Lodge in particular, after which the Lodge was Consecrated, Dedicated & Constituted in due form. The musical portion of the above ceremonies being effectively rendered by the choir under the direction of Bro. H.J. Chatterton.

The R.W. Prov. Grand Master then vacated the chair in favour of W.Bro. Albert Lucking P.G.D.C. who resumed the Lodge to the Second degree. W.Bro. Frank Evans P.M. was presented to the W.M. by W.Bro. Ralling acting as D.C. as the W.M. designate of the Seven Kings Lodge & gave his assent to the Ancient Charges & Regulations & obligated in the duties of the Masters Chair, the Lodge was resumed to the 3rd Degree & all below the rank of Installed Master having retired. A Board of Installed Masters was formed & Bro. Evans was installed in the Chair of K.S. according to ancient rite & custom.

Upon the return of the Brethren the W.M. was proclaimed & saluted in the 3 Degrees & having been entrusted with the Warrant appointed & invested his officers as follows:-

W.Bro. A. Taylor	Acting I.P.M.
W.Bro. H.L. Pridmore	J.W.
Bro. Gilbey	Treasurer
W.Bro. Chas R. Allen	Sec ^y
Bro. R.J. Hatfield	S.D
Bro. H.J. Chatterton	J.D.
Bro. W.J. Duff	I.G.
Bro. J.G. Whitehead	D.C.
Bro. E.F. Gillard	}
Bro. G.M.E.L. Verlyck	} Stewards
Bro. J.J.L. Linton	}
Bro. A. Young	Tyler

The customary addresses to the W.M., Wardens & the Brethren generally more than ably delivered by W.Bro.Lucking.

The W. Master prop^d that a hearty vote of thanks be accorded to the Prov^l Grand Master & the Consecrating officers for their services & that the honory membership of the Lodge be conferred on them, this was suitably acknowledged by the Prov^l G. Master on behalf of himself & the elected members

It was prop^d by Bro. C.R. Allen, sec^d by W.Bro. Pridmore that Bro. A. Taylor P.M. should represent the Lodge on the Essex Provincial Charity Committee, this being unanimously carried Bro. A. Taylor P.M. thanked the Brethren for the honour.

The Committee of Management consisting of the W.M., S & J Wardens, Treasurer, Sec^y, & Past Masters of the Lodge were elected to frame the Bye Laws of the Lodge, prop^d by Bro. C.R. Allen, sec^d by Bro. Pridmore P.M. & J.W.

Letters of regret for non-attendance were read by the Sec^y from Bro^s. Louis Sinclair, G. F. Ashdown & the Prov. G. Treas^r.

The following Candidates and joining members were prop^d
Mr. W.H. Everett, 24, SchoolMaster. 47 Selborne Rd. Ilford.

&

Mr. J.C. Stone, 41, SchoolMaster. 60 Bedford Rd. Ilford.
Prop^d by H.J. Chatterton J.D. sec^d Bro. G. Verlyck W.S.

Bro. Edwin Thos Dunn. Langthorne Lodge No. 1421. Architect, Adelaide Chambers, Ilford.

&

Mr. David Geo. Kerr. 29, Brewers Manager, Brewery Stores High Road Ilford.
Prop^d by Bro. G. Verlyck W.S. sec^d by Bro. H.J. Chatterton J.D.

Bro. Alf James Allison. Gentⁿ. Greenock St. Johns Lodge No. 175. The Lodge Aldersbrook, Manor Park.

Prop^d by Bro. C.R. Allen, sec^d by Bro. H.J. Chatterton J.D.

Mr. Arthur Fred^k Williams. 26, Engineers Manager. The Rowans, Avenue Road, Leytonstone.

&

Mr. Hy. Flower. 25, Wine and Spirit Merchant. 125 Bow Road E

Prop^d by Bro. E.F. Gillard W.S., sec^d by Bro. H.J. Chatterton J.D.

The Lodge was then closed in due form with solemn prayer & adjourned to Saturday the 2nd Sept. 1899”

Signed Frank Evans W.M.

W. Bro. Frank Evans was therefore the first installed Master of Seven Kings Lodge. It is worthy of note that one of the first candidates for initiation was a Mr. H. Flower, Wine and Spirit Merchant, this, no doubt, was to help set the fine tradition for merriment in Seven Kings which exists to the present day and will hopefully continue long into the future.

* It should be noted that for the first year a Senior Warden was not invested. The first Senior Warden invested in our second year was W.Bro.H L Pridmore.

THE CONSECRATION BANQUET 22ND-JUNE-1899

<i>Hors d'Oeuvres</i>	Anchovies. Olives. Sardines. Prawns
<i>Soups</i>	Clear Mock Turtle. Spring soup.
<i>Fish</i>	Salmon and Lobster Turbot Stewed Eels Fried Soles
<i>Entrees</i>	Lamb Cutlets and Tomatoes. Sweetbreads. Stewed Kidneys and Mushrooms.
<i>Remove</i>	Roast Lamb and Asparagus. Boiled and Roast Chicken. Ham and Tongue. Ducklings
<i>Sweets</i>	Wine Jellies. Blanc Mange. Tipsey Cake. Fruit Tarts. Custards. Meringues and Cream. Ice Pudding.
<i>Dessert</i>	Coffee

This is the original menu offered at the first festive board, it would appear that our predecessors also liked to eat well.

THE TOAST LIST FROM THE CONSECRATION MEETING 22ND-JUNE-1899

THE QUEEN AND THE CRAFT

THE M.W. GRAND MASTER, H.R.H. THE PRINCE OF WALES

THE M.W. PRO GRAND MASTER, EARL AMHERST;
THE R.W. DEP.G.M. THE EARL OF WARWICK;
THE GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT AND PAST.

THE R.W. PROVINCIAL GRAND MASTER THE EARL OF WARWICK

THE DEPUTY GRAND MASTER, COL. LOCKWOOD, M.P., P.G.D;
THE PROVINCIAL GRAND OFFICERS PRESENT AND PAST

THE W.M. OF THE SEVEN KINGS LODGE, No. 2749
THE VISITORS.

THE TYLERS TOAST.

THE FIRST ONE HUNDRED YEARS

Seven Kings 1899 to 1909

The petition stated that there would be four meetings per year, on the first Saturday of March, June, September and December at the 'Golden Lion Hotel'. However in the first year there were four additional 'emergency' meetings. Of the eight meetings held that year four were at the 'Golden Lion', two at the 'White Hart', and two at the 'Cauliflower Hotel'.

The consecration meeting of 22nd June 1899 was very quickly followed by the first of those emergency meetings on 14th July 1899. It was during this meeting that the adoption of the amended bye-laws, as framed by the 'Committee of Management', subject to the approval of Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge, was proposed by Bro. Chatterton and seconded by W.Bro. Pridmore, it was carried unanimously. The Lodge now had its own bye-laws.

During the regular meeting of 2nd December 1899 Bro. G. Verlyck proposed and Bro. J. Stone seconded that a 'Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction' be held at the 'Cauliflower Hotel' Ilford under the sanction of this Lodge, it was carried unanimously. The Lodge now had its own 'Lodge of Instruction'.

The emergency meeting of 3rd February 1900 saw an amendment to bye-law No.1 which should now be read as :“The meetings shall be held on the first Saturday in the months of June, September, December and March in each year at the 'Cauliflower Hotel' Seven Kings, Ilford.” So this was now taken to be the official venue of the 'Seven Kings Lodge'. Unfortunately there must have been some difficulties keeping to a regular venue because on 26th January 1901 an emergency meeting saw the Lodge back at the 'White Hart Hotel' Romford and on 27th April 1901 bye-law No.1 was duly amended to read “The Lodge meetings be held at the 'White Hart Hotel' Romford.” Happily this remained the regular meeting place of Seven Kings for a considerable time to come.

The founder members each paid the sum of £5-0-0 and the fees for initiation were set at Eight Guineas. Visitors fees were one Guinea (£1-1-0) for the Installation meeting and a Half Guinea (10/6) for ordinary meetings. These visitors fees were very soon revised as on 2nd June 1900 the bye-laws were amended to read “that the fees chargeable for visitors shall be 15/- for Installation meetings & 7/6 for ordinary meetings.”

During that first year 'Seven Kings' was very busy and sixteen new members were initiated into 'the Mysteries and Secrets of Ancient Freemasonry' along with nine joining members. The programme of events was very full at most meetings and an enormous amount of work was achieved.

Below is the ceremony calendar for the first year:-

Date	Initiated	Passed	Raised	Joining Mem.
22 nd -June-99	CONSECRATION MEETING			
14 th -July-99 (*)	Mr. Everett Mr. Stone Mr. Kerr Mr. Williams Mr. Flower			Bro. Dunn 1421 Bro. Allison 175
2 nd -Sept-99	Mr. Beaumont Mr. Brewer	Bro.Everett Bro.Stone Bro.Kerr Bro.Williams Bro.Flower		Bro.Gozzett 1024
21 st -Oct-99 (*)	Mr. Darlow Mr. Chapman Mr. Waghorn	Bro.Beaumont Bro.Brewer	Bro.Everett Bro.Stone Bro.Kerr Bro.Flower	
2 nd -Dec-99	Mr. Hazler Mr. E.T. Davies	Bro.Darlow Bro.Chapman Bro.Waghorn	Bro. Beaumont Bro. Brewer	Bro.Burgess 1421

3 rd -Feb-00 (*)	Mr. E. Davies Mr. Austin Mr.W. May	Bro.Hazler Bro.E.T.Davies	Bro.Williams Bro.Darlow Bro.Chapman Bro.Waghorn	
3 rd -Mar-00		Bro.E.Davies Bro.Austin Bro.W.May	Bro.Hazler Bro.E.T.Davies	Bro.Burrows 87 Bro.Hubbard 1259
7 th -Apr-00 (*)	Mr.G.May		Bro.E.Davies Bro.Austin Bro.W.May	

(*) Denotes an emergency meeting.

In the first year fifteen candidates went through from Entered Apprentice to Master Mason. At the 3rd February 1900 meeting a letter was read that would appear somewhat strange today:-

“Dear Bro. Secretary,

The candidates for initiation in the Seven Kings Lodge, names as per other side, having been proposed respectively by us the undersigned, being desirous of passing the three Degrees if possible before July next, and as it is understood no degrees will be conferred at the Installation meeting, beg to submit to you for the W.M.’s consideration and decision, that they might with advantage be asked to attend and be dealt with at the emergency meeting which we understand will be held early in February.”

Yours Fraternally

Signed G. Verlyck

J. Stewart

J. Whitehead.

This letter referred to Mr. E. Davies, Mr. Austin and Mr. May who according to the above schedule were duly initiated, passed and raised by the time requested. It would appear that the Founders were anxious to get the numbers up as soon as possible.

The first record of the furniture used by Seven Kings was a reference to a cordial thank you to be forwarded to the W.M. and Brethren of the ‘Liberty of Havering’ Lodge for the loan of their furniture, this was proposed and seconded on March 3rd 1900. This meeting took place at the ‘Cauliflower Hotel’ Romford and at that time ‘Liberty of Havering’ met at the ‘Golden Lion’ Romford, I wonder how it must have appeared to the locals to see three large throne like structures being taken into and out of the pub.

At the regular meeting of 2nd June 1900 reference is made to a proposition “that a hearty vote of thanks be given to Bro. R.J. Hatfield J.W. for his generous gifts to the Lodge.” Unfortunately it does not say what these generous gifts were, however entered in the minutes of the Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction on 9th March 1900 is a proposition “That the best thanks of this Lodge of Instruction be given to Bro. Hatfield for his handsome present of Collars and Jewels.” Although it is more than likely that the latter were for the use of the Lodge of Instruction only it is also conceivable that the ‘generous’ gifts mentioned were of a similar nature.

It seems likely that Seven Kings continued to borrow the required furniture for the following year, then on the 1st June 1901 at the Installation ceremony the newly installed Master W.Bro. Pridmore proposed that “a hearty vote of thanks be given to Bro. R.J. Hatfield S.W. for his munificent gift of three Principal Chairs to the Lodge.”

Later still, on 3rd June 1905, again at an Installation meeting, “a hearty vote of thanks, proposed by Bro. Chas Allen, seconded by W.Bro. Stewart W.M. was unanimously accorded W.Bro. Hatfield for his generous gift of three handsome chairs to the Lodge. W.Bro. Hatfield in acknowledging the vote, stated that he made the presentation with the understanding that should a Chapter be formed in connection with the Lodge that it should have the unrestricted use of the W.M.’s and Warden’s chairs where required.”

At a previous Installation meeting Seven Kings got its first banner as duly noted in the minutes of 6th June 1903:-

“The I.P.M. W.Bro. R.J. Hatfield then presented a very handsome Banner to the Lodge, which gift was suitably acknowledged by the W.M. on behalf of the Brethren after which the Prov.G. Chap., The Bishop of Barking, delivered a very eloquent address and offered up a dedicatory prayer.”

It is apparent that much of the furniture, regalia and ornaments that adorned the Seven Kings Lodge, and the Lodge of Instruction, in those early days were a direct result of the generosity of W.Bro. Robert James Hatfield who was also one of the Founders. I am sure that the Lodge will forever be indebted to him. Seven Kings Lodge now had all its own furniture.

The members of Seven Kings both present and past have always enjoyed the social side of freemasonry. The Lodge was only eighteen months old when on 7th December 1901 it was proposed “that a committee be formed to consider the advisability of having a Ladies Night in connection with the Lodge and that they have power to act.” It was further proposed that the committee be made up of the Officers and Past Masters of the Lodge. It was reported during the following meeting that a most successful Ladies Night had been held at the White Hart Hotel. This was the first Seven Kings Ladies Night and the present Brethren carry on the tradition, hopefully they will continue to be as successful long into the future.

The only recorded time that Seven Kings has seen open unrest in the Lodge was recorded in the minutes of 6th September 1902. When the minutes of the last regular meeting were read out and confirmation sought, Bro.E.Gillard protested against the deletion of his notice of motion impugning the conduct of the W.M in his selection of officers. The Secretary explained that this motion was out of order. Bro.Gillard then proceeded to address the Lodge on the subject in defiance of the W.M. twice ruling him again out of order. The minutes were then resubmitted and this time confirmed with Bro.Gillard and one other dissenting. Bro.Gillard had previously been the Junior Warden but had not been invited to become Senior Warden by the Master elect. At the next meeting, December 1902, a letter was read from Bro.Gillard apologising for his conduct and Bro.Gillard’s letter of resignation from the Lodge was read out at the June 1904 meeting.

At the Meeting held on 2nd December 1905 the minutes record, “A letter was read from Bro. E.H. Richards Scribe E. Designate of a proposed (Seven Kings) Chapter requesting the sanction of the Lodge to hold the said Chapter in connection with the Seven Kings Lodge bearing the same name and number. It was thereupon resolved on the proposition of W.Bro. F. Evans P.M. seconded by W.Bro. H. Pridmore that the petition in favour of the proposed Chapter be signed.” Seven Kings now had a Royal Arch Chapter connected with the Lodge. The petition stated that the Chapter meetings would be held on the fourth Saturday in the months of January, March and November. This Chapter will also be celebrating its Centenary in the next few years and Seven Kings Lodge forward them hearty and fraternal good wishes for that event.

One of the most notable events that took place in the first ten years was of course the death of the reigning monarch Queen Victoria. It is clearly recorded in the minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 1901, that the Lodge wished the resolution placed

“we beg to express to the M.W. the Grand Master His Majesty King Edward VII our deep sympathy with him on the loss he has sustained by the death of our deeply lamented Sovereign the late Queen Victoria and to humbly submit our loyalty to His Majesty and our congratulations on his accession to the Throne.”

The first Master to have come from within the Brethren that had been initiated into Seven Kings was W.Bro.W.H.Everett who was proposed as a candidate at the Consecration meeting and initiated at the following meeting on 14th July 1899. He was passed during the next meeting 2nd September 1899 and raised on 21st October 1899. The records show that he went from Initiation to Master Mason in three months, from reading the minutes this does not seem to be unusual for the time. W.Bro.Everett was finally installed as Worshipful Master of Seven Kings Lodge on 2nd June 1906.

