

Introduction and acknowledgements

When I 'volunteered' to take on the task of writing a brief history of Homestreu Lodge to commemorate its centenary, I was somewhat surprised and a trifle perturbed by the discovery that no previous attempt had been made to record such a history, and there was thus no source material on which I could draw in my endeavours.

I am particularly grateful, therefore, to all those people who have kindly assisted in providing material to produce this book. They include Mrs Ann Wheeler, the Archivist of Charterhouse School, the staff of the Library and Museum of Freemasonry, members of the Newhaven Historical Society and in particular Messrs Peter Bailey, Maurice Balcombe, Peter Mason, Tony Helyar, Andy Saunders and Mrs Judy Grimes, Newhaven Town Clerk Mr Ian Everest, Mrs Sue Sutton of Seaford Museum and Heritage Society, W Bro Ron Newth, Secretary of South Saxon Lodge, W Bro George Hook of Harbour Lights Lodge, W Bro Dr Peter Brodrick, Secretary of Charterhouse Deo Dante Dedi Lodge, and to Reg Barrow, the Curator at Provincial Grand Lodge. Particular thanks are due to W Bro Doug Taylor, Secretary of Peacehaven Lodge, who rendered valuable assistance with reading through the more recent Minute Books.

Another surprise for me was the complete absence of any photographic records of the Lodge or its members. Most of the lodge histories that I have read during the course of my research have contained at least one or two such photographs. In an attempt to illustrate this history, therefore, and to portray something of the pleasant, rural nature of the town of Newhaven in former times, I have drawn on the extensive collection of photographs acquired over the years by Peter Bailey, Curator of the Newhaven Local & Maritime Museum.

Michael J Tubb

November 2007

THE FOUNDERS

Harold E Haig Brown	Inspector of Schools	(Charterhouse Deo Dante Dedi Lodge no.2885)
Frank F London	Jeweller	(South Saxon Lodge no. 311)
John J Lines	Relieving Officer	(-----do-----)
George F W Hussey	Commercial Traveller	(-----do-----)
Herbert W Coupe	Clerk to Poor Law Union	(-----do-----)
Frank Fawssett	Physician	(Pelham Lodge no. 1303)
Robert H Spinks	Hotel Proprietor	(Burrell Lodge no. 1829)
John H Bull	Hotel Proprietor	(South Saxon Lodge no. 311)
Rodie Parkhurst	Physician	(Alexandra Lodge no. 985)
Albion Russell	Boot Manufacturer	(South Saxon Lodge no.311)
Charles W Towner	Brewer	(-----do-----)
Robert Towner	Gentleman	(-----do-----)
Albert E Hemmings	Master Mariner	(-----do-----)
John F Plaister	Cement Manufacturer	(Seaford Lodge no. 2907)
Charles H Gilbert	Master Mariner	(South Saxon Lodge no.311)
Charles Reed	Merchant	(Covent Garden Lodge no. 1614)
Albert Stone	Brewer	(South Saxon Lodge no. 311)

Preface

Freemasonry in Sussex became established in the county in the late 1700's. Although there are records of a small number of lodges being formed in the early part of the 18th century, including the Lodge of St John no 31, founded in 1724, which met at the White Swan in Chichester, and the Rooks Hill Lodge, founded in 1730, and another, no 344, which met in Rye at the Red Lion Inn, none of these lodges survived.

In 1789 the Howard Lodge of Brotherly Love no 55, founded in London in 1736, moved to Arundel. It was subsequently renumbered 56 and is now the oldest existing lodge in the county, meeting at Littlehampton. In the same year, brethren residing at Brighton obtained a warrant from the Provincial Grand Master to form the Royal Clarence Lodge no. 271, and it held its first meeting at the White Horse Inn. At its second meeting, on 23rd September 1789, Bro Charles Geere of Newhaven became a joining member. It was members of this Lodge that went on to form the majority of the founders of South Saxon Lodge no. 311 in 1796, meeting at Lewes. This lodge was, in turn, the Mother lodge of Homestreu, and 11 of its members became founders of our lodge.

South Saxon Lodge is fortunate in having an almost complete set of its minutes, and the early records make fascinating reading. The proceedings in those days might appear to be a trifle anarchic compared with the harmony and good order that prevails today.

For example, in an early minute it is recorded that the Lodge, having been opened in due form at the Star Inn, "was by the Worshipful Master, with the consent of the Brethren, immediately adjourned to the house of brother Lee to proceed to business"! And in 1824 there is an extensive account of an enquiry by the Lodge into the circumstances of "an ever to be regretted occurrence", on March 9th, when the Worshipful Master suffered a violent assault at the hands of Bros. William and Frederick William Lee. As a result of this enquiry, a resolution was passed expelling the two Brethren from the Lodge and recommending a petition to Grand Lodge that they be expelled from the Craft.

William Lee was evidently an interesting character. He was the Worshipful Master of the Lodge continuously from 1797 to 1820, although there is no record of him having been elected to that office at any time. It is interesting to note that the lodge minutes from 1798 to 1821 are missing, having been carefully removed from the Minute Book.

As well as his pugilistic tendencies, there were also some doubts as to William Lee's integrity. This is highlighted in a letter written to the Grand Secretary in 1818 by a Bro John D Barry of Uckfield. In it, he complains that Bro Lee had

persistently refused to support a petition for the establishment of a lodge in that town. He also alleges that he pocketed initiation fees, and that lodge proceedings were noted on a piece of waste paper which is never seen or heard of after. This may give credence to the belief that Lee had been responsible for removing the minutes from the lodge records.

Having said that, South Saxon Lodge also had some extremely eminent men amongst its membership in its early years. This included Thomas Read Kemp, who was the MP for Lewes for a time and who gave his name to Kemp Town, the area in Brighton which he developed in the early 19th century, and The Earl of Egremont, who owned Petworth House, the magnificent property and grounds now in the care of the National Trust.

South Saxon Lodge also had the distinction of being, for a brief period, the Provincial Grand Lodge of Sussex. This arose because, in the early days, Provincial Grand Lodge was not a constituted organization as we know it today and when a Provincial meeting was held it was under the auspices of a private lodge. Thus it was that in 1800 the Provincial Grand Master Lieutenant-General Samuel Hulse, appointed South Saxon Lodge as the Provincial Grand Lodge, with William Lee as its Assistant PGM. It remained as such until the Union of the Grand Lodges [Ancients and Moderns] in 1813, when Hulse was appointed PGM of Kent, and Major-General the Hon Charles Lennox became PGM for Sussex the following year.

In the early part of the 19th century, other lodges were formed, including Derwent Lodge no 40, one of the Atholl lodges at Hastings, Wellington Lodge no 342 at Rye and Lodge of Union no 38 at Chichester; so that by the time that Provincial Grand Lodge was revived in 1854, there were 8 lodges in the county with around 200 members. Freemasonry continued to grow at a slow but steady pace. By 1880, there were 24 lodges with over 1000 members, and by the time Homestreu Lodge was founded in 1908 there were 36 lodges with nearly 1,800 members.

The founding of Homestreu Lodge

Prior to the founding of Homestreu Lodge , gentlemen in Newhaven were obliged to travel to either Lewes [South Saxon lodge no 311 or Pelham Lodge no 1313] or Seaford [Seaford Lodge no 2907] in order to partake in Freemasonry. However, the need for a lodge in the town can be evinced by the fact that in 1907 no less than 15 members of South Saxon Lodge resided in Newhaven and a number of members of Seaford Lodge likewise. The town itself had grown from a population of only 800 in 1801 to around 6,000 in 1901

Thus it was that on 17th July 1907, Bro H W Coupe presented a petition to the Officers and Brethren of South Saxon Lodge asking for permission to hold a Masonic Lodge in Newhaven. W Bro Flint PM proposed, and Bro Foster SW, seconded that the petition be signed by the Officers of the Lodge and this was carried unanimously.

This petition, signed by the seventeen brethren who were subsequently to become the Founders of the Homestreu Lodge, was submitted to the Grand Secretary, Sir Edward Letchworth, by the Provincial Grand Secretary on the 11th October 1907. The Warrant, constituting the new lodge as no. 3277 in the Register of the Grand Lodge of England was duly issued on the 12th November 1907.

At this point, it is interesting to take a brief look at the diverse backgrounds of those Freemasons who were the Founders of the Lodge.

The Founders of the Lodge

Harold Ethelbert Haig Brown

Harold Haig Brown was the senior Founder and first Worshipful Master of Homestreu Lodge. He was the fourth son of the Rev Canon William Haig Brown, who was Headmaster of the famous public school, Charterhouse. The Rev Haig Brown was appointed to this position in 1863 and remained in it until 1897. During his headship the school moved from the site that it had occupied in London near the Smithfield market since 1611 to the magnificent buildings that it now occupies in Godalming, Surrey.

Harold Haig Brown became a pupil at Charterhouse in 1888 where he not only excelled academically, but was also an ardent Thespian. He appeared in a number of school plays, which were often organised by his mother, and he frequently played alongside his four sisters. He also played a leading role in the Debating Society. He was Head of School in 1893, and gained an Exhibition to read Classics at Corpus Christi College at Oxford, where he rowed and played football for his college.

After coming down from Oxford, he became a Master at Charterhouse, but in 1903 he was appointed Inspector of Schools for East Sussex County Council. In 1911 he moved to Surrey and became Chief Inspector of Education for the county, subsequently becoming Chief Education Officer, a post which he held from 1933 to 1940.

Apart from having a distinguished career in Education, William Haig Brown was a very active Freemason. He was initiated into the Craft in May 1897 into Apollo University Lodge no. 357 at Oxford, and raised in July 1897 in Bramston Lodge no. 2101 meeting in Godalming, Surrey. Subsequently he became the leading light in establishing the Old Carthusians lodge, Deo Dante Dedi Lodge no. 2885 in 1901. His brother, Dr Clarence William Haig Brown became the First Worshipful Master, being installed by the then Grand Secretary, Sir Edward Letchworth, and Harold was appointed as the first Senior Warden. The following year he was installed as its second Worshipful Master. He was appointed ProvSGW in Sussex in 1908, and became a Grand Lodge officer, as JGD, in 1929. He was also First Principal of South Saxon Chapter in 1909.

After his appointment as Surrey's Chief Inspector of Education, he moved to that county, but remained as a member of Homestreu Lodge, and would still attend meetings from time to time. He was elected an Honorary Member in 1940, which he remained until his death in 1953 at the age of 77.

Frank Fincher London

Frank London was a Goldsmith and Jeweller whose business and residence was in Brighton. He specialised in Masonic jewellery, with his own hall-mark, and as a result, his name or initials appear on many Sussex Masonic jewels and jewel cases. He was a very active Freemason, and was Worshipful Master of South Saxon Lodge in 1906, before becoming the first Senior Warden of Homestreu Lodge and its second Master in 1909 and then served as the Lodge's Treasurer until 1928. He also became Worshipful Master of Knights of the Road Lodge, as well as a Founder of Rottingdean Lodge in 1927 where he was appointed as the first Secretary, a position that he held until 1941. He was appointed PPrSGD in 1915. He also became a Founder of Homestreu Chapter in 1924.

John James Lines

Like many of the leading figures in Newhaven at that time, John Lines wore several hats. He was the town's Relieving Officer, [see note ¹ below]. He was also the Registrar of Births, Marriages and Deaths, his home at Milton House in Meeching Rise serving as his office for this purpose. In addition he was the Honorary Secretary of the Newhaven Lifeboat Station for 36 years from 1900 to 1936. In recognition of this extraordinary devotion to that voluntary organisation, he was appointed an Honorary Life Governor of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution in 1931. The citation recording this award was presented to him on the 7th July of that year by HRH Prince George, later HRH Duke of Kent, at the naming ceremony of the new lifeboat, the '*Cecil & Lilian Phillpott*'. John Lines was the first Junior Warden of Homestreu Lodge and became Worshipful Master in 1910. He was appointed ProvGDC in 1912.

Herbert William Coupe

Herbert Coupe was the Clerk to the Board of Guardians of the Poor Law Union in Newhaven [see note ¹ below]. He became the fourth Worshipful Master of Homestreu Lodge in 1911, and served a second and third time in that capacity in 1925 and 1926. He was also Worshipful Master of South Saxon Lodge in 1914. He was appointed ProvJGD in 1916. He was also a Founder of Homestreu Chapter, and was Prov G Registrar of Provincial Grand Chapter in 1921.

