



# Association of Atholl Lodges

[www.antients.org](http://www.antients.org)

## NEWSLETTER 2019

### **Special Announcement by W. Bro. Geoffrey Abraham on his retirement as Chairman of the Association of Atholl Lodges**

#### ***My Atholl Years.***

I was elected Chairman of the Association of Atholl Lodges in the autumn of 1999 so, as you might imagine, the past 20 years have been quite a ride!

The Association can trace its origins back to a meeting in 1990 organised by W. Bro. Walter (Wally) Hall, the then Secretary of the Lodge of Prudent Brethren NO 145. Whilst researching the history of his own lodge Wally had become interested in the history of the Atholl Lodges in general, and he attempted to create a feeling for an Atholl! 'family' by inviting all Atholl Lodges to send representatives. The meeting was well attended, and the brethren supported the idea of the establishment of an Association to support communication with, and between, the Atholl Lodges. In 1995 Wally called a second meeting setting out the structure of the Association he was establishing, staffed by members of the Prudent Brethren Lodge, and in the next few years this was enhanced significantly by the appointment of V. W. Bro Walter Crombie as President and R. W. Bro the Most Hon. The Marquess of Northampton as the Grand Patron.



My first major role as Chairman was to organise the 'launch' of this new Association in the form of an Inaugural Open Meeting in March 2000 held at Freemasons Hall. The main Address was given by Lord Northampton who stressed the importance of the Atholl Grand Lodge and its Craft Lodges in the overall history of freemasonry. Walter Crombie dedicated the new Association Banner which had been presented to the Association by W. Bro. Fred Wilton and I gave details of some future events we had planned.

The first major social event held by the new Association of Atholl Lodges was the Millennium Reception held on HMS Belfast in July 2000. It was hosted by our Grand Paton, Lord Northampton and his lady, and included an inspection of Atholl related artefacts laid out on the Lower decks plus a Reception and Buffet Supper on the Upper deck along with our own, specially bottled, Atholl wine!

The success of this event, and of other social events held during this period, impressed upon me the importance of involving our Ladies in the activities of the Association. it has become the tradition to invite our Ladies to accompany us on visits, both at home and abroad. Usually our Ladies meet up with those from the Host Lodge and go out to dinner together, sometimes returning to join us after completion of the Festive Board. On two occasions, once in the USA and once in Gibraltar, the local lodges held a full scale Ladies Night to ensure our Ladies were properly entertained!

Another tradition developed over the years has been the appointment of successive A.G.M.s as our Grand Patrons. As I have premised Lord Northampton initiated this arrangement and he was succeeded, firstly by the R. W.Bro. David Williamson and, more recently, by the R. W. Bro. Sir David Wootton. Our original President, the V. W.Bro. Walter Crombie was succeeded by the R. W.Bro. Russell Race who has given many years of service. I am hugely indebted to all these Senior Grand Officers who, when requested, have provided me with sound advice and have attended many of our major events, often giving Addresses on a range of topics. They have all enhanced significantly many of the Association's most important occasions.

However, on a day to day basis, the really hard work of running the Association, liaising with all the Atholl Lodges and organising visits, has fallen on the Officers. The Association is very indebted to the original group of Officers from the Prudent Brethren Lodge who set up and sustained it during the early days. However, in order to develop a National Association, it was necessary to broaden the officer base to encompass a wider range of lodges and this process continues. I have enjoyed hugely Chairing such friendly and well-informed groups and I thank all of them, most sincerely, for their hard work as well as their excellent company.

You will gather from the above remarks that I have derived great pleasure from acting as Chairman over some 20 years. The Atholl Lodges provide some wonderful personalities plus fascinating insights into aspects of masonic history. I am sure the Association will continue to flourish into the future, we have many talented and experienced people on board, and I wish them well.

GEOFFREY ABRAHAM

On behalf of the Executive Committee, and I am sure the 122 Ancient and Honourable Atholl Lodges, we sincerely thank Geoffrey for his sterling work in promoting and supporting the Association over the last 20 years.

Over that period he has attended many events far and wide and has it has always been a delight to find his wife June accompanying him making sure he is properly turned out in his best regalia !!