It is apparent from the minutes of those early years that Brethren from other Lodges were often Passed or Raised during ceremonies of Seven Kings Lodge. Likewise some of the newly initiated Brethren of Seven Kings were sometimes Passed or Raised at other Lodges. A typical letter read out in open Lodge (4th April 1903) was from the Secretary of another Lodge, "A letter from the Secretary of the Aldersbrook Lodge No. 2841 was read announcing that Bro.C.Howell of S.K. Lodge was duly passed to the degree of a F.C. at Manor Park on Thursday February 19th 1903."

The early records show that there was no appointment of a Chaplain either at the Consecration meeting or any subsequent meetings until on the 7th December 1901 the office of Chaplain was filled by the Prov.G.Chap., 'The Bishop of Barking'. However there is no record of him becoming a member of this Lodge either by initiation or as a joining member. The Bishop did not regularly attend the meetings but always ensured that a letter of regret at not being able to attend was read out. At the end of September 1913 one such letter refers to him as W.Bro. The Bishop of Barking, then in 1914 a similar letter refers to him as 'V.W.Bro. the Rt. Rev. the Lord Bishop of Barking'. The last reference to the Lodge Chaplain as the 'Bishop of Barking' being in December 1918. After this he is referred to only as Bishop Stevens.

The office of Chaplain continues to be very poorly attended by this Lodge right up until 1921 when at the June meeting of that year W.Bro.Rev.Dr.Rosedale D.D., F.S.A., P.G.Chap. becomes a joining member of Seven Kings and at the December 1921 meeting is invested as Lodge Chaplain, he maintains this office until 1927. There is no further mention of Seven Kings having a Chaplain until November 1984 when W.Bro.Mick Kiddy took the office on a more permanent basis. Since then the office of Chaplain has come to be recognised as one of the most important in the Lodge and has been regularly filled ever since.

The first petition for a new Lodge was presented to the Brethren on 1st April 1905 and it was duly signed by the W.M and his Wardens in open Lodge. The Secretary designate had requested in writing that the new Lodge should be named 'St.Chads' and be held at Seven Kings. This was always considered to be our first Daughter Lodge and indeed there were very strong bonds between us, especially in those early days. However when looking up our family tree in the 'Genealogy of Essex Lodges' it was noted that St.Chads Lodge No.3115 was shown as being the Daughter Lodge of St.Erkenwald Lodge No.2808 which is a London Lodge and has as its sponsor Langthorne Lodge No.1421.

This was very well documented and the author checked the details with the Librarian at Freemasons Hall, she confirmed them as being correct and that Seven Kings was not the sponsoring Lodge. The Secretary of St.Chads was contacted and was also very surprised to learn that Seven Kings was not officially their sponsoring Lodge as it had always been assumed that we were. The Librarian at Freemasons Hall was again contacted and asked if she could actually get the petition out and check it again. She did this and found to her surprise that St.Chads had co-sponsors and Seven Kings was in fact one of them, so we can once again claim that St.Chads Lodge No.3115 was in fact our very first Daughter Lodge.

Seven Kings 1910 to 1919

The Lodge continued to meet at the 'White Hart Hotel' Romford throughout this decade. However because of the outbreak of the First World War there were many dispensations to hold meetings in other places, unfortunately only the replies from Provincial or Grand Lodge granting permission are minuted, and not the reasons for the request. The most popular place for these dispensation meetings was the Holborn Restaurant in the West End of London.

One of the first events of note mentioned in this decade, in the minutes 14th May 1910, was the death, on 6th May 1910, of the reigning Monarch His Majesty King Edward VII, referred to as the Protector of the Craft. The Bishop of Barking was minuted to have

“moved a resolution expressing in an eloquent manner the profound grief of the members and the irreparable loss the Craft had sustained by his death.”

There is no record of pledging loyalty to the succeeding monarch George V, this would appear to be rather unusual under the circumstances as this very pledge had been made some ten years earlier on the death of Victoria and the succession of Edward VII. It was also minuted that the members were upstanding and the organist 'impressively rendered' The Dead March in Saul.

The Lodge Secretary and founder member W. Bro. Charles R. Allen P.M., P.Z., P.P.G. Swd. B. died in 1910 and in so high esteem did the Brethren of Seven Kings hold him that it was resolved to 'Erect a memorial over his grave' The cost was quoted as not to exceed Fifteen pounds. As Secretary W. Bro. Allen had likely overseen most of the setting up of the Seven Kings Lodge and would have been one of its most influential members during its existence up to that date.

At the end of the year 1910 the new Secretary W. Bro. Stewart read out a circular from the Grand Lodge of England which drew attention to "the existence in England of certain irregular bodies styling themselves Masonic, to which women are admitted as members and warning members of the Craft against associating in any way with such bodies or visiting any Lodge styling itself Masonic which is not recognised by the Grand Lodge of England." Some things have not changed in nearly one hundred years, they obviously had some of the same problems that we still encounter today. It must have been deemed to be very important at the time as it was both read out in open Lodge and recorded verbatim in the minutes. Perhaps it was the idea that women may be trying to gain access to our meetings.

Seven Kings must have still had very close links with Langthorne Lodge No. 1421 because a very unusual event took place at the 1st-June-1912 meeting. After the Lodge was opened in the Third Degree and Bro. Tredaway was raised to the 'Sublime Degree of a Master Mason' a dispensation from the Grand Master was read out. Part of which reads:- "You having represented to the Most Worshipful Grand Master that for reasons stated in your application you are desirous of installing as Master of your Lodge Brother Herbert Gilbey who is at present Master of the Langthorne Lodge No. 1421 and thereby disqualified except by dispensation to be Master of another Lodge."

The dispensation was in favour of granting permission for W. Bro. Gilbey to be installed, the reason given was that he only had a very short term of office remaining at Langthorne. W. Bro. Gilbey was duly installed as Master of Seven Kings and so was Master of two Lodges at the same time, a most unusual feat.

W. Bro. Gilbey was one of the Founders of the Lodge and had been the Lodge Treasurer since its' Consecration. The reason for his short term as Master is not given but considering the trouble that had been gone through to install him at that time it can only be assumed that it was to bring the December meeting into line as the Installation meeting. In the December meeting of the same year, 1912, W. Bro. Holt was installed as Master in his stead and W. Bro. Gilbey was elected Treasurer again, he held this post from Consecration right up to the end of this decade, 1920.

The First World War broke out in August 1914 and the first mention of it in the minutes is at the meeting of 5th December that year. Notice was given that the bye-laws would be amended to allow any member, should he so desireth, who is directly or indirectly affected by the war to be allowed onto

the country list and pay a fee of One Guinea until the cessation of the hostilities. This sum to include the dues to the Grand and Provincial Grand Lodge.

The furniture of Seven Kings Lodge was beginning to be in demand as is indicated by the request from St. Chads Lodge No.3115 on 4th September 1915 for "permission to use the furniture at their Installation meeting to be held at the 'White Hart' Hotel Romford. Permission was voted for and unanimously granted. This was further extended to a request that the Lodge be good enough to allow St. Chads the use of the furniture at their future meetings at any rental that Seven Kings would care to ask. This matter was referred to the Committee of Management for consideration and report.

An interesting note in the minutes of the Installation meeting held on the 4th December 1915 was a motion to transfer £5-5-0 (five guineas) from the benevolent fund to the fund for the relief of 'English Brethren' interned at the civilian camp at 'Ruhleben'. At the same meeting there was a letter requesting a donation toward the expenses incurred by the St. Clements Masonic Service in raising £66-3-2 for the 'British Red Cross Society', the Lodge voted to contribute £1-10-0 from the Lodge Funds. There are many more entries over the war years where there are contributions made to the war effort in a variety of ways.

There are many letters of regret for inability to attend meetings due to postings overseas during the war years. There is also one very poignant reference to a letter received from a Bro. Grollich asking to be excused from attending the meeting "he having received from the War Office notification that his son and only child had been killed in action in Mesopotamia on April 16th 1916." The minutes bring the realities of the past right into the present and as the Author read this passage he could not help but be moved by it.

The Lodge must have had quite strong connections with the military, probably through W.Bro.Major Frank Evans, many candidates from the armed services were proposed, balloted for and initiated on the same evening because of the strong possibility that they would be posted overseas at any time. It is also interesting to note that many of the Brethren who became serving members of the Armed Forces had their rank inserted into their Masonic title, for instance W.Bro.Major Frank Evans and Bro.Capt.Fine, even many years after the war had ended the minutes still record their rank when referring to them.

During the Installation meeting of 1st December 1917 there was a presentation by the Provincial Grand Secretary W. Bro Ralling P.G.D. to the Lodge of a 'most handsome Charity Box mounted in Ivory and silver'. This was yet another gift donated by the ever charitable W.Bro. Hatfield P.A.G.D.C., P.Prov. G. Treasurer, L.R. who had donated so much of the Lodge furniture in the past.

At the 2nd Feb 1918 meeting another petition for a proposed new Lodge was presented by the Secretary Designate. The new Lodge was to be called 'Vigilance' and to be 'holden' at Romford. The Lodge balloted that the petition be approved and it was unanimously agreed, the W.M. and Wardens then signed the petition in duplicate in Open Lodge. This was the second Lodge to be sponsored by Seven Kings and became Vigilance Lodge No. 3859.

In the same year (1918) another petition was presented in favour of the granting of a Warrant for the formation of a new Lodge to be holden at Romford and called the 'Old Friendship Lodge'. It was requested that the Brethren of Seven Kings would be good enough to approve of the Warrant being granted by signing the petition. It was balloted for and unanimously agreed that the petition be approved and signed in open Lodge by the W.M. and his Wardens. This was to be the third Lodge sponsored by Seven Kings and the second in that year.

The bye-laws had been changed quite a bit during the Great War and once it was over they had to be looked at again in whole. A Committee was appointed to 'consider' them and report to the next regular meeting. What the committee did is not known because the changes proposed were printed on the summons, sadly not available, and at the next regular meeting the minutes record a ballot to approve the proposed alterations. This was duly done and it proved unanimous in favour and ordered to be submitted to Provincial Grand Lodge for confirmation.

One of the last items of note during this decade was the presentation to the Lodge of an 'Aluminium Gavel and Chisel' made from parts of the wreck of the German Zeppelin No.31 which was brought down in flames at Cufley. This was again presented by W.Bro. Hatfield who without question

was responsible more than anybody else for the beautiful furniture that must have adorned the Temple at that time.

Seven Kings 1920-1929

The Lodge continued to hold its meetings at the 'White Hart Hotel' Romford but from 1920 and throughout this decade a dispensation was applied for and granted each December. The reason being that the December meeting at that time was for the Installation of the new Master and the numbers were now so great that the ceremony had to be held elsewhere. The first dispensation allowed the meeting to take place at the 'Mark Masons Hall, Great Queen Street' but after that they were all held at the 'Holborn Restaurant'.

On the first occasion of it being held at the Holborn Restaurant (1921) there were present 26 Past Masters and Officers, 55 other members and 66 visitors, making a total of 147 Brethren, that must have surely been a truly memorable ceremony and Festive Board for the new Master. The numbers remained high throughout the decade and by the end of it these numbers had only fallen to just above one hundred, still a good number by any standard.

The Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction continued to meet at the 'Angel Hotel' Ilford up until the end of June 1921. After the summer recess the L.o.I. held its first meeting on 2nd September 1921 at I.M.A. House. The Angel hotel had been the regular meeting place of the L.o.I. since 1901.

At the April meeting of 1920 a letter from the W.M. of 'Liberty of Havering' Lodge No. 1437 was read out wherein he stated that his Lodge had appointed a Committee to consider and report on the erection or provision of a Masonic Temple in Romford. In the letter he also suggested that Seven Kings might like to do the same, it was balloted for and approved unanimously. Unfortunately there is no mention of the findings of this Committee or what happened to the idea of the Romford Masonic Temple.

At the meeting of 4th September 1920 the Lodge applied for, and was granted, a special dispensation to initiate three candidates at the same time, this was necessary because the Constitutions of Private Lodges did not allow any more than two candidates to be initiated on the same day. Unfortunately the minutes do not give a reason as to why this was done, none of the three were in the services, their occupations were given as Tramway Traffic Inspector, Commercial Traveller and National Health Insurance Officer, so were unlikely to be moving overseas. The minutes do not record how the ceremony was conducted but one can imagine that it must have been quite difficult for the Deacons if it was done in one go, or time consuming if they were done separately. Especially so as at the same meeting there were two Brothers passed to the Degree of a Fellowcraft and two more raised to the Sublime Degree of a Master Mason.

There followed shortly after the above an emergency meeting on 13th Nov 1920 which was held at IMA House, Ilford when another dispensation was applied for and granted to Pass three Brethren to the Degree of a Fellowcraft. The Brethren this time were not the three from the previous meeting but consisted of two from Seven Kings Lodge and another from St. Chads Lodge No. 3115 for whom the W.M. of that Lodge had written to Seven Kings and asked if we would pass him. It must serve to illustrate the unity between the Lodges at that time, not only did we accede to the request but actually applied for a dispensation to do it.

At the Installation meeting of 11th December 1920 the minutes record that " W. Bro. Dr. H.G. Rosedale then delivered a very fine oration and presented to the Lodge for and on behalf of W.Bro. R.J. Hatfield P.M., P.G.A.D.C., P.P.G.Treas., L.R. a very handsome Loving Cup of Silver." The Lodge accorded a hearty vote of thanks to W.Bro. Hatfield. Once again the Lodge was indebted to this man for his generosity.

Seven Kings Lodge again sponsored a new Lodge for at the meeting of 5th February 1921 the following was recorded "A petition for the formation of a New Lodge to be called the 'Hainault' Lodge, was then presented and on the motion of W.Bro. H.J. Chatterton P.M., P.P.G.Std.B. seconded by W.Bro. G.H. Jeff P.M., P.P.G.D., was approved and ordered to be signed." Hainault Lodge No.4367 was now the fourth Daughter Lodge of Seven Kings.

The Provincial Grand Treasurer, W.Bro. F.A. Driscoll, who had been Master of Seven Kings for 1918-1919, moved at the meeting of 2nd April 1921, that this Lodge do become a Founding Lodge of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home. The Lodge resolved to refer the matter to the

Committee of Management for consideration and report. At the Next Meeting, 4th June 1921, a motion was proposed by the Secretary W.Bro. J.W. Stewart P.P.G.D., and seconded by W.Bro. G.H. Jeff P.M. P.P.G.A.D.C., that the Lodge do become a Founding Lodge of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home. This was approved and included in the motion was that the "sum necessary for that purpose to be raised by the voluntary subscriptions of the members." The Lodge then voted to start the subscriptions with a donation of ten guineas from the Lodge Funds. From this it would appear that the Management Committee had looked favourably on the idea.

The members of the Lodge did not always approve of every charitable proposition put before them, no matter who recommended it. A circular had been received from the Provincial Grand Master and read out in Open Lodge, at the April 1921 meeting, regarding the formation of the 'Masonic Million Memorial Fund', it was proposed that this be put to the Committee of Management for consideration and report. At the meeting of 3rd September 1921 it was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by W.Bro. Jeff "that the subscription be increased to four guineas per annum for the period of five years next ensuing, non-resident members to pay two guineas per annum for the like period, and that one guinea from each of such subscriptions be applied and paid over to the Masonic Million Memorial Fund." A vote was taken and the minutes record that the proposition was declared to be lost.

However the Lodge was always ready to help its members when called upon to do so. This is clearly illustrated from the minutes of 4th Feb 1922 "a letter was received from the Secretary of the Southcliff Lodge No.4230, with reference to a distressed brother, formerly of this Lodge, and it was unanimously resolved that the sum of twenty five guineas from the Benevolent Fund together with the contents of the Charity Gavel at refreshment, be voted to him." This at a time when the subscriptions were only three guineas, if the same ratio was applied today to our subscriptions (£98) then this brother would have received somewhere in the region of a sum equivalent to £1000-00. Benevolent indeed.

In 1922 at the September meeting it was announced that Bro.J.G.Whitehead who was one of the Founders of the Lodge had died. At the following meeting, December 1922, W.Bro.R.J.Hatfield P.M., P.G.A.D.C., P.P.G.Treas., L.R. retired from the office of Treasurer a position he had held for 10 years. The W.M. then installed W.Bro. H.T. Morden as Treasurer, he remained in this office for the rest of the decade.

In recognition of the great service that W.Bro. Hatfield had done for the Lodge as well his generosity in donating so many items of furniture, the W.M. on behalf of the Lodge presented him with a Silver Cigar Box as a token of their affection and esteem. W.Bro. Hatfield is recorded as 'expressing his thanks and high appreciation in 'feeling terms' It must have been a moving moment for him as he obviously held the Lodge very dear.

