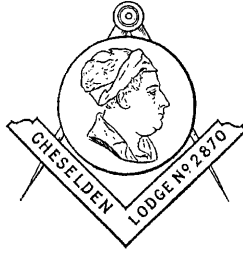


CHESELDEN LODGE

No. 2870



1901-2001



CHESELDEN LODGE

No. 2870

Consecrated at St Thomas's Hospital
on
Monday the 4th day of November, 1901

Centenary Meeting

held at

**FREEMASONS' HALL
GREAT QUEEN STREET
LONDON WC2B 5AZ**

5th November 2001

CONSECRATING OFFICERS

Consecrating Officer:

V.W.Bro. EDWARD LETCHWORTH, PGD
(The Grand Secretary)

Assisted By:

W.Bro. CLEMENT GODSON, PGD, MD
as Senior Warden

W.Bro. ALFRED COOPER, PGD, FRCS,
as Junior Warden

V.W.Bro. REV. SIR BORRADAILE SAVORY, Bart,
V.W.Bro. REV. W.C.R. BEDFORD
(Grand Chaplains)
as Chaplains

W.Bro. FRANK RICHARDSON, PGAR.
as Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro. FITZROY TOWER, PAGDC
as Assistant Director of Ceremonies

W.Bro. WOODHOUSE BRAINE, SGD, FRCS
as Inner Guard

FOUNDERS AND FIRST OFFICERS

W.Bro. THOMAS WAKLEY	<i>Worshipful Master</i>
V.W.Bro. W.VAUGHAN MORGAN	<i>I.P.M.</i>
Bro. H.H. CLUTTON	<i>Senior Warden</i>
W.Bro. G. CRAWFORD THOMSON	<i>Junior Warden</i>
Bro. SYDNEY PHILLIPS	<i>Treasurer</i>
Bro. CHARLES R BOX	<i>Secretary</i>
Bro. W. S. COLMAN	<i>Senior Deacon</i>
Bro. T. G. NICHOLSON	<i>Junior Deacon</i>
W.Bro. L. A. BIDWELL	<i>Inner Guard</i>
W.Bro. H. J. PRANGLEY	<i>Steward</i>
W.Bro. W. H. L. COPELAND	<i>Steward</i>
W.Bro. A. A. BROCKATT	
W.Bro. F. GORDAN BROWN	
Bro. C. WHITEHALL COOKE	
W.Bro. S. M. COPEMAN	
W.Bro. W. S. FINCHAM	
W.Bro. H. GERVIS	
Bro. C. W. GRANT-WILSON	
W.Bro. SAMUEL HAUGE	
W.Bro. C. W. HAIG-BROWN	
W.Bro. R. LAKE	
Bro. H. J. MACEVOY	
Bro. H. B. OSBURN	
Bro. H. A. SANSOM	
Bro. E. SOLLY	
W.Bro. CHISHOLM WILLIAMS	

W.Bro. W. H. HOBBIS (PM 858)

Tyler

INTRODUCTION

The history of the first fifty years is reproduced here as it appeared in the programme for the 50th Jubilee Meeting held in St Thomas's House on the 16th November 1951.

At the Consecration Dinner, the Master, W. Bro Thomas Wakley Junior, explained the reason for the name Cheselden rather than St Thomas's Lodge. The other hospital lodges had followed no uniform plan with respect to names, but most had taken the name of the hospital either in Latin (Sancta Maria) or in English (London Hospital), or chosen the name of their founder, patron or a classical association. St Thomas's was precluded from using the name St Thomas's Lodge, as there were other lodges of that name in existence. More specifically, there was a St Thomas's Lodge (No. 2583) closely connected with the hospital, which met in Tibshelf in Derbyshire, on an estate (in a colliery district), which was one of the hospital's most valuable properties. Records do not further explain why the name St Thomas's Hospital Lodge was not considered.

The founders decided to name the lodge after an illustrious anatomist and surgeon, William Cheselden, the introducer of the operation of perineal lithotomy, a pioneering form of urological surgery to remove stones. He was a member of the medical staff of St Thomas's Hospital from 1718 to 1738.

We are particularly indebted to Mr Anthony (Tony) Young, a General Surgeon at St Thomas's Hospital, for a biography of William Cheselden, a copy of which is attached to this history.

Cheselden was not a Freemason, but he was one of the foremost surgeons of his day, and his name has been ascribed to the Cheselden Club, the Surgical Society of St Thomas's Hospital, as well as to the Lodge.

There are a number of other documents and photographs in our possession supporting the origins and historical events of the Lodge. The history of the first fifty years refers to the cost of the Consecration Banquet as £186 in total and suggesting this would be around £600 in 1951. There would be very few of us dining for that total price today. It also refers to the initiation of Arthur Mead, the head school porter, as a "serving brother" to become Tyler. This practice, not common these days, was to make a man a Freemason for the specific purpose of having a Tyler who was an initiated member of the Craft. He could then be invested immediately after Initiation. It is not clear what circumstances led to the lodge voting against returning to the hospital in 1908. Had it done so, it would have moved to the second Governors' Hall, on the site of the restored Hall, where it met for its 21st birthday in 1922. The picture reproduced herein from our archives (and the one used by the hospital) is of the Governors' Hall rigged as a Masonic Temple for this meeting in 1922.

