



RW Bro Gordon Bourne

Past Pro Provincial Grand Master/Past Grand Superintendent

Passed to the Grand Lodge above on 5 November 2017



RW Bro Roger Croome, RW Bro HRH Prince Michael of Kent and RW Bro Gordon Bourne at the Masonic Fishing Charity Day

Gordon was born on 3 June 1921 at a farm in Derbyshire. His father was a tenant farmer and his mother served with the Red Cross during the First World War, receiving an MBE. His mother taught Gordon and his brother at home as there were no schools nearby. When Gordon was eight he contracted Abdominal Tuberculosis and the 'cure' for this was fresh air, so he lived outside in a tent, day and night, for the next two and a half years.

Gordon was granted a Scholarship to Queen Elizabeth's Grammar School at Ashbourne in Derbyshire and became a boarder. It was a school that not only paved his way into a future career in medicine but enabled him to excel in sport, playing rugby, cricket and shooting, all for Derbyshire Schoolboys.

In September 1939 Gordon was preparing to go to St Bartholomew's Hospital, but unfortunately war was declared and Gordon was relocated to Cambridge to help with the wounded. He was then posted to Hertford County Hospital where he combined the roles of House Surgeon, Casualty Officer and Obstetrician and after the war he spent two years training as an Orthopaedic Surgeon in a Hospital for the war wounded in Southgate. It was here that he met his future wife, Eileen. They were married in King's College Chapel in Aberdeen on 20 November 1948 and in 1950 they moved back to London.

While working in St Bartholomew's he achieved Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons. This was followed by success in examination for Membership of the Royal College of Gynaecologists. He became

Registrar at the Middlesex Hospital, then Senior Registrar at St Bart's, during which time he was granted the Nuffield Travelling Scholarship which in 1958 enabled him to work as an obstetric tutor in two leading hospitals in the United States and a Research Fellow at Harvard University. To top it all he attained Research Fellowship from the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Washington DC, with the rank of Associate Professor.

Further honours followed in 1961 when, back in the UK he was appointed Arris and Gale Lecturer at the Royal College of Surgeons and Consultant Obstetrician and Gynaecologist to St Bartholomew's and then to St Luke's Hospital for Clergy in 1963.

Through his work at Harvard he wrote his first medical book which was published in 1961 and he went on to publish a further 17 medical books, at the same time penning numerous professional articles and lectures. In 1964 he was granted Fellowship of the Royal College of Gynaecologists.

During this extremely busy part of his life he still managed to fit in 'some' masonry. On 16 October 1950 Gordon was initiated into Liversage Lodge No. 5027 in Derbyshire. On 8 July 1953 he was Exalted into his father's former Chapter, the Chapter of Truth No.731. Freemasonry obviously appealed because he went on to join Rahere Lodge No.2546, the Lodge of St Bartholomew's Hospital, and Rahere Chapter No.2546, he was also Advanced into Abernethy Lodge of Mark Masons No.569 and went into the chair in 1962 and 1964. He joined Quadratic Lodge No.1691 and was Master in 1969 and 1976.

Gordon's career moved into a new direction between 1964 and 1966 when he worked as an advisor to King Faisal of Saudi Arabia. His brief was to advise on the possibility of the structure of a maternity health service in that country. This was followed by Directorships of the American Hospital in Beirut and the American run Awali Hospital in Bahrain from 1966 to 1970.

Back in the UK, with no thoughts of slowing down he was appointed to the staff of the Royal Masonic Hospital, where he worked with patients every Wednesday until his retirement in 1988. Meanwhile his masonic career in Middlesex was progressing. He was appointed as Provincial Grand Warden in 1977. From

1979 to 1987 he served as Assistant Provincial Grand Master and from 1987 to 1989, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. On 9 May 1989 he was installed as the first Pro Provincial Grand Master of Middlesex at Freemasons' Hall by RW Bro Hon Edward Latham Baillieu, Deputy Grand Master and served in this capacity until 1996.

Concurrently he was also appointed Deputy Grand Superintendent in the Provincial Grand Chapter of Middlesex serving the office from 1984 to 1986. On 20 March 1987 he was installed as Most Excellent Grand Superintendent at Freemasons' Hall by The Most Excellent Companion the Rev Preb C E Leighton Thomson TDMA and remained in this office until retirement in 1996.

And to list a few more:

Perfected into Belgrave Chapter Rose Croix No.121 in November 1969.