The second Lodge Banner was presented on 1st Dec 1923. Who else could have donated such a wonderful gift? None other than W. Bro. Hatfield who had donated the first. The presentation was recorded as "V.W. Bro. Dr. Rosedale P.G.C. then presented to the Lodge for and on behalf of W.Bro. R.J. Hatfield P.M., P.A.G.D.C., L.R. a very handsome Banner to supplement that presented by him to the Lodge shortly after its Consecration, and in making the presentation dwelt very eloquently with its uses and emblems and in very happy terms alluded to the many generous gifts W.Bro. Hatfield had made to the Lodge." The Lodge proposed heartfelt thanks to W.Bro. Hatfield for his magnificent present, this being additional proof of his affection and regard, the proposition was 'carried with acclamation'.

At the same meeting as the presentation of the Banner there was a motion "that the sanction of the Lodge be given to the holding of a Lodge of Instruction, to be called 'The Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction (No.2) No. 2749, at the Pavilion, 141 Battersea Park Road, SW8. The proposition was carried and it must be assumed that the L.o I. was set up, but there is no further mention of it in the records. This was to be a second L o I which was to run parallel with the existing L o I.

There was an unfortunate and 'lamentable' loss to the Lodge in that the S.W. Bro.G.E. Grollick died during his year of office. The minutes of 3rd Feb 1923 do not give the cause of his death but he was only 52 years old, nor do they state who took over the office for the rest of the year. The J.W. was duly installed as Master at the following Installation meeting.

For a short period in its history the Brethren of Seven Kings had to wear Evening Dress to all regular meetings except the one held in June. This was proposed and brought in to force at the February 1924 meeting. It stayed in operation for just over a year because at the April 1925 meeting it was further proposed that the question of Evening Dress be at the discretion of the W.M. There is no record of any brother being cautioned for failing to wear the correct mode of apparel so it must be taken that the dress code evolved to be the one now printed on the front of the current summons.

The Secretary of the Lodge W.Bro. Stewart P.P.G.D. retired and was replaced in office by W.Bro. F.C. Farnie at the December meeting of 1924. W.Bro Stewart had been Secretary of the Lodge since 1910 and the minutes record thus "V.W. Bro. Rev. Rosedale, Chaplain, on behalf of the Past Masters of the Lodge presented W.Bro. Stewart with a piece of plate (Silver Salver) on his relinquishing the duties of Secretary of the Lodge, after having held the position for fourteen years, as a mark of their appreciation and affection for his faithful services." In reply W.Bro. Stewart expressed his appreciation of the gift.

The regular meeting place of the 'White Hart' Romford must have been undergoing some refurbishments because a strange resolution was passed at the June 1924 meeting. "That in view of the restricted accommodation at the regular place of meeting, for a period of twelve months, as and from this date, no proposal for the Initiation of any person into this Lodge shall be accepted or considered." This proposition was carried unanimously. However the records show that even at that meeting there was a proposal for admission for a candidate and at the following meeting the Initiation ceremony took place. After the twelve months were up (April 1925) there was a proposal to lift the ban on candidates for Initiation but to restrict it to two per year and only one per regular meeting. This was carried unanimously but later on at the June 1928 meeting it was rescinded. It was also proposed at the April 1925 meeting that no Joining Members be admitted for one year from that date, this was also carried.

W. Bro. Stewart the retired Lodge Secretary had a close relative, the minutes of September 1925 do not give the exact relationship, who sadly died and the members of the Lodge wished to express their profound sympathies with W.Bro. Stewart and the family of the late Mr. Walter Stewart. It is recorded that this loss was incurred by the noble and unselfish act of endeavouring to rescue a child from the River Thames. Considering the state of the River in those days, highly polluted and very toxic, this was indeed an act of heroism.

At the same meeting as the one above it was proposed and carried that the Lodge Secretary shall have the privilege of inviting one visitor to each meeting free of expense to himself. This privilege does not apply to the present Lodge Secretary so we are informed.

Our predecessors certainly liked to make the meetings as enjoyable as possible as indicated in the minutes of the meeting held in Feb 1927 when the "W.M. brought forward the question as to the desirability of having paid artists at the meetings (other than the Installation meeting)." It was proposed and carried that a sum not exceeding £3-3-0 was to be allocated from the Lodge funds for this purpose.

In the same year (1927) the Bishop of Barking (Dr. Stevens) P.G.Chap. Eng. and previous Chaplain of the Seven Kings Lodge died. The Lodge recorded that it wished to hold a memorial service for him at the St. Thomas church Beacontree but would need a dispensation from the Provincial Grand Master to enable it to be done. No further mention of this event is given so it is not known whether it took place or not.

Seven Kings Lodge almost had another Daughter Lodge. At the September 1927 meeting it was proposed by the Secretary and seconded by W.Bro. H. Chatterton and carried unanimously "that the Lodge support the petition for the granting of a Warrant to the proposed Goodmayes Lodge and the petition was signed accordingly, in open Lodge." Upon checking with the Librarian at Freemasons Hall the author was assured that this petition was definitely not the one used by the Founders of Goodmayes to start their Lodge.

At the meeting of 1st Dec 1928 the Tyler retired. Bro. T. Williams had been the Lodge Tyler since April 1900, this meant that he had put in over 28 years in that office and the minutes record "in view of the facts of his long and faithful services and his straitened circumstances, and the invitation from the Muggeridge Lodge No. 1679 to co-operate in granting an annuity. The Committee recommend that this Lodge should grant to Bro. Williams an annuity of £10-0-0." This was

unanimously agreed to by the Brethren. Unfortunately the Lodge accounts for the following years do not show any outgoings for this annuity and so it must be supposed that Bro. Williams passed away before any payment was made.

1927 was the last year that an invested Chaplain stood in that office, as mentioned earlier it was not until the 1980's that this office was once again graced by an invested Chaplain of Seven Kings.

Seven Kings 1930-1939

Seven Kings continued to meet at the 'White Hart' Romford for the first half of this decade. The practice of holding the Installation meeting at the Holborn Restaurant also continued up to the same time.

Seven Kings had been subscribing to the proposed Masonic Hall to be built in Romford and known as the Lord Lambourne Masonic Hall since 1928 when it was first discussed in Open Lodge and the Brethren had voted unanimously to invest in the project, starting with £25-0-0 from the Lodge funds. In 1930 the Prov. Grand Master asked for the support of the Lodge in the Lambourne Hall scheme and also support from the individual members. There are various references to payments made to the scheme and the completion of payment for shares was in 1935.

At the February 1935 meeting there was notice of motion given that the meeting place of the Lodge be moved to the newly erected 'Lord Lambourne Masonic Hall in Romford and the bye-laws be changed accordingly. It appears from the records that a special meeting was called immediately before the regular meeting in April of that year, there were no visitors present and a ballot was taken as to whether or not the Lodge should change its meeting place. The result was 34 in favour of moving and 6 against. The regular meeting that followed was to be the last one held at the 'White Hart' Romford for a considerable time, it had been the regular meeting place since the Consecration had taken place there nearly 36 years previously. The September 1935 meeting was the first to be held in the newly completed Lord Lambourne Masonic Hall and W.Bro. G.Jeff a Seven Kings P.M. acting in his capacity of Chairman of the Hall company "offered a hearty welcome to this Lodge, and drew the attention of the Brethren to the urgent need of their support by taking up shares in the Hall company."

Now Seven Kings just paid a letting fee for the use of the hall which continued to be the regular meeting place for the rest of the decade. The Installation meetings were now of small enough number that they could be accommodated at the new venue and from that date the practice of holding them at the Holborn Restaurant ceased.

One immediate effect that the financial requirements of the new premises had was to be felt not long after moving in. At the April 1936 meeting a letter was read from the Provincial Grand Secretary calling the attention of the Brethren to the suggested building of a Memorial Masonic Temple at Clacton. The letter suggested that all Lodges within the Province subscribe to this purpose. A proposition was then put to the Brethren 'that in view of the urgent needs of the Masonic Temple in the immediate locality, Seven Kings Lodge find it impracticable to accede to the request', this was carried unanimously.

The second effect was to be felt not long after due to the Installation meetings now being held at the Lord Lambourne Masonic Hall. Previously it had been held at the Holborn Restaurant in London's West End and visitors dining fees were One Guinea. At the September Meeting of 1938 it was proposed and approved in Lodge to reduce this fee to Fifteen shillings.

The Lodge of Instruction had been forced to change the venue for its meetings after June 1931 because I.M.A. House had closed. From September 1931 the L.o.I. went back to the 'Angel hotel' Ilford and for some reason, not stated, they were in need of tools and collars, this is surprising because the L.o.I. had been very well off in that department. The Lodge donated Five Guineas for the purchase of collars and a Bro.Goodfellow presented various tools. The L.o.I. continued to meet at the Angel hotel for the rest of the decade.

For the first time the Ladies Festival ran at a loss as recorded in the minutes:- "the Ladies Festival held in October 1931, whilst being most successful socially had resulted in a financial loss." The Lodge balloted and it was unanimously agreed that W.Bro. Hubbard I.P.M. be reimbursed for the amount which the accounts for that year show to be £5/1/8.

At the meeting held on 4th-June-1932 Bro. J. Pooley, who was to later become the Lodge Secretary, was presented with the Life Governorship Jewel of the Freemasons Hospital and Nursing Home. This meant that not only was Seven Kings a Patron of this Institute but we also had a lifelong governor in our ranks.

The Prov. Grand Secretary had sent a letter to every Lodge in the Province and at the Sept-1932 meeting its contents were read out. One of the items that it contained was a reference to the need of 'Insurance for the Tyler'. It does not say what he is to be insured against but the Lodge took it seriously enough to actually take out this insurance for the noble sum of sixpence. The author enquired of the present Secretary whether this practice continues today and was informed that it does not.

At the April 1933 meeting the W.M. W.Bro. Ernest Robinson, although present, could not take part in any of the ceremony, the reason given was that he was totally incapacitated owing to a severe attack of Laryngitis. The minutes record that the chair was taken by W.Bro. W.S. Apps and W.Bro. A.E. Hubbard. To make matters worse the Secretary informed the Brethren that Bro. D.W. Gladwin, a candidate for raising at that meeting, had met with a serious accident and was laying in a dangerous condition in the Whipps Cross hospital. It would appear that Bro. Gladwin must have made a full recovery because he was raised at the June meeting of that year and became W.M. of Seven Kings for the years 1950-1951.

During this decade two of the founder members died. One was W.Bro. H.J. Chatterton P.A.G.Purs(Eng.), died in 1933, he had been Master of Seven Kings in 1903/1904 and had served the office of D.C. in the Lodge from 1922 until 1932 when he became to ill to continue. The other was W.Bro. J.W. Stewart P.P.G.D., he died in 1934, he was Master of Seven Kings for the years 1905/1906 and then served the office of Secretary from 1910 to 1924. Both were very respected members of the Lodge and had helped to advance it from its Consecration.

In the early part of this decade Seven Kings had five regular meetings each year: February, April, June, September and the Installation meeting in December. At the Installation meeting of 1933 notice of motion was given to amend bye-law No. 1 with the deletion of the word 'June'. At the following meeting in February 1934 the motion was put before the Brethren and the minutes recall that a full discussion took place as to the effect that the omission of the June meeting would have on the financial position of the Lodge. The vote was then taken and the proposition was carried with two dissentients. No reason is given as to why the June meeting was dropped at this particular time, the attendance at the June meeting up until that time had been as good as any of the others. After checking with Grand Lodge Archives it would seem that no dispensation was required to do this if it was to become permanent, only the change to the bye-laws, which was how it was done.

In two consecutive meetings, at the end of 1935 and the beginning of 1936, the Lodge had to stand to order as a mark of respect to three great losses; the first being the death of Lord Cornwallis C.B.E. Rt. Wor. Deputy Grand Master, then at the following meeting at the start of 1936 the death of His Most Gracious Majesty King George V and the Rt. Wor. Provincial Grand Master Brig-Gen. Sir Richard Colvin. This must have been quite a loss to both the country and Freemasonry.

In 1937 W.Bro. H. Verney P.P.G.D. died, not only was this a very sad loss to the Lodge but at the time he was the Lodge Secretary. The office was then taken on in an acting capacity by W. Bro. Arnold Bolitho who was I.P.M. At the December meeting of 1937 W.Bro.A.Bolitho was invested as the Lodge Secretary, an office he was to hold for 23 years, during which time he was to serve this and many other Lodges well. The February 1938 meeting was the first that W.Bro.Bolitho attended as Secretary and for the first time in the history of Seven Kings there were no candidates for a ceremony. The summons gave the only work to do as being that to invest the Senior Deacon, who had been absent at the investiture of officers, and this was to be followed by a lecture on the First Tracing Board by Bro.A. Lowton. A good start for W.Bro.Bolitho indeed.

The bye-laws that are in existence today are very different to those that were used by the Lodge up until the latter part of this decade. At the February 1939 meeting notice of motion was given and at the following April meeting it was proposed that the then current bye-laws be superseded by the 'Model Bye-laws' recommended by Provincial Grand Lodge for the 'government of Private Lodges'. The proposed bye-laws were read out in Lodge and after discussion the proposition was carried unanimously. There being no further major bye-law changes it must be assumed that these are the ones that we use today, with amendments as recorded.

The remainder of the decade passed without much incident until the final year 1939 when the Second World War broke out. The W.M. at the time was W.Bro. Charles Whitehair and at the

September meeting of that year he announced that 'owing to the National Emergency' he would have to retire and vacate the chair in favour of W.Bro. H.E. Mouser. The minutes do not record whether or not this was done and at the next meeting (December 1939) W.Bro. Whitehair was in attendance to install the Master Elect.

Seven Kings 1940-1949

The regular meetings of the Lodge were of course severely disrupted at the beginning of this decade by the realities of a Nation at war. This war not only required great numbers of fighting men but was the first time the true horrors of an aerial bombardment had been experienced by the population at large.

The usual meeting place at the start of this decade was the Lord Lambourne Masonic Hall in Romford but early in 1940 this building was requisitioned and Seven Kings had no regular home for the next three years. All meetings during this period were held under dispensation and in a variety of places. The venue most often used was the 'Angel Hotel' Ilford, this being a meeting place that Seven Kings had used early in its history. The Installation meetings during this time were held at the 'Holborn Restaurant' in the West End as had been the custom during the first half of the previous decade, again held under dispensation.

The first meeting to take place after the Lord Lambourne Masonic Hall had been requisitioned was on 7th-September 1940 and was held at the 'Talbot Restaurant' London Wall. The Secretary of the time, W.Bro.A. Bolitho comments at the end of the minutes of that meeting:

“As a matter of interest to future generations of members of this Lodge it is noted in these minutes that this meeting was held on the opening day of the intensive aerial attack on London and the proceedings were carried on during continuous aerial bombardment.”

On the occasion mentioned above a candidate was initiated into this Lodge, it must have been a truly unforgettable experience for Bro.George Ball, later to become a Master of this Lodge and its D.C.. W.Bro. Bolitho also notes in the Jubilee Meeting Brochure that after this meeting many of the Brethren failed to get home until the following morning. It is quite humbling to appreciate the extremes our predecessors went through to continue Freemasonry in general and Seven Kings Lodge in particular.

At the very end of 1943 a dispensation was granted to use the 'Roebuck Hotel' Buckhurst Hill as a venue, this became a regular meeting place and even the Installation meetings were held there in preference to the 'Holborn Restaurant'. Seven Kings continued to meet at this place under dispensation until May 1946 when the Lodge voted unanimously to change the by-laws to make it a permanent move. This change brought different meeting times; the regular meetings now took place in February, May, September and the Installation in December.

The Secretary announced at the Installation meeting held in December 1948 that the 'White Hart Hotel' Romford was soon to be available again for Masonic meetings and that the Lodge should discuss the 'desirability' of going back to it. This discussion duly took place at the February meeting in 1949 and there was a substantial majority in favour of the move. A meeting in April 1949 took place at the 'White Hart' under dispensation and the motion to move back there permanently was carried unanimously, the meeting times were again changed, back to the months of February, April, September and December.