¹The Union Workhouse

Local parishes had been legally responsible for looking after their own poor since Elizabethan times. This was funded by the collection of a poor-rate tax from local property owners. The Poor Law Amendment Act of 1834 introduced a new national system of poor relief (covering the whole of England and Wales), which was based on an administrative area comprising several parishes, called the Poor Law Union, each Union being administered by a locally-elected Board of Guardians. Every Union was required to operate a workhouse as the principal method of providing relief. Relief was only to be given to able-bodied paupers through the workhouse system, and if a man entered the workhouse his whole family had to go with him.

The system required a large number of administrators, including the Clerk to the Board of Guardians, who was responsible for attending all the meetings of the board, taking minutes, keeping accounts, dealing with correspondence, and conducting elections for the appointment of the Guardians; and the Relieving Officer who was responsible for receiving applications, and making all the necessary enquiries in respect of those people applying for relief, such as their health, ability to work etc., and to make regular visits to all paupers receiving relief.

In the early 20th century, at the time that Homestreu Lodge was founded, the Union was still very much in evidence in towns and cities throughout the country and it was not until 1930 that workhouses were finally abolished. The one at Newhaven became the Downs Hospital, and the part of the original building that survives to this day is a listed building,

Frank Fawssett

Frank Fawssett was a Medical Practitioner who had his practice and residence at 83 High Street, Lewes. He was a member of Pelham Lodge no 1303 and became their Worshipful Master in 1908. He was the fifth Worshipful Master of Homestreu Lodge in 1912, in which year he was appointed PPrJGW, He was subsequently appointed ProvSGW in 1919, and was appointed PAGDC in Grand Lodge in 1924. He officiated at the Consecration of Homestreu Chapter in 1924 as part of the Provincial Grand Chapter team.

John Henry Bull

Although John Bull is described in the Lodge records as a Hotel Proprietor his name will always be associated with the Bull Line of Newhaven². John Henry Bull Senior had established this shipping company in partnership with his cousin Neil Campbell Bull, a Shipbroker, in the 1880s, at 25 South Road Newhaven. At various times the company had owned no less than 18 sailing ships. However, the rapid increase in steam ships in the late 19th century meant that sail was becoming increasingly uneconomic, and when he died in 1907 the whole fleet was sold.

The firm J H Bull and Co. continued in business as Lloyds Agent and as Coal Merchants and John Henry Bull Junior maintained an interest in the family firm. However, he diversified by becoming the owner of the Terminus Hotel in Seaford, and also ran a fishmongers, poulterers and licensed game dealers business at 4 High Street in that town. He was also a member of Seaford Urban District Council for nine years and was its Chairman in 1927.

John H Bull Senior was a member of South Saxon Lodge and was initiated at a joint ceremony with his cousin, Neil C Bull, on 21 June 1882. He became the Worshipful Master in 1894. In 1890 he presented the Lodge with a very fine carved bookcase, which is still to be found in Freemasons Hall in Lewes. John H Bull Junior became Worshipful Master of Homestreu Lodge in 1913, and remained a member of the Lodge until his death in 1932.

² The Bull Line was the largest owner of sailing ships in Newhaven in the late 19th century at a time when its harbour was often full of ships, and it came to be known as the 'Liverpool of the South'. A number of the ships that he owned had been built locally at Shoreham. John Bull held the Eastbourne Gas Company's contract to bring coal to Newhaven from the ports of the North East such as Sunderland and Seaham Harbour.

J H Bull & Co, as well as owning ships, was the Lloyds Agent in Newhaven, and acted as a Consulate for a number of foreign countries whose seaman would have been frequent visitors to the port, including France, Spain, Norway and Sweden.

There is a fine obelisk memorial to John Henry Bull Senior in Seaford churchyard which describes him simply as 'French Consul', which somewhat belies his true contribution to ships and the shipping industry in Newhaven.

John Francis Plaister

In 1902 John Plaister had been a founder member of Seaford Lodge, at which time he is described as a 'Gentleman'. However, according to Homestreu Lodge records he was a Cement Manufacturer. He lived in the imposing Crouch House, in Crouch Lane, Seaford. He was Worshipful Master of Seaford Lodge in 1904, and was appointed ProvJGD in 1907. He became the sixth Worshipful Master of Homestreu Lodge in 1914, and he donated the extremely fine banner to the Lodge, which still hangs in Jerrom Hall. He was later appointed ProvJGW in 1917.

Albion Russell

Albion Russell's description of his Profession or Trade in the list of Petitioners for the new Homestreu Lodge could perhaps be considered something of an understatement when it is realized that his shoemaking business became what is now the large and well-known company of Russell & Bromley.

Albion Russell's grandfather, John Clifford Russell, established his boot and shoe manufacturing business in Chiddingly in about 1820. His father, also Albion, continued the business and opened premises in Lewes. In 1873, Albion Russell Junior began employing George Bromley as a journeyman-shoemaker. He fell in love with Albion's daughter, Elizabeth, and married her in 1874. Thus the firm Russell & Bromley became established and began opening further branches. In 1888, George and Elizabeth Bromley took over the shop in Eastbourne when Albion Russell Senior died, and Albion Russell Junior inherited the three main establishments in Lewes, Newhaven and East Grinstead. The firm continued to expand and currently has 43 shops throughout the country.

Albion Russell was Worshipful Master of South Saxon Lodge in 1893, and he remained a member of Homestreu Lodge until his death.

Rodie Parkhurst MD [Edinburgh]

Dr Parkhurst was a Physician in Newhaven who lived at 'Rathan', a fine detached house in Lewes Road, which was demolished in the 1970s to make way for local authority sheltered housing. He was the Medical Officer for the Port of Newhaven, and became a Founder of the Newhaven Hockey Club. He had previously been a member of Alexandra Lodge no. 985 which met at Long Sutton in Lincolnshire having been initiated into that Lodge on the 15th March 1897. He remained a member of Homestreu Lodge until he resigned in 1926.

Robert Towner, Charles William Towner and Albert Stone

The names of these three men are inextricably linked by virtue of their family and business connections. Robert Towner married Isabel, sister of George Stone, who in turn had married Barbara Towner, Robert's sister. He made his name in Newhaven as a Brewer and initially had premises near the Blacksmiths Arms. His father, Charles William Towner was also a Brewer and had owned the White Hart Inn. When the former Tipper brewery³, at that time belonging to the executors of the late Thomas Stone, was put up for sale he went into partnership with George Stone and took over that business. The business, known as Stone & Towner, developed and prospered and in 1896 Robert retired and moved to Brighton, leaving the business in the hands of his three sons, becoming known as Towner Bros. Subsequently the business was run solely by his eldest son, also Charles William, until it was sold in 1911.

It was at Robert Towner's suggestion that Homestreu Lodge was so named, and the trademark of the company, which consisted of a representation of the old drawbridge at Newhaven, was adopted as the badge of the lodge. Another family connection with 'Homestreu' is the house of that name in Newhaven High Street, which for many years was occupied by various members of both families, and which survives to this day as a solicitor's office.

Albert Stone was also a Brewer by profession. He was the son of George Stone, and thus a cousin of Charles Towner. He owned the Elm Brewery in Croft Lane, Seaford, until it burnt down in 1907, but then continued as a mineral water manufacturer. He had earlier been a founder member of Seaford Lodge. His father was also an active Freemason, and was WM of Pelham Lodge in 1877. It is interesting to read in his obituary, which appeared in the East Sussex Gazette, that, at his funeral, "The Freemasons each deposited a sprig of acacia in the grave of their departed brother as a last mark of respect". Moreover, shops in the town were closed and flags of vessels in the harbour were flown at half-mast.

³ The Tipper Brewery was founded by Thomas Tipper in 1751. Tipper was evidently quite a character, and is immortalized both in *'The Diary of Thomas Turner of East Hoathly'* and in the amusing epitaph on his gravestone in St Michaels churchyard in Newhaven. The Tipper Ale that he produced was brewed from brackish water drawn from a well at the side of the malt house. [When the brewery was sold in 1911, the particulars of sale described it as 'the well of never failing water producing the liquor from which the famous Tipper Ale has been brewed for many years'. From 1797 it was supplied for many years to the Prince Regent (later King George IV) at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton. As a result, the Royal Coat of Arms was placed over the Bridge Inn at Newhaven which at that time formed part of the Tipper Brewery, where it hangs to this day.

Albert Edward Hemmings

Albert Hemmings was employed by the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway Company as an Officer of their cross-channel ships on the Newhaven-Dieppe route. He served as Chief Officer on the cargo vessel SS *'Normandy'* and subsequently on the passenger ship SS *'Sussex'*. This ship was later to be torpedoed by a German submarine in the English Channel during the First World War causing a great loss of life. 80 passengers, including the Spanish composer Enrique Granados, and 6 crew were killed. A number of the passengers killed were Americans and this incident, together with the sinking of the *'Lusitania'* off the Old Head of Kinsale in Ireland, were the events that led to the United States joining the War in 1916. However, Hemmings would not live to witness these events.

In 1910 he was appointed as Master of the SS *Brighton*. On the morning of the 6th November of that year, the *Brighton*, en route to Dieppe, was in collision with the sailing ship *Preussen*. The *Preussen* was the world's largest sailing ship and the only 5 masted ship. She was entirely steel built, 408 ft in length, 55ft beam and a displacement of 11,150 tons. She carried an incredible 60,000 square feet of canvas, and under full sail created an impressive sight.

Following the collision the *Brighton* returned to Newhaven, having suffered considerable damage. However, after repairs she was put back into cross-channel service. The *Preussen* fared much worse, having been badly holed in the bow. She was taken in tow by tugs and headed for Dover. Unfortunately she ran aground onto the rocks below the South Foreland and became a total wreck.

The subsequent Board of Trade enquiry into the collision found that the Captain of the *Brighton* was at fault, the London, Brighton & South Coast Railway Company as owners of the vessel were heavily fined, and Hemmings lost his 'ticket'. Sadly, he later took his own life when he shot himself in a London public house.

Charles Henry Gilbert

Charles Gilbert was also employed as an Officer on the Newhaven-Dieppe Service. He served on a number of ships, including the cargo vessels *'Normandy'*, *'Brittany'* and *'Calvados'*, and the passenger ships *'Rouen'* and *'Sussex'* before becoming Master of the SS *'Trouville'* in 1901. He later became Master of the ill-fated *Brighton* but in 1908 was obliged to retire early on health grounds and retired to the Isle of Wight. He died in 1910, aged only 40.

George Frederick William Hussey

George Hussey was a Commercial Traveller who resided in Southampton but who nevertheless was an active member of South Saxon Lodge and became its

Worshipful Master in 1903. He was appointed Provincial Grand Sword Bearer in 1906. He resigned from the Lodge in 1909 and was made an Honorary Member.

Robert Henry Spinks

Robert Spinks was a Hotel Proprietor and Publican who owned the White Hart Hotel in the High Street in Newhaven. He was a member of Burrell Lodge no. 1829.

Charles Reed

Charles Reed was a Provisions Merchant who lived in the High Street in Rottingdean where he had a Grocery and Drapery business. He was a member of Covent Garden Lodge no. 1614, a lodge meeting at Freemasons Hall in London, which he joined in December 1887. He died very shortly after the foundation of Homestreu Lodge on 28th March 1908.

The meaning of 'Homestreu'

The name 'Homestreu' derives from the name given in the Domesday book to the Hundred in which the town of Newhaven now stands. A Hundred was the name given in the Middle Ages to an administrative district which formed an area within a shire or county and with its own Court or Assembly. Indeed these survived until much more recent times and it is recorded that 'the Court Leet for the Hundred of Holmstrow was holden at the Ship Inn on Friday 2nd June 1843, when Mr John Kent of Southease was elected to the office of Constable.'

Holmstrow Hundred, as recorded in Domesday, contained four villages, namely Rodmell, Southease, Harpingden and Orleswick. Interestingly, neither Meeching (now Newhaven) nor Seaford are mentioned in Domesday, whereas tiny villages such as Tarring Neville, South Highton and Iford are. However, there is little doubt that that modern-day Newhaven lies within the ancient Hundred of Holmstrow

In order to explain further the meaning of 'Homestreu' and why the Lodge was thus named, it is worth quoting from a note written by W Bro Haig-Brown in 1924 and which is pasted into the first Minute book of Homestreu Chapter.

"When the Lodge was founded in Newhaven, we believed this to be the name given in Domesday to the land on which the Lodge now stands, and we desired to preserve this name.

M R Bonner (Treasurer of the Sussex Archaeological Society) says that 'Treu' is a recognised spelling of the Anglo Saxon form of 'Tree' (also written as Treo and Truu). He says that 'Hom' is a known personal name of that period, with the genitive inflexion – es. The name is in accordance with custom, if it means 'Tree of a man named Hom, as trees were very frequently given as landmarks in the boundaries specified on land transfers.