On a personal note I would like to thank Geoffrey for all his kind help, assistance and advice.

We all wish Geoffrey and June well in the future.

Steve Kilbee

Executive Officer

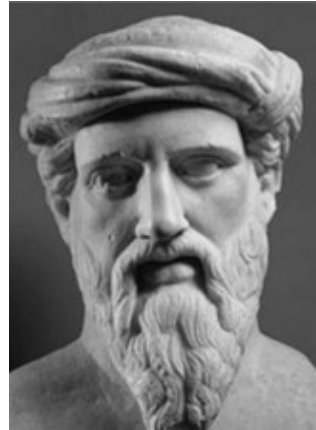


## A VISIT TO THE PYTHAGOREAN LODGE No.79

**By  
Clive Moore  
(Committee Member)**

In January this year I had the pleasure to represent the Association at a meeting of the Pythagorean Lodge No.79. One of the last Antients lodges to be warranted they received their warrant in March 1813; originally they met at the Mitre Tavern in Greenwich, but after relocating several times they now meet at Freemasons' Hall in Great Queen Street.

They became known as the Pythagorean Lodge in 1828. Geometry has always been fundamental to Freemasonry; and we use Pythagoras's famous right angled triangle theorem to figuratively represent geometry as a whole. In the 18<sup>th</sup> century William Preston wrote that '*geometry, the first and noblest of sciences, is the basis on which the superstructure of Masonry is erected*'; Euclid's proof of Pythagoras's theorem was on the frontispiece of our first



### ***Pythagoras c580-c500 BC***

Being their Installation meeting it was a very busy evening; but the Worshipful Master and Brethren made me most welcome. I was also given the opportunity to say a few words about the Atholl legacy, and our Association. On the occasion of the lodge's bi-centenary in 2013 the Association presented an Atholl Gavel to their Master, it is still in use; so on this occasion I presented them with a second gavel for their Senior Warden's use, together with a copy of the Association's latest publication '*The Atholl Legacy*'. Incidentally our present supply of presentation gavels were kindly made for us by a member of the Pythagorean Lodge.

Such visits are a very important part of the Association's activities. They can be by a single member of our executive; or by a more formal party, who dressed in elements of period costume, will parade in the Association's banner. If you are an Antients Lodge and would like such a visit please contact us via our website **[www.antients.org](http://www.antients.org)**

2 2

## Technology at its best

I was delighted to attend a meeting of the Gillingham Lodge of Benevolence No.184, where they had arranged a Skype call with Michael Poll a noted Masonic historian and owner of Cornerstone Publishers who is based in Louisiana USA. Secretary Dave Fleming's report below. Steve Kilbee

Well, the morning after the night before....PHEW!! It all worked. Our link with America was superb! I was so pleased with how many people asked question of **Michael R. Poll** and how relaxed we became with the technology, so quickly. What a door this opens for future meetings for everybody!

All you need is a broadband line (hard wired seems to limit the screen delay), Skype or Messenger connection (and if you are reading this you already have one!), a projector and screen, speakers.... and a guest speaker.

We can now speak with anyone in the country and the world! I would recommend calling off before they join the meeting just to be sure the Lodge is not compromised in any way.



Michael R. Poll

Knowledge is everything and education within Freemasonry, one of the keys to recruitment and retention. As Michael said, Craft is for teaching and education. Now we can exchange views and converse with anyone, whenever they are. How much more interesting can our meetings become!

What great opportunities await us out there!





Do you have a celebration coming up, or an maybe your lodge would like to organise an Atholl themed event?

Would you like an Association visit with a Banner Party?

Contact Steve Kilbee    [skilbee@msn.com](mailto:skilbee@msn.com)

Subject to committee members availability.