One of the first casualties suffered by the Lodge during the war was the accident sustained by the Worshipful Master W.Bro. Blakeley which prevented him from attending the first meeting after his Installation in December 1939. The acting Master was W.Bro.Bolitho, the Secretary, and he informed the Brethren that the W.M. had met with an accident in the blackout, the Brethren expressed their wish for a speedy recovery and at the April 1940 meeting the W.M. was indeed able to take his place in the chair.

The war was also affecting the Lodge of Instruction and at the April 1940 meeting an explanation of their financial difficulties was made by the Secretary of the L.o.I. The minutes do not give any exact detail as to how these difficulties arose but the motion was proposed that the Lodge donate 5 guineas to the L.o.I. and this was carried unanimously. There is no further mention of any more problems during the war years so it must be assumed that the L.o.I. was able to survive these times financially. After the War it appears that the L.o.I. moved from the Angel Hotel to the Methodist Church Ilford where it remained throughout the rest of this decade and all of the next.

For only the second time in the entire history of Seven Kings an unusual meeting took place on 1st February 1941. At this meeting there were no ceremonies performed, not even a lecture. The W.M. was not present and the chair was again occupied by the Secretary W.Bro.Bolitho. The events of that meeting were to read the dispensation allowing the meeting, to read and approve the minutes of the last regular meeting, to allow one member to go on the non-dining list and to accept the resignation of a Brother. There were present at the meeting 22 Brethren and no visitors. This was the least number of Brethren ever to attend a Seven Kings meeting. The next meeting, which took place in April 1941, was only marginally better, there were no ceremonies but there was a lecture on 'Kipling's Masonic References', 24 members and 6 visitors attended. It was at this meeting that our present Treasurer, W.Bro.Tutt, was proposed as a candidate for Initiation.

In the minutes of the meeting of 6th December 1941 the W.M. refers to the 'great loss' the Lodge had sustained by the death of W.Bro.Jeffs. The minutes do not say what he died of and there is no reference to him being ill, indeed he attended the previous meeting in his official capacity of Treasurer, a post he had held since 1937. This brother is not the first loss mentioned during the war years but he is the first sudden one and it begs the question 'was he the first member to be killed as a result of the war?' In consequence of his sudden death the Brethren had to elect a new Treasurer at that meeting, as a result W.Bro.Chas. H.Strickland was duly elected.

The business of Freemasonry at Seven Kings and other Lodges would not be stopped by the action of a dictator in Germany. The minutes record that at the meeting held on 4th April 1942 there was a proposition read out by the Master for the forming of a new Lodge to be known as 'Tylney Lodge' and he 'indicated that he would like the Seven Kings Lodge to sponsor the petition'. One of the Founders of the proposed Lodge then addressed the Brethren informing them that "The new Lodge would serve the needs of a large number of 'younger' Brethren and that he hoped that the Seven Kings Lodge, for which he had a high regard, would sign the petition." The petition was accordingly signed and another of our Daughter Lodges, Tylney Lodge No.5856, came into existence.

It was during this decade that three of our founder members died, they were:- Bro.C.W.Batt who never became Master of this Lodge, and if the minutes are correct, or of any other Lodge, although he belonged to at least three.

W.Bro.R.J.Hatfield P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.Treas. who was Master of Seven Kings on two separate occasions and did so much for the Lodge especially in respect of the ornaments and furniture that he donated.

W.Bro.Major Frank Evans P.P.G.D. who was the very first Master of Seven Kings having taken the chair at the Consecration meeting. The minutes inform us that he died at the age of 92 and that for more than 20 years he was a pensioner of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution and that during that period had received from them the greatest sum ever paid to one beneficiary. It is not recorded just how much that sum was but the minutes do go on to state that W.Bro.Evans left a widow (age not given) and that the Lodge had prepared a petition on her behalf.

There is only a small mention in the minutes of 1st September 1945 regarding the ending of the Second World War. The Master addressed the Brethren on 'the victorious conclusion of the War' and the Brethren stood to order as a tribute of respect to those who had fallen in the 'Cause of Freedom'. In the following year however there was a proposition to donate £30 from the Lodge funds towards the 'special expenses' incurred in organising the first Post War Ladies Night. The Brethren obviously took this as an opportunity to Celebrate victory as a Lodge. There is also reference made to another donation of £25 from Lodge funds toward the cost of Presentations to War-time Masters. It could be assumed that this was because there were no Ladies Nights held during that time and this was the first opportunity to recognise and thank their wives for the part that they had played during what must have been an extremely difficult time.

At the time that the Lodge was meeting regularly at the Roebuck Hotel there is mention that there was a deficiency in Lodge equipment and regalia, there was a proposition put forward that the Secretary (W.Bro.Bolitho) make good this deficiency forthwith. The Secretary appeared to take umbrage with this request and stated that he had already made considerable effort in that direction but the articles required were very difficult to obtain. He stated that he would keep trying but felt there was little point in the resolution, the wording of which was amended accordingly and carried 'without dissent'.

Toward the later part of the decade the Lodge Annual subscriptions had to be raised to Four Guineas and the by-laws were amended accordingly.

The last notable event in this decade for Seven Kings was the Lodge Jubilee Celebration. The Master at the celebration was W.Bro. Albert George Saywell and the meeting was held at Freemasons Hall Great Queen Street on 25th June 1949. There were present 51 members of Seven Kings Lodge and 92 guests including the Provincial Grand Secretary and eight Grand Lodge officers, also representatives from our sponsoring Lodge 'Liberty of Havering' No.1437, all our Daughter Lodges and all of our Granddaughter Lodges at that time. It is recorded that "it is with very great pleasure and satisfaction that we herein record that all the family were assembled."

There were addresses from the W.M. to our Sponsoring Lodge expressing our high regard for them and to our Daughter and Granddaughter Lodges referring to the unity and affection existing in this large family of Lodges. Both addresses were suitably replied to with sincere wishes 'for the continued usefulness and prosperity of the Seven Kings Lodge'.

The main address to the Seven Kings Lodge was made by the Secretary of Quatuor Coronati Lodge No.2076 W.Bro. Rev. H.Poole P.A.G.Chap. the main themes of which were:-

"That the Lodge might now be considered to have arrived at the stage where it was a complete entity within itself. The very large role that it should play particularly in the moral sphere in the lives of its members. That Freemasonry should not be considered of itself an end but a very important means to an end, and he concluded by wishing the Lodge and its members continued success and happiness."

There were various arias sung by soloists accompanied by the organist and to celebrate the occasion donations were made to both the Provincial Grand Charity and to the Benevolent Fund of the Royal Masonic Hospital. These were received by the Provincial Grand Secretary and the Secretary for the Royal Masonic Hospital, who both being present gave thanks to the Lodge for their generosity. The Lodge was then closed and the Brethren had their festive board celebrations in the 'Connaught Rooms' afterwards.

Seven Kings Lodge 1950-1959

There were no great notable events that took place during this decade that concerned Seven Kings that were recorded in the minute book. Seven Kings continued to meet at the 'White Hart' Romford throughout this decade. When this venue had been used in the past it had not been big enough to hold the Installation meetings there. It must be assumed that due to its refurbishment and smaller numbers attending it was now able to accommodate them and so these meetings were also held there.

It had been the tradition in Seven Kings that the Immediate Past Master was presented with a Gold Past Masters Jewel, the last recorded time that a gold Jewel was presented was in December 1945 to W.Bro.Pooley but unfortunately this tradition was never reinstated in this decade.

At the April 1951 meeting W.Bro.L.J.Martyn P.G.Std.B. became the first of our members to reach the milestone of 50 years in Seven Kings Lodge. The Brethren voted unanimously to donate £45 toward a complimentary dinner to commemorate the 50th anniversary of his Initiation which took place on 27th April 1901.

W.Bro.Martyn's 50th anniversary was very soon followed by another, that of W.Bro.C.H.Strickland P.P.AG.D.C. who was Initiated into the Lodge on 1st March 1902 and celebrated his 50th year in seven Kings on 2nd February 1952. W.Bro. Strickland was the Treasurer of the Lodge at the time, having taken on the office after the sudden death of W.Bro.Jeffs in 1941, he had been in continuous office since 1924 serving most of that time on the Stewards bench. The Brethren presented him with the sum of 25 guineas and he told them that he would buy an easy chair with the money. The Brethren then presented him with a pair of pipes which they thought would go well with the chair and the Master hoped that the comfort the chair would bring would often remind him of his long association with the Lodge. W.Bro.Strickland went on to celebrate 55 years in Seven Kings but unfortunately in April 1957, his 55th year and still Treasurer of the Lodge, he sadly passed away.

Another 50 years of membership was also celebrated in this decade on the 2nd Feb 1957 by W.Bro.L.Pearson who was initiated on 2nd Feb 1907 exactly 50 years previously to the day and the Brethren made a presentation to him, unfortunately the minutes do not state what it was. It is recorded that he was 84 years of age and was in very good physical and mental shape and everybody hoped that he would continue for many years to come. W.Bro.Pearson lived until he was 90 years old and was a subscribing member until the time of his death.

At the December 1957 meeting it was announced that the last surviving Founder of the Lodge Bro.W.F.King had died. Although Bro.King was a Founder of this Lodge he very soon resigned and this was announced at the June 1903 meeting. However he rejoined at the 4th April 1914 meeting as Bro.Captain W.F.King and remained a subscribing member for many years. A note in the Jubilee Celebration meeting refers to him as being the only surviving Founder and at that time he was living in Cape Town, South Africa.

There is one recurring theme during this period of our history and that is the plight of the Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction. It was brought to the attention of the Brethren at the September 1956 meeting by the Lodge Secretary W.Bro.Bolitho and he informed them that if the poor attendance continued then there would be no alternative but to close it down and he asked them to give it serious thought. The L.o.I. minutes of that time show that after this address in Lodge the L.o.I. numbers did rise by about 50% for a time but by the same period the following year the numbers were down again and their expenses had increased. The Lodge was asked to donate Six Guineas to clear their account and this was done. There is no further mention of the L.o.I. being in trouble for some time after that although their minutes do not show any significant increase in numbers. The L.o.I. continued to meet at the Methodist Church Ilford throughout this decade.

The Lodge Secretary W.Bro.Bolitho was honoured in an address by W.Bro.Baalham at the Installation meeting of December 1958 for having completed 21 years of continuous service in the office of Secretary of the Lodge. W.Bro.Bolitho was presented with a Gold Watch, 'suitably inscribed', as a token of appreciation from the Lodge. He replied with sincere and warm thanks for the kindly thought that prompted it, referring especially to the valued co-operation that he had received from many of the members.

The last notable event occurring in this decade was the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Lodge which took place at the Masonic Hall, Woodgrange Avenue, Southend-on-Sea on the 6th June 1959. At this meeting there were present a number of very distinguished Brethren:

Rev. Cannon R. Stafford Morris, M.A.	R.W. Provincial Grand Master
W.Bro.S.A.Williams, M.A., P.G.D.	Assistant Provincial Grand Master
W.Bro.John Crockford, M.B.E., P.G.D	Assistant Provincial Grand Master
W.Bro.G.F.Chaplain, J.P., P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W.	Assistant Provincial Grand Master
W.Bro.H.Goodchild	Provincial Senior Grand Warden
W.Bro.H.C.Keating	Provincial Junior Grand Warden
W.Bro.K.E.Williams, P.A.G.C.	Provincial Grand Chaplain
W.Bro.A.Warriner, P.A.G.D.C.	Provincial Grand Secretary
W.Bro.M.Woolf, P.G.D.	Provincial Grand Dir.of Ceremonies
W.Bro.H.H.England P.A.G.D.C.	Asst. Provincial Grand Secretary
W.Bro.G.Sutton, P.A.G.D.C.	Dep.Provincial Grand D.C.
W.Bro.F.Warriner, P.A.G.D.C.	Dep.Provincial Grand D.C.
W.Bro.J.Young,	Provincial Grand Tyler

There were also present a number of Grand officers who, with the above, formed the escort for the Provincial Grand Master in procession into the Lodge. The Master expressed great pleasure at having representatives of our Mother Lodge 'Liberty of Havering' No.1437 present. Next came the welcome to our Daughter and Granddaughter Lodges. The minutes report that all welcomes were suitably replied to with all expressing the great pleasure it was to be invited. Finally the Provincial Grand Chaplain gave, what is described as, a bright and interesting address which was enjoyed by all present. Subsequently a total of 104 Brethren dined together and thus completed a memorable day. At the following meeting in September 1959 the Lodge donated Sixty Guineas to charity to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee and it was at this meeting that our present Treasurer W.Bro.L.W.G.Tutt was elected Master of the Lodge.

Seven Kings 1960-1969

The association with the 'White Hart' Romford continued and for the first part of this decade the regular meetings of Seven Kings were held there. In September 1962 the Secretary, W.Bro.Pooley, read out a communication from Ind Coope Ltd., the owners of the White Hart, informing them of considerable alterations that were being undertaken to the premises to improve the general facilities for Masonic meetings which would include the renewal of furnishings etc. This was done and Seven Kings continued to use the facilities at those premises. At the September 1965 meeting another letter was read out informing the Brethren that it would no longer be possible for them to hold their meetings on a Saturday at the 'White Hart' from April 1966 onward. This left the Brethren with the choice; find another venue or change the days of the meeting.

At the next meeting the Secretary reported that arrangements had been made for the Lodge to continue to meet at the 'White Hart' until the end of 1966 but after that it was expected that there would be a change of venue. There had been considerable interest among the Lodges that met in the area of building a Masonic Temple in Romford, throughout 1961 the Secretary reported the progress of such a venture and indicated that the estimated cost of it would be in the region of £85,000. At the April 1962 meeting it was announced that the appeal for the scheme did not have a very big response and there is no further mention of it in the minutes. As the proposed Romford Temple never got off the ground possible other venues had to be found. Among those under consideration was the 'Royal Forest Hotel', Chingford but this would mean using slightly different dates to those normally used. In April 1966 it was proposed that as from January 1967 the Lodge meetings would be held at the 'Royal Forest Hotel', the February meeting would be a Friday but all the others, including Installation, would be on Saturdays with a meeting in June instead of September. The Installation meeting held on 10th December 1966 was the last meeting ever held by Seven Kings in what had been the regular meeting place more often than not since the Consecration.

Seven Kings continued to use the 'Royal Forest Hotel' and at the February 1967 meeting, the first held there, it was decided to hire some of the Masonic equipment needed from the 'Earl of Warwick' Lodge No. 2504, which they kindly agreed to. One wonders what became of all the fine equipment and furniture that had been donated, mostly by W.Bro.R.J.Hatfield, in the past and of which Seven Kings had been so proud. Toward the end of the decade it was becoming increasingly apparent that considerable refurbishment work was needed to enable meetings to continue to be held at the 'Royal Forest Hotel'. A committee was set up, with representatives of other Lodges that also used it, to oversee the upkeep, repair and finances involved in such work. More money was being spent on the premises and in the final year of the decade there was growing unrest with respect to the suitability of the venue and soon after it was decided to move.

One of the first events that affected every member of the Lodge was the proposition put forward and carried unanimously, at the February 1960 meeting, that the annual subscriptions should be increased to 5 Guineas and the Initiation fees be raised to 20 Guineas. A good way to start the decade for the Master of that year W.Bro.Leslie Tutt. At the February 1967 meeting the fees were raised once more this time to £26/5/0 for Initiation and £6/10/0 annual subscriptions, thankfully for our predecessors there were no more increases in this decade. It is interesting to note at that time that initiation fees are actually four times higher than subscriptions.

In December 1960 W.Bro.Charles Tutt was elected Treasurer and the office has remained in the very capable hands of this family ever since. At the same meeting W.Bro.Bolitho retired from the office of Lodge Secretary and handed over the task to W.Bro.J.A.Pooley. W.Bro.Bolitho did not relinquish all responsibilities as he took over the office of Director of Ceremonies, a position he was to hold until 1964 which meant that he had been in continuous office in Seven Kings from 1937, a total of 27 years, which also included the very difficult war years.

Some time during 1966 W.Bro.Bolitho moved to Dorset and at the December meeting of that year he requested to go on to the non-dining list, the Brethren agreed to this but proposed an alternative: that he be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge, this was duly communicated to him. W.Bro.Bolitho's reply was read out the following April saying that he would not accept Honorary Membership but wished to continue as a non-dining member, which was just as well because later that year he returned to East Ham to live and once again attended regularly. (This episode in W.Bro.Bolitho's life has an effect that does not come to light until the next decade).