Mr Phillip Palmer hesitates to differ from Mr Bonner but suggests the possibilities of connection with 'Holly' as it occurs in Holmwood and Holmbury in Surrey. He also thinks it possible that the old name was the name of a large earthwork in the vicinity. Mr Bonner says the suggested identification of the name with Newhaven is very doubtful. The Domesday entry is in Homestreu Hundred and at later dates the name appears as Holmstrow and Holmstrowe and in each case the name of a Hundred.

Hussey (Notes on Churches In Sussex) seems puzzled about Newhaven, which he cannot trace in Domesday. Mr H E Malden doubts the identification with Newhaven.

It must, of course, be remembered that the configuration of the land which has been much changed by the shifting of the mouth of the Ouse. As far as I can gather, MEECHING (also spelled Meching and Mechyng), with which we are familiar as still the name of the Boys Council School, was commonly used name of the place from 14th to 17th century. Newhaven appears in the 16th century. 'Newhaven, Sussex', was adopted in the 19th century for convenience in distribution by postal authorities. I am afraid we shall have to take it on trust that our Lodge is properly named 'HOMESTREU'.

It is not unusual for a Lodge to adopt as its own the name given in the Domesday book for their local area. Examples in the Province of Sussex include Hamelsham (Hailsham) and Loxfield (Uckfield).

The Badge of Homestreu Lodge

The Lodge Badge depicts the wooden drawbridge which was built in 1785 to span the River Ouse at Newhaven. It was constructed by virtue of an Act of Parliament [24 Geo III] passed in 1784 following a petition from notable local residents. Prior to that date, the only means of crossing the river was by ferry. It was situated in a similar position to the modern iron bridge opposite the Bridge Hotel which leads to Denton Island. It was a toll bridge, and details of the cost of crossing the bridge are preserved in the Newhaven Local and Maritime Museum along with the 'bun' penny that was the last toll, for two pedestrians, ever to be taken at the bridge. There is also a fine model, built by Alan Parsons, which depicts the rather unusual method by which the bridge operated. It was superceded by a swing bridge slightly further down river which was constructed in 1865 at the time that the North Quay was created by cutting a canal through a large bend in the river which thus created Denton Island.

A depiction of the old drawbridge was used as the trademark of Towner Bros., which was owned by Robert Towner, one of the Founders and was adopted as the badge of the Lodge. It also became, with the addition of a fisherman's anchor, the seal of the Newhaven Urban District Council, and more recently the Newhaven Town Council. A similar badge became the badge of Meeching Lodge no. 7001.

The Newhaven Masonic Hall

The Newhaven Masonic Hall was originally the building known as the Newhaven Institute. It bears the date over its entrance of 1895, which, it would seem, was the year that the Earl of Sheffield, who was the Lord of the Manor and was the largest landowner in the district, made the hall, which was an old flint building situated within the Meeching Court estate, available for public use.

The Earl of Sheffield's benevolence towards the townspeople of Newhaven was extensive, especially to the poor. In 1885 it was reported in the local newspaper that 'on Thursday 24th December the committee of the Lord Sheffield Charity fund supplied 400 of the poorer classes with a joint of meat and 1cwt of coal for Christmas. The soup kitchen, which is erected at the back of the Primitive Methodist Hall, had a great number of visitors on Tuesdays and Fridays when soup was distributed. Altogether about 250 gallons of soup and 800 lbs of bread are distributed weekly, the whole expenses being borne by Lord Sheffield. In urgent case of poverty, meat and medical relief is also given. The sick going to the hospital at Brighton are provided with 3rd class return tickets and the seriously ill are taken in cabs. The facts mentioned give a convincing and practical proof that the noble Earl is truly desirous of benefiting the town, and the poor persons who are the recipients of his bounty are deeply grateful to him for his generosity.

The 'noble Earl' also supported sporting activities in the town. He made available 13 acres of land adjacent to Fort Road on which he established a cricket ground, and he donated a silver challenge cup for the local regatta.

In 1903, Thomas Colgate purchased 'the Manor, lands and hereditaments' for £6,000. In so doing, he was to become the last person to hold the manorial rights of the Manor of Meeching. Colgate was Steward to the Earl of Sheffield, and was also in partnership with Josiah Gray in the Whiting and Putty manufacturing business of Colgate and Gray, which operated from Meeching Quarry. At that time the entire contents of the Hall, which included a billiard table and volumes of books, were sold at auction.

Homestreu Lodge held its early meetings at The Institute, but owing to an apparent disagreement over hire charges, it moved first to the Co-operative Hall, and then met at a number of venues including the London & Paris Hotel, the Bridge Hotel, the Bay Hotel, Seaford and Freemasons Hall in Lewes before finally purchasing the building for £600 when Thomas Colgate sold it in 1921. In 1967, when the Lodge moved to Peacehaven, it was sold to Newhaven Urban District Council for £6,500, who renamed it Meeching Hall. It was later taken over by Lewes District Council when local government reorganization took place, and was transferred to Newhaven Town Council in 1979.

Homestreu Working

It has often been said that Homestreu working is derived from 'Nigerian ritual' but with no explanation offered as to how or why this should be so. It implies that it was from some form of ritual derived from that West African country, but in view of the fact that its colonization was still in its infancy when Homestreu Lodge was founded, with the Colony and Protectorate of Nigeria established only in 1914, it seems to be an unlikely explanation.

In order to understand this matter, it must be borne in mind that, prior to the decision in 1965 by the Emulation Lodge of Improvement to publish its Emulation Working, ritual books were generally printed and published 'for private circulation only'. In 1936, W Bro H C Tasker, a member of the Committee of the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, made a tour of Nigeria at the invitation of the District Grand Master as there were concerns that some isolated lodges in that country might not have sufficient knowledge to carry out the ritual correctly. Whilst there he demonstrated the ceremonies on a considerable number of occasions. W Bro Charles Wilson Browne MC OBE, the Deputy District Grand Master and a Civil Servant in the Colonial Service, accompanied him and took copious notes regarding the demonstrations and the explanations given. This resulted in the publication, in 1939, of 'Nigerian Ritual (As Taught in Emulation Lodge of Improvement)'.

After the Second World War, the Nigerian Ritual became available more generally and not just restricted to that country. It was popular because it set out the ceremonies with much greater explanation and detail than had previously been available in any printed ritual book. It was not until 1965 that the Emulation Lodge of Improvement, who had become concerned that the use of 'Nigerian Ritual' had become common to describe Emulation Working, finally conceded that Brethren did actually use a printed ritual for their ceremonies. They therefore set about producing their own book of Emulation Working, which finally made its appearance in 1969.

It is necessary, therefore, to look elsewhere for the origins of the Homestreu ritual. Having been founded predominately by members of South Saxon Lodge, it would be logical to think that the workings of the mother lodge would be carried over to the daughter lodge. In some respects this is true; for example, the extended version of the explanation of the Working Tools by the Master and Wardens in the Second degree, and the reading from Ecclesiastes in the Third degree, is part of South Saxon working, likewise, the laying out of the Working Tools on the floor of the lodge. However, the practice of saluting 'In Passing', during the perambulations in the Second and Third degree is not part of their working, or for that matter the Sussex ritual. It does, however, form part of both Taylor and London West End working, and it may be the case that William Haig Brown, our Senior Founder, was accustomed to one of these rituals.

Having said that, the Opening in Homestreu Lodge is slightly different from any of these workings, as are the wordings of the Penalties in the three degrees. Thus, there is no complete answer to the question as to where our workings were derived from, and it would be as well to remember Wordsworth's words;

Our meddling intellect
Mis-shapes the beauteous form of
Things:-
We murder to dissect.

The early years

The Consecration meeting of Homestreu Lodge was held at The Institute, Newhaven, on Thursday, 23rd January 1908. It was conducted, 'in the unavoidable absence of the Provincial Grand Master, RW Bro His Grace The Duke of Richmond and Gordon', by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Thomas Weller Poley. He was assisted by the Provincial Grand Secretary, W Bro J P Slingsby Roberts, who acted as his Deputy. 13 of the 17 Founders were in attendance, together with 20 of the Provincial Team, 18 Past Provincial Officers and 92 other visitors. A copy of the consecration programme is reproduced on pp---

W Bro Harold E Haig Brown was installed as the first Worshipful Master, W Bro Frank F London as Senior Warden and Bro John J Lines as Junior Warden. W Bro George F W Hussey was elected as Treasurer, and Bro Arthur Simmons was appointed as Tyler. At the end of the proceedings, six brethren were proposed and seconded as Joining Members of the Lodge, including the Mayor of Lewes, W Bro George Holman, a Past Master and Secretary of South Saxon Lodge, together with a candidate for Initiation.

The event was recorded in the pages of the *Sussex Express* on the following Saturday. 'With all the impressiveness of Masonic ritual a new Lodge of Freemasons was consecrated at Newhaven on Thursday afternoon. It bears the ancient and picturesque title Homestreu Lodge no 3277 and this latest recruit to the craft in Sussex has been cordially received'. The report then goes on to list the Founders in alphabetical order. 'R W Bro His Grace the Duke of Richmond was to have performed the ceremony of consecration but an attack of influenza prevented his attendance. In the unavoidable absence of his Grace the duty was undertaken by W Bro Thomas Weller-Poley, Deputy Provincial Grand Master. The ceremony was preceded by luncheon at the Sheffield Hotel at which between sixty and seventy were present, the company including the Provincial Grand Officers, Founders of the Lodge and others. The consecration ceremony took place subsequently at the Institute. Freemasons from all parts of Sussex were present, the gathering numbering quite two hundred'.

Following the Consecration meeting, the Lodge set to work with alacrity. The first Regular meeting of the Lodge was held two weeks later on Wednesday 5th February 1908. The Joining Members proposed at the Consecration meeting

were balloted for and declared duly elected, including Bro James McGlashan who, 'being a member of a lodge of Scottish Constitution, declared adherence to the book of Constitutions and promised due obedience to the Grand Master and the Rules and Regulations of Grand Lodge'. Also, the candidate proposed at that meeting, Mr William Betenson, was initiated into the mysteries and privileges of Antient Freemasonry. Messrs McGlashan and Betenson were both local Physicians who occupied fine houses in the town which have, sadly since been demolished. Dr Betenson occupied 'Sussex Lodge', an attractive Georgian building in the High Street, and Dr McGlashan lived in Meeching Road in 'Dacre Villa', which had formerly been the home of the Stone family.

At the same meeting it was recorded that a number of brethren had donated, or had promised, various items of lodge furniture, including the Volume of Sacred Law, Square and Compasses, Officers jewels and the Lodge banner. It is heartening to note that the Lodge is still in possession of most of these items. In addition, the Worshipful Master moved that a Committee, composed of the Worshipful Master, Wardens, Treasurer and Secretary be appointed to draft by-laws for submission at the next regular meeting. W Bro Albion Russell was proposed and seconded for the office of Charity Steward for the ensuing year, and finally it was resolved that, in future, 'Morning Dress' be mentioned in the summons to the Brethren, and that the time of the meetings be left to the discretion of the Worshipful Master.

At the next meeting, the proposed by-laws were submitted to the Brethren and approved by them. These were then submitted to the Provincial Grand Master for his approval. It was also resolved that a Masonic Club be established at the Newhaven Institute. Bro Betenson, our first Initiate, was passed to the Second degree, and was immediately invested as a Steward of the Lodge. Three candidates for Initiation were proposed, and finally the Secretary of the Lodge, Bro Coupe, gave notice that at the next regular meeting he would propose that a Lodge of Instruction be formed, to be held at the Newfield Hotel. This Notice of Motion was approved at the April meeting. On the same evening, the four candidates proposed at the February and March meetings, were all initiated into Freemasonry by the Worshipful Master. The meeting also recorded the death of one of the Lodge Founders, Bro Charles Reed.

When the Lodge resumed in October, it continued to be busy with ceremonies and other lodge matters. The four Brethren who had been initiated at the April meeting, were all passed to the Second degree, and were likewise raised at the November meeting. Three of these Brethren, Bros William Chapman, Harold Hardy and the Rev Ashley Rankilor, would go on to become Worshipful Masters of the Lodge, and the fourth, Lawrence Clegg, would resign his membership in 1910 'owing to his occupation taking him to distant parts'. Nearly 50 years later, in 1957, aged 79 and in poor health, he made contact with the Lodge and was made an Honorary Member. A candidate for initiation, Mr Charles Thomas Sharp, was proposed, and it was reported that the by-laws had now been

confirmed by the Provincial Grand Master. Also at the November meeting, a Joining Member, Brother William Allen, a Warrant Officer of the Royal Garrison Artillery stationed at Newhaven Fort, and a member of Inhabitants Lodge no 153, was balloted for and duly elected.