**Subscribe Now**

**If your Lodge is not a subscribing member of the Association, we hope you will consider joining to enable us to serve you better.**

**If your Lodge has not updated or renewed its subscription since 2014 it will have lapsed.**

**The subscription rate is £10 per year OR £25 for 3 years. Please contact Steve Kilbee for details    [skilbee@msn.com](mailto:skilbee@msn.com)**

## Antient Times.....

**THE LONGEST EVER 'CALLING OFF'?** - Founded in 1767 the Lodge of St. John No.115 still meets in Gibraltar;



originally a military lodge its early members were mostly artillery men. The lodge was meeting when the Great Siege of Gibraltar started in 1779, but they immediately '*Called Off*' to go and man their guns; they did not '*Call On*' again until 1783!

**THE TROWEL** - The trowel has had a long and varied history in Freemasonry. The 18<sup>th</sup> century rituals used it to symbolise peace and benevolence; but in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century the trowel largely disappeared from our ritual, although some lodges did still use it as an extra working tool. Our Royal Arch chapters also have a trowel amongst the implements they display, and the ritual tells us how companions once worked with a trowel in their right hand and a sword ready by their left hand.



In the 1970s the trowel returned to our lodges as the Charity Steward's jewel; but historically Past Masters, Entered Apprentices, Inner Guards and Tylers have all worn it as a jewel. The first Inner Guards may have been armed with pointed trowels, not poignards; this office was at one time given to the junior Entered Apprentice, so at their Initiations monarchs were said to be exchanging '*the sceptre for the trowel*'.



Does your Lodge have an upcoming Atholl event.

*Let us know .....*

Do you have a member with a story that you would like published in our newsletter.

*Let us know .....*

Does your Lodge have an interesting piece of Lodge furniture.

*Let us know .....*

Does your Lodge have a famous past member, villain or otherwise.

*Let us know .....*

*Editor makes final decision on content*

## ATHOLL TIES, Lapel Pins & Booklets

Atholl Ties, Lapel Pins, Booklets can be  
ordered from Steve Kilbee by email at  
[skilbee@msn.com](mailto:skilbee@msn.com)

**\*\*\*NEW \*\*\* Payment can now be made by  
bank transfer to NatWest**

**Sort Code: 60-30-09**

**Account No: 27005372**

***Please use you Lodge No. as reference***

Ties are priced at £13.75 (inc. UK postage & packing).

Atholl Lapel Pins at £2.50 each (inc. UK postage & packing)

Tercentenary Booklet at £3.60(inc. UK postage & packing)

***They make great gifts for new initiates.***

Bulk order discounts available.

If you are overseas, Steve will be happy to quote you prices with postage & packing. Please make all cheques payable to "AAL".

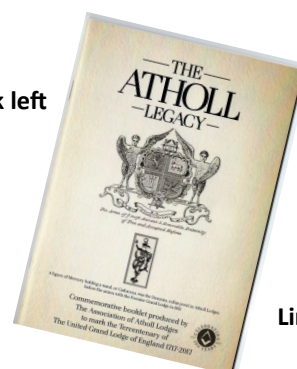
**Please check for postage discounts on bulk orders.**



Great Lodge gifts  
for initiates



1 bowtie	£13.75. each inc. p/p
10bowties	£12.75 each inc. p/p
20 bowties	£12.25 each inc. p/p



**Limited stock left**

**Limited stock left**

2 2

We hope that you have enjoyed this Newsletter and ask you to share it with all members of your Lodge.

**Are we sending our newsletters and correspondence to the right person? Please email Steve Kilbee on [skilbee@msn.com](mailto:skilbee@msn.com) if you are aware of any changes.**

The Association members contact details we hold will only be used for us to contact them in connection with the Association's activities; they will not be shared with any non Masonic organisation, unless you give us your permission to do so.

In closing we would send to all our members and their families our best wishes for the year ahead.

2 2

## OUR WEBSITE

Our Association website address has now changed to [www.antients.org](http://www.antients.org) please note that this website address is Antients with a 's' on the end.

2 2

**If your Lodge is not a subscribing member of the Association, we hope you will consider joining to enable us to serve you better.**

**If your Lodge has not updated its subscription since 2014 it will have lapsed.**

And finally.....

The Association AGM will be held on Tuesday 2nd. July 2019 at Great Queen Street. London with a 17.30 start and usually is finished by 19.00

Agenda details nearer the time