At the February 1961 meeting it was announced that W.Bro. L.J.Martyn P.A.G.S.Wks. had sadly passed away on the 12th December 1960. He was the senior Past Master of the Lodge and had been a member of Seven Kings for almost 60 years, having been initiated on 27th April 1901 a record that at that time but was to be broken by W.Bro.Bolitho in the next decade.

A rare event indeed happened at the Installation meeting of December 1961, for the first time in the history of the Lodge a Master-elect was installed into the chair by his real life brother. In this case it was W.Bro.Dick Sheerin installing his brother W.Bro.Stan Sheerin, hopefully this event will be repeated when the Critchell brothers reach the chair in succession in the years 1999 - 2000.

In December 1962, at the Installation meeting Seven Kings applied for and later received membership into the Quatuor Coronati Lodge No. 2076, this being the Premier Lodge of Masonic Research. At that time the entrance fee was £1 and the annual subscriptions were £2.

Good news came at the next meeting, April 1961, when it was announced that the Junior Warden, Bro. F.J. Farrell, had received Honours from Her Majesty the Queen. The W. Master congratulated him on behalf of all the Brethren on his award as a Member of the Order of the British Empire. Bro. F.J.Farrell M.B.E. was a Civil Servant and had received his Honour for his efforts in this field of work. It was during the Mastership of W.Bro.F.J.Farrell M.B.E., at the April 1963 meeting, that a letter was read out confirming the good news that Seven Kings had then qualified as a Patron of the Royal Masonic Hospital, one of the many charities that had been supported by this Lodge.

A local paper of that time, the Ilford Pictorial, ran a small article in their 18th July 1963 edition under the headline 'Freemason's bequest to Lodge', this referred to the passing of W.Bro.R.C.Baalham P.P.G.W. who died in May of that year. The article went on to say that he left a sum not exceeding £300 for the purchase of a Banner to the Seven Kings Masonic Lodge No.2749 "in memory of my long association with the Lodge". He also left 100 Guineas to the Royal Masonic Hospital (Samaritan) Fund and 100 Guineas to the 'Essex Provincial Charity'. A very Charitable Brother indeed, and it must be pointed out that Seven Kings was not his Mother Lodge as he had been a joining member in 1920, his Mother Lodge was in fact the Lodge of St.John No.111 of the Scottish Constitution.

At the April 1964 meeting the official letter from the solicitor, dealing with the execution of W.Bro.Baalham's will, was read out stating the legacy. The Secretary reported that he had made some preliminary enquiries regarding the present day cost of a suitable banner and believed it to be between £150 and £200, the Secretary was then instructed to proceed with all the necessary arrangements in the matter. This was the third Banner of the Lodge and was in great need at the time of W.Bro. Baalham's death as the previous Banner had ended with the 1947/1948 Master, this meant that the 'new Banner' officially presented in 1965 would have to be 'back dated, to 1949.

It was at the April 1965 meeting that the Secretary referred to the matter of the permitted change regarding the wording of the penalties in the Obligations in the three Degrees which had recently been sanctioned by Grand Lodge. W.Bro.Bolitho expressed the view that doubtless any change would need careful consideration and therefore proposed that the Preceptors of the L.o.I. (W.Bro's. Bolitho, G.Ball & C.L.Tutt) should further consider the manner of any such change. They were then to report back to the Lodge with their proposals so that a decision could be made. The minutes of the L.o.I. show no such discussion ever having taken place and there is no further mention of it in the Lodge minutes, one can only assume that discussions did take place off the record and that no change was the preferred outcome.

The Lodge of Instruction was again quite poorly attended throughout this decade and there were two occasions when they appealed to the Lodge for a donation from Lodge funds to clear their debts. This was not only due to the poor attendance but also to the rising costs of the time. It was around this time that inflation began to be a regular feature in the thoughts of those that had cause to work with finances of any description and the L.o.I. minutes show that the rent for the premises used, the Methodist Church Ilford, was continually rising.

One of the last notable events that took place in Seven Kings this decade was the change in rules of the Essex Provincial (Masonic Institution) Association whereby the Brethren could subscribe to Masonic Charities by covenant. Seven Kings readily proposed and adopted this change.

Seven Kings 1970-1979

The Seventies started with the Royal Forest Hotel Temple Committee serving notice at the February 1970 meeting that as from 1st May 1970 the Temple would no longer be available for Masonic meetings. Alternative accommodation had to be sought yet again and the best offer available at the time was from the Upminster Masonic Hall. The problem with this venue was that it could not offer any Saturdays for our meetings, the best that they could do was a Friday in each of the months of February, April, June and for the Installation in November.

At the following meeting in April 1970 it was proposed and carried unanimously that “As from May 1970, the Lodge meetings would be held at the Masonic Hall Upminster on the following dates; second Friday in February, 3rd Friday in April, 1st Friday in June and 3rd Friday in November (Installation) and the bye-laws be amended accordingly.” Also at that meeting it was announced that Upminster Masonic Hall was proposing to build a second Temple and there was an appeal to all Lodges that used it, and individual members, for financial assistance with the project.

So on Friday 5th June 1970 Seven Kings Lodge held its first meeting in its current home and for all but the very senior members of the Lodge, the only one that most of us have ever known. On the front of the February 1974 summons the meeting times were changed to read “2nd Friday in February, 4th Saturday in April, 1st Saturday in June and 1st Saturday in November (Installation). This coincided with the extension of the new Temple at the Upminster Masonic Hall. The change in the meeting times was not made official until the February 1976 meeting when it was proposed that they be adopted and the bye-laws changed accordingly. This final move brings us up to the present date with both venue and times of meetings.

One of the first notable events that took place would also have taken place in every Lodge in the country and that was to change the subscriptions stated in the bye-laws to decimal currency. Accordingly at the April 1970 meeting the bye-laws were changed to read:-

Initiation Fee-----£26.25

Joining Fee-----£7.35

Annual Subscriptions-----£6.50

Non-dining Member ----- £2.10

Rejoining Fee -----£3.15

Of course it was not long before the effects of inflation were felt again and in November 1972 the Treasurer W.Bro. C.L.Tutt proposed that the fees should go up to:- Initiation fees £30, Joining Fees £8, Rejoining fees £4, Annual subscriptions £9 and non-dining Fee to £3. However before this could be voted on discussion took place and an amendment was proposed to the effect that the Joining Fee should be £9, Rejoining Fee £9, and the Non-dining Fee £3.50, this amendment to the original proposition was carried unanimously.

Throughout the Seventies the subscriptions steadily rose almost on a yearly basis the main increases are shown:-

Year	Initiation Fee	Annual Subscription	Joining Fee	Rejoining Fee	Non-dining Fee
1972	£30	£9	£9	£9	£3.50
1974		£12			£4
1975		£18			£5
1976		£22			
1977	£35				£7
1978	£45	£30			£9

As can be seen from the above table inflation certainly had its effect throughout this decade and the considerable increase in annual subscriptions (over 300%) reflects this.

There is a tradition in Seven Kings Lodge that the Almoner and the Worshipful Master visit the Lodge widows at Christmas. They not only present them with a little financial cheer at this time of 'good will' but also a little gift in remembrance of their late husbands and their association with the Lodge. The tradition was started in this decade by W.Bro.E.P.Brown, he was Master of the Lodge during the years 1969-1970. A tradition that continues to this day and we all hope will continue as long as there is a Seven Kings Lodge in existence.

W.Bro.Edward P. Brown P.P.G.Swd.B. was a very high ranking member of Her Majesty's Customs and Excise service and was very influential in this Lodge. He was extremely proud of his association with Seven Kings and its members. It would appear that during a ceremony a high ranking Provincial Officer impugned the Master for a faux pass in his workings. W.Bro.Ted immediately leapt to his defence and in turn castigated the officer, explaining that the Master was doing his best and that one of the ideals of the organisation was charity which was not being expressed toward the Master. Needless to say this officer was never recorded as a visitor again to this Lodge. In 1972 in recognition of his professional services to Her Majesty the Queen W.Bro.Ted was due to be Knighted but sadly passed away prior to what would have been another memorable event in this Lodge's history.

The 75th Anniversary Meeting of the Lodge took place on 1st June 1974 at the Masonic Hall Upminster and the Worshipful Master was W.Bro.Reg Thompson. The meeting was honoured by a visit from the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W.Bro.John W.Deal J.P., P.J.G.D. but it was a working meeting rather than a celebratory one and only two representatives of our Daughter Lodges visited us on that occasion. The Master did express thanks on behalf of the Brethren for the presentation of new Officers Collars by some of the 'newer' members of the Lodge and he particularly mentioned Bro.B.R.Ross who had mainly organised this.

At the Installation meeting of November 1975 W.Bro.Gerry Hardy was installed as Master of Seven Kings. It was at this meeting that both the long standing Secretary W.Bro.J.A.Pooley P.P.G.W. and Treasurer W.Bro.C.L.Tutt P.P.G.W. retired from office. They had both taken over their respective offices in 1960 and had therefore served in their capacities for fifteen years each. At the latter part of the meeting the W.M. made a presentation to each of them as an expression of thanks from the Brethren for their long and excellent services over the years and mentioning the high esteem in which both were held by the members of the Lodge. W.Bro.J.A.Pooley received a cut glass decanter whilst W.Bro.C.L.Tutt received a Silver photo frame (ironically a similar gift as was presented to W.Bro.Leslie Tutt on his celebration of 50 years in Seven Kings) The new Secretary was W.Bro.Reg Thompson and the new Treasurer was our Treasurer of today, the son of the retiring one, W.Bro.L.W.G.Tutt.

The Secretary read extracts from Grand Lodge Communications of 10th September 1975 at the February 1976 meeting and reported accordingly that at a recent meeting of the Lodge Committee it had been decided that the Office of Charity Steward should be instituted from the Installation of the next Master. The Worshipful Master enquired if any Brother was interested in undertaking this important office. At the Meeting of 6th November 1976 W.Bro.F.J.Farrell M.B.E., P.P.G.W., who had been the Lodge representative on the Essex Provincial Charity Committee for many years, was invested as the first Charity Steward of Seven Kings.

As mentioned in the chapter on the previous decade W.Bro.Bolitho had moved to the Province of Dorset in his old age, apparently to live with his daughter and her husband. Unfortunately his daughter died not long after he got there and for personal reasons he very soon after decided to return to London. Information supplied to the author indicates, quite understandably, that he was not in a very happy frame of mind. At the April 1976 meeting the Secretary reported having received a letter from a Brother in Dorset saying that he had come across some old minute books belonging to Seven Kings. Another member present at that meeting and by coincidence also resident in Dorset was W.Bro.Alcock who promised to investigate the matter and report back.

At the following June meeting W.Bro.Alcock reported that he had indeed collected the first and second minute books of the Lodge and it was agreed that the Secretary should send a letter to express our thanks for their safe retrieval. It would seem that W.Bro.Bolitho had taken the books with him and had put them in the loft at his daughters home. Soon after her death her husband wanted to move and W.Bro.Bolitho was so distraught that he just returned with little more than he could carry, completely forgetting all about the books in the attic. Fortunately for Seven Kings (and this author) the

person that discovered them recognised what they were and as a result the complete Lodge history, as minuted, was once more available.

There were two notable personal milestones reached around this time. The first was that of W.Bro.C.L.Tutt who celebrated 50 years as a member of Seven Kings Lodge at the February 1977 meeting, having been initiated on 5th February 1927, and of course the Brethren expressed hearty best wishes on this remarkable achievement. The second was announced at the June 1978 meeting when two presentations were made to W.Bro.Bolitho upon his achieving 60 years in the Craft, he was initiated into Seven Kings, his Mother Lodge, on 29th June 1918. The first presentation was from the Brethren of Seven Kings, made by W.Bro.W.E.Germain at the request of the W.M. and the second was W.Bro.A.Colledge, Secretary of Tuscan Lodge No.6067 on behalf of his own Lodge and the many friends that W.Bro.Bolitho had formed during those 60 years in Freemasonry.

Unfortunately at the April 1979 meeting it was announced that on the 5th of that month W.Bro.Bolitho P.A.G.D.C., P.P.S.G.W. had passed away. His circumstances were such that it fell to Seven Kings Lodge to make the necessary arrangements for his funeral, the Secretary W.Bro.Reg Thompson accepted this responsibility on behalf of the Lodge and was very ably assisted by W.Bro.John Skelton of Tuscan Lodge No.6067 and W.Bro.R.Evans Prov.Dep.G.D.C., the Master at the time specifically requested that their deeds be recorded in the Minutes, there was also an Arnold Bolitho Memorial Fund set up to help with the expenses incurred. So closed a chapter on one of the most memorable Masonic characters in the history of our Lodge.

The W.M. for 1977/1978 was W.Bro.D.L.Lynch and, according to the minutes, he was very interested in the ceremonies performed in the Lodge. So much so that after one ceremony, a Third Degree, he proceeded to give a lecture on 'Emblems of Mortality' which was based on his own research and reading on the subject. He was also responsible for giving a lecture on the Holy Bible and presenting a copy of one to each W.M. up to 1981.

Throughout the Seventies the Lodge of Instruction was continually short of funds, it appears that the largest single expense was always the rent for the premises used for the rehearsals, still the Methodist Church Ilford. Right from 1970, and virtually every year after, the L.o.I. made an appeal to the Lodge to donate money to help cover their expenses. It appeared that the Brethren realised the importance of the L.o.I. because the only amendment ever put to a proposition to donate an amount of money was that put at the February 1971 meeting. The amendment proposed that whatever the amount currently required, even if it was exceeded, should be met by a donation from the Lodge funds, this was unanimously agreed.

The Lodge of Instruction had struggled in the past and this decade was little better but it is encouraging to see that the Lodge always stood by and helped whenever it was required.

Seven Kings 1980-1989

The regular meeting place of Seven Kings Lodge was firmly established as the Upminster Masonic Hall throughout this decade. However it was not long before the fees were again increased, for at the June 1980 meeting the Treasurer proposed and it was carried unanimously that the annual subscription be increased to £35 and the non-dining fee to £10. Even this did not stave off the effects of inflation and at the June 1982 meeting the annual subscription was again increased, this time to £55 and the non-dining fee to £18. The fee increases then appeared to halt, it was around this time that inflation began to fall, and there were no further increases in the eighties.

On 12th February 1982 the W.M. announced the sad passing of W.Bro.C.L.Tutt P.P.G.W. who had been an active member of Seven Kings Lodge for 55 years, many of them as Treasurer. It was proposed and carried unanimously that as a mark of the esteem that the Brethren held for him a donation to the R.M.I.B. should be made in his memory. It was during this year that his son, our present Treasurer, W.Bro.L.W.G. Tutt Ph.D. gained his doctorate for his work in the field of Mathematical Statistics.

The current Banner of the Lodge had unfortunately not been kept up to date with the names of the Masters for some considerable time. However at the Installation meeting of November 1985 the Banner was returned completely up to date. This was thanks to one of the Brethren that had recently joined the Lodge, Bro.D.Panter, he took the Banner home and his daughter painstakingly brought it up to date as a result of many hours needlework. The Lodge was deeply indebted to her and at the meeting W.Bro.L.W.G. Tutt referred to the history of the Lodge Banners and gave thanks to the L.o.I. for the generous gift they had made to the young lady.

The daughter of Bro.Panter continued to embroider the names of the Masters each year until 1988. It was at this time that Bro.Panter resigned from the Lodge and the task of updating the Banner was taken on by 'Lily Bull' the wife of our present Director of Ceremonies W.Bro.Roger Bull P.P.S.G.D., L.G.R. At the November 1989 meeting W.Bro.Roger presented the Lodge with a velvet cushion for the V.S.L. which had also been made by 'Lily'. The Names of the Masters continued to be embroidered by 'Lily' right up to 1998 when the Banner became full.

The 'Bull' brothers, W.Bro.Roger, W.Bro.Ray and Bro.Reg, presented the Lodge with 3 new Stewards Collars at the February 1987 meeting. Also presented at the same meeting was a Past Masters collar and Jewel for use at Installation ceremonies, this gift was donated by the L.o.I. and the W.M. thanked the 'Bull' brothers and the L.o.I. for their much needed and generous gifts.