At the same meeting, Bro Coupe reported that the Homestreu Lodge of Instruction had adopted a number of resolutions at its inaugural meeting held at the Ship Hotel, Newhaven on 3rd November, notably that it should meet at that venue at 7.30pm on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays in the months during which the Lodge met, that the subscription be 2/6d per annum, and that Bro Betenson be appointed as Secretary. The South Saxon Lodge of Instruction had held meetings at the Newfield Hotel for those brethren who lived in Newhaven and the surrounding area for a number of years and it was therefore a fairly seamless transformation into the Homestreu L of I.

At The January 1909 meeting, it was recorded that W Bro Haig Brown had been appointed as Provincial Senior Grand Warden at the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge held in Brighton on 25th November. At the same meeting the arrangements for the forthcoming Installation meeting were discussed, and it was resolved that Bro Simmons be re-appointed as Tyler of the Lodge for the ensuing year. Arthur Simmons would in fact continue to act as Tyler for the Lodge until 1940. He was also Tyler for Seaford Lodge, in which capacity he served for 35 years, and performed the same role at Rottingdean Lodge when it was formed in 1927.

At the Installation meeting in February 1909, W Bro Frank F London was installed as Worshipful Master. In addition to presenting a Past Masters Jewel to W Bro Haig Brown, the incoming Master presented a Secretary's Commemoration Jewel to Bro H W Coupe for his services as the first Secretary of the Lodge. A candidate for Initiation, Mr Charles Lever Cook, was proposed by Bro Albert Hemmings. Captain Cook was a Master on the Newhaven-Dieppe service and rose to become Commodore of the Fleet. During the First World War he commanded the *Newhaven*, which had been converted to a Hospital Ship and which made a total of 1,006 voyages across the Channel carrying wounded soldiers. For his services he was awarded the MBE. His daughter, Gladys, married Winston Catt, the son of James Catt, the local Barclays Bank manager and a prominent member of the Lodge. Their union in turn produced Deidre Catt, who became a well-known Tennis Player in the 1960's and who played against such tennis stars as Maria Bueno, Nancie Ritchie and Billie Jean Moffitt.

Inhabitants Lodge was a military lodge, originally designated as 'HM Ordnance in the Garrison of Gibraltar'. It is still a working lodge 230 years after it was first established in 1777.

At the March 1909 meeting, the Lodge Room Committee, whose formation had been proposed at the previous meeting, submitted the following resolution 'That the Lodge be recommended to decline Mr Colgate's offer on the ground that the present revenues of the Lodge do not justify the expenditure of such money on the hire of premises. This was agreed, as was the proposal to hold future meetings at the Co-operative Hall in Bridge Street. The October meeting duly took place there, a dispensation having been obtained to hold this and future meetings there.

In February 1910 Bro John J Lines was installed as Worshipful Master. On the same evening, two more soldiers stationed with the Royal Garrison Artillery were proposed as Joining Members, as well as three more candidates for Initiation, namely Captain James Ellis, and Messrs Harry Evans and Harry James Bannister. Harry Bannister, together with his brother Charles, had inherited the retail business in the town which had been established by their father, James, in the 1860s. It grew steadily and eventually encompassed mens' outfitters, ladies' costumiers, milliners, furniture, a general store, a bakery and a greengrocers. Locals often said that walking up the High Street in Newhaven was like going up the stairs as it had bannisters on both sides! He was to be instrumental in swelling the numbers in the Lodge by proposing or seconding a large number of candidates, many of whom were also tradesmen in the town. Like a number of Members of the Lodge over the years, Harry Bannister was an active local Councillor. The Lodge accounts produced at that meeting showed that subscriptions at that time were £1 5s per annum.

At the March meeting, W Bro Haig Brown, who had been appointed Secretary at the installation meeting, tendered his resignation from that position. As a result Bro James McGlashan was appointed Secretary. As has been said, Dr McGlashan was a local Physician and it is very noticeable that the Minutes become virtually illegible following his appointment! In addition to ministering to the needs of the sick of the town, he was involved at about this time with the Suffragette Movement, and chaired a number of meetings held in Newhaven under the auspices of the National Union of Womens Suffrage Society. It must be remembered that women did not obtain the vote until 1918, when women of property over the age of 30 received this right, and it was not until 1928 that they achieved full equality with men.

During this period, triple and quadruple ceremonies were often carried out, with four brethren being passed at the October meeting, and another four being initiated in November and passed the following month.

The Lodge's period of tenure at the Co-operative Hall was but a brief one and by January 1911 the meeting place had changed to the London & Paris Hotel, the former venue having become unavailable. At a Special Meeting on 1st March 1911 the sole business was to approve a motion that future meetings be held at the London & Paris Hotel. This venue was not totally unfamiliar with Masonic

gatherings, since as long ago as 1872 South Saxon Lodge had held a Banquet there.

An interesting item appears in the minutes of the October 1911 meeting. It records that the Worshipful Master W Bro H W Coupe, following a request from Provincial Grand Lodge, proposed that the sum of 3 guineas be voted from Lodge funds to the Provincial Fund for a wedding present for Lady Helen Gordon-Lennox (daughter of the RW Provincial Grand Master). This motion was seconded *pro forma* by W Bro Lines, but after discussion was 'unanimously negatived'!

In January 1912 the first copy of a Summons appears in the Minute Book. At the Installation meeting in that year, W Bro Frank Fawssett PPrJGW PM 1303 became Worshipful Master of the Lodge.

In March 1912 a letter from the Provincial Grand Secretary was read out in Open Lodge. The letter drew attention to the fact that amongst 'a body of men who have solemnly pledged themselves that they have joined the Craft without any idea of pecuniary gain, there should be so large a proportion who, or whose families, are so impoverished as to require pecuniary help in some form or other to alleviate their urgent wants, to an extent which cannot be estimated at much less than £200,000 a year'. It goes on to point out that Masonry is not a Benefit Society and berates those lodges which fail 'to comply with the requirements of Rule 183 of the Book of Constitutions which imposes on the members of a lodge the duty of making enquiry into the characters and qualifications of all candidates for admission. It concludes by recommending that the minimum fee for Initiation be raised to 10 guineas and that, in future, a Form of Declaration be signed by every candidate and submitted to a committee of the lodge before being proposed in Open Lodge.

Homestreu Lodge evidently accepted the latter recommendation as, henceforward, a Form of Candidature for Initiation appears in the Minute Books for every candidate, which included questions to the effect that he clearly understood that Freemasonry was not a Benefit Society and that no pecuniary benefit of any kind can be expected as a consequence of admission. However, the Initiation Fee remained at 7 guineas.

At the Installation meeting of February 1913 W Bro John H Bull was installed as Worshipful Master. However, owing to a smallpox epidemic in the town, the meeting was held at the Simmons Institute in Seaford. It was evidently a serious epidemic as five people died as a result of it. Indeed the March meeting was cancelled because of the continuing epidemic.

At the October meeting that year, the death of one of the Founders of the Lodge, Robert Towner, was announced, and another, Albert Stone, was made an Honorary Member. At the same meeting, Ernest James Coker, a member of

Charles Edward Keyser Lodge no 2518, was proposed as a Joining Member. E J Coker was the Headmaster of the Newhaven Boys School in Bay Vue Road, and he proposed a number of his fellow teachers as members of the Lodge. He was also a Justice of the Peace and a Town Councillor. As a headmaster, he was known as a disciplinarian, but was greatly respected by the boys. Such was his enthusiasm that he took over the former Chapel in South Road, which he renamed Shakespeare Hall, and began giving Drama classes after school. He lived at 'Willowhale' in Meeching Road, which survives today as a dentists surgery and still possesses a fine stained glass window depicting Piddinghoe Church.

At the December meeting, Sgt William John Lawrance, an Instructor with the Royal Engineers, was balloted for, and initiated into Homestreu Lodge. He was passed at the January 1914 meeting and raised at the March meeting. Bro Lawrance subsequently attended the April meeting, but this would be the last meeting that he would attend. Later that year he embarked for the Western Front with the acting rank of Sergeant Major. His unit, the 76th Field Company of the Royal Engineers, saw active service in a number of theatres including the Battle of the Somme. Tragically he was killed in action on the 27th September 1918, towards the very end of the hostilities.

Sgt Major Lawrance thus became the only member of Homestreu Lodge to be commemorated on the Masonic Roll of Honour of Brethren who fell in the Great War. This Roll of Honour is contained within the shrine of Grand Lodge, which was in itself, of course, erected as a memorial to all those who died in that war. He is buried at the Sanders Keep Military Cemetery at Graincourt-les-Havrincourt in the Pas de Calais.

W Bro Plaister PPrJGD PM 2907 was installed as Worshipful Master at the February 1914 Installation meeting. At the March meeting of that year, the Lodge was asked to vote on a proposal by Grand Lodge to establish a Grand Council and to divide London into Metropolitan Grand Lodges. The Lodge voted 8/4 against these proposals with 6 Brethren abstaining. It was to be another 90 years before such proposals eventually came to fruition.

The effects of the declaration of war on Germany in August 1914 were soon to have their effect on the Lodge. The October meeting had to be cancelled because the Lodge Room had been taken over as a hospital by the Military Authorities. Thus the November meeting was held at the Conservative & Unionist Club, and the following meeting saw the Lodge voting in favour of a proposal to donate 2 guineas to the Prince of Wales National Relief Fund.

The February 1915 meeting was held at the Bay Hotel, Seaford, and was honoured with the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro R Lawrance Thornton. At this meeting Bro the Rev Ashley S Rankilor was installed as Worshipful Master. However, during his year in office he did not attend a

single meeting. Rev Rankilor was the Rector of South Highton, which might have been considered to be something of a sinecure in view of the fact that the church in the village had been struck by lightning in 1750 and fell into disrepair and ultimate ruin. However, the benefice did include the parish church of St Marys at Tarring Neville, a tiny village nearby.

Notwithstanding the absence of the Worshipful Master the work of the Lodge continued, and it met variously at the Bay Hotel, the Masonic Hall, Lewes and the Conservative Club. At the December 1915 meeting the Brethren agreed that the sum of 1 guinea be sent to the Grand Secretary to assist in the relief of those Brethren who were interned in a Civilian Camp near Berlin.

At the 1916 Installation meeting, held at the Bay Hotel, Bro Harold Hardy was installed by W Bro Plaister, the Worshipful Master having sent his apologies owing to illness. During his Mastership, meetings were held initially at the Bay Hotel and latterly at the Bridge Hotel. In November of that year, he initiated Mr Herbert Hone, a Schoolmaster from Brighton. On his Form of Candidature for Initiation, Mr Hone listed Sir James Yoxall MP and Alderman Otter, Mayor of Brighton as 'Other Gentlemen' [as opposed to those who are Masons] in his list of references.

W Bro Hone later became Mayor of Brighton himself in 1937. During his time in office, he welcomed Emperor Haile Selassie to Brighton when he visited the town whilst in exile after the Italian occupation of his country. He also attended the grand opening of the Ocean Hotel in Saltdean which was attended by more than 400 guests including the Earl of Glamis, brother of Queen Elizabeth the Queen Mother. He taught for 40 years at Pelham Street Boys School, 21 of them as Headmaster. He was Secretary of the Brighton and Hove Teachers Association for 34 years and its Treasurer for over 50 years. Unsurprisingly, therefore, he became Chairman of the Town Council's Education Committee, and was later Chairman of the Health Committee. However, whilst his contemporaries on the Council at that time, Sir Herbert Carden and Miss Dorothy Stringer, achieved some form of immortality by having a road and a school respectively named after them, as well as both having Brighton buses named in their honour, Herbert Hone's name is now only remembered in that town by virtue of a Clinic offering services to HIV/AIDS sufferers with drug and alcohol problems which bears his name.

In the same month the summons for the Annual Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge [appended to the Minute Book], invited all Master Masons 'except those of German, Austrian, Hungarian, Bulgarian or Turkish birth' to attend, and went on to say that they were to abstain from attending any Masonic meeting 'during the continuance of War'.

The Installation meeting of 1917 was held at Freemasons Hall, Lewes at which Bro William Chapman became Worshipful Master of the Lodge, and the dinner afterwards was held at the White Hart Hotel, Evening Dress being specified as the required dress code. At the meeting it was resolved that 'a sum not exceeding £50 be used from Lodge funds to invest in War Loan'. Also at the meeting, the outgoing Master presented W Bros Coupe(Director of Ceremonies), London(Treasurer) and Lines(Secretary) with pieces of plate for their valuable assistance rendered to him during his year of office.