The statement "settled to qualify as a Hall Stone Lodge" in 1922, refers to those lodges who contributed to the building of a new Temple (Great Queen Street) in memory of the Brethren who had fallen in the Great War. This is further explained in the Ritual in the Address on Presentation of the Hall-Stone Jewel. The names of all those lodges that contributed are displayed at Freemasons' Hall.

SVD

THE HISTORY OF CHESELDEN LODGE 1901 - 1951

by

**W. Bro. William H C Romanis, PGD, LGR
Worshipful Master 1929-30**

The first mention of a Masonic Lodge in connection with St Thomas's Hospital was in 1693, and is referred to as follows in the Book of Constitutions in 1738 (Grand Lodge having been founded in 1717). This document says: "The 17th century which we are just arrived at the close of, had been very turbulent and full of commotions. Masonry, therefore, which can only flourish in times of peace, continued in a fluctuating state and found many difficulties to struggle with. In such unsettled seasons particular lodges could not be regularly attended in the Southern parts of England near the principal theatre of political action but were held occasionally when circumstances favoured the brethren, except in or near places where great works were carried on. Thus Sir Robert Clayton (a name well known as St. Thomas's), Lord Mayor of London, held an occasional Lodge of his brother masters at St. Thomas's Hospital, Southwark, in 1693 to advise with the Governors about the best design of rebuilding that hospital in its present elegant style, near which a stated Lodge continued for a long time afterwards." So much for 1693 – it is noticeable that the Ministry of Health in 1951 has not conferred with the Cheselden Lodge of Masons about rebuilding the present Hospital, but after all we are not now operative masons.

In the early years of this century masonry was active, and many school, college and hospital lodges were being started (one was in being since 1875); in 1901 it was settled that a St Thomas's Lodge, to be called "The Cheselden Lodge" should be founded, to which Governors and members of St Thomas's hospital could be admitted. The Consecration was held at St. Thomas's in the Governors' Hall on Monday, November 4th, 1901, the M.W. The Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught having graciously consented to consecrate the Lodge himself. At the last moment the fog was so thick that a message was received from the Grand Master that he could not get to the Hospital. History does not relate whether this message was brought at the gallop by a Grand Poursuivant on horseback or whether it came more sedately, by the National Telephone Company's system. The Consecration was therefore performed by the Grand Secretary, V.W. Bro. G. E Letchworth. The list of the founders and the consecrating officers will be found in this brochure. W.Bro. T. Wakley, owner and editor of "The Lancet," was installed as the first W.M., Bro. H. H. Clutton was invested as the first S.W., and W.Bro. G. Crawford Thomson as the first J.W. Nine Consecrating Officers, twenty Grand Officers, twenty-four Founders and sixty-eight guests were present: the first Officers were W.Bro. W. Vaughan Morgan, I.P.M., Bro. Sydney Phillips, Treasurer, Bro. C.R. Box, Secretary, Bro. W.S. Colman, Senior Deacon, Bro. T.G. Nicholson, Junior Deacon, W. Bro. Samuel Hague, Director of Ceremonies, W. Bro. L. A. Bidwell, Inner Guard, W.Bro. W. H. L. Copeland and W.Bro. H. J. Prangley, Stewards, and W. Bro. Hobbiss, Tyler. The M.W. The Grand Master was elected an Honorary Member. Six well-known St. Thomas's men were elected joining members. The Consecration Banquet cost £186. This would have been at least three times as much nowadays.

Quick on the heels of this Consecration followed an emergency meeting on December 16th, 1901 at the Trocadero, and James Gadesden Wainwright the Treasurer was initiated as the first initiate (at the age of 64) and Messrs. Charles Balance, R.W. Gilbert Weigall, F.C. Abbott and H.C. Jonas were also initiated. The dinner (7 courses) cost 5s. a head and champagne was 4s. a bottle.

The statutory month later a regular meeting was held on Friday, January 17th 1902 at the Trocadero, when five candidates were passed and Messrs. Cuthbert Wallace, F. G. Parsons, H. C. Crouch, E. M. Corner and W. F. Vinney were initiated. Bye-laws were drawn up and a commemoration jewel was accepted by the M.W. The Grand Master. The WMs of seven other medical lodges were elected Honorary Members.

Two more emergency meetings followed in rapid succession on February 14th and February 21st to pass five brethren, to raise five others, and to initiate five new members, among them Percy Sargent. Again on March 14th an emergency meeting was held to pass four brethren. This was followed by no dinner. The next regular meeting followed on March 21st, and by then the lodge can be said to have been firmly established. On this occasion W. H. Battle, H. J. D. Acland and H.S.Sington were initiated. Another emergency meeting followed on April 18th, at which E. A. Gates, Z Mennell, and Arthur Mead (head school porter) were initiated, the latter as serving brother to become Tyler, a post which he held for many years.