Joined St Christopher Chapter Rose Croix No.274 and Enthroned as Most Wise Sovereign on 9 July 1988.

A Founder and 1st General of the Middlesex Sovereigns Chapter No.1063 when it was consecrated in October 1993.

Enthroned as Inspector General for the District of Middlesex at an Emergency Meeting of St Christopher Chapter Rose Croix No.274 in April 1996 until December 2000.

Joined Middlesex Installed Mark Masters in 1978 and served as Master in 1994.

Joined Sir Francis Burdett Lodge of Mark Master Masons No.181 in 2008.

And there are many, many more, including, of course, the Lodge named in his honour, Gordon Bourne Lodge No.9388.

Gordon also found time to become a Liveryman, joining the Worshipful Company of Haberdashers in 1963. He was elected to the Court in 1968 and served as Master in 1983. He was Chairman of Governors of the Hatcham Schools from 1978 to 1982 and the Elstree Schools from 1988 until 1994.

In 1984 he retired from the National Health Service mainly because he could not agree with many of the new ideas being introduced into hospital management. He finally retired from private practice in 1991.

Later in life he became interested in fly fishing and became involved in the MTSFC - Masonic Trout & Salmon Fishing Charity (now called The Masonic Fishing Charity) for people with special needs.

It was Gordon who actually made Middlesex the Province it is today. When he was made an Assistant Provincial Grand Master in 1979 absolutely nothing happened in the Province other than the Annual Meeting. (I was Master of my Lodge that year). At that time the Provincial Grand Master was RW Bro Arthur Hollins who had been in post since 1973. In 1981

he appointed His Honour Alan Trapnell as his Deputy PGM and then when he stood down in 1982 it was fully expected that His Honour would take over. However, Grand Lodge decided that HRH Prince Michael of Kent should be PGM of Middlesex, consequently Alan Trapnell unexpectedly remained as Deputy PGM.

Gordon told me, that VW Bro Trapnell, either because he was never summoned or invited to meet HRH, or due to the fact that he was so piqued at not being promoted to PGM, never contacted Prince Michael or communicated with him in any way, and just ran the Province himself. I understand that the Provincial Grand Secretary, Alfred Gann, was the only person who communicated with the Prince but other than that HRH had nothing to do with his Province. In those days no one visited the Lodges, unless for a special event such as a Centenary Meeting.

When VW Bro Alan Trapnell stood down in 1986 Gordon was appointed as Deputy PGM. He was then advised by a senior mason at Grand Lodge that he must make contact with HRH by writing to him seeking an appointment, which he duly did. Subsequently, he was invited to meet with the Prince and that established a pattern that all of us who have followed Gordon as Pro Provincial Grand Master have benefitted from since that time.

As Deputy PGM and Pro PGM Gordon's achievements were numerous. He started the Annual Provincial Service of Thanksgiving; the Visiting Officer Scheme, along with the reporting system and the recommendations for appointments and promotions; seminars for a variety of officers such as WMs & Principals, in addition to the very successful MGO & PGO Club.

I am sure there are many more such 'firsts' but these all lifted the Province and many were adopted by other Provinces. It is my personal opinion that Middlesex is what it is, solely due to Gordon's enthusiasm and drive. When I was an active officer, I accompanied him on several occasions, and over the years I watched him consecrating lodges, making field promotions and mixing with all the brethren at the PGO Club. I had the greatest admiration for the man, for to me he is, or was, the epitome of Freemasonry.

Whenever I had a problem, when I was Pro, it was Gordon I turned to for advice, hence he became my mentor and a very good friend.

Gordon was a master of planning and timing right to the end, for it was on Sunday 5 November at 4pm, just as we were singing the very meaningful words of the Closing Ode at the Provincial Service at Guildford Cathedral, Gordon passed peacefully away.

Roger Croome

*With thanks to Alan Holton (deceased)
for some of this information*

HANDONE MOUNT LODGE MAKE PLATINUM GRAND PATRON



Handone Mount Lodge took the opportunity of the visit of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, VW Bro Simon Thoday, visiting to celebrate the Lodge's 50th Anniversary, to present him with a donation of £10,000 toward The 2020 Festival. This took the Lodge from Patron of the Festival, the certificate for which they received that night from Simon, straight to Platinum Grand Patron. The Lodge's achievement, being a relatively small Lodge with about 20 members, shows that with such solid support by the brethren, and the achievement levels for the Festival being based on membership numbers, reaching such an amazing honorific is possible.