During the year several members of the Armed Forces joined or were initiated into the Lodge, including Regimental Sergeant Major Stanley Tew, of the London Command Depot in Seaford. In order that Bro Tew could be passed and raised Emergency meetings were held in May and June of that year.

At the January 1918 meeting, not only did the usual elections for Worshipful Master and Treasurer, and appointment of Almoner, Tyler and Stewards for the installation Supper take place, but also two passings and two raisings. The fact that they still managed to start at 5pm would doubtless win approval from today's Provincial Grand Lodge!

The Installation meeting of that year was again held at Freemasons Hall in Lewes and it was resolved then that future meeting of the Lodge, during the continuation of war, be held there at an inclusive fee of 35s per meeting. At the April meeting, the visitors included 'many Canadian brethren from Seaford Camp' who had doubtless attended in support of one of their colleagues, Benjamin Merrison, a Butcher with the Supply Section of the Canadian ASC, who was being balloted for that evening. After the meeting a 'Meatless Supper' was served at the White Hart Hotel, which was ironic in a way bearing in mind his profession.

At an Emergency Meeting, held in May 1918, the proceedings commenced at 3pm. This was to accommodate a staggering agenda which included four Initiations, two Passings and two Raisings including one at the request of United Brethren Lodge no 1923 based in Valetta, Malta. The dispensation for the meeting stated that the rule that no more than two candidates could be initiated on the same day [B of C paras 185 & 192] was being dispensed with 'on the ground that the Candidates are either on military service or in Government employ and one is about to be called up for Military Service and they are desirous of being qualified in Freemasonry before proceeding from the District'. The minutes show that the Visitors to this meeting were 'many and distinguished from the Provinces and Colonies'.

Between the Wars

The post-1st World War era saw a massive growth in Freemasonry, due in part, no doubt, to the desire of men returning from the battle-front to emulate the comradeship that they had experienced during those horrendous years. In the 10 years period after the end of the War the number of Freemasons in the Province doubled from 2,369 to 4,647 and the number of lodges increased by over 50%. Homestreu Lodge membership continued to grow and this period was to witness a daughter lodge being formed and also a Royal Arch Chapter.

One of the first things that the Lodge did after the cessation of hostilities, however, was to organize a Ladies Night, and at the December meeting it was agreed that 'a sum not exceeding 10 guineas be given from the funds of the lodge towards the expenses'.

At the Installation meeting held in February 1919, when W Bro Albert Stone was installed as Worshipful Master, Notice of Motion was given that 10 guineas be subscribed towards the Masonic Temple in Brighton, and this was subsequently agreed to at the March meeting. This was the Lodge's donation to the £5,000 that was needed to purchase the site for the new temple in Queens Road, the cost of the building having been pledged by W Bro William Porter PastSGW as a memorial to his son who was killed in the War.

An Emergency Meeting was held in May 1919 at the Old Ship Hotel Assembly Rooms. At this meeting the Raising ceremony for Brother William Robson was carried out by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, assisted by two Past Senior and Junior Provincial Grand Wardens acting in their respective capacities. After the meeting a presentation was made to W Bro London to mark the occasion of his Silver Wedding anniversary.

The year 1920 began with a Ladies night which was held at the White Hart Hotel on 14th January. In February W Bro George Godfrey, a Past Master of Seaford Lodge, was installed in the Chair. In May of that year, another marathon-like meeting was held at which two Initiations, two Passings and two Raisings took place. In November the Lodge voted in favour of raising the Initiation fee from 7 to 10 guineas, but a proposal to increase the Annual Subscription from 25/- to 30/- was lost. However, the following year this proposed increase was agreed to at the April meeting.

In 1921 another Past Master was installed in the Chair, this time W Bro Frederick Thyer who had been Worshipful Master of South Saxon Lodge in 1919. During his year in office, the Lodge, after many perambulations, finally settled into a permanent home. Although serious consideration had been given to moving to the Sheffield Hotel and also the Conservative Club, it was eventually resolved at

an Emergency meeting held on 4th July 1921 that 'the Lodge purchase for £600 the premises known as The Institute, Newhaven for the purpose of providing a Lodge Room and Masonic Club'. It was also agreed that 10 members be appointed as Trustees, namely W Bros Haig Brown, London, Bull, Coupe, Thyer and Godfrey and Bros Coker, Bannister and Whitehouse, and that they be authorised to borrow a sum of £600 in order to purchase the property, together with a further sum of £350 to cover the cost of refurbishment and other expenses.

The deeds for the property, which are now held by Newhaven Town Council as owners of Meeching Hall, show that the £350 was borrowed from Mr Richard Winter, a retired Farmer from Seaford, and the £600 from two Brethren, John Lines and Herbert Hone. Effectively, however, they were acting as trustees for the other members who, in turn, subscribed amounts varying from £5 to £50 to cover this loan.

Thus, in 13 years the Lodge had come full circle and moved back to the building that had witnessed its Consecration. The first meeting in the new venue was a Special meeting to finally ratify the move to the (now) Masonic Hall, Newhaven, followed by a Regular meeting at which two Brethren were balloted for, and no less than six others were proposed, as Joining Members, including Bro Ormond Bradshaw St Martin of Sitapur Lodge no 2288. Bro St Martin was a retired Regimental Sergeant Major of the Royal Sussex regiment and was the Provincial Grand Tyler for 23 years from 1921 to 1944. At the same meeting, George Bedwell Le Seilleur, a Sailmaker, was proposed as a candidate for Initiation. As his surname suggests, his family emanated from the Channel Islands, and was one of several who had settled in Newhaven in the second half of the 19th century, doubtless attracted by the ample job opportunities that the rapidly expanding port presented. His great-nephew, Michael, has continued the family Masonic connection and is a Past Master of Yarborough Lodge no 811.

At the first meeting held in 1922, on 4th January, the ceremony of Raising was again performed by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, assisted by his Wardens, who also performed a ceremony of dedication of the new building. At the Installation meeting the following month, when Bro Edward Whitehouse was installed in the Chair, it was unanimously resolved that W Bro Major R Lawrence Thornton be made an Honorary Member of the Lodge.

The importance of the port to the life of the town at this time can be evinced by the fact that at the April meeting all three of the candidates, either as Initiates or Joining Members, were Marine Engineers by profession, and at the November meeting another Marine Engineer and a Marine Engineering Draughtsman were proposed as candidates. At that time, the cross-Channel service had no fewer than 7 passenger and 3 cargo ships engaged on the line, and a busy Marine Workshops ensured that these vessels were maintained in first-class condition.

At the Installation meeting in February 1923, when Bro Herbert Hone became the Worshipful Master, the Audit Committee report showed that the Lodge membership had grown to 102 subscribing members. The fact that no less than five Emergency meetings were held in that year, all of which involved multiple ceremonies, is an indication of how busy the Lodge was at that time. The April meeting that year was held at the Royal Pavilion in Brighton at which the Deputy Provincial Grand Master performed the ceremony of Raising, together with the Provincial Grand Secretary, W Bro A J Carpenter, who acted as Senior Warden and W Bro William Porter PAGDC who acted as Junior Warden. Around 140 visitors attended, mostly from the National Union of Teachers conference which was taking place in the town at that time. This meeting had been proposed by W Bro Hone, who was acting as Secretary of the Conference.

At the emergency meeting in July the brethren resolved 'that the Lodge give permission for the use of the Masonic Hall to the Royal Arch Chapter about to be formed. The November meeting was again attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, although on this occasion he did not perform the ceremony which was carried out by W Bro London.

At the January 1924 meeting Bro R Hone of Victoria Nyanza Lodge no 3492, meeting in Nairobi, Kenya, was a visitor. He was the son of W Bro Herbert Hone and was to become W Bro Major General Sir (Herbert) Ralph Hone KCMG KBE GCSTJ MC TD QC. After joining the Army in 1915, Ralph Hone saw service with the British Expeditionary Force in France from 1916-1918 during which time he was awarded the Military Cross. When the War ended, he continued working as a Staff Captain in the Ministry of Munitions until 1920 after which he became a Major in the Territorial Army. He then pursued a career in the Colonial Service whilst continuing to study Law. He was called to the Bar in the same year that he visited Homestreu Lodge and practised for a short while on the South Eastern Circuit before moving to East Africa. He moved to Gibraltar in 1933 where he was Attorney General and subsequently held the same post in Uganda.

During the Second World War Hone served as Chief Legal Adviser and then Chief Political Officer in General Headquarters in the Middle East. It was during this time, in July 1941, that he made a fascinating journey of over 600 miles by taxi from Khartoum in Sudan to Asmara in Eritrea which he describes in a letter written home to his father at the time. From Asmara he had flown to Addis Ababa where he arrived in time for the ceremonial entry of the Emperor Haile Selassie into his capital and personally assisted the Emperor to hoist the royal standard outside the palace. Thus both father and son came to meet the 'Conquering Lion of the Tribe of Judah'. In 1943, he returned to this country to join the General Staff at the War Office. After the War he held senior positions in the Colonial Service in Malaya before being appointed Governor General and Commander-in-Chief of North Borneo in 1949. He returned to England in 1954 and became Head of the Legal Division at the Commonwealth Office.

At the age when most Civil Servants were happy to draw their pension, Ralph Hone continued in a number of advisory roles, firstly as constitutional adviser to the Kenyan Government immediately prior to that country's independence in 1963, and then in South Arabia and Bermuda. An interesting illustration of the social mores of the time is recorded in the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography which states that 'he would have become Governor-General of Malaya had he not been divorced, and on appointment as Governor of North Borneo it was made clear that this would disqualify him as a guest at Buckingham Palace garden parties'.

As well as a distinguished career in the Army and in Colonial Administration, he held senior positions in Freemasonry. He was Deputy District Grand Master of the Eastern Archipelago, and was appointed PGJW in 1967. He became PGSN in Grand Chapter in the same year. He was the first Joining Member of Homestreu Chapter, in October 1924, but never took office. He was Sovereign Grand Commander of the Ancient & Accepted Rite from 1975 to 1982. After his father died he presented a gift of wooden panelling to the Lodge in his memory. He died in 1992 at the age of 95.

In January 1925 the Lodge passed a resolution 'that the Homestreu Lodge support the petition being presented to Provincial Grand Lodge for a lodge to be formed and held at Peacehaven. This proposition had been seconded by W Bro Barrington, who was to be the first Worshipful Master of this lodge which was to become known as Peacehaven Lodge no.4754. W Bro Barrington had only recently joined Homestreu Lodge in April 1924. He was a retired Army Captain and a Past Master of at least three lodges, namely Dublin Garrison Lodge no.730, Loyal Victoria Lodge no.557, meeting at Callington in Cornwall and Moore-Keys Lodge no.2519, meeting in Kingston, Jamaica. The need for a lodge in Peacehaven had become apparent because of the rapid rise in the population of that town since the First World War. Prior to that time, the area now occupied by the town was rolling downland with just the odd farm building. However, an entrepreneur by the name of Charles Neville changed all that when he purchased a sizeable acreage of land and began selling off plots by way of a newspaper competition.

The 1926 Installation meeting was held by dispensation on the first Monday of February instead of the usual Wednesday, and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge, assisted by his Wardens, performed the ceremony. In March of that year, the Summons was printed in black and mourning was worn at the meeting 'owing to the lamented death of the Secretary, W Bro F J Thyer. In April W Bro Hone presented the Lodge with a framed illuminated record of the members who had attended the meeting at the Royal Pavilion in April 1923. IN November the Lodge was pleased to learn that three of its members had been appointed as Provincial Officers, namely W Bro Street as Provincial Grand Chaplain, W Bro Foster as Provincial Junior Grand Deacon and W Bro Barrington as Provincial Assistant Grand Director of Ceremonies.

In January 1927, the Lodge took the unusual step of initiating John Alfred Burgoyne, who had been appointed as the Steward of the Masonic Club, as a Serving Brother, a Dispensation having been obtained from Provincial Grand Lodge. This is a procedure whereby a candidate is not required to pay any of the dues normally payable to Grand Lodge. The Installation meeting that year saw W Bro the Rev George Street being installed as Worshipful Master by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge, W Bro Henry Gervis MA. Rev Street was the Rector of Telscombe, the small village that nestles in a quiet valley in the Downs between Telscombe Cliffs and Rodmell. The village and the living in those days belonged to Ambrose Gorham, a wealthy retired bookmaker, and he insisted that the incumbent should both smoke and drink!