From then on followed many prosperous years, many initiates, many joining members, many emergency meetings and very large numbers of visitors. The lodge very soon entered into a reciprocal arrangement with most of the other medical lodges to regard each other as Sister Lodges in the sense that the W.M.'s were all members of each of the lodges.

On November 21st, 1902 it was settled that a Royal Arch chapter should be formed in connection with the Cheselden Lodge, and so flourishing was the lodge in 1903 that serious consideration was given to a proposal to limit the number of initiates a year, and the lodge was already beginning to invest money. Many sums were given to the Charities and twice the urgent needs of distressed brethren were relieved. This happened several times again in later years.

On May 15th, 1908, it was proposed that the meetings of the lodge should be moved to the Governors' Hall at St. Thomas's but this proposal was lost. At the next meeting, however, it was settled that in future the lodge should meet at the Gaiety Restaurant, Strand. This continued until in 1911 the Gaiety Restaurant passed into liquidation and lodge then settled to meet at Pagani's Restaurant.

When the 1914 war came, many officers and members were absent, but the lodge carried on. The subscription was lowered to 25s. a year and only one dinner a year was held, that after the installation meeting. For the duration of the war all brethren of German, Austrian, Hungarian or Turkish birth were forbidden by Grand Lodge to attend any lodges. In 1918 Bro. Mead retired from the office of Tyler and W. Bro. Hopkins was appointed. At the end of the war an Especial Grand Lodge to celebrate peace was held at the Royal Albert Hall on June 27th, 1919.

The end of the war left the lodge in a strong position but candidates had been few and far between. Peace, however, produced a plethora of candidates for initiation. In 1920, the lodge became one of the Founding Lodges of the Royal Masonic Hospital by giving a donation of 100 guineas.

In 1922, the Treasurer, R.W. Bro. Sir Arthur Stanley, P.Prov.G.M. of West Lancashire was elected an honorary member, and the same year the lodge settled to qualify as a Hall Stone Lodge. On October 20th, 1922, the lodge held its 21st birthday with an emergency meeting in the Governors' Hall at St. Thomas's, which the M.W. the Grand Master, H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, attended and to which he demanded admission.

During the next few years several valuable and interesting gifts were made to the lodge and many sums were given to the Charities and to the Masonic Million Fund. Many more emergency meetings were held. In 1928, the lodge left Pagani's Restaurant and the meetings were held at the Café Royal. In 1930, the lodge became a patron of the New Freemasons' Hospital (as it was called in those days). In 1937, the original Secretary, W. Bro. Box, felt that he must resign, and this resignation was accepted with regret: it is pleasant to record that W.Bro. Box remained a member of the lodge till his death in 1951. The Treasurer, W.Bro. Whitehall-Cooke, also resigned, and mementoes were presented to both these distinguished brethren.

During the second war the lodge carried on under difficulties owing to the absence of various officers, and the total aerial efforts of the German Fuhrer only succeeded in making the lodge miss two meetings, the ordinary meetings being held early in the afternoons with a luncheon before.

Since the war the lodge has continued to flourish and function and now has a list of members of 78 and a list of present and past members of 397.

MASTERS

1901 - 1951

Wakley, Thomas, PGD.	1901
Crawford Thomson, G, PGD	1902
Colman, Walter S	1903
Box, Charles R, PGD	1904
Nicholson, Thomas G, LGR.	1905
Bidwell, Leonard	1906
Prangley, Henry J.	1907
Copeland, W H L, LGR	1908
Whitehall-Cooke, Cecil, LGR	1909
Fincham, W. Sydney	1910
Duncan, William, PGD.	1911
Sheppard, William J, PGD Std	1912
Sargent, Percy, CMG, DSO, PGD	1913
Sington, Harold S, PGD, LGR	1914
Mennell, Zebulon, PAGDC, LGR	1915
Robinson, H. Betham	(Mar) 1917
Swallow, Allan J, LGR.	(Nov) 1918
Nitch, Cyril A.R, LGR.	1919
Tyrwell-Gray, H, PGD, LGR.	1920
Smith, R. Percy, PG Std	1921
MacDonald, Sydney Gray, PGD	1922
Wilson, Henry Bowstead, LGR	1923
Brown, Thomas Henry, LGR	1924
Windsor, James Frederick	1925
Mennell, James Beaver, LGR	(Dec) 1926
Taylor, John F,	
PGD, LGR, Asst Prov G M (Essex)	1927
Wayte, John Woollaston, LGR	1928
Romanis, William H C, PGD, LGR	1929

Robinson, R H O Betham, LGR	1930
Whitehall-Cooke, Evelyn C, LGR.	1931
Attwood, Herbert Clifton	1932
Woolrich, William Grant, LGR	1933
Russell, Henry Bret, LGR	1934
Caldwell-Smith, Eric L, PGD, LGR	1935
Rushton, Wilfrid	1936
Low, William A, MC, LGR	1937
Irvine, Maurice L C,	
PSGD, Grd LASF India (S.C.)	1938
Chiesman, Walter Eric (Jan.)	1940
Oliver, John Osborne, O.B.E.	1941/42
Stowell, Thomas E A,	
PGD, PPGD. (Cheshire)	1943
Morgan, Thomas Walter	1944
White, Arther	1945
Newcombe, Clive	1946
Clive, Frederick Temple	1947
Mascall, William Neville	1948
Cardell, John Douglas Magor	1949
Anwyl-Davies, Thomas	1950
Irvine, Kenneth	1951

