

Castellum Installation – A Night of Celebrations

Castellum Lodges' November Installation meeting was even more special this year as it coincided with the Birthday celebrations of three of its senior members. Grandfather of the Lodge, W. Bro. Ivan Deeth and W. Bro. Wilf Burt both reached the grand old age of 90 years and the Installing Master, W. Bro. Tony Finnigan, the youngest of the trio, was 74. Each of the birthday boys were presented at the Festive Board, with a special birthday cake created by our W.M.'s daughter, Miss Hannah Sewell.

The birthday celebrations were very much a fitting end to what had been an excellent ceremony in the Temple where our Master Elect, W. Bro. Mark Sewell made the transition from wheelchair to the Chair of King Solomon with a flourish which belied the obvious discomfort Mark must have endured during the procedure. In fact, anyone who knows Mark will understand that the fact he needs a wheelchair is certainly no obstacle to him enjoying Freemasonry and absolutely nothing to stop him from taking the Masters Chair at Castellum.

There was however, one other event, originally planned for the Installation meeting, which could not take place, that to award W. Bro. Peter Taylor with a 50 Years in Masonry Certificate. Unfortunately Peter's health meant that he could not attend the meeting. Undaunted, the V.W. Bro. John V Renaudon, W. Bro. Wilf Burt and our Master, W. Bro. Mark Sewell made the journey to Peters home in Shrewsbury to make the presentation on Friday 8th December 2017.

As many will remember that Friday brought Arctic weather conditions with heavy falls of snow to our region but like Scott of the Antarctic, John, Wilf and Mark braved the blizzard however, unlike Scott, although a little late on arrival, they actually achieved their goal. Peter kindly provided lunch for our intrepid travellers and entertained them with magical card tricks and a magnificent piano recital. All too quickly, as the weather worsened it was time for our explorers to figuratively hitch up the huskies and set out through the snow on the return journey.

Both these occasions are examples of what makes Castellum a great Lodge and demonstrate all that is good about Freemasonry. Congratulations to Peter on his 50 Years in Masonry Certificate, to our ever youthful nonagenarians Ivan and Wilf, to Tony, who can give the pair of them a few years yet and of course, to Mark on attaining the Masters Chair of this "Great Little Lodge".