The Lodge was starting to increase its equipment and furniture for use at ceremonies and W.Bro.Stan Hargreaves, who was a member of the Seven Kings L.o.I., although not a member of the Lodge, made 2 sets of Squares, Levels and Plumbrules and presented them to the Lodge in November 1988. At the same time he provided the wood for a new Heavy Maul to be made. The Lodge was very grateful to W.Bro.Stan and the W.M. expressed thanks to him. Six months later at the June 1989 meeting the Secretary drew the attention of the Brethren to the 2 new shrouds that had been made by W.Bro.Peter Richardson and donated via the L.o.I. They were duly presented to the Lodge and again the W.M. expressed the thanks of the Brethren.

It was during the Mastership of our Director of Ceremonies, W.Bro.Roger Bull, that the custom of producing the Warrant of the Lodge was first introduced. This (as is stated at the beginning of every meeting) is in accordance with 'Rule 101' of the Book of Constitutions. Our translation of this rule is probably a very literal one but nevertheless it does ensure that the Warrant is never forgotten by its keeper.

It was during the latter part of this decade that Seven Kings Lodge saw the rare event of Past Masters occupying the chair for the second time. It was rare in this Lodge as the only previous time that it had happened was when W.Bro.R.J.Hatfield had done the same thing in 1904-1905 after being Master in 1902-1903.

W.Bro.Gerry Hardy first took the Chair in 1975-1976 but when Bro.Joe Maybank did not take up the office of Junior Warden in 1982 it was a succession of volunteer Past Masters that filled that position. However at the next Installation meeting (1983) W.Bro.Gerry, who was the Director of

Ceremonies, volunteered his services to act as Senior Warden and if necessary become Master, for the second time, if there was no alternative. This was indeed the case, and at the Installation meeting of November 1984 W.Bro.Gerry Hardy was installed as Master of Seven Kings Lodge for the second time. The installing Master was W.Bro.Peter Richardson, he also performed the same feat a short while later.

The minutes show that the Worshipful Master W.Bro.Ray Bull was unable to invest his Senior Warden, Bro.R.A.Stanmore, at the Installation meeting of November 1985 because he was absent, he fully intended to invest him at the very next opportunity. At the February meeting of 1986 the Worshipful Master announced that Bro.Stanmore had informed him that for personal reasons he could not take up the office of Senior Warden. W.Bro.Peter Richardson kindly volunteered to fill the vacancy and the W.M. invested him at that meeting. (As a little self indulgence, W.Bro.Ray Bull initiated the author at the same meeting). Later in that year, at the November Installation meeting, W.Bro.Peter Richardson became only the third Past Master to serve a second time as Master of Seven Kings Lodge.

The Lodge of Instruction changed its venue during the latter half of 1979, from the Methodist Church Hall Ilford to its present location of the British Legion Hall Romford. This was due to the connection that existed between this venue and W. Bro.Peter Richardson, as he was then. One of the main advantages of this new meeting place was the cost of hiring the room, it was a minimal rent. As has already been stated the L.o.I. had found difficulty in balancing their books due to poor attendance and ever increasing charges for their meeting place, this new venue certainly alleviated one of these problems. Throughout this decade the L.o.I. did not once ask for assistance with their finances and in fact at the June 1985 meeting, so healthy was their financial position, the Treasurer announced that he had received a donation from the L.o.I. for £50 to the Lodge Benevolent Fund.

The numbers attending the Lodge of Instruction steadily rose throughout this period and from that year of 1989 onward the Treasurer has had the pleasurable opportunity to inform the Brethren at each November Installation meeting that the L.o.I. has again made a donation to the Lodge. This annual event continues to this day and long may it continue into the future.

Bro.Jim Smith was the Charity Steward throughout the Eighties and at the April 1984 meeting he announced that he had been advised by the Secretary of the R.M.I.B. that Seven Kings Lodge had qualified as a Patron of that charity. The W.M. asked the Lodge Secretary to arrange for mention of this to be included on the front page of the Summons as soon as possible. Bro.Jim explained to the Brethren at the Installation meeting of 1985 the position of the Royal Masonic Hospital, which was under scrutiny as a going concern at the time. He also explained the idea of a Lodge Relief Chest and informed the Brethren that both matters would be discussed by the Lodge committee which was due to meet shortly and would report its recommendations at the next meeting, February 1986.

The Secretary informed the Brethren, at the February 1986 meeting, that at a Lodge Committee meeting held the previous December, with fourteen members present, it had been decided to recommend to the Lodge that no action be taken to establish a Lodge Relief Chest and also that the Lodge vote against the resolution 'to place the R.M.H. on the market for sale'. The committee also voted against the proposition that the Lodge make donations to non-Masonic charities in addition to the Masonic charities at present supported.

Those Masonic charities that Seven Kings supported were apparently supported well because in April 1987 Bro.Jim Smith, Charity Steward, informed the Lodge that for the second time in this decade Seven Kings Lodge had qualified as a Patron to another of its charities; this time it was as a Grand Patron to the Royal Masonic Hospital.

At the April meeting the following year, the Junior Warden informed the Lodge before the Charity Gavel had taken place that at a recent visit to the 'Lodge of Remembrance' he had heard the address by W.Bro.R.Evans Asst.P.G.M. on the importance of making our individual contributions to the charity Gavel realistic to today's economic climate. This was immediately followed by the collection and when the Treasurer announced the total it was almost double the average for the previous couple of years. This increased amount continued as the norm for the rest of the decade and at the November 1989 meeting, the last one in the Eighties, the Treasurer announced that the Charity Gavel for that meeting was a new record for the Lodge, a fitting way to end the decade.

Seven Kings Lodge 1990-1999

And so to the final chapter in our 100 year history. The regular meeting place has remained the Upminster Masonic Hall and it serves us well, a note of thanks must be expressed to the catering staff at the Hall for their excellent fare and the first class service that they provide, a big thank you to John and Joyce Windley and the staff.

The Treasurer proposed at the June 1990 meeting that the annual subscriptions should be increased to £68 for full membership and £25 for non-dining membership, this was carried unanimously, it being the first increase since 1982. Two years later (June 1992) the subscriptions had to be increased again due to rising costs, this time the annual subscriptions for a full member went up to £98 and for a non-dining member to £42. There were no more increases for a considerable time but notice was given in the summons of April 1999 that they would have to be increased from 1st October 1999 to £108 for full membership and £52 for non-dining membership. This brings us fully up to date with the fees for members of Seven Kings Lodge from its Consecration to the present time.

The Lodge charity work continued to be ever present in the minds of the Brethren of Seven Kings Lodge throughout this decade and at the February 1991 meeting it was announced by Bro.Jim Smith, Charity Steward, that a Lodge Relief Chest had been opened to earn extra interest on sums raised by the various methods, he also outlined the administrative details of such a scheme.

Bro.Jim Smith was taken quite ill in 1991 and had to undergo major surgery. At the next Installation meeting (November 1992) W.Bro.Tom Rowell took over the office of Charity Steward and at that same meeting expressed the sentiments of the Brethren by thanking Bro.Jim for the hard work he had put in and the money he had raised over the last fourteen years that he had held the office. Everybody wished him a speedy recovery. Unfortunately Bro.Jim never fully recovered and sadly passed away in the February of 1993. At the meeting of February 1993 W.Bro.Mike Howell reported that at the last meeting of the Essex Masters Lodge he had received, on behalf of Seven Kings Lodge, a 'Patron of the Essex Provincial Charity Fund' certificate from the Provincial Grand Master. Seven Kings was now a Patron of yet another charity and this again reflected on the excellent work of, and was a fitting testament to, our sadly departed Bro.Jim Smith. Our new Charity Steward W.Bro.Tom Rowell has not been slow at raising funds either for he was advised that on the 8th January 1999 Seven Kings had become a Patron for the 'New Masonic Samaritan Fund'

The Masters list throughout this decade has been for the R.M.B.I. 2000 Festival and the sums amassed each year reflect on the hard work and generosity of the Brethren of Seven Kings Lodge. W.Bro.Dick Moyes deserves especial mention for not only gaining a splendid £6202 during his year (still a record) but for his tireless and unceasing efforts to raise the money even though he was very ill himself. Well done from us all. As a result of all of our efforts Seven Kings Lodge was presented with a Silver award at our April 1998 meeting by W.Bro.Bert Bumstead P.A.G.D.C. on behalf of the Provincial Grand Master and we have now qualified for the Gold award. In addition, the Charity Steward, W.Bro.Tom Rowell expects to present, £15,000.00 at our Centenary meeting, to the Provincial Grand Master bringing our total in excess of £40,000.00 for the 'Festival 2000' fund.

As early as 1990 thoughts were beginning to focus on the requirements of the Centenary celebrations and one of the best ways to do this was to organise a committee to oversee the preparations. One of the first things to get underway was the writing of the Seven Kings Lodge history, the committee proposed that the Lodge invite W.Bro.Pettigrew, an experienced Masonic Historian, to investigate and write the Lodge history. However this idea never materialised and the task fell to one of the Past Masters W.Bro.Tim Bone. (He would like to be able to say that he enjoyed every minute of it but if he were being honest he would say that it was a task he would not undertake again, unless it were for Seven Kings).

The next proposal by the committee was to add an extra £10 to all annual subscriptions for the years 1991-1998, the reason given was that the costs of the Centenary event were likely to be considerable but as yet were unknown. The extra £10 per head was to be put in a separate account specifically for the Centenary meeting and its organisation, using this method to acquire the money was considered to be the fairest as the cost would be evenly spread amongst all members. At the February 1991 meeting a letter was distributed to all members outlining the proposals and at the June 1991 meeting the proposals were put before the Brethren by the Treasurer and carried unanimously. Notice

was given in the April 1999 summons that these payments should cease with effect from 30th September 1999.

The same committee introduced the idea of a '200 Club', this has been very successful and raises around £1000 every year. Shortly after these initial ideas were put forward the committee seemed to fade out of existence and nothing further was heard about the Centenary until the middle part of the decade when W.Bro.Peter Banks, who was by then the Lodge Secretary, got involved. He has been the driving force behind the arrangements and the very detailed organisation required to ensure that our Centenary celebration is a splendid occasion and one that our predecessors would be proud of. A very big expression of thanks should be accorded him for his efforts in this direction.

Since 1977 our regular Tyler had been W.Bro.George Saunders L.G.R. W.Bro.George was the first person that many of the present members met as they entered Freemasonry in Seven Kings and most of us will never forget the experience. He was truly a happy old soul and always had a joke to tell, unfortunately it was always the same joke which he was also fond of telling at the Festive Board afterwards. Many will remember two Initiates entering the Lodge without a C about their N, nobody had noticed not even the Inner Guard, however the W.M. (W.Bro.Ray Bull) improvised beautifully and ever after somebody always checked W.Bro.George's preparations. Unfortunately toward the end of 1990 he became ill and could no longer Tyle for us, as an expression of thanks for his many years of service the Brethren voted to give W.Bro.George Honorary Membership. In the Early part of 1991 he was found unconscious in the heavy snows of that winter and at the June 1991 meeting the Brethren stood to order in memory of W.Bro.George who has sadly passed away. His place was taken by W.Bro.Wally Mears P.P.A.D.C. who held that office until he became ill to continue in 1997. The Secretary announced at the June 1997 meeting that due to what was considered a large rise in Tyler's fees it was decided to appoint a Tyler from within the Lodge. W.Bro.Bob Gould was so elected and has served that office ever since.

One of the Preceptors of the Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction was W.Bro.Peter Richardson B.E.M., P.P.A.G.D.C., he had recently been awarded the British Empire Medal for his services to the local youth community and few will forget the occasion of his sad death which occurred shortly afterwards. It was on the evening of 10th February 1991, we were about to go into the British Legion Hall, where we held the L.o.I., when poor W.Bro.Peter fell unconscious just before the door. A call was sent out for an ambulance and in the meantime W.Bro.Dave Critchell tried in vain to revive him, for what seemed like ages to those of us there, by giving him mouth to mouth resuscitation. The Ambulance finally arrived but unfortunately W.Bro.Peter never regained consciousness and sadly passed away that evening.

Two personal milestones were achieved this decade. The first was by our Treasurer W.Bro.Leslie Tutt Ph.D., P.P.J.G.W. who achieved 50 years in Seven Kings Lodge (initiated 6th September 1941) and it was announced and celebrated at the November 1991 meeting. This in itself was a truly remarkable feat but it was made the more special because it was a personal milestone that his father W.Bro.Charles Tutt P.P.J.G.W. had also achieved before him in this Lodge. There has been a Tutt in this Lodge for nearly three quarters of its existence!! This occasion saw the Asst.P.G.M. W.Bro.R.G.Eggleton P.S.G.D. give an address on behalf of the P.G.M. and make a presentation of a pair of Silver photograph frames to W.Bro.Leslie, a gift similar to that which his father had received on his retirement from the office of Treasurer all those years ago. In reply W.Bro.Leslie thanked the Asst.P.G.M. and the Brethren for their kind words and thoughts and for the splendid gift he had received, and in typical fashion he then made a very sizeable personal donation to the Lodge charity.

The second personal milestone was also a celebration of 50 years as a member of Seven Kings Lodge. This time the feat was achieved by W.Bro.Stanley W. Sheerin P.P.S.G.D. (initiated 7th February 1942) and it was announced and celebrated at the February 1992 meeting. He had been brought into the Lodge along with his brother W.Bro.Dick.S.Sheerin, who had sadly passed away in 1985, by their father W.Bro.R.Sheerin P.P.A.G.D.C. The address and presentation of a cordless telephone was then made by W.Bro.Baum P.J.G.W. on behalf of the P.G.M. He made special mention of the dedication and talents that W.Bro.Stan had in playing the organ both in the Lodge and his local church, to which he ably responded and expressed many thanks to the Brethren for his presentation.

Prior to the Installation meeting of November 1993 the incoming Master, W.Bro.Tim Bone, had been informed by the Lodge Secretary, W.Bro.Reg Thompson P.P.J.G.W., that he wished to retire

from office, he explained that he had recently retired from work and after 18 years in office as Lodge Secretary he considered it the right time to hand it on to somebody else. W.Bro.Reg had handled the Lodge affairs exceedingly well during those years and it would be hard to replace him with somebody that would be as meticulous as he had been.

The W.M. then had the very pleasant opportunity of asking his proposer and lifelong friend W.Bro.Peter Banks to take over the reigns of probably the most demanding office in the Lodge. Fortunately for the W.M. and for the Lodge he accepted, since then he has continued the good work of his predecessors and the Lodge has gone from strength to strength.

At the April 1994 meeting the Secretary, W.Bro.Peter Banks, informed the Brethren that he had received a cheque for £688.80 from the executors of the late F.B.T.Wills who had been Master of Seven Kings Lodge 1924-1925. Our minutes show that the Brethren stood to order for his death on 5th February 1927. The money was the residue from the 'life-beneficiary' of his estate. This certainly demonstrates the affinity of a Brother to his Lodge. Under the terms of the will the residue after the death of the life-beneficiary was to be divided as one half to the Seven Kings Lodge for division between the three Masonic Charities and one half to other parties. It appears from the accompanying letter that one of the 'remainder men' requested that his share be given to a suitable charity and as Masonic charities were mentioned in the will he had agreed that this was indeed suitable. At the June 1994 meeting the Secretary announced that he had received another cheque for £98.40 from the executors as one of the other 'remainder men' had recently died, so Seven Kings got his share as well. It also came to light that the executors of the will had taken 8 years to trace the 'remainder men' with one being found in S.Africa and another in Australia.

W.Bro.Peter Banks PPJGD has become more and more involved in Lodge matters and has been the principle driving force in most of our fund raising that has gone on this decade. His organisational talents were first witnessed when he took over as Festival Secretary, and with his personal assistant from work Mrs.Pauline Chesworth, became responsible for the Lodge Ladies nights from 1990 to 1998. All who have attended will verify that they are indeed a night to remember, I am sure that I speak for all those Masters who had their Ladies Night arranged by W.Bro.Peter when I say a big thank you to yourself and Pauline. At all our Lodge race nights, and those of other Lodges, he can always be seen doing the compares job. Who could ever forget the barbecue nights that he has arranged, especially the 'Second world War' theme set in W.Bro.Doug Slessor's field when the generator failed and the whole place was plunged into total darkness, somebody said that it added the blackout effect of the war, most people took no notice and just kept on eating and drinking in the dark.