SECRETARIES

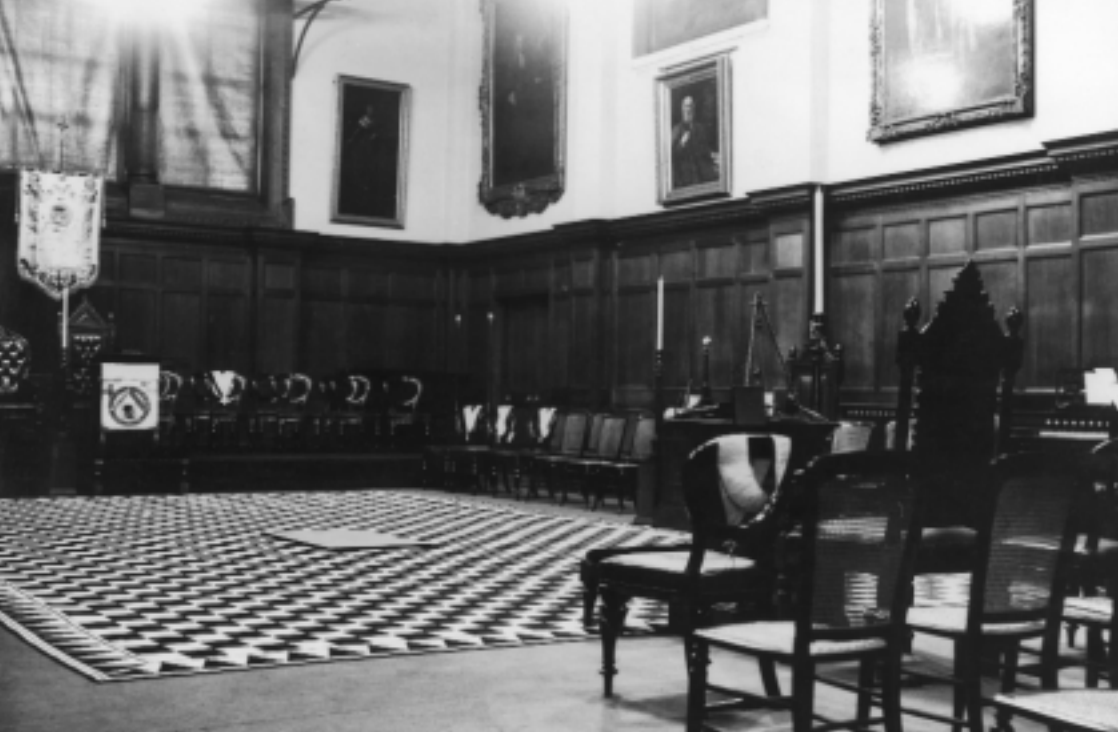
1901 - 1951

W.Bro. C R. Box	1901 - 1937
W. Bro. H B Russell	1937 - 1944
W. Bro. W G Woolrich	1944 - 1947
W. Bro. W A Low	1947 -

TREASURERS

1901 - 1951

Bro. S Phillips	1901 - 1914
W.Bro. G. C Thomson	1914 - 1917
W.Bro. W. S Fincham	1917 - 1918
Bro. C Whitehall-Cooke	1918 - 1937
W.Bro. E L Caldwell-Smith	1937 - 1944
W.Bro. H.B. Russell	1944 - 1947
W.Bro. J O. Oliver	1947 -



*St. Thomas's
Hospital
Governors' Hall*



*Cheselden Lodge
Charity Column
circa 1901*

Cheselden Lodge

1901 - 2001

Centenary Dinner

Toasts

&

Menu

CENTENARY TOASTS

The Queen & the Craft

**The Most Worshipful The Grand Master
His Royal Highness the Duke of Kent,
KG, GCMG, GCVO, ADC**

**The Most Worshipful Pro Grand Master
The Most Honourable the Marquess of Northampton, DL**

**The Right Worshipful Deputy Grand Master
Iain Ross Bryce, TD, DL**

**The Right Worshipful Assistant Grand Master
David Williamson**

And the rest of the Grand Officers, Present and Past

**Cheselden Lodge
given by**

**RW Bro H Brian Smith PProv GM (Northants & Hunts),
President Royal Masonic Benevolent Institution**

response by

The Worshipful Master, W Bro Dr C David Collins, SLGR, FRCR

The Visitors

given by

The Junior Warden, W Bro Mr Stuart Scott, LGR, MS, FRCS

response by

W Bro Dr Roger Jago, PAGDC, FRCA

CENTENARY MENU

Cold Poached Salmon

With Dill Mayonnaise

Stilton & Celery Soup

Roast Sirlion of Scottish Beef

With Chestnuts & Field Mushrooms

In a Game Port Sauce

Fondant Potatoes

A Selection of Seasonal Vegetables

Peach & Cherry Strudel

With Brandy Sauce

English Wensleydale & Dolcelatte Cheeses

With Water Biscuits, Celery & Grape

Coffee & Mints

THE HISTORY OF CHESELDEN LODGE 1951 - 2001

by

**W. Bro. Dr Stuart V Drew, SLGR, MFFP
Worshipful Master 1977-78 & 1989-90**

We left off at that part of our history where the Lodge was holding its regular meetings at the Café Royal. 1951 was the year of the Festival of Britain, when the country finally came out of the shadow of World War II to celebrate the centenary of the Great Exhibition of 1851. Food rationing was still in force. The 50th Anniversary of the Lodge was held in St Thomas's House on 16th November 1951, and it is reported that many visitors attended. The Worshipful Master was W. Bro. Kenneth Irvine, well remembered by many present day members until he passed to the Grand Lodge above in 1988. One of the Stewards was W. Bro. Thomas E S Stowell, who was Installed as Worshipful Master in 1955. He is now one of our Honorary Members and is present to celebrate our centenary. Other Officers that year gave the Lodge many further years of loyal service.

On 10th April 1952, the 200th anniversary of the death of William Cheselden was commemorated by a visit to his grave in the grounds of the Royal Hospital Chelsea. The Secretary and Treasurer laid a wreath on his grave on behalf of the Lodge. The 250th anniversary will be in April 2002. This coincides with the date of the Centenary of St Luke's Medical Lodge of Instruction.

Other references show that a large number of hospital lodges were founded in 1901, and they jointly agreed to sponsor a Lodge of Instruction to be named after the patron saint of physicians, St Luke, who was himself, a physician. Cheselden Lodge continues to provide active support for this L of I.

W. Bro. Brian Kelly is our senior subscribing member. He was Initiated into Cheselden Lodge in 1957 by W. Bro. Lindahl (an Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon at St Thomas's). His progress through the Lodge was interrupted by his duties in the RAF, and he did not become Master until 1975. Our Centenary Master W. Bro David Collins SLGR was Initiated into the Lodge in 1959. He is our most senior subscribing Past Master (1967-68). At the time of his Initiation, the Lodge still met at Café Royal, and he recalls the ceremony being in the small temple many of us remember being used by Cheselden Chapter until recently, and where he was exalted into Cheselden Royal Arch Chapter in 1991. He was Initiated by W. Bro Ian McMillan (a cardiothoracic surgeon in Southampton) who became very active in Provincial Masonry in Hampshire and Isle of Wight until his death in 1989.

It had long been tradition that the hospital Beadle acted as Tyler. This continued until 1961 when the then Beadle, W Streeton, became WM for the 60th anniversary year. He Initiated W. Bro. David Bernstein in 1962. The Office of Tyler passed to the hospital Senior Porter George Holmes. He acted as Tyler for a number of other Lodges, particularly the Carmarthen College Lodge, which met at the old Stockwell Masonic Centre. This was where W. Bro. Stuart Drew, then a final year student at St Thomas's, met him in 1968 and was remonstrated with for not being a member of Cheselden; an omission soon rectified in May 1969. George remained Tyler until shortly before his death in 1986, thus ending the tradition of the Tyler being an active servant of the hospital. W. Bro Streeton continued an active PM and was Junior Warden to W. Bro David Collins in 1967-68.

W. Bro. Arnold Stenhouse was Master when the Lodge moved to the

Devonshire Club in 1967. It is understood that he proposed this move as the result of a significant rise in fees at the Café. He was not a member of Cheselden Chapter, which decided to stay at the Café until it ceased being able to offer Masonic facilities very recently.

W. Bro. David Collins was Installed on the 17th November 1967 (the 3rd Friday in November being the usual date of Installation at the Devonshire Club). The Immediate Past & Installing Master was W. Bro. Arnold Stenhouse.

By 1967, Arnold was a PPGW (Surrey) and PPG Reg (Oxon). In 1968 he became Director of Ceremonies, an office he held with distinction for 13 years until becoming the first Past Master of Cheselden Lodge to be elected Master for a second time (W. Bro. John Oliver had served for two consecutive years in 1941-42 during World War II). He was Inducted at Freemasons' Hall on Friday 16th October 1981. This was our 80th anniversary, but it also coincided with Arnold's 50th year in Freemasonry. The list of members at that time also shows we had few junior members suitable for consideration. In April 1969, he was invested in the active rank of Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies. He was promoted to PJGD in 1978. He passed to the Grand Lodge above on 8th May 1985. He was one of the greatest influences for the development and good order of Cheselden Lodge over the past 50 years.

Members remembered The Devonshire Club as having a degree of "Old World" charm with "fruit machines" in the bar on the ground floor. The Temple was reached via a "vintage" open-sided lift. The meals were "adequate", but younger brethren sought inner fulfilment at various Indian Restaurants later in the evening.

The club was sold to "non friendly" owners in 1975 and a new home

had to be sought at short notice. Our last meeting there was the Installation of W. Bro. Brian Kelly by W. Bro. Douglas Fergusson on 21st November 1975.

The Royal Horseguards' Hotel had advertised facilities in the Masonic Times and we moved there in January 1976. No Masonic facilities were provided, apart from a room to meet and a room to eat. We survived three meetings. Senior brethren approached Great Queen Street, and we moved to Freemasons' Hall in time for the Installation of our 75th Master, W. Bro. Christopher Drew, on 29th October 1976. The Installation had been planned for the 3rd Friday in October (the date thereafter) but a technicality in obtaining the Dispensation under Rule 139 of the Book of Constitutions forced a delay to the 4th Friday. We dined at the Connaught Rooms, but thereafter sought better value for money at the Freemasons' Arms and other neighbouring venues, ending up at the Bonnington Hotel before returning to St Thomas's Hospital.

After some discussion, the Standing Committee decided not to celebrate our 75th anniversary. However, a Luncheon including the Lodge Ladies was enjoyed on the day after the Installation (Saturday 30th October 1976) in the Consultants' Dining Room at St Thomas's Hospital, followed by a tour of the newly opened North Wing: The first direct contact with the hospital since the 50th anniversary.

The original Constitution of the Lodge had stated, "The Cheselden Lodge is established for the convenience of present and past members of St. Thomas's Hospital and its Medical School". In 1967, there were 71 subscribing members on the Summons, by 1977 this had fallen to 47, with few young members readily available for regular attendance or of general Masonic experience outside Cheselden.

It was decided that the lodge would be enriched, and its future

secured, by inviting membership from worthy men, well known to existing members, from outside the strict limits of the Constitution. This was changed some short time after our move to Freemasons' Hall to include the phrase "...mainly but not exclusively for the convenience....". This decision has proved to be sound. One of the first recipients of this change was David Irving Williams, a Pharmacist, proposed by W. Bro. Ron Leach (Worshipful Master 1968-69), who became a Joining Member on 20th May 1977. He progressed rapidly to be our Master in 1980. He died tragically in 1982 while First Principal in Cheselden Chapter.

For many years, up to around 1976, the Lodge had enjoyed excellent music from W. Bro. Evelyn C Whitehall-Cooke. L.G.R. (Worshipful Master 1931-32). From that time, illness prevented him from attending before his passing to the Grand Lodge above in 1981. In 1978, the Worshipful Master, W. Bro. Stuart Drew, was pleased to propose his father, W. Bro. Melville Drew, as a joining member. The father had Initiated, Passed and Raised his son in their Mother Lodge during his year as Master in 1967. W. Bro. Melville became our Organist, the office he filled until shortly before his death in 1989. W. Bro. Stuart was also pleased to be invited to Initiate his lifelong friend W. Bro. Robert Jenkins in March 1981, the son of one of W. Bro. Melville's sadly deceased Masonic friends. W. Bro. Robert is now Treasurer of the lodge and the Centenary Festival financial organiser. We were without a regular organist until Bro Malcolm Phebey joined the Lodge in 1992.

In January 1982, the regular meeting had to be cancelled due to bad weather. The proposed Initiate had to wait until the March meeting. As this was W. Bro. Andrew Haynes, the Secretary of the lodge, it can be said that he wasted no time thereafter.

The opportunity to meet at St Thomas's Hospital became a reality in

1983. A team of brethren on the hospital staff, ably led by David Collins, paved the way for us to hold our Installation Meeting in the Grand Committee Room on Friday 21st October 1983. Robin Ballard was Installed as Master, and we dined in St Thomas's House. The following year we met in the Prideaux Lecture Theatre, and continued to meet there for Installations until the re-opening of the Governors' Hall. In 1987, the Installation fell on the day of the "Great Storm", the 16th October. The caterer, W. Bro. Michael Hollingsworth, phoned David Collins at 9 am to ask if it was worth travelling in from Windsor. David had no time to consult with others, but took an optimistic gamble to proceed. W. Bro. Fred Jewett duly Installed his successor Alan Woolf at the appointed time. Sadly, Alan was to die prematurely of a longstanding heart condition during the summer of 1989 before he had completed his year as Immediate Past Master.

During his year as IPM in 1989, W Bro Andrew Haynes proposed that the lodge should adopt the custom of honouring the widows of those brethren who had died while still subscribing members. This proposal was warmly received and adopted. Our Almoner W Bro Fred Jewett contacts these ladies every Christmas time with a card and gift from the brethren of the lodge. From his reports, these gifts are greatly appreciated.

During the early 1990s, the Governors' Hall at St Thomas's Hospital was restored to its former splendour. The Lodge contributed £1,000 in January 1991 towards the cost of the display cabinet in the Grand Committee Room, in which a shelf was designated to house some of the Lodge memorabilia. The Lodge held its first Installation meeting in the restored Governors' Hall on the 28th October 1994 (the fourth Friday that year, by dispensation). W. Bro. Ian Miller was Installed as Master.

The Lodge was determined to return for all meetings to St Thomas's

and proceeded to purchase and borrow the necessary Furniture, it having little of its own. The Banner had been refurbished at Great Queen Street in 1982, and was the first to be so done using the new automated equipment.

The Lodge returned for all meetings on the 25th October 1995. The Lodge was consecrated in the first Governors' Hall in the original Block 1. The 21st anniversary meeting was held in the second Governors' Hall on the sight of today's restored Governors' Hall. The only known photograph of this second Hall is the one set out as a Masonic Lodge for the Cheselden Lodge 21st anniversary. The chairs used recently by the Master and Senior Warden were borrowed from the hospital and were those shown in that photograph. Sadly we held our last meeting at St Thomas's Hospital on the 18th May 2001, as the result of a decision, taken by the Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital NHS Trust, that the presence of the Lodge was not compatible with the principles of the Trust. The lodge has returned to meet at Freemasons' Hall.

In the 1990s, much discussion had taken place about London Freemasonry becoming a Province in its own right. The decision was not to create a separate Province, but to create a tier of management separate from Grand Lodge itself. London Management was set up in 1998, and Cheselden Lodge became a member of the Richmond Group of lodges. We were allocated a Visiting Grand Officer (VGO). Our current VGO is W. Bro. Roy Simmons, who attends our meetings regularly and brings a breath of fresh air and "new" wisdom to our otherwise comfortable introspection.

To date, four Past Masters have been re-elected Master of the Lodge; W. Bro. Arnold Stenhouse, W. Bro. Stuart Drew, W. Bro. David Bernstein and W. Bro. David Collins, all graduates of St Thomas's Hospital Medical School.

In our Centenary year, we have 43 subscribing and 5 honorary members. We receive requests for membership from prospective Initiates and Joining Members. We try to maintain the spirit of the “Emulation” working of the Ritual, with colourful additions provided by many of our members who are active Freemasons in other parts of the country. It is worthy of mention that despite the widely spread addresses of our members, and the significant importance of their occupations, Cheselden Lodge has continued to flourish and is in good order and good heart as it celebrates its Centenary. The Lodge meets on the 3rd Fridays in October (Installation), January, March and May.

Cheselden Royal Arch Chapter is also flourishing using the Aldersgate Ritual, and is preparing for its own Centenary in 2004.

MASTERS

1952 - 2001

Bishop, John B	1952
Rusby Norman L	1953
Osborne, Claude	1954
Stowell, Thomas	1955
Rickford, R Braithwaite K	1956
Lindahl, Johan W S	1957
McMillan, Ian K	1958
Davies, Owen W	1959
Howard, Peter	1960
Streeton, William F	1961
Rushton, John C	1962
Clarke, Richard J S	1963
Bartley, Christopher H D	1964
Watson-Baker, Henry R	1965
Stenhouse, Arnold B, PPGW (Surrey), PPGReg (Oxon)	1966
Collins, C David	1967
Leach, Ronald F	1968
Heath, William E	1969
Hammond, Valentine D	1970
Bernstein, David C	1971
Reed, Peter I	1972
Foster, Charles	1973
Ferguson, Douglas A	1974
Kelly, H Brian	1975
Drew, Christopher D M, P Dist SGW (Bombay)	1976

Drew, Stuart V	1977
Tilling, Keith J	1978
Whitehead, Malcolm I	1979
Williams, David I	1980
Stenhouse, Arnold B, PJGD, PPGW (Surrey), PPGReg (Oxon)	1981
Khambatta, Roeinton B, P Dist Grand Master (Pakistan)	1982
Ballard, Robin M	1983
Hopes, Ian	1984
Mount, John	1985
Jewett, Frederick T, PPGReg (Northumberland)	1986
Woolf, Alan	1987
Haynes, Andrew F, JP	1988
Drew, Stuart V, LGR	1989
Chappatte, Oliver A	1990
Jenkins, Robert P	1991
Scott, Stuart D	1992
Rollins, Kenneth O H	1993
Millar, Ian	1994
Allen, Douglas R	1995
Hurst, Paul G	1996
Nunes de Souza, Richard R	1997
Warren, Martin J	1998
Dear, Peter M	1999
Bernstein, David C, LGR	2000
Collins, C David, SLGR	2001

SECRETARIES

1952 - 2001

W. Bro. W A Low	1947 – 1959
W. Bro. R B K Rickford	1959 – 1971
W. Bro. O W Davies	1971 – 1977
W. Bro. R F Leach	1977 – 1985
W. Bro. M I Whitehead	1985 – 1995
W. Bro. A F Haynes	1995 -

TREASURERS

1952 - 2001

W.Bro. J O. Oliver	1947 – 1958
W. Bro. R B K Rickford	1958 – 1959
W. Bro. F T Clive	1959 – 1971
W. Bro. R F Leach	1971 – 1977
W. Bro. C D Collins	1977 – 1999
W. Bro. R P Jenkins	1999 -

William Cheselden
1688-1752
by
Anthony E Young, FRCS

William Cheselden was born on October 19th 1688, at Somerby, Leicestershire. He came of a family of wealthy graziers. At the age of fifteen he travelled to London to be the pupil of the Anatomist, William Cowper, and shortly after that was apprenticed to Mr Ferne, Surgeon and Lithotomist at St Thomas's Hospital, London.

He made rapid progress, being admitted to the freedom and livery of the Barber Surgeons' Company on 5th December 1710, and on 29th January obtained the "great diploma" which entitled him to specialise in surgery. In 1711, at the age of twenty-three, he was already a lecturer in anatomy, giving a course of thirty-five lectures four times a year. His lectures covered not only anatomy but also the other, then rudimentary, pre-clinical subjects and established him as perhaps the first proponent of systematic pre-clinical teaching in the country. In 1714, however, he incurred the displeasure of the Barber Surgeons' Company for dissecting the bodies of malefactors in his own house. His lectures coincided with those of the Company and were apparently more popular because on his promising to hold his lectures at a different time he was excused after a reproof had been pronounced by the Master. The lectures therefore continued, first in his own house and later in St Thomas's.

At the age of twenty-five he consolidated his anatomy teaching by publishing "The Anatomy of the Humane Body". This is the first anatomy book written expressly for students of surgery. It is both brief and pocket size and may be regarded as the grandfather of our present "Aids to" and "Lecture Notes In" series. The book went into thirteen editions and was popular for well over a hundred years.

Some years later, Cheselden also published a very much more sophisticated anatomy book; his “Osteographia”. Both these books may be seen in the library of St Thomas’s Hospital Medical School.

In 1714 and in 1715 he contested the post of Surgeon to St Thomas’s without success, probably as the result of his difference with the Company, as Meade was Reader in Anatomy to that body and had great influence at St Thomas’s. However, in July 1718, he was eventually successful, being appointed first as Assistant Surgeon and a year later as a Principal Surgeon. With Cheselden on the staff, we see his full development as a surgeon. Surgery in the early 1700s was extremely limited both in scope and in the number of operations performed, yet Cheselden made his justifiably famous contributions by tackling two of its most difficult problems – eye surgery and cutting for the stone (lithotomy). He was not satisfied merely to become the most competent and fastest cutting surgeon of his day (most of his operations took only a minute or so) he was also an intelligent innovator. Having enthusiastically taken up the suprapubic approach to the bladder early in his career and having produced better results than any of his contemporaries he had the perspicacity to see that improvements were possible and in 1723 he published a “Treatise on the High Operation for Stone”, which gave a short account of the history of lithotomy, pointed out the dangers of opening the bladder suprapubically, and the anatomical reasons requiring the abandonment of this method. The book, dedicated to Dr Richard Meade, was like all Cheselden’s writings, brief; consisting of thirty-six pages only.

Shortly afterwards he himself abandoned the operation and adopted that by which he is best known. From a careful study of available techniques and from research with cadavers, Cheselden developed the perineal approach to the bladder.

In 1725 he began to use his new approach achieving a mortality of only six per cent in his first hundred cases. His operation remained the standard lithotomy procedure until displaced by the litholapaxy at the end of the nineteenth century. The operation for stone was Cheselden's major contribution to the practice of surgery. Indeed Pope once wrote of Cheselden "he is the most noted and deserving man in the whole profession of Chirurgery, and has saved the lives of thousands by his manner of cutting for the stone". Perineal lithotomy was not his only contribution however. In 1728, he published a paper that attracted great attention, dealing with an operation for couching performed on a boy, thirteen years of age, who had been born blind, and in the same volume an operation for treating certain forms of blindness by the production of an opening to form an artificial pupil. The latter operation probably inspired Pope who wrote:

*"I'll do what Meade and Cheselden advise
To keep these limbs and preserve these eyes."*

In 1738, at the age of fifty, in the full flood of his success, Cheselden retired from St Thomas's to the more tranquil post of Surgeon at the Royal Hospital of Chelsea. We do not know the reason for this.

We now see the full development of Cheselden the politician, his earlier bullishness no doubt honed by the sharpening action of hospital politics. He now became the leading light of the "Incorporated Company of Surgeons", thus formed. This feat he managed without generating any apparent ill will. He seems to have had considerable organisational ability, for he had earlier managed the financing, design and building of a second bridge over the Thames in London, this one at Fulham. It allowed one writer to quip that it was Cheselden's surgical experience that enabled him "to design a bridge standing on so many wooden legs".

It is difficult to discern Mr Cheselden's real character at such a distance for we can learn of him only by the shadows he cast in Minute Books, in papers and in other people's notes. He seems to have been something of an extrovert, a man of fine character; good to his pupils, colleagues, and above all, to his patients. He certainly attracted and impressed some shrewd observers of the time, among them Pope, Sir Robert Walpole, Isaac Newton and the painter Richardson.

In 1752, whilst holidaying in Bath, he took a surfeit of hot buns and ale and died the same day. He was sixty-five. He is buried in the grounds of Chelsea Hospital.



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*Cheselden
Snuff Boxes*