The Lodge continued to be busy and Emergency meetings were held in May and the following January to cope with the number of candidates. The October summons was again in black, this time to denote the passing of another Secretary, W Bro Edward Bulbeck. At the meeting in that month the Deputy Provincial Grand Master was again in attendance, this time to present the Lodge with a portrait of himself, which the Lodge graciously accepted!

1928 began with the news of the death of the former Provincial Grand Master, the Duke of Richmond and Gordon KG and the Provincial Grand Master directed that lodges in the Province go into mourning until the 18th April next.

The economic difficulties being faced by the country at that time were highlighted when, at the Installation meeting in February 1929, the Lodge voted to send £5 to the local effort in aid of the Miners Distress Fund. At the December meeting that year Bro John Roger Court became a Joining Member. As a result of this, the Lodge was able to appoint him at the next Installation meeting as 'Assistant Organist', a luxury that any lodge would be glad to have these days.

At the April 1931 meeting a lengthy discussion took place regarding the proposal to petition Provincial Grand Lodge for the formation of a new lodge. The problem as ever, was the difficulty of advancement for younger members in a lodge with such large numbers in it. However the Lodge voted to defer such a move. In October of that year, a proposal was made that a new carpet be purchased for the Lodge Room, and this was agreed despite W Bro Coker expressing the point that in view of the National Crisis the matter should be deferred. It was, however, agreed that it should be 'an English made carpet'! At the same meeting, Provincial Grand Lodge communications included reference to the appointment of W Bro Lt Col C R B Godman as the first Assistant Provincial Grand Master in Sussex. This was as a result of the number of lodges in the Province having risen to such an extent that the Provincial Grand Master was entitled to appoint an Assistant.

The 1932 Installation meeting saw the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W Bro Henry Gervis and the Provincial Assistant Grand Secretary W Bro H Gilbert Stringer PAGDC in attendance, and Bro James Baldwin being installed in the Chair. During this period, there were a number of resignations from the Lodge, probably as a result of the economic situation at that time, and by 1936 membership had dropped to 83. The decision was taken to reduce the annual subscription to two guineas. An illustration of the problems faced at that time is contained in a minute from the October 1934 meeting which refers to a Bro S Neil, a former member of the Lodge, 'who was in London seeking work and apparently in a very distressed position, and who had visited Grand Lodge seeking their assistance'.

An Emergency meeting was held on the 23rd January 1933 to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Lodge which W Bro Haig Brown attended and gave an address to the Brethren regarding the Consecration of the Lodge.

In February 1935 Bro Montague Waight became Worshipful Master. He later became the Lodge's Organist and served in that role for a number of years. In December 1972, he was presented with an illustrated address to mark the 50th anniversary of his initiation, and in 1975 was made an Honorary Member. In March of that year, for the first time in the Lodge's history, there was no Candidate and a lecture was given by W Bro James Catt on 'Masonic Lodges visited in Africa'.

In April that year W Bro William Powell Rowlands AGDC, a Past Master of Clerkenwell Lodge no.194, and a retired member of the London Stock Exchange, became a Joining Member. His address, which was the Red Hut, West Pier, Newhaven, might cause some puzzlement amongst those who have known the town's seafront only in its current forlorn and unkempt state. In fact between the Wars it was a much more attractive place and possessed a number of wooden holiday homes which were owned by Londoners and others seeking some fresh air, a peaceful retreat and possibly a spot of fishing or shrimping from the Pier. W Bro Rowlands was a Member for only a brief period but when he died he bequeathed the sum of 10 guineas to the Lodge, which was used to purchase a set of Tracing Boards.

In the same month, the Lodge resolved, on the recommendation of the General Purposes Committee, to try and clear its existing mortgage and outstanding loans from the Brethren on the Masonic Hall with a new Building Society mortgage. However, it was subsequently established that this was not legally possible.

The October meeting saw the announcement of the deaths of both the Pro Grand Master The Lord Ampthill and the Deputy Grand Master The Lord Cornwallis, and as a result the Lodge was in mourning until the following March.

At the January meeting in 1936 'W Bro Catt drew the attention of the Worshipful Master to the presence in the Lodge that evening of W Bro G E Chapman who had received his Past Master's jewel 50 years ago in the South Saxon Lodge no 311. The Worshipful Master congratulated him on his long connection with Masonry and accorded him a hearty welcome to the Lodge on behalf of the brethren'. George Edward Chapman, a local Builder and Undertaker, had been initiated into South Saxon Lodge in 1878 and was its Worshipful Master in 1885. A keen observer walking down Newhaven's High Street today would notice a Square and Compasses engraved on the keystone of the porchway or entrance to no. 31, now occupied by Thomas Cook, the travel agents. This was originally a private house constructed by George Chapman for his own occupancy.

At the Installation meeting that year, which was attended by the new Assistant Provincial Grand Master Sir George Boughey Bt, Bro Reginald Ernest Cantell was installed in the Chair. 'Sonny' Cantell was a local Boatbuilder whose ancestors had arrived in Newhaven in the 1870s from the Channel Islands. He had the pleasure of initiating his father, Ernest, into the Lodge in October 1943. He was likewise a Boatbuilder and was also the Motor Mechanic for the Newhaven lifeboat from 1913 to 1930. W Bro Cantell served as Secretary of the Lodge for many years until 1954, and in that year, in recognition of his many years of valued service to masonry the Brethren presented him with an 8 day Westminster chime clock in an oak case. He also became a Founder and the first Worshipful Master of Meeching Lodge.

At the April 1937 meeting, 'brotherly love' was clearly not much in evidence. A ballot was taken for two candidates for Initiation but these 'proved not successful'. A further ballot taken for each candidate separately met with the same result, and so the Lodge was immediately closed by the Worshipful Master before any further business could be conducted, 'in view of the unmasonic spirit so painfully evident'.

In January 1939 Mr William Leslie Mann was initiated into Homestreu Lodge, having been proposed by Bro Tucknott and seconded by Bro Burgess. Like his proposer and seconder, Leslie Mann was a Chemist and Druggist and for many years ministered to the pharmaceutical needs of the town in partnership with Stanley Burgess, having taken over William Tucknott's business in the High Street. He became Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1957, was appointed ProvSGD in 1966, and promoted to PPrJGW in 1975. He was made an Honorary Member of the Lodge in 1980. When he died he left a bequest to the Lodge which became known as The Leslie Mann Fund. This bequest, for £2,000, was to be held 'upon trust that the same shall be invested to the intent that the income thereof shall be used for distribution to elderly sick and needy brethren, wives or widows'.

The Second World War and after

The first effect of the outbreak of the Second World War on 3rd September 1939 was the cancellation of the October meeting. November's meeting took place as usual, however, and for the time being meetings continued to be held at the Masonic Hall. In January 1940, an Emergency meeting was held to Initiate Donald Henry Fraser, the son of Bro John Henry Fraser. This was carried out by Dispensation from Provincial Grand Lodge as Mr Fraser was only 20 years old but due to depart from the country on War Service.

In February that year Bro Horace Douglas Baldwin was installed in the Chair. His father, James Baldwin, had been Worshipful Master in 1932. Both father and son were partners in the family stationers and tobacconists business, and like his father, Horace was a member of the Urban District Council. He served for two years as Worshipful Master but shortly afterwards, in 1942, he was tragically killed in an accident when his car was in collision with an Army truck.

The following month, the Lodge was obliged to meet at the White Horse Hotel, Rottingdean, the Newhaven Masonic Hall having been requisitioned by the Military Authorities. This was courtesy of Rottingdean Lodge, who had met there for many years.

The October 1940 meeting was cancelled, and the first meeting of the new season was held on 27th November at Sankey's Hall, Peacehaven. This was the venue for Peacehaven Lodge's meetings and through their good offices Homestreu Lodge was able to meet there for the remainder of the War. Ernest Sankey was a member and Past Master of Peacehaven Lodge and owned the eponymous hall, which was situated in Edith Avenue. At this meeting, the Lodge agreed that future meetings be arranged at the discretion of the Worshipful master, and also that the annual subscription be reduced to One Guinea 'whilst the present circumstances continue'.

For the next four years, meetings were held intermittently and not necessarily on the normal meeting day of the 1st Wednesday of the month. Indeed, it was not until 1947 that the Lodge was able to return to its regular meeting time and place. During this period, attendance by the Brethren was understandably often quite low, some being away on war Service, and others unable to attend owing to more pressing commitments. However, numbers were often swelled by brethren from Peacehaven Lodge, who were always willing to fill an office when numbers were short, and on more than one occasion reference was made by the Worshipful Master to the great help given to Homestreu Lodge by the Officers of that lodge. This gratitude was demonstrated by the donation of 5 Guineas from Lodge funds to Peacehaven Lodge. During this time, the Brethren dined after the meetings at the Peacehaven Hotel at the cost of 5/- (exclusive of wines).

Also during this period, as in the First World War, a number of candidates proposed as Initiates or Joining Members were members of the Armed Forces, mostly from the Royal Navy, but also one or two from the RAF, there being an Air Sea Rescue Unit based in the harbour. The work that they carried out during the war is extremely well illustrated in the film 'For Those in Peril', much of which was shot in Newhaven.

The first meeting to be held under the new arrangements agreed at the October meeting was the Installation meeting in April 1941, which was exceptionally held at Freemasons Hall, Lewes in the presence of the Assistant Provincial Grand Master Sir George Boughey.

At the meeting held on 21st September 1942, the Worshipful Master referred to the loss that Masonry had sustained through the death of the Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent. He had been killed in a mysterious air crash in Scotland on 23rd August, all official records of which appear to have disappeared.

On Saturday 30th September 1944, a meeting of the Lodge was held at the Sussex Masonic Temple, Brighton at which the Provincial Grand Master, Major Lawrence Thornton was present. A proposal to elect the PGM as an Honorary Member of the Lodge was balloted for and carried unanimously. He was then escorted into the Lodge and conducted a Raising ceremony assisted by his Senior and Junior Wardens.

At the same meeting, W Bro Harris proposed as a candidate for Initiation a Southern Railway Police Officer. However, at the next meeting, the Secretary was obliged to read out a letter that he had received from the Provincial Grand Secretary to the effect that he had noted on the Lodge summons that this candidate 'was below the rank of Sergeant in the Police Force, this being against the wishes of the Provincial Grand Master, who has made it known that in this Province, as well as in adjoining provinces, it is considered undesirable that Police Officers below the rank of Sergeant should be admitted to Masonry. Not to be outdone, the Secretary wrote to Provincial Grand Lodge explaining that the candidate had 'the permanent rank of Acting Sergeant'. This appeared to satisfy Province and he duly became a member of the Lodge.

At the November 1944 meeting, two Brethren proposed their sons into the Lodge. Bro Percy Fenner proposed his son, Raymond Arthur, and Bro Benjamin Strong proposed his, son John Alfred. Both Ray and Jack became long-standing members of the Lodge, and the latter became Worshipful Master in 1955. Jack Strong had a fine singing voice, and was a member of the church choir in Newhaven. He was often called upon to sing the Master's Song and also sang a Solo at the Dedication of the Temple at Jerrom Hall in 1975. He was made an Honorary Member in 1984.

In December 1945, Mr Ralph Ravenshear was initiated into Homestreu Lodge. Ralph was a Journalist who began his career as a reporter with the *Sussex Express* in 1920, rising to become its editor in 1942. He was awarded the MBE in 1963 for services to Journalism. He became Worshipful Master of Homestreu Lodge in the same year and was made an Honorary Member in 1982. He was also a Founder Member of Meeching Lodge, where he served as Secretary for 20 years. He was known as a kind and charming man, and continued to visit the Lodge until shortly before he died in 1984.

The end of the war in Europe in May 1945 did not enable Homestreu Lodge to return immediately to the Masonic Hall in Newhaven and, for the time being, meetings continued to be held at Sankeys Hall. The first meeting in peacetime was an Emergency meeting held on Friday 22nd June 1945 at which the Brethren stood in silent prayer to the Great Architect of the Universe for the successful conclusion of the War in Europe and in memory of fallen brethren.

At the December meeting that year, Mr Roy Woodward, Secretary and Manager of the Newhaven Gas Company, was initiated into Freemasonry. He became Worshipful Master in 1956, and then served as Secretary of the Lodge from 1958 to 1977. He was appointed a Provincial Grand Steward in 1964, and PPrJGW in 1973. He was appointed PGStdB in Grand Lodge, making him one of the few Brethren of Homestreu Lodge who have been so honoured.

The 1946 Installation meeting was held at the Masonic Temple in Brighton in the presence of the Provincial Grand Master, and was attended by around 100 brethren. At this meeting, it was agreed that the Annual Subscription should revert to its pre-war figure of 2 guineas, 1 guinea for country members, with the Initiation fee being 12 guineas and the Joining Fee of 3 guineas.

At the April meeting that year, the Secretary read out a letter from the Army South East Command stating that the Masonic Hall had now been handed over to the Royal Air Force for further requisition. It was agreed, therefore, that meetings would continue to be held at Sankeys Hall at a cost of 7/6 per meeting.

In April 1947 the death was announced of Major Lawrence Thornton, and tribute was paid to his long service and the wonderful work that he had carried out for Sussex freemasonry. Major Thornton had been the Provincial Grand Master for an incredible 21 years. Also at that meeting, Mr Albert Frank Lisk, age 28, a Railway Clerk, was initiated into Homestreu Lodge. At the time of writing, Albert has been a Freemason for longer than any other member or former member and is now an Honorary member of Ockenden Lodge

In October 1947, the Lodge was finally able to return to the Masonic Hall in Newhaven, and the meeting was attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master in charge Sir George Boughey, as well as a large number of Brethren and Visitors, including one of the Founders of the Lodge, W Bro Herbert Coupe.

One of the visitors to the March 1948 meeting was Bro A H Sheaf of Albany Lodge no 151, which meets at Newport in the Isle of Wight. Alf Sheaf was Master of the small coaster 'Celtic' which plied between Newhaven and the Isle of Wight carrying cement manufactured at the Asham Cement Works. It is perhaps hard to imagine nowadays that sea-going craft regularly made the journey up and down the River Ouse beyond Southease Bridge, but in fact this trade continued until the 1960s. Bro Sheaf was doubtless at that meeting in support of his friend, Captain William Cross, one of the two Trinity House pilots stationed at Newhaven, who was being initiated that evening, having been proposed by the other Pilot, W Bro E W Chidgey.

At the April meeting that year, two Master Builders were initiated into the Lodge, namely Stanley Woodgate Bennett and Clayton Bannister. Stan Bennett was a partner in Oxley & Bennett, and Clayton Bannister, who was one of Harry Bannister's three sons, had his own building company. On the same evening, two Passings were also conducted, and so it is clear that the Lodge was busy during this period. Indeed, at the installation meeting the following February, 51 brethren and 54 visitors were in attendance.

Appended to the minutes of the October 1949 meeting is a copy of an interesting letter from Grand Lodge dated 7th December 1839. It deals with the question of whether, in the Third Degree ceremony, the Worshipful Master's candle was to be extinguished, and stated that 'I feel no difficulty in stating that such extinguishment is not only improper, but positively in violation of a most maturely considered an unequivocal direction of the Grand Lodge, and that the introduction of a Lanthorn(sic) with a Star, is equally against the order. The direction referred to emanated from a Special Grand lodge meeting held on 20th May 1816, which ruled that 'the Master's light was never to be extinguished while the lodge was open, nor was it by any means to be shaded or obscured, and that no lanthorn or other device was to be permitted as a substitute'.

There is no explanation in the minutes as to why this letter should have been inserted there. However, it does raise an interesting point regarding the practice of having a Star suspended from the ceiling of the Lodge, which is illuminated at the appropriate juncture of the Third Degree ceremony. Despite Grand Lodge's views on the matter, Homestreu Lodge carries out this small piece of ritual and presumably does so in emulation of the practice of its mother lodge, South Saxon. The one in Jerrom Hall was made by W Bro Jimmy Simmons, a member of Peacehaven Lodge, and an Electrician by trade.

At the same meeting, the appointment of a second Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Arthur Jolly was recorded. Freemasonry in Sussex, as elsewhere, had expanded rapidly since the end of the War, with the number of Masons rising from 5,300 to nearly 7,000. and 18 lodges being consecrated. Membership of Homestreu Lodge now stood at 105 and the move towards establishing a second lodge gained momentum. At the April 1950 meeting

W Bro James Baldwin proposed that the Petition for the founding of a new lodge, to be called the Meeching Lodge, be ratified, confirmed and signed in open lodge. This was seconded by W Bro E H Elston, and was carried.

W Bros Baldwin and Elston went on to become Founding Members of Meeching Lodge, along with W Bros Bryce, Cantell, Motyer, Steer, and Stone, Bros Browning, Chaston, Douglas, Noakes, Payn, Ravenshear, Tucknott and Whyte from Homestreu Lodge, together with a Past Master from South Saxon Lodge and two from Seaford Lodge, including W Bro Stanley Barford, the brother of Sir Leonard Barford, the Provincial Grand Master from 1976 to 1989. The Meeching Lodge was duly consecrated at a ceremony held at the Sussex Masonic Temple on Saturday 30th September 1950 which was conducted by the Provincial Grand Master The Rev A T A Naylor DSO. W Bro Ernie Cantell was installed as the first Worshipful Master.

In December 1951, the Lodge agreed to raise the Annual Subscription to 3 Guineas and the Initiation Fee to £21. Part of the ceremony at that meeting was conducted by W Bro Taylor, who had been Worshipful Master in 1928, and the attention of the Brethren was drawn to the fact that he was the second oldest Past Master and to hear a ceremony conducted by him in such a fine manner was 'a Masonic Treat'.

The 1952 Installation meeting saw the announcement of the death of HRH King George VI, Past Grand Master, and the Lodge went into mourning until the end of May. A Past Master, W Bro Henry J Moss was installed in the Chair. He had been a member of Homestreu Lodge since 1931, but as a serving Police Officer stationed at Rye he had also joined Wellington Lodge no 341 and had been Master of that lodge in 1944. He was made an Honorary Member shortly before he died in 1970.

At the March 1953 meeting, the death was announced of W Bro Harold E Haig Brown. At the same meeting, it was agreed to donate the sum of 10 guineas to the Local Fund for Flood Relief, which had been set up to assist the victims of the disastrous flooding on the East Coast that had occurred in January. The following month, another death was announced, this time of W Bro James Baldwin, who had been Treasurer of the Lodge for 16 years, and Secretary for 7 years.

The December 1954 meeting was honoured with a visit by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Arthur Jolly. It also learned of the death of a well-known brother, William James Peters. Jim Peters had joined Homestreu Lodge in 1927 and although he never became Worshipful Master, he was Secretary of the Lodge throughout the Second World War. His father, James Peters, was a member of South Saxon Lodge and Worshipful Master in 1896. Both father and son held the position of Chairman of Newhaven Urban District council and both were J.P.s James Peters Senior went into partnership in the

1880s to form Chapman & Peters Mineral Water Company, and his son continued to run the business until the 1950s.

At the December 1956 meeting, Mr Sidney Cloke was initiated into Homestreu Lodge. Sidney was a native of Mevagissey in Cornwall, a fact which he marked by naming his house in Newhaven 'St Meva', after one of the two saints from whom the town derives its name. He moved to the town during the Second World War when he was serving in the Royal Navy on board the former Clyde steamer *Davaar* which was stationed at the entrance to the harbour where she would have been sunk as a block ship in the event of enemy invasion. After the War he established a Hairdressing business in Meeching Road. He became a stalwart member of the Lodge and was its Director of Ceremonies and Preceptor for a number of years. In this capacity, he was rigorous in ensuring that Homestreu workings were maintained in the Lodge. He was also, together with his wife Vera, a tireless worker at the East Brighton Masonic Centre after it opened in 1967. He was a Provincial Grand Steward in 1972 and subsequently became an Escort with the Provincial Grand Lodge team. He became a Founder and the first Master of Disciplina Lodge in 1979. He was promoted to PPrJGW in 1980, and was made an Honorary member in 1991.

The 50th anniversary of the founding of the Lodge in January 1958 appears to have passed with little in the way of celebration. The only action that the Lodge took was to confer Honorary Membership on the Provincial Grand Master, his Deputy and two Assistants to commemorate the event, and the Worshipful Master of that year, W Bro Bill Archer, presented the Lodge with a set of Gavels and Blocks.

Later that year, however, the Lodge also purchased a new banner, which was duly dedicated by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master W Bro Arthur Jolly, accompanied by Provincial Grand Lodge officers at the regular meeting in November. The meeting was followed by dinner at the Esplanade Hotel, Seaford. The original banner was then housed in a fine wooden case which had been made by W Bro Jack Strong.

The 1960 Installation meeting was attended by the new Provincial Grand Master W Bro Arthur Jolly, who had been installed in that capacity some two weeks previously by the Grand Master R W Bro The Earl of Scarborough. At that meeting, Bro Percy Fenner, who had been initiated into the Lodge in 1926, was proposed as an Honorary Member.

At the 1961 Installation meeting, at which the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V W Bro Charles H Mosse was present, it was proposed that the Annual Subscription be raised from 3 to 4 guineas, and 2 guineas for Country Members, with the proviso that, from the age of 65 the lower subscription be allowed on application. However, in order to comply with the requirements of Grand Lodge, this was subsequently amended at the October meeting to refer to Brethren who,

because of ill health or advanced age, were able only occasionally to attend the meetings of the Lodge.

The beginning of 1963 saw Britain in the grip of an Arctic-like Winter, and at the January meeting only 22 brethren managed to attend. By the February Installation meeting, however, the weather had improved sufficiently to enable nearly 70 brethren witness Bro Ralph Ravenshear installed in the Chair in the presence of the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V W Bro Rev Charles H Mosse. The Lodge was still busy with candidates at this time, and the November meeting saw two Passings and a Raising ceremony undertaken.

The end of 1963 saw the passing of two of the Lodge's oldest members. In November the death of Bro Edwin Barlow was announced. He had been initiated on 5th December 1917 and had remained a member for 31 years before becoming an annuitant. In December Bro Robert Oakley died, aged 97. He had become a Joining Member on 6th March 1918 and was made an Honorary Member in 1950.

The 1964 Installation meeting, at which Bro Sidney Cloke became Worshipful Master, was attended by the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Hyman Middleburgh. He, together with the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V W Bro Charles H Mosse had been elected Honorary Members of the Lodge at the previous meeting. A similar honour was accorded to W Bro Reg Cantell in October 1965 as a token of recognition of his long and valued service. It had been proposed to offer similar recognition to W Bro Edwin Vass, the Tyler of the Lodge for years, but his name had to be withdrawn as under the rules of the Book of Constitutions and Honorary Member could not be an Officer of the Lodge.

At the December 1965 meeting, the seeds of change for Homestreu Lodge were sown when a letter was read out from W Bro George Bush, the secretary of Rottingdean Lodge, inviting two delegates to attend a meeting of their Building Committee on 14 December in connection with their drawing up of preliminary plans to acquire land and erect a Masonic Temple in Peacehaven. It was agreed that W Bros Mann and Woodward would attend and report back in due course.

Rottingdean Lodge had been experiencing difficulties in finding a suitable place to meet after they had been obliged to vacate the White Horse Hotel where they had met since the lodge was founded in 1927. Although they had found a venue at the Peacehaven Hotel, it was not considered to be entirely suitable. W Bro John Thomas, a Past Master of that lodge, was to play a leading role in the establishment of what was shortly to become Jerrom Hall, the East Brighton Masonic Centre.

In January 1966 the Lodge was informed that United Grand Lodge intended to set up a Trust Fund to commemorate the 250th anniversary of its foundation,

which was to be made available to the Royal College of Surgeons for research and to fund scholarships. Every brother was asked to make a donation of £1, which they duly did, thereby enabling the Lodge to wear the commemorative medal on the Worshipful Master's collar.

At the Installation meeting that year, Bro Harry Boniface became the Worshipful Master. He was the Fisheries Protection Officer for East Sussex and was awarded the MBE for his services to the Sea Fishing industry.

On 30th August 1966 a Special General Meeting of the Lodge was held to approve a recommendation of the GP Committee that the Lodge become founder partners in the scheme to erect a new Masonic Temple in Seaview Road, Peacehaven. The meeting was addressed by W Bro John Thomas, who produced plans and a model of the proposed new temple, and said that they would be asked to invest the sum of £2-3,000 towards the capital costs. It was unanimously resolved that the recommendation be approved and that W Bro Motyer and Bro Ken Haigh be appointed as the Lodge representatives on the Building Committee.

The 60th and last Installation meeting to be held at the Masonic Hall in Newhaven was attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V W Bro Rev Charles H Mosse, accompanied by the Provincial Grand Director of Ceremonies and the Provincial Grand Secretary, and saw W Bro Edward Parvin, a Joining Member and past Master of Burgess Hill Lodge no 4995, installed in the Chair.

At the April meeting in that year, it was resolved that the sum of £2,000 be paid to the Building Committee of the East Brighton Masonic Centre as a donation from the Lodge as a Founder member and that a temporary bank loan be raised to cover this amount. The following month saw the laying of the foundation stone of the building by the Provincial Grand Master R W Bro Arthur Jolly with full Masonic ceremonial.

In August, at another Special General Meeting, it was resolved to approve the sale of the Masonic Hall to Newhaven Urban District Council for the sum of £6,500. It was further resolved that the Lodge invest the sum of £2,000 'in a reputable Building Society' for the future well-being of the Lodge, and also that the Lodge loan up to £1,000 interest free to the East Brighton Masonic Centre. This was subsequently made into a donation in 1982. Finally, it was also resolved that the Lodge would purchase a Hammond organ, at a cost of approximately £650, to be presented to the Centre, suitably inscribed, in commemoration of the Diamond Jubilee of the Lodge in 1968.

The final meeting to be held in Newhaven took place on 6th December 1967. The meeting learned of the recent death of Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Harry Edwards, and the Worshipful Master conducted a Raising, but apart from that, it passed without further ceremony.

A new era

The first meeting of Homestreu Lodge to be held at Jerrom Hall, Peacehaven took place, by dispensation, on 3rd January 1968. It was a double Initiation of a father and son, Bernard and Julian Manicom, with the ceremony being conducted by their father-in-law/grandfather W Bro Harry Moss, assisted by Past Masters. The Worshipful Master gave the Ancient Charge and an explanation of the Tracing Board was given by W Bro Sid Cloke.

The following month, the Installation meeting was attended by Assistant Provincial Grand Master Harold Myerscough and the Past Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Hyman Middleburgh, together with 45 Lodge members and 71 visitors. At the meeting, the new Worshipful Master W Bro Alex Cramb, presented W Bro John Thomas with the new Hammond organ who accepted it with gratitude, and which was followed by a short recital by Bro MacKay. The meeting also proposed that W Bro Myerscough, W Bro John Thomas and W Bro Edwin Vass, who had recently been obliged to retire as Tyler, all be appointed as Honorary Members of the Lodge.

On 4th March on that year an Especial Meeting of Provincial Grand Lodge was held at Jerrom Hall to dedicate the new temple, the ceremony being conducted by the Provincial Grand Master. In the same month, at the Regular meeting, the Lodge by-laws were amended to take account of the new venue for meetings, and it was reported that the Masonic Hall in Newhaven had been sold.

The October 1969 summons was printed in black in recognition of the passing of the MW Bro the Rt Hon The Earl of Scarborough KG, who had been Grand Master from 1951 to 1967, when he had been succeeded by the present Grand Master HRH The Duke of Kent, but had continued as Pro Grand Master. He was succeeded in this role by the Rt Hon The Earl Cadogan.

The number of lodges in Sussex continued to rise throughout this period, with 24 lodges being formed in the 1960s, and as a result a second Assistant Provincial Grand Master had been appointed in 1968. The expansion of freemasonry continued in the next decade, and on 2nd May 1970 Meridian Lodge no 8307 was consecrated. It had been sponsored by Meeching Lodge and was thus a grand-daughter lodge of Homestreu.

The 1971 Installation meeting, which was attended by the Provincial Grand Master RW Bro Arthur Jolly, witnessed Bro E G (Teddy) Young being installed in the Chair of King Solomon by W Bro George Atkinson, both of whom will be fondly remembered by longer-serving members of the Lodge, and both of whom made significant contributions to Homestreu Lodge, George as Secretary from

1991 until his untimely death in 1999, and Teddy as Chaplain and Secretary of the Lodge of Instruction. At the same meeting, Bro David Jones, a Police Sergeant and a member of St Richards lodge no 4469, was proposed as a Joining Member. After retirement from Sussex Police he became ordained as a Minister in the United Reformed Church. He became Worshipful Master of the Lodge in 1979. In 2006 he was appointed as Assistant Grand Chaplain, making him the only member of Homestreu Lodge to have held an acting rank in Grand Lodge.

In February 1972, the annual dues were raised to £6, and the initiation fee to £35. In April of that year, the practice of reading the minutes of 50 years ago was started, after three of the Minute Books, which had been missing for some years, had been found. When these minutes were read at the October 1973 meeting, attention was drawn to the fact that two of the brethren who had been initiated in 1923 were present at that meeting. In recognition of their 50 years in freemasonry, W Bros Alfred Harris and Edward Stevens were presented with a personal letter of congratulations from the Deputy Provincial Grand Master. Later, in 1975, they were both made Honorary Members of the Lodge.

In 1974, a third Assistant Provincial Grand Master was appointed, namely W Bro Sir Leonard Barford MA PSGD. Sir Leonard, as a member of Seaford Lodge and a good friend of W Bro Roy Woodward, was a frequent visitor to Homestreu Lodge both before and after his appointment. Less than three years later, in February 1977, he was installed as Provincial Grand Master following the resignation of RW Bro Arthur Jolly.

In February 1975, the annual subscription was again raised, this time to £7.50, and £5.50 for Country Members. In the same month, the second temple at Jerrom Hall was dedicated at a ceremony led by the Provincial Grand Master. 1975 also saw the announcement from Grand Lodge concerning the relaxation of the ban by the Roman Catholic Church on the entry of its members into the Craft.

On 6th June of that year, an Emergency meeting, by Dispensation, was held for the purpose of Raising Bro Noel Peter Woodward, as requested by Swatow Lodge no.3705, which meets in Hong Kong. Bro Noel was the son of W Bro Roy Woodward, who carried out the ceremony. The meeting was attended by the Deputy Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Harold Myerscough, who gave the passage from Ecclesiastes, and the Assistant Provincial Grand Master W Bro Sir Leonard Barford, who presented and explained the Working Tools.

At the October 1976 meeting, W Bro Leslie Mann presented the Lodge with a Volume of the Sacred Law to mark his 27 years of 'happy membership of the Lodge', including 18 years as Preceptor. The following month, W Bro Roy Woodward proposed that the Lodge sponsor the formation of a new lodge, to be called Harbour Lights, and that the regalia for the Master and Wardens be

purchased from Lodge funds. This proposal was seconded by W Bro Jack Strong and was carried.

The idea for this new lodge had been promulgated by Bro Bob Hazel, who had suggested that there were enough members of the Newhaven Deep Sea Anglers to be able to form their own lodge. Bob went on to become the Secretary of this lodge, no 8770, and held that office until he died in 2002, aged 81. The Harbour Lights Lodge was duly consecrated on 29th April 1977 at Queens Road, Brighton with W Bro Jack Parvin as the Charter Master, and with 152 Masons in attendance. The lodge is unusual in that most of its meetings are in the summer months, for the reason that some of its members are only in the area when they go fishing out of Newhaven.

Throughout the 1970s, the number of lodges in Sussex had continued to grow, with no less than 19 lodges being consecrated. As a result, in 1980, a fourth Assistant Provincial Grand Master, W Bro Michael Spofforth G Treas, was appointed.

Membership of Homestreu Lodge continued to be buoyant, with membership in 1977 standing at 93. However, inflation was clearly a problem at this time, with two subscription increases in quick succession; the first a rise to £12 in 1979, followed by another rise to £15 in 1981, with £10 the rate for country members, and a further rise in 1983 to £20, with £15 for Country Members, and a similar amount for the Joining Fee. The Initiation Fee also rose to £50.

The 75th Anniversary Celebration Meeting of the Lodge was held at Jerrom Hall on Wednesday 6th April 1983. It was attended by the Provincial Grand Master R W Bro Sir Leonard Barford and the Deputy Provincial Grand Master V W Bro George Turner, accompanied by the Provincial Team. The Provincial Grand Master gave an Address, the minutes of the Consecration meeting were read, and the Provincial Grand Chaplin gave an Oration. This was followed by a Passing ceremony conducted by the Worshipful Master W Bro Ernest [Tim] Miles, and the presentation of a cheque for £750 by the Charity Steward W Bro Jack Strong for the Foundation for the Aged and Sick 1989 Festival to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the Lodge.

Another increase in membership fees took place in 1985, rising to £25, with a similar rise in the Joining Fee. However, the Lodge's finances were still sufficiently buoyant to enable it to make a donation of £250 towards the cost of gas central heating at the East Brighton Masonic Centre. Further sums were donated in subsequent years, making a total of £800.

In October 1988, the Lodge agreed to set up a fund, to be known as the John Dean Memorial Fund, for the purpose of purchasing a Masonic Bible and Ritual Book for every candidate on completion of his Third degree. John Dean had died

at the early age of 46 in March and had been due to become Worshipful Master that year.

The 1990s saw a decline in membership of Freemasonry in Sussex, and the formation of new lodges were few and far between. Membership of Homestreu Lodge decreased dramatically and as a result, in November 1995, it was proposed that in future the Lodge would meet only five times a year, from October to December and in February and March. This had followed an earlier unadopted proposal, in September 1990, to discontinue the January meeting in favour of a May meeting, because the introduction of New Years Day as a Bank Holiday had meant that meetings in that month had sometimes had to be moved to a different date.

It is interesting to note that the dates of meetings, namely the first Wednesday of the month, have not changed in all the time that the Lodge has been in existence. It must be assumed that Wednesday was chosen because that was Early Closing day in Newhaven, and this would have suited many of the members in the early days.

The beginning of the 21st century has seen a handful of lodges in Sussex having to surrender their warrants faced with declining numbers. One of these was Simplicius Lodge no 8851, but happily a number of their members joined Homestreu Lodge bringing some welcome new blood to the Lodge.

So, as the Lodge approaches its centenary, it has been interesting to look at the way that the way that it has evolved in its 100 years of existence. Up until the 1960s, it would have been possible to walk down Newhaven's High Street and conduct all of your business with a fellow Freemason. You could have purchased your cigarettes and newspaper at Baldwins, some throat lozenges for your smokers cough at Burgess and Mann, and some sweets for the children at Kings, be measured for a suit at Parkers, had your hair cut at Shinns, before returning home with some fish and chips from Bundys. Equally, there was a Mason on hand to build you a house, or even a boat. It was thus very much the 'Newhaven' lodge, with the majority of members living and working in the town. Today, the membership is drawn from a much wider area, but the tenets of Freemasonry, namely Brotherly Love, Relief and Truth are still very much in existence.

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MASTERS OF THE LODGE

1908 H E Haig-Brown	1943 E W Chidgey	1978 S J Lockyer
1909 F F London	1944 C A Bishop	1979 Rev D F Jones
1910 J J Lines	1945 A E Motyer	1980 G E Martin
1911 H W Coupe	1946 H J Stone	1981 F McLoughlin
1912 F Fawssett	1947 E Stevens	1982 R W Hazel
1913 J H Bull	1948 J H Fraser	1983 E F Miles
1914 J F Plaister	1949 A Steer	1984 E Mepham
1915 Rev A S Rankilor	1950 H G H Brown	1985 R K Domin
1916 H E Hardy	1951 G O Phillips	1986 F L Trigwell
1917 W Chapman	1952 H J Moss	1987 B A Stichbury
1918 C W Haigh	1953 S H L Whyte	1988 N J Mepham
1919 A Stone	1954 W E Harris	1989 N J Mepham
1920 G T Godfrey	1955 J A Strong	1990 S H Cowley
1921 F J Thyer	1956 R Woodward	1991 P R V Norman
1922 E A Whitehouse	1957 W L Mann	1992 W J Robinson
1923 H Hone	1958 W G T Archer	1993 W J Robinson
1924 E J Coker	1959 R R Robson	1994 J M F Young
1925 H W Coupe	1960 W Plummer	1995 J W Stewart
1926 H W Coupe	1961 J C Gibson	1996 J A Palmer
1927 Rev G Street	1962 W G Jarvis	1997 P W Stapleton
1928 J A Taylor	1963 R Ravenshear MBE	1998 W J Robinson
1929 R G Clifton	1964 S Cloke	1999 M J Tubb
1930 A E Muddle	1965 D MacLennan	2000 J B Brice
1931 W E Bussey	1966 H M Boniface MBE	2001 J B Brice
1932 J Baldwin	1967 E J N Parvin	2002 P A Grevatt
1933 E J Simpson	1968 A C Cramb	2003 P A Grevatt
1934 S A Vallance	1969 K L Haigh	2004 J R S MacDonald
1935 M Waight	1970 G W Atkinson	2005 J R Darvall
1936 R E Cantell	1971 E G Young	2006 J R Wilson
1937 W H Phillipson	1972 W A Spaughton	2007 J C Kirkland
1938 A T Harris	1973 D J Berry	
1939 G A Dotterill	1974 E W Lewis	
1940 H D Baldwin	1975 S N Dunnell	
1941 H D Baldwin	1976 M M Dann	
1942 E H Elston	1977 E G Skinner	