Congratulations and thanks go to all the members of the Lodge who have shown such tremendous support for our Festival and the children we are helping.

AFTER ALL THE MANY EVENTS CELEBRATING OUR 300 YEARS WE MAY HAVE BEEN A LITTLE PREMATURE!!!



There may well be blood on the floor!

Recent documentary research by respected professional historians has for the first time revealed evidence which seriously challenges the long held establishment view that organised Freemasonry for England commenced in 1717 and moves the date forward four years to 1721. Does this matter? Certainly in the field of masonic history it does and at last we can make sense of the various anomalies surrounding the traditionally supposed events and personalities.

Therefore, Quatuor Coronati Lodge No.2076 has arranged a Symposium to enable the evidence on both sides to be debated and considered. Questions and views from the floor will be taken.

The debate will take place in an open session on 15 February 2018 commencing at 2.00pm at Freemasons' Hall, Great Queen Street. Click [here](#) to see further details.

Although attendance will be free, we would ask that you please signal your attendance by email: 1717@quatuorcoronati.com so we can arrange an appropriate size room at Great Queen Street - we are expecting a goodly number. This will also enable us to update you with any notices before the event and any concluding document immediately afterwards.

We look forward to enjoying your company.

A TRULY KIND LADY - BUT WHO WAS SHE?

I received a letter from that well known mason, Jim Ashton - we all know Jim! The first and last part of the letter goes into far too much graphic detail about a certain issue - you all want to know what it is now, but I don't want to put you off your breakfast, lunch, dinner, depending when you're reading this.

I set off for Guildford Cathedral, for the Annual Service, suitably dressed and carrying all my music and regalia, about 11am. I arrived there just after 12pm, parked my car, locked it and went to 'book in'. On turning around I tripped on a dip in the concrete road and went 'sprawling'. Three Stewards attended to me and I laid there for about 10 minutes, my glasses had come off and the lenses had come out. These lads then helped me to get up after mopping some of the blood off my face and took me inside, sat me down and further 'cleaned me up'. I was then reasonably tidy but a lady called Marie, drove me over to the Surrey County Hospital in Guildford. I booked in and was attended to very quickly. I had various tests i.e. blood pressure, blood sample, ECG and was then patched up, with two large plasters, and discharged.

While all this was happening Marie decided to get my glasses repaired but first she had to go back to the Cathedral to get the lenses, from the 'lads' who helped me, only to be told that they had put them in my pocket, so back she came to the Hospital to pick up the lenses from me and then she went down to Specsavers, but they were too busy. She then went to Bifocals, got them repaired, at no charge, and returned to the Hospital to pick me up and take me back to the Cathedral in enough time to get a drink and a snack at the refectory before joining the choir.

I could not thank this truly kind lady enough as without her I would not know what I would have done.

We have tried to find Marie, but unfortunately without success, so we can thank her for everything she did.

Life after a stroke for a Middlesex Mason



Andy Pearce suffered a stroke in 2013 that changed his life. He has since been cared for by his, now 13 year old, son Edward. Recently Edward was presented with a special carer's award by Chelsea star David Luiz in recognition of his efforts in looking after his father for the last four years. Edward assists with a significant number of daily activities which Andy is unable to do for himself.

When Andy was in hospital he received a number of cards from brethren wishing him a speedy recovery. One of the care team, Brian Bolla who is a member of Barra Hall Lodge No.8096, noticed that many of the cards were signed 'Yours S&F', so they had a lot to talk about when Andy came

round. What are the odds of waking up in a Surrey hospital after a Stroke and finding a Middlesex Mason taking care of you.

Andy's mother Lodge, Diligence Lodge No.5954 sadly handed in its warrant in February 2017. As a result of the friendship that developed between Andy and Brian it was an easy decision as to which lodge Andy would join in order to continue his masonic journey.

Andy's advice to brethren following his experience is to keep a healthy life style, be aware of your blood pressure, as undiagnosed high blood pressure is a silent killer.

Andy intends to raise money for The 2020 Festival by having the logo shaved in to his hair when attending the AGM in May 2018. Anyone who would like to sponsor Andy should go to the website where donations will be gratefully received.

<https://e0142.everydayhero.com/uk/andy-1-L8096>

I hope you all have a great Christmas and don't forget, if your Lodge is having an event which is interesting or maybe different and you think others would like to know about it please email the details so it can be considered for inclusion into The Mercury Lite.

Paul Steventon - themercury@pglm.org.uk