Another occasion of note arranged by W.Bro.Peter was the Seven Kings Show Jumping Spectacular, he did this with the help of 'trainer' Bro. John Lane and many of the top show jumpers were attracted because of the excellent prize money offered. As a result the whole day event raised a considerable amount for the Lodge charity funds.

W.Bro.Dick Moyes had started a custom of presenting a hamper to an Old Age Pensioners club every year at Christmas time. This was so well received that W.Bro.Peter got involved with him and they decided to expand it by raising funds to actually give them a Christmas party. This has again been expanded to a Christmas Party, not for just those members of the O.A.P. club, but also many of the Lodge members elderly relatives, another success that all those concerned look forward to each year.

All through this decade W.Bro.Peter has used his work premises to hold another 'unofficial L.o.I.' this has been used by nearly all the Masters in that time and many of the officers as they have come up through the ranks. W.Bro.Peter was also one of the representatives for the 'Prince Edward, Duke of Kent Court' attached to Upminster Masonic Hall and did a rousing job of enlisting members for that very worthwhile cause. He has since become a director of the Hall. He is also a member of Lodge of Enlightenment No.9550 and also 'Essex Masters' Lodge No.3256.

Probably W.Bro.Peter's most cherished project was that of the 'Boar's Head' cluster meeting. He got the idea from a similar event he attended in Berkshire and when he came back was determined that Seven Kings should be involved in something along the same lines. He did the ground work and then approached two other Lodges that he knew well, they were St. John's Lodge No.1343 and Thurrock Lodge No.4757, they agreed and the idea was underway. This was an important event in

Seven Kings history as it is the first time that an additional meeting has been held other than emergency meetings and is now a fixture on our list of yearly meetings.

W.Bro.Peter outlined the objectives of the 'Boar's Head' meeting as follows:-

- 1) This would be an additional cluster meeting which would take place each December between the three named Lodges.
- 2) Each Lodge would host the meeting tri-annually.
- 3) The purpose of the meeting would be a single initiation followed by a feast of Christmas Fayre.
- 4) That the meeting will not be part of Lodge dues but will be a 'pay on attendance' basis to avoid altering the by-laws.
- 5) That proceeds for charity would be split equally between all 3 Lodges.
- 6) In addition to raising monies for our own charities that each year the host Lodge would have its own theme.

Seven Kings were the hosts for the first year and it was a major success. The theme for that first meeting was that everybody attending should bring a toy which would go to Quidenham Children's Hospice, especially as Christmas is a time for children. Those that attended will always remember that marvellous array of toys that filled a whole room from floor to ceiling, and the as one of the many thank you letters said:

"I would like to thank the kind people (the Masons I believe) who brought all the children those presents. Such care in the choosing and such love in the wrapping and such joy in the faces of the openers."

A very worthy cause that was very well attended by all three Lodges and the final outcome was truly magnificent. Since then the other two Lodges have taken their turn and we only hope that this initial success will continue far into the future.

W.Bro.Dick Moyes P.P.G.Std.B. has been responsible for yet another custom adopted by Seven Kings. This custom is observed at the Festive Board when all the Past Masters and officers have to present their Silver goblets that were initially bought by W.Bro.Dick during his years as Master, 1994-1995. The idea is that the incoming Master now only has to supply one for the new Inner Guard to keep the custom going. If any member forgets to bring it they must make a donation to charity, it works well and lots of money has been raised. Well done W.Bro.Dick.

At the Installation meeting of November 1996 those Brethren present witnessed a very rare and very touching event take place. For the first time in the history of Seven Kings a father installed his son in the chair, this befell to W.Bro.Gerry Hardy P.P.G.Swd.B. when he was allowed to install his son W.Bro.Robert Hardy. Seven Kings had witnessed brothers perform this feat but never a father and son. W.Bro.Gerry was quite emotional and it was clear to all that he was very moved during the entire ceremony, as I am sure that any father would be in the same position.

Seven Kings Lodge saw its 100th Master W.Bro.Dave Olley installed at the November 1997 meeting. This arose because there were 2 Masters installed in 1912, W.Bro.Gilbey only remaining in that position for less than six months. At the same meeting the Director of Ceremonies W.Bro.Roger Bull was congratulated on his promotion to London Grand Rank with his mother Lodge 'Broomfield' No.4411. this was the first time that Seven Kings had this distinction among its members since W.Bro.A.F.Chapman had held the honour in the 1920's, well done W.Bro.Roger.

June 1998 saw the signing by the Master and Wardens in open Lodge of the petition for the Centenary Warrant. At the November 1998 meeting the Secretary read a letter from Provincial Grand Lodge confirming the issue of the Centenary Warrant which becomes effective from 22nd June 1999. The letter also gave confirmation that from that date each member will be entitled to wear a Centenary Jewel.

The Lodge of Instruction has continued to be extremely effective and their excellent work was commented upon by the Asst.P.G.M. W.Bro.L.E.Williams P.S.G.D. in a letter read out by the Secretary at the April 1994 meeting. The L.o.I. continued their custom of presenting the Lodge with a cheque

every year for the Lodge charity, in 1991 it presented the Lodge with the first contribution to the Centenary Fund a cheque for £200.

The L.o.I. has also contributed significantly to the furniture regalia and equipment used by the Lodge, In 1991 it presented the Lodge with an Organists Jewel and a miniature Tracing Board for the Third Degree. In 1993 it presented the Lodge with a new Poniard to replace the one that had gone missing. At the Installation meeting of November 1995 W.Bro.Gerry Hardy presented to the Lodge on behalf of the L.o.I. 3 hand made Gavels with stands, these had been made by W.Bro.Ray Burn, a regular visitor and old friend of the Lodge. At the Installation meeting of 1997 W.Bro.Roger Bull made a presentation to the Lodge on behalf of the L.o.I. of a new Lectern for the Secretary's table and a beautiful new set of working tools in their own cabinet, we are informed that these tools cost the L.o.I around £500, a generous gift indeed. At the same meeting the newly installed Master W.Bro.Dave Olley presented the Lodge with a new Cover for the Secretary's table suitably embroidered with the Lodge crest and name, also involved in the making of this fine cloth was W.Bro.Roger Bull's wife 'Lily'. In 1998 the L.o.I. had the Masters collar refurbished and it now looks brand new and finally in 1999 they donated a new Heavy Maul to match the Gavels, this was also made by our old friend W.Bro.Ray Burn, a big thank you from us all W.Bro.Ray for your efforts. Also a massive thank you to all those who regularly attend the Lodge of Instruction for their continued generosity.

One special thank you must go out to our Treasurer W.Bro.Leslie Tutt for he has recently commissioned a new Banner for the Lodge. Our present one is just about full and w.Bro.Leslie would like the new one to be dedicated to the memory of his late father W.Bro.Charles L.Tutt P.P.G.W. In recognition of his service to Seven Kings (58 years) W.Bro.Leslie has been asked to take the chair at our Centenary meeting.

It would be remiss of the author not to mention some of the other hard working members of the Lodge that play such a part to its current success.

W.Bro.Roger Bull P.P.S.G.D., L.G.R., as the lodge D.C, is the driving force behind our ceremonies. As one of the preceptors of the L.o.I. he steers the Brethren, young and old, and continually strives for perfection in every performance. There is many a Brother who has benefited from his private instruction and he is always willing and able to help wherever he can. He also helps out with the ritual at many other Lodges and has acquired the nickname of 'have wand will travel'. All this would not be possible if he did not have the continued support of his good lady 'Lily'.

Our Charity Steward W.Bro.Tom Rowell P.P.Dep.G.Swd.B. is a tireless worker on our behalf to encourage all the Brethren of the Lodge to contribute as much as they can afford to our most worthy charities. He has been the moving force in us attaining our Patronage of the New Masonic Samaritan Fund. W.Bro.Tom has also run the '200 Club' since the second year of its existence and is always the first to volunteer his services at our charity functions, he is truly a man who leads by example.

The Lodge Almoner is the inimitable W.Bro.Dave Critchell P.Prov.S.G.D. who so ably attends to our sick and wounded. He keeps in constant touch with our Lodge widows to ensure their continued good health and welfare. His talents are manyfold, he is also the Lodge computer wizard and keeps the Brethren amused with his wonderful good humour. W.Bro.Dave is never seen to be flustered in any situation and his ability to 'adlib' has made his workings in the Lodge unique. Whatever he is called upon to do he always gives the impression that he does it with sincerity and feeling. Along with W.Bro.Richard Sheerin he is the only other father who has seen two sons initiated into Seven Kings.

Much of the hard work of our immediate past was carefully overseen by our retired Secretary W.Bro.Reg Thompson P.P.J.G.W. who was initiated into Seven Kings Lodge at the April 1956 meeting and was Master 1973-1974. W.Bro.Reg became the Lodge Secretary in 1975 and remained in that office for 18 years until 1993. He was also a member of Royal Forest Chapter No.5705 where he became 1st Principal in 1985 and was gained the honour of P.P.G.ScribeN. in 1998. W.Bro. Reg looked after the Lodge affairs through those 18 years as Secretary with meticulous care, on behalf of the Lodge he organised the funeral of W.Bro.Bolitho and also played a part in the retrieval of the Lodge minute books not long after he came to office. From all of we say a thank you to you W.Bro.Reg for your hard work in the past.

Our Treasurer is the one and only W.Bro.Leslie W.G.Tutt P.P.J.G.W. he was initiated into Seven Kings during the Second World War on 6th September 1941 becoming Master of this Lodge 1959-1960. W.Bro.Leslie is also a member of Essex Masters Lodge No.3256 and was appointed P.P.J.G.W. in 1985.

When in 1975 W.Bro.Charles Tutt retired from the office of Treasurer it was with a sense of pride that W.Bro.Leslie succeeded him and he has maintained the finances of the Lodge with skill and assiduity as his father had done before him. He became a member of the Seven Kings Chapter in 1961 when he was exalted by his father who was the 1st Principal at the time, W.Bro.Leslie also became 1st Principal of that Chapter when he was installed in 1967. He was invested as Scribe E. in 1979 and has held that office ever since, he was appointed P.P.G.ScribeN. in 1982.

W.Bro.Leslie was born and bred in Seven Kings and qualified as an Actuary from London University. He served throughout the Second World War as a gunner in the Royal Artillery seeing active service in the European Theatre. He attained the rank of Major with a staff appointment. Returning to his profession as an Actuary after the war he generated an interest in mathematical statistics, gained his doctorate and was elected Chairman of the Institute of Statisticians, he is also the author of several books, research papers and technical papers on the subject. In his youth he was an excellent sportsman being Captain of his school athletics team and also a County Champion. He still to this day maintains a professional practice, takes an active interest in academic work and lectures widely in Great Britain and overseas.

Everybody who has ever met W.Bro.Leslie will have experienced the warmth and sincerity that he generates. In an ever changing, hi-tech world he brings a sense of fair play and gentlemanly behaviour that is all too often sadly missing, he is immensely proud of his heritage, his family, his country and his Lodge and can be counted on to give a stirring speech on 'England and St.George', with feeling and passion, at the appropriate time every year. Whenever he is called upon to do some work in the Temple he takes the opportunity with relish and sets a fine example to all the Brethren in the Lodge. Well done W.Bro.Leslie and long may you continue!

Our Chaplain is W.Bro.Gerry Hardy P.P.G.Swd.B. he was initiated into Seven Kings on 3rd September 1960 and served two terms as Master of this Lodge 1975-1976 and 1984-1985 he was appointed A.D.C. in 1977 before becoming Director of Ceremonies for the Lodge in 1979. W.Bro.Gerry held that office until 1983 when he was required to fill the Senior Wardens chair because of a Brother that had to pull out unexpectedly, he continued on to become Master of this Lodge for the second time in 1984. He became D.C. again in 1987 and remained in that office until 1990, when in that year he was asked to take up the office of Chaplain because the Chaplain at that time W.Bro.Dick Tosley had become very ill. He was appointed P.P.G.Swd.B. in 1997. W.Bro.Gerry remains the Lodge Chaplain to this day but unfortunately has been rather ill of late, in recognition of his services to the Lodge and because of his inability to attend regularly the Brethren wish to offer him an Honorary membership when the proper formalities have been attended to.

W.Bro.Gerry is also a member of the Seven Kings Chapter and became 1st Principal in 1979. He has been a Preceptor of the Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction for a considerable number of years and has always been proud of his ability to be word perfect in the Ceremonies. It has been reassuring for the Lodge to know that there is somebody of W.Bro.Gerry's ability to take any position at very short notice.

Thank you W.Bro.Gerry for your years of service to Seven Kings and may you enjoy many more to come.

Our Grand Officer is W.Bro.Mike Howell P.G.Std.B., P.P.G.Swd.B. he was initiated into Seven Kings on 13th February 1970 and was Master 1981-1982. W.Bro.Mike took over the position of D.C. in 1985 and remained in that office until W.Bro.Gerry returned in 1987, W.Bro.Mike then assisted him by staying on for the following year. He then retired from office but made a brief return in 1992, since then W.Bro.Mike has not held office in this Lodge. However he has concentrated his efforts on a wider scale and belongs to two other Lodges: 'Essex Masters' Lodge No.3256 and Lodge of Enlightenment No.9550 of which he was a founder member.

W.Bro.Mike is also a member of Seven Kings Chapter and was 1st Principal in 1988, he also belongs to Essex First Principals Chapter No.3256 and Essex Provincial Grand Stewards Chapter

No.8665. He was appointed P.P.G.ScribeN. in 1998 and is currently a Director of Upminster Masonic Hall.

W.Bro.Robert Hardy, our Organist, was initiated into Seven Kings on 4th June 1983 and became Master 1996-1997. He has the honour of being Seven Kings youngest Master at the age of 34 years and was also the only Master to be installed by his own father who was allowed to perform the ceremony. Another first for this father and son team was the distinction of being the first master of the 'Boar's Head' meeting in 1997, with his father conducting the ceremony of Initiation. The Lodge has been favoured by W.Bro.Robert's musical talents especially at the Organ, since shortly after his initiation due to the ill health of W.Bro.Stan and W.Bro.Dick Sheerin who had been our Organists up until that time. W.Bro.Robert has now taken over from W.Bro.Peter Banks as Festival Secretary for Ladies Nights.

W.Bro.Dave Olley and W.Bro.Doug Slessor were both initiated on 12th February 1988 and have followed each other through the degrees and all of the offices with W.Bro.Dave becoming the 100th Master and W.Bro.Doug the Master during our Centenary year. W.Bro.Dave will shortly, in June of this year, be taking over from W.Bro.Roger Bull the office of Secretary of the Seven Kings Lodge of Instruction and continues to give his support both in the Lodge and at out charity functions. W.Bro.Dave is also the Lodge bespoke tailor and does supply many of the Brethren with their apparel.

W.Bro.Doug Slessor continues the long line of very successful Masters of this Lodge and it is with every confidence that the Brethren can be assured of a magnificent Centenary year.

Last of all the author is W.Bro.Tim Bone P.Prov.A.G.Reg. initiated into Seven Kings 14th February 1986 became Master 1993-1994. He has taken the office of A.D.C. since 1995 and retains that position to the present time. He has moved to the Isle of Wight to take up a career in teaching after gaining his 1st Class Honours Degree whilst a member of this Lodge, returning to these parts only for Lodge meetings where he has the opportunity to renew long and valued friendships. He has now taken up membership with East Medina Lodge No.175 on the Isle Of Wight and enjoys his Masonry locally as well.

Past Masters of Seven Kings Lodge

	Name	Years	Initiated	Passed Away
1	F.Evans	1899/1900	Founder	1946
2	C.R.Allen	1900/1901	Founder	1910
3	H.L.Pridmore	1901/1902	Founder	Not Known
4	R.J.Hatfield	1902/1903	Founder	1944
5	H.J.Chatterton	1903/1904	Founder	1933
6	R.J.Hatfield*	1904/1905	Founder	1944
7	J.W.Stewart	1905/1906	Founder	1934
8	W.H.Everett	1906/1907	14/July/1899	Not Known
9	J.C.Stone	1907/1908	14/July/1899	***
10	F.Beaumont	1908/1909	2/Sept/1899	***
11	A.F.Chapman	1909/1910	2/sept/1899	1927
12	L.G.New	1910/1911	2/Mar/1901	Not Known
13	L.J.Martyn	1911/1912	27/Apr/1901	1960
14	H.Gilbey	1912	Founder	1920
15	E.J.Holt	1912/1913	27/Apr/1901	1937
16	G.H.Jeff	1913/1914	7/Sept/1901	1941
17	H.T.Morden	1914/1915	27/Apr/1901	Not Known
18	C.H.Strickland	1915/1916	1/Mar/1902	1957
19	F.T.Tedder	1916/1917	5/Dec/1903	1936
20	T.E.Spurr	1917/1918	Jng.Mem. 1/4/1905	1943
21	F.A.Driscoll	1918/1919	1/Sept/1906	1935
22	L.Pearson	1919/1920	2/Feb/1907	1963
23	F.C.Farnie	1920/1921	4/Feb/1905	1934
24	E.E.Ritchie	1921/1922	6/Apr/1907	Not Known
25	H.Verney	1922/1923	5/Sept/1908	1937
26	J.Forrester	1923/1924	5/Feb/1910	1943
27	F.T.Wills	1924/1925	2/Apr/1910	1927
28	W.A.Hanson	1925/1926	14/May/1910	1960
29	H.T.Crossfield	1926/1927	4/Sept/1912	1940
30	W.S.Apps	1927/1928	6/Dec/1913	1955
31	F.Russell	1928/1929	7/Feb/1914	1970
32	F.T.Brill	1929/1930	4/Apr/1914	Not Known
33	A.E.Hubbard	1930/1931	5/Jun/1915	1938
34	J.Thompson	1931/1932	6/Jun/1914	**
35	E.Robinson	1932/1933	5/Feb/1916	1939
36	G.L.George	1933/1934	28/Oct/1916	1960
37	G.Harrison	1934/1935	6/Apr/1918	1943
38	A.R.Bolitho	1935/1936	29/Jun/1918	1979
39	H.E.Mouser	1936/1937	7/Feb/1920	1945
40	R.C.Baalham	1937/1938	Jng. Mem. 3/4/1920	1963
41	C.W.Whitehair	1938/1939	13/Nov/1920	1964
42	A.J.Blakeley	1939/1940	2/Apr/1921	Not Known
43	L.Tuffnell	1940/1941	2/Apr/1921	1963
44	F.Evans	1941/1942	1/Apr/1922	1958
45	A.W.Sharp	1942/1943	3/Jun/1922	1948
46	F.J.Farrell	1943/1944	3/Feb/1923	1954
47	J.A.Pooley	1944/1945	2/Feb/1924	1977
48	S.S.Ross	1945/1946	6/Sep/1924	1957
49	C.L.Tutt	1946/1947	5/Feb/1927	1982
50	S.J.Spraggs	1947/1948	7/Apr/1928	1950
51	A.G.Saywell	1948/1949	5/Apr/1930	1973
52	R.Sheerin	1949/1950	2/Apr/1932	1963
53	D.W.Gladwin	1950/1951	3/Sep/1932	Not Known
54	W.Snell	1951/1952	2/Sep/1933	1962

55	A.A.Harrington	1952/1953	3/Feb/1934	1969
56	T.G.Thompson	1953/1954	1/Feb/1936	1957
57	F.Abercrombie	1954/1955	1/Feb/1936	1959
58	W.A.White	1955/1956	7/Apr/1934	1973
59	P.E.Player	1956/1957	3/Sep/1938	1980
60	A.J.Gale	1957/1958	2/Apr/1938	1980
61	G.Ball	1958/1959	3/Feb/1940	1986
62	L.W.G.Tutt	1959/1960	6/Sep/1941	
63	R.S.Sheerin	1960/1961	6/Sep/1941	1986
64	S.W.Sheerin	1961/1962	7/Feb/1942	1998
65	F.J.Farrell	1962/1963	12/Feb/1944	1980
66	W.E.Germain	1963/1964	12/Feb/1944	1982
67	R.C.Connolly	1964/1965	10/Feb/1945	1972
68	C.W.Moxom	1965/1966	1/Sep/1945	1991
69	A.E.Norman	1966/1967	7/Sep/1946	1981
70	A.E.Barnes	1967/1968	3/May/1947	1984
71	F.J.Roud	1968/1969	6/Sep/1947	1975
72	E.P.Brown	1969/1970	1/Apr/1950	1972
73	A.V.Moxom	1970/1971	3/Feb/1951	1994
74	A.L.Alcock	1971/1972	5/Sep/1953	**
75	G.A.Mackay	1972/1973	5/Feb/1955	
76	R.J.Thompson	1973/1974	7/Apr/1956	
77	B.E.Gibbon	1974/1975	2/Feb/1957	1982
78	G.Hardy	1975/1976	3/Sep/1960	
79	V.F.M.Hall	1976/1977	4/Sep/1965	1987
80	D.L.Lynch	1977/1978	4/Apr/1964	1989
81	R.G.Kingate	1978/1979	2/Apr/1966	Resigned
82	R.D.Taylor	1979/1980	2/Apr/1966	Resigned
83	A.R.Tosley	1980/1981	12/Apr/1969	1991
84	M.R.Howell	1981/1982	13/Feb/1970	
85	M.J.Kiddy	1982/1983	2/Jun/1972	1997
86	P.F.Richardson	1983/1984	27/Apr/1974	1992
87	G.Hardy*	1984/1985	3/Sep/1960	
88	R.Bull	1985/1986	28/Apr/1979	
89	P.F.Richardson*	1986/1987	27/Apr/1974	1992
90	R.J.Bull	1987/1988	Jng.Mem. 8/2/1980	
91	T.C.Rowell	1988/1989	4/Jun/1977	
92	P.J.Banks	1989/1990	13/Feb/1981	
93	P.T.Jones	1990/1991	22/Apr/1978	
94	D.S.Lee	1991/1992	6/Jun/1981	Resigned
95	D.D.Critchell	1992/1993	24/Apr/1982	
96	T.Bone	1993/1994	14/Feb/1986	
97	R.P.Moyes	1994/1995	4/Jun/1983	
98	R.L.Gould	1995/1996	14/Feb/1986	
99	R.Hardy	1996/1997	4/Jun/1983	
100	D.Olley	1997/1998	12/Feb/1988	
101	D.W.S.Slessor	1998/1999	12/Feb/1988	

* Denotes second term as Master. ** Denotes Resigned (date of death not Known)

*** Denotes excluded (date of death not Known)

Treasurers of Seven Kings Lodge

1899-1920

H.Glibey L.R.

1920-1922	R.J.Hatfield P.A.G.D.C., P.P.Treas.
1922-1937	H.T.A.Moreden P.P.A.G.D.C.
1937-1941	G.H.Jeff P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.W.
1941-1957	C.H.Strickland P.P.A.G.D.C.
1957-1960	J.A.Pooley P.P.G.W.
1960-1979	C.L.Tutt P.P.G.W.
1979-Present	L.W.G.Tutt Ph.D., P.P.J.G.W.

Secretaries of Seven Kings Lodge

1899-1910	Chas.R.Allen
1910-1924	J.W.Stewart P.P.G.D.
1924-1928	F.C.Farnie P.P.G.D.
1928-1937	H.Verney P.P.G.D.
1937-1960	A.R.Bolitho P.A.G.D.C., P.P.S.G.W.
1960-1975	J.A.Pooley P.P.G.W.
1975-1993	R.J.Thompson P.P.J.G.W.
1993-Present	P.J.Banks P.P.J.G.D.

Some Personalities of the Past

W.Bro.Frank Evans P.P.G.D.

Was the very first Master and a Founder member of Seven Kings Lodge. W.Bro.Frank was an Army Captain and attained the rank of Major during the First World War. He was very active in the Lodge for the first quarter of the Century. He was responsible for either proposing or seconding over 60 Brethren into this Lodge but surprisingly never held office after being I.P.M. He did however conduct many of the ceremonies during those years and appears to have been very involved with policy and decision making within the Lodge. He was elected an Honorary member of the Lodge in 1924 and spent more than 20 years as a pensioner of the Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution, he lived to the ripe old age of 92 but sadly passed away in 1946.

W.Bro.R.J.Hatfield P.A.G.D.C., P.P.G.Treas., L.R.

Was a Founder of the Lodge and served as Master on two occasions 1902-1903 and 1904-1905. He was Director of Ceremonies from 1910 to 1920, and Treasurer from 1920 to 1922. W.Bro.Hatfield was the first member of Seven Kings to hold Provincial, Grand and London Rank. His occupation given on the original petition is that of Accountant and he was a member of at least three other Lodges. In those early years of our existence it would be fair to say that most of the Lodge furniture and ornaments were donated by W.Bro.Hatfield, he also donated two of the four Lodge Banners and many other pieces to numerous to mention.

W.Bro.H.Gilbey L.R.

Was also a Founder of the Lodge and was Master for only six months, possibly to allow the Installation meeting to be changed from June to December. He was the Lodge Treasurer for a period of 21 years, from its Consecration until 1920 when he sadly passed away.

W.Bro.L.J.Martyn P.A.G.S.Wks., P.P.S.G.D.

Was initiated into Seven Kings 27th April 1901 and Master 1911-1912. He became a Lodge Steward in 1921 and remained in that office until 1924. In 1930 he was asked to take office again and did so as the A.D.C. until in 1932 he took over as the Lodge Director of Ceremonies, he held this post right through the Second World War and then retired immediately after in 1945. W.Bro.Martyn was a subscribing member of this Lodge for just short of 60 years until he sadly passed away in December 1960.

W.Bro.A.R.Bolitho P.A.G.D.C., P.P.S.G.W.

Was initiated into the lodge on 29th June 1918 and Master 1935-1936. After his year as I.P.M. he became the Lodge Secretary in 1937. He served in that office all through the Second World War and continued for a total of 23 years, finally retiring as Secretary in 1960. For the next 4 years he took over as Director of Ceremonies until in 1964 he finally retired from all office in Seven Kings Lodge. During his life he had been a subscribing member of a total of 7 Lodges and was Master of 'Essex Masters' Lodge No.3256 1956-1957. He was a Founder of 3 Lodges:- 'Christopher Wren Lodge No.6809, 'Upminster Hall' Lodge No.7573 and 'Essex Provincial Grand Stewards' Lodge No. 8667.

Apart from Seven Kings Chapter (1st Principal 1938) he had also been a subscribing member of 5 other Chapters and was a Founder of 4 of them:- Ingrebourne Chapter No.3345, Abbots Hall Chapter No.6205 (1st Principal 191964) , Engayne Chapter No.6831 (1st Principal at Consecration 1952) and Abbs Cross Chapter N.6920.

W.Bro.Bolitho was Secretary during the Jubilee Celebration meeting in 1949 and at the time he wrote a short booklet which he described as 'a composite but brief story of Seven Kings Lodge'. Much of the information in this history comes from both that booklet and the minutes as recorded by him for those 23 years. Sadly W.Bro.Bolitho passed away in April 1979, he had been a subscribing member of this Lodge for over 60 years, a record that still stands today.

W.Bro.Charles L.Tutt P.P.J.G.W.

Was initiated into the Lodge 5th February 1927 and Master 1946-1947. He became Assistant Secretary in 1952 and the following year (1953) he became Assistant Director of Ceremonies. He remained in that office for four years until 1957 when he became Director of Ceremonies holding that

position until 1960 when he was elected Treasurer, a post he held until he retired from active service in 1979. A period of 27 unbroken years of office in the Lodge.

W.Bro.Charles was a member of Seven Kings for 54 years and also a member of 'Essex Masters' Lodge No.3256. He was also a very active supporter of the Seven Kings L.o.I. and was a Preceptor for many years. He became a member of Seven Kings Chapter in 1952 where he was 1st Principal in 1960 and later held the rank of P.P.G.Scribe N.

W.Bro.Charles had careers in shipping, travel agency, government service and banking. He also served for a number of years at the British Embassy in Washington USA and saw military service during the First World War with the 'Artists Rifles' He travelled extensively throughout Europe, N. & S. America and the continent of Africa. A family man and active Church of England member, a footballer of note and an enthusiastic charity worker particularly the Tuberculosis Care Association. The death of his wife in 1961 caused him great distress but he continued to the full until he sadly passed away in 1981. He was described as a sincere gentleman by all that knew him.

W.Bro.George Ball P.P.J.G.W.

Was initiated into the Lodge 3rd February 1940, this took place during the first aerial bombardment of London, probably an experience he never forgot for more than one reason. He was master 1958-1959 and very quickly established himself in the running of the Lodge becoming A.D.C. in 1963 and then Director of Ceremonies in 1964. He held this office until 1979, a period of 15 years. He was also a preceptor of the Lodge of Instruction during this period and was considered by many of the younger Brethren to be the 'Sergeant Major' of the Lodge, he was meticulous about both the ceremony inside the Temple and the conduct of the Brethren where ever they were. He was also Festival Secretary of Seven Kings Ladies Festivals for several years.

He continued to be influential in the Lodge until he retired to Bridgewater in the West Country in 1981 and became a non-dining member of Seven Kings. Whilst in the West country he became a member of 'Tynte' Lodge No.7994 in Bridgewater, he did not take office in this lodge but quietly enjoyed his Masonry and his retirement. He sadly passed away in 1986, but is survived by his widow Kathleen who has also contributed to the information contained herein and continues to enjoy her membership of the Masonic Widows Association.

Personal Reflections of the Author

As I researched the minutes it was almost as if I got to know the characters of the past, I built up a mental image of them but of course I could only imagine them in the present Upminster Masonic Hall Temple, as that is the only venue that I can associate with Seven Kings Lodge. They probably looked nothing like I imagined and most of them would have met at the White Hart Hotel. Another thing that has fascinated me was the strands of tobacco and traces of ash that still remained in between some of the pages of the minutes, I wondered if I was the first person to see and even smell them, in some cases for nearly one hundred years.

It has been an experience to read and research the history of Seven Kings Lodge and a couple of things have particularly struck me. Firstly, there have been two bodies from which many of our members have come from in the past. In the early days, due largely to the influence of W. Bro. Major Frank Evans, there were many military people in the Lodge especially around the time of the First World War. Latterly there have been many members from the Ford Motor Company Ltd., even I was a Ford Apprentice, though there are not so many now as there was just a short time ago.

Secondly there have been a very large number of father – son members and also many brothers as members of this Lodge. This is apparent even from the very early days and as of today the Lodge has four father – son members and two sets of brothers.

Among some of the papers from the past was the programme from the Jubilee meeting of 1949 (the year I was born) and one of the many items of interest was the ‘Seven Kings Lodge Anthem’. This was written and composed by the late W.Bro Ernest Robinson who was initiated into the Lodge into the Lodge in 1916 and was Master for the years 1932 – 1933. I thought it only fitting that his contribution to this Lodge should be included:-

THE SEVEN KINGS LODGE ANTHEM

**A Mason’s heart clings tenderly wherever he may be
To where he first was given Light, Masonic joys to see
His Mother Lodge is always dear, and this is why we sing
The praise of this our Mother Lodge, so let your voices ring**

Refrain:

**With a 2 and a 7 and a 4 and a 9,
This dear old Mother Lodge of yours and mine,
We cherish and we love it for the pleasure that it brings,
So give us 2:7:4:9: --Seven Kings**

**The Two is for the Wardens, they’re men beyond compare,
The Seven’s for the perfect Lodge in which we’re proud to share,
The corners of the Lodge are Four, that one plainly sees,
The Nine is for the working Tools of all the Three Degrees.**

Refrain:

According to the same programme W.Bro. Robinson was well remembered for his Contribution to the social and entertainment side of the Lodge activities and for many years he sang this song at practically every meeting, it also comments “ the fervour of the Brethren in rendering of the refrain is to be remembered.” I would love to have been there to see it for myself. Unfortunately the music has been lost, however I have been able to have a new tune composed by a Mrs Janet Guy who is a music teacher at the school where I teach and so a big thank you goes out to her. I hope that W.Bro.Robinson will forgive us for losing his music but at least the words to his song will live on and should the music ever come to light then hopefully we will be able to pair them up and once more render the refrain with ‘fervour’.

I have tried to make the journey through the last one hundred years both interesting and an insight into the ways of the Lodge in times gone by, whether I was successful or not you can judge after you have read it. Although it was a somewhat difficult task I did end up enjoying it. As a final note I would like

to thank my daughter Tammy for the hours of work that she put in looking up little details for me, especially dates which is tedious to say the least, as the book progressed.

Here's to the next one hundred years and may Seven Kings Lodge No 2749 continue to go from strength to strength.

W.Bro.Tim Bone P.Prov.A.G.